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ARGENTINA INDIA BANGLADESH USA PAKISTAN GERMANY GREECE ZAMBIA IRAQ POLAND
RUSSIA

Date : Jan 01, 1998

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ARGENTINA

India Signs MOU on Antarctic Science with Argentina

Following is the text of a Press Note issued in New Delhi on Jan 22, 1998 regarding India signs MOU on Antarctic Science with Argentina:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between India and Argentina, on cooperation in Antarctic science was signed here yesterday. The MOU reaffirms the commitment of the two nations to the Antarctic Treaty. It endeavours to promote contemporary Antarctic research through cooperation and exchange of scientists in each other's expedition. It also confirms the two nations' efforts to uphold the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty which has been ratified by both India and Argentina. The MOU was signed by Dr. A. E. Muthunayagam, Secretary, Department of Ocean Development and Ms. Elda Sampietro, Ambassador of Argentina in India.

Argentina maintains six permanent stations in the icy continent. India is also pursuing experiments over the last seventeen years in Antarctica. The MOU is designated to herald a new era of cooperation between the two countries, said Dr. Muthunayagam.

Argentine Ambassador informed that as a follow up of this MOU, specific areas of global scientific interests will be taken up for the joint collaborative programmes. For the first time it will give access to the scientists of the two countries to work and share scientific data from the Antarctic peninsula where the Argentine stations are located and the Dronning Maudland area where the Indian station "Maitri" is located.

DOD over the last few years has laid stresses on international collaborations in Antarctic science and logistics. Projects with several countries like Germany, France, Italy, USA and Peru are underway.

ARGENTINA INDIA FRANCE ITALY PERU USA

Date : Jan 22, 1998

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Trilateral Business Summit

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1998 on Trilateral Business Summit in Dhaka:

At the SAARC Summit in Male in May 1997, the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, issued separate invitations to our Prime Minister and to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan to attend a Business Summit of the three countries in Dhaka. The invitation was accepted by our Prime Minister.

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2. The Business Summit was scheduled to take place in Dhaka on November 23, 1997 but was deferred at the request of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. It has now been rescheduled and will take place on Jan 15, 1998. Leading

members of business and industry from the three major Indian business Chambers (FICCI, CII and Assocham) will be participating in the Summit as will their counterparts from Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Indian delegation will be led by Shri K. K. Modi, President of FICCI.

3. The three Prime Ministers will address the Opening Session of the Summit which will commence at 1200 hours. The heads of each business delegation will also make presentations in this session. The afternoon session will be a Business Session which will consider important issues affecting economic cooperation. The focus will be on Ways and Means to Improve Trade, Improving Transportation Infrastructure and Joint Ventures, including Energy.

4. The Prime Ministers will also attend the Closing Session of the Summit. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will host an Iftar Party for the visiting Prime Ministers and their delegations. This will provide an opportunity for informal dialogue.

5. The previous day our Prime Minister will have talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and also attend a Dinner hosted by her in his honour. He will also call on the President of Bangladesh. On 15th morning before the Summit he will go to the Martyrs Memorial at Savar to pay his respects to all those who died in the cause of Bangladesh's independence.

6. Prime Minister will also have a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 15th January afternoon.

7. The Summit is a truly historic occasion when, for the first time, the leaders of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan will come together on a common platform to support economic cooperation. India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are the three largest countries in South Asia with a combined population of over 1 billion. They can accelerate economic growth by fully tapping the possibilities for mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation.

8. The private sector has to, naturally, play a key role in this process. The Summit will provide a unique opportunity for the business communities of the three countries to explore avenues for expanding business ties. This will also impart added momentum to the process of regional economic cooperation. The prospects for this have improved perceptibly given the increasing convergence of the economic policies of the countries of the region and the realisation that economic development can be accelerated by fully tapping the synergies from regional cooperation.

9. At the Male Summit the leaders of SAARC took a landmark decision to achieve a Free Trade Area in South Asia by the year 2001. This objective can and must be realised if we are to lay the foundations for shared prosperity in the future.

BANGLADESH USA INDIA MALDIVES PAKISTAN

Date : Jan 15, 1998

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1995

BANGLADESH

Speech by the Prime Minister of India Shri I. K. Gujral at the Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Business Summit

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1998 containing speech by Shri I. K. Gujral at Bangladesh in Business Summit:

Your Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Your Excellency Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Distinguished Delegates and Friends,

This is a truly historic occasion. For the first time, the leaders of Bangladesh, Pakistan and India have come together on a common platform. What is more, we have come together on a common platform

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with captains of trade and industry to see how we can jointly work together to usher in a new era of cooperation and prosperity for our peoples.

Madam Prime Minister, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the bold and far-sighted initiative that you have taken in bringing us all here together today. Our presence here is a tribute, to your statesmanship and the esteem and affection in which all of us hold you. I thank you for the excellent arrangements that your government has made for this meeting, and for the warm hospitality extended to me and members of my delegation.

Our countries are inheritors of an ancient and highly developed civilisation. From the sophisticated urban design of Mohenjo Daro and Harappa, and the technological wizardry of the Ashokan Pillars, to the amazing fineness of the Dhaka Muslins, our peoples have been known through much of human history for their creativity and productive skills. Our growth, however, was stunted by colonisation, which left us impoverished even as Europe and North America were making the transition to industrialised societies. Today, we have a unique opportunity to work together to overcome poverty and accelerate economic growth for the shared benefit of our people.

In this age of globalisation, nations in different parts of the world have discovered the advantages of regional economic cooperation and the development of a common, regional economic space. At the end of World War II, who would have imagined that France and Germany, who had fought three bitter wars in the preceding 80 years, would come together to create the European Community which has now become the European Union. Nearer to us, the countries of South East Asia have been able to achieve commendable success in development with regional cooperation through ASEAN playing a key role. In America, both NAFTA and Mercosur reflect the same economic imperative.

The prospects of forging closer ties of economic cooperation in our own region have improved perceptibly. There is, today, an increasing convergence in our macro-economic policies, with an emphasis on deregulation and a greater role for the private sector. All of us are seeking to unleash the creative energies of our entrepreneurs and workers and bring about improvements in efficiency so that we can compete more effectively in the new globalised economy. In the last few years, we have seen a quickening of growth in our individual economies with increases in GNP ranging from five to seven percent. There is no reason why we cannot sustain and accelerate this pace of growth, given sound economic management and capitalising on regional synergies.

Economic Cooperation is now high on the SAARC Agenda. The goal of achieving a Free-Trade Area in South Asia has been accepted, and the time-frame for achieving it advanced to the year 2001. Let us, today, reaffirm our commitment to work jointly to achieve this goal. This would involve progressive acceleration of trade liberalisation in the SAPTA negotiations in terms of the products covered, the depth of the tariff cuts and lifting of non-tariff barriers. In concrete terms, we would have to liberalise at least 25% of trade each year to usher in a Free Trade Area in South Asia by the first year of the next century.

Under the first two rounds of SAPTA, India offered the maximum concessions covering around 1000 tariff lines. We also offered the deepest tariff cuts with special concession for the Least Developed Countries. The impact of these openings will take some time to be assessed as they came into effect only between March and July last year. I understand that Pakistan is still to issue the Consolidated National Schedule giving effect to the Second SAPTA

Agreement.

I would suggest to them to do so, and to ensure that this is on a non-discriminatory basis in conformity with the provisions of SAPTA. I would also ask them to trade with India in line with their international commitments and obligations.

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The Third round of SAPTA negotiations made a promising start in July this year, with all delegations agreeing to follow an across-the-board or sectoral approach to speed up trade liberalisation. There have, however, been delays in scheduling the next meeting. It is time that we collectively ensure that the momentum is maintained.

India remains committed to fast forward SAPTA liberalisation. I take this opportunity to offer that, as a special gesture, India will be prepared to lift quantitative restrictions on agreed items of interest for Bangladesh and other Least Developed SAARC Countries. Our negotiators will also have the requisite mandate to reduce tariff significantly with deeper cuts for Bangladesh and the Least Developed SAARC Countries as part of the latest round of trade preference talks. This should impart the required momentum in the SAPTA liberalisation process. Our SAARC partners, particularly Bangladesh, will also have an added opportunity to access our market and enhance their exports to India.

The achievement of a Free Trade Area in South Asia will not only provide a stimulus to trade and investment within the region, but would also make the region a more attractive destination for foreign investors. With an enlarged regional market of more than one billion people, the SAARC partners would acquire a greater weight and significance in their global and regional strategies. I am glad that SAARC has recently commenced discussions on promoting investment in the region. We must move to quickly put into place a Regional Investment Treaty and evolve Regional Arrangements for Avoiding Double Taxation and for settlement of commercial disputes. This would significantly enhance investor confidence and create an enabling environment for greater investment flows. To encourage Indian entrepreneurs to invest in South Asia, I am glad to announce that the Indian government has decided to double the ceiling for overseas Indian Investment under the Fast Track in this region.

Today, trade liberalisation alone is not sufficient for expansion of trade and investment. We have to speed up our arrangements for trade facilitation. I am glad that meaningful initiatives have been taken by SAARC in this direction. Given our common administrative background, it should be possible to quickly work out conformance and harmonisation arrangements in areas such as Customs Procedures, Standards and Quality, and Electronic Data Exchange leading to paperless trade. This will help reduce transaction costs and make intra-SAARC trade more efficient and prosperous for our business.

Limitations in physical infrastructure also act as a brake on the growth of trade. Intra-Regional Transportation and Communication links remain weak. Improvements in these sectors are critical if we are to derive the full benefits of geographical proximity. We need to identify additional routes by road and rail, augment air links and look at ways to reduce freight costs by sea. Port infrastructure also needs upgradation and development. India is prepared to work with its neighbours in identifying and undertaking joint projects, both short-term and long-term, to improve and upgrade transport facilities. We must develop the capacity to not only handle the anticipated expansion of trade within the region but also connect to the proposed trans-Asian transport networks. Our region is strategically situated at the crossroads of Asia, between the oil rich countries in West and Central Asia and the dynamic economies of South East Asia. We should derive full benefit from this advantage.

As an immediate measure, India is prepared to double the number of freight trains from India to Pakistan from the existing level of 10-15 trains a month to one every day. We also offer to increase the frequency of the Samjhauta Express, which presently runs twice a week from India to Pakistan, to six times a week. This would not only be in keeping with our commitment to make travel easy within the region and promote greater contact between our peoples, but would also signal our resolve to move forward in practical ways.

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Regional cooperation, today, is no longer driven only by exchange of commodities and manufactures. We should, therefore, establish tradability of some key resources that our region is richly endowed with, so that true complementarities are brought into play. Only then will South Asian economic cooperation have a significant trade creating and growth generating impact. This is a rich seam that has remained unexploited to our collective loss. Let us, at this Summit pledge that we will make up for lost time and opportunity and work to establish arrangements on a bilateral or trilateral basis to enable and facilitate such exchanges in key resources like electricity, natural gas, etc. We will find that our private sectors will be very interested as will be international funding agencies and foreign investors. India, for one, provides a large and virtually inexhaustible market for many of these resources. I offer to optimally harness these resources through concrete projects involving Joint Ventures, both at Government and Private sector levels, and buy these from our neighbours for mutual benefit. This too will augment the exports of our SAARC neighbours to India. As a first step towards regional cooperation in the field of energy. I propose that SAARC undertake a study on the possibility of a Regional Electricity Grid.

On international trade issues, there is so much that our countries can do together, because we have common concerns and expectations from the existing WTO regime. Even on new issues, there is a striking convergence in our views and approaches. So let us use the SAARC mechanism to become an interest group within the group of developing countries, pressing for a development friendly orientation to the International Trading System. Trade and Industry should also coordinate their thinking and provide inputs to help us evolve a South Asian view on the WTO.

The private sector has played an important role in the common endeavour to expand trade and commercial links and accelerate economic growth in our region. We commend the work done by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in throwing up ideas, posing ambitious targets and forging a consensus. It is heartening that we can count on the full support of our business communities in building the framework for economic cooperation in our region. Indeed, they must take the lead in evolving concrete proposals for mutually beneficial business cooperation, looking beyond a Free Trade Area towards a South Asian Economic Community with the free movement of capital, goods and services within the region.

Excellencies,
Ladies, & Gentlemen,

We stand at the threshold of a new century. This century has seen us attain political independence, an epoch-making event that triggered the end of the colonial era across the world. I am confident that, in the next century, our region will successfully overcome poverty and usher in an era of prosperity. Our products will once again be recognized for their excellence, even as our workers will be prized for their skill and ingenuity. We require statesmanship, vision and perseverance in fully harnessing the synergies that would flow from region economic cooperation if we are to fulfill this promise.

I am reminded here of a verse from the Rig Veda, one of the oldest treatises of the Indian subcontinent. It says, and I quote:

"May you walk in step together,
May you speak in one voice,
May your minds unite in knowledge".
Unquote.

I hope we can keep simple words in the backs of our minds, even as we strive together for a brighter tomorrow for our peoples.

Thank you.

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BANGLADESH INDIA PAKISTAN USA FRANCE GERMANY RUSSIA

Date : Jan 15, 1998

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GERMANY

Bilateral Trade - Germany

Following is the text of a Press Note issued in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1998 on Bilateral Trade with Germany:

Germany is India's principal trading partner in Europe with one fourth of trade with the European Community directed towards Germany. However, India's share in Germany's global trade is less than 1% and it ranks 30th (approx.) among Germany's trading partner.

	(in US \$ million)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	(approx)		
Export	1747.71	1983.41	1893.43
Import	2187.08	3137.21	2803.18
Balance of Trade	-488.37	-1153.79	-909.75
Total trade	3934.79	5120.62	4696.61

Main items of exports to Germany

1. Primary/semi-manufactured leather goods
2. Textiles and textile items
3. Gems and jewellery
4. Tea/coffee
5. Handicrafts/carpets
6. Chemical items
7. Electronic goods

8. Transport equipments
9. Machinery and instruments

Main items of imports from Germany

1. Machinery
2. Project goods
3. Fertilisers/chemicals
4. Precision instruments
5. Metals and manufactures
6. Electronic goods

Germany is a member of the European Union and hence is guided by EU's trade policy regime on the matter of bilateral trade with India.

GERMANY INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 23, 1998

Volume No

1995

GREECE

Visit of the President of the Hellenic Republic of Greece to India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 05, 1998 regarding visit of the President of the Hellenic Republic of Greece H.E. Mr. Constantinos Stephanopoulos to India:

The President of the Hellenic Republic of Greece H.E. Mr. Constantinos Stephanopoulos will be paying a visit to India from January 12-18, 1998 at the invitation of the President Shri K. R. Narayanan. He will be accompanied by

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his daughter Mrs. Irini Stephanopoulos, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Theodoros Pangalos, the Under Secretary to the Ministry of National Economy Mr. Alexandros Baltas and senior officials.

2. During his stay in India, the visiting dignitary will visit Agra, Udaipur, Mumbai and Calcutta. He will meet representatives of Indian business and industry in New Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai.

GREECE INDIA USA

Date : Jan 05, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Lists of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered in Agreement on the Prohibition of attack between India and Pakistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 01, 1998 regarding list of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered in Agreement on the prohibition of attack between India and Pakistan:

Under the agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities signed on 21st 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 seventh 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, 1998

Volume No

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INDIA

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Lecture

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 07, 1998 regarding Maulana Abul Kalam Azad memorial lecture which was to be delivered on @@19980110@@ by Shri I. K. Gujral, Honourable Prime Minister of India:

The Azad Memorial Lecture was instituted in 1958 in memory of late Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, founder President of ICCR. The first Memorial Lecture was delivered by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and in subsequent years, the Lectures have been delivered by many eminent personalities from India and abroad.

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Lecture for 1997 will be delivered by Shri I. K. Gujral, Honourable Prime Minister of India on Saturday, 10 January, 1998 at 1130 hrs. at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The Lecture by

the Prime Minister has special significance as it coincides with the 50th Anniversary of India's independence. The title of the Lecture is "Heritage and Promise: India of Tomorrow".

The Honourable Vice President of India/President, ICCR, Shri Krishan Kant will preside over the function to be held at Vigyan Bhavan.

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INDIA

Date : Jan 07, 1998

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INDIA

Third Meeting of the India-Zambia Joint Commission

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1998 regarding third Meeting of the India-Zambia Joint Commission:

The third meeting of the India-Zambia Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 12-13 January 1998. The Indian delegation was led by Smt. Kamala Sinha, Minister of State for External Affairs and the Zambian delegation by Mr. Godfrey S. Simasiku, Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Development. The meeting of the Joint Commission coincided with the visit to India of a large Zambian trade delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mr. Akim Nkole.

The discussions at the Joint Commission meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere reflecting the traditionally friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, their common commitment to South-South cooperation and their shared perceptions on major international issues.

As former Chairmen of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), India and Zambia pledged to work together to help NAM respond creatively to the changed global environment and to make it an effective vehicle for the promotion of the interests of the developing countries. The Zambian side acknowledged that India's presence in a restructured United Nations Security Council would make a positive contribution towards providing the developing countries an effective voice in the world body.

The Joint Commission meeting agreed on a programme of cooperation in a wide range of areas including agriculture, mining, transport and communications small industries, non-conventional energy, science and technology, education and culture, and human resources development. Consistent with their common commitment to a process of economic liberalisation, both sides attached special priority to trade and investment cooperation. An understanding was reached on the principles of resolving the long pending problem of outstanding Zambian dues to India.

The Zambian Government welcomed the interest shown by Indian entrepreneurs in availing of agricultural land in Zambia on long lease for commercial farming. The Government of Punjab would soon forward a detailed proposal in this regard.

Both sides also agreed to intensify their cooperation in the regional framework, particularly the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), of both of which Zambia is a prominent member.

INDIA ZAMBIA USA

Date : Jan 13, 1998

Volume No

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INDIA

Condolence on the death of Mr. C. S. Jha former Foreign Secretary of India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1998 regarding meeting of IFS Association to condole the death of Mr. C. S. Jha, former Foreign Secretary of India:

Under the Chairmanship of Foreign Secretary Shri K. Raghunath, the Indian Foreign Service Association met today to condole the death of Mr. C. S. Jha, distinguished diplomat and former Foreign Secretary of India. In a resolution the Association recalled his professional contribution to the shaping of India's foreign policy, his consistent sensitivity to India's national interest, and, his deeply human qualities.

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INDIA

Date : Jan 16, 1998

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INDIA

Exhibition - Cultural Portraits of India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1998 regarding Photographic exhibition - Cultural Portraits of India by American Photographer Lindsay Heberd:

Cultural Portraits of India - a photographic exhibition by the American photographer Lindsay Heberd was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President Shri Krishan Kant in the National Gallery of Modern Art today. The exhibition celebrates India in the 50th Anniversary of its Independence and will be on view in the Capital till Feb

08, 1998. The exhibition has been organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the National Gallery of Modern Art in association with Lindsay Heberd who took 11 years to complete it. The selection covers abroad cross-section of subjects that include landscapes, daily life, people, religion, the arts and architecture. It has been a labour of love for Lindsay Heberd who has attempted to illustrate the natural beauty and cultural heritage that permeates the lives of the Indian people making India, in her words, "one of the most colourful and fascinating countries on Earth".

INDIA USA

Date : Feb 08, 1998

Volume No

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INDIA

Exchange of Indian and Pakistani Fishing Boats

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1998 regarding exchange of Indian and Pakistani Fishing Boats:

India and Pakistan exchanged 27 Indian Fishing Vessels and 17 Pakistani Fishing Boats today. The Fishermen from these Boats were repatriated by the two countries on 15th July 1997 under an Agreement reached during the Foreign Secretary - level talks held in Islamabad in June 1997.

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Jan 29, 1998

Volume No

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INDIA

The Associated Press Presented Gandhi - Nehru Picture to Prime Minister Shri I. K. Gujral

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 30, 1998 regarding Associated Press presenting Gandhi - Nehru picture to Prime Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral:

On Martyr's Day, ha, said, the Associated Press, presented a celebrated Gandhi - Nehru picture to Prime Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral. Prime Minister said that it was a privilege to be receiving the important legacy recording a milestone in our freedom movement:

The photo depicts Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru relaxing and smiling at a Congress Party meeting in Bombay in 1946. It was during this meeting that Pandit Nehru took over the presidency of the Congress Party. The historic photograph from the original negative is signed by the photographer, Max Desfor, and is titled - "Commemorating 50 years of Indian Independence 1947 - 1997".

The photograph was taken by Max Desfor, now 83, who lives in retirement in the United States. Max Desfor, who has had a long and distinguished career with The Associated Press, had covered the independence movement in India and the funeral of Gandhiji.

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INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 30, 1998

Volume No

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INDIA

Prime Minister Writes to World Leaders on Recent Developments Relating to Iraq

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 31, 1998 regarding Prime Minister's letters to world leaders on recent developments relating to Iraq:

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral last night addressed personal letters to the US President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and the leaders of the other permanent Member-States of the UN Security Council regarding developments relating to Iraq over the last few weeks.

Mr. Gujral expressed India's concern over reports that the United States was contemplating military action against Iraq. He has drawn attention to the geographical proximity and traditional cultural links which India has with the Gulf region and the substantial growth of our interaction over the years with all the countries in the region, especially in the economic field. The Gulf countries are among India's leading trading partners and sources of energy and are home to a sizeable Indian community. The Prime Minister has pointed out that peace and stability in this area, which is part of India's extended neighbourhood is, therefore, of vital interest to us and that any disruption in this regard would adversely affect our economy and national welfare.

Mr. Gujral reiterated that India supported the UN resolutions relating to Iraq and the actions that require to be taken in this framework, and that India shared the belief that weapons of mass destruction in Iraq should be eliminated in accordance with the UN resolutions. However, India was of the view that use of military force against Iraq would complicate the situation and will not contribute to the ends to which the UN is committed. Further, it would greatly aggravate the acute sufferings which the Iraqi people had undergone.

Reflecting the sentiments widely held in the Gulf and the Arab world, Mr. Gujral has called for a "restrained and statesmanlike" approach, and for the countries concerned to avoid precipitate action, and persevere in their efforts to bring about a peaceful solution through diplomatic negotiations. He has expressed India's readiness to contribute to this process.

INDIA IRAQ USA

Date : Jan 31, 1998

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POLAND

State Visit of H.E. Mr. Alexander Kwasniewski, President of Poland to India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 02, 1998 regarding state visit of H.E. Mr. Alexander Kwasniewski President of Poland accompanied by H.E. Mrs. Kwasniewska to India:

H.E. Mr. Alexander Kwasniewski, President of Poland, accompanied by H.E. Mrs. Jolanta Kwasniewska, will pay a State Visit to India from 8-11 January 1998 at the invitation of the President of India.

During his stay in India, H.E. Mr. A. Kwasniewski would have meetings with the President of India, the Vice President of India, the Prime Minister of India and other high Indian dignitaries. Besides New Delhi, H.E. Mr. A. Kwasniewski would also visit Chennai and address the CII Partnership Summit there on 10 January 1998.

H.E. Mr. Kwasniewski, will be accompanied by H.E. Mr. Janusz Wojciech Steinhoff, Minister of Economy, H.E. Mr. Janiszewski, Minister of Agriculture, other ministers and senior officials, as well as by a group of 25 Polish businessmen.

POLAND INDIA USA

Date : Jan 02, 1998

Volume No

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RUSSIA

Cultural Exchange Agreement Signed between India and Russia

Following is the text of a Press Note issued in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1998 on Cultural Exchange Agreement signed between India and Russia:

Programme of Cultural, Scientific and Educational Exchange between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the years 1998-1999 was signed today. On behalf of the Government of India, the Programme was signed by Shri R. V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Secretary, Department of

Culture and on behalf of the Government of Russian Federation it was signed by H.E. Mr. G. B. Karasin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Programme provides for direct cooperation between cultural, educational, scientific, sports and mass media institutions and organizations of the two countries. The Russian side has agreed to provide 45 government scholarships to Indian students to study at educational institutions of the Russian Federation in basic educational programmes of graduate and post-graduate vocational education. During the validity of this Programme, both sides will exchange specialists in the field of elementary education, vocational education and higher education to enable them to learn from the experience of each other. Both sides will also exchange experts in the fields of mathematics, statistics, economics, geology, anthropology and computer sciences.

The Programme also provides for various means of strengthening cultural cooperation between the two countries. It has been decided that the "Days of Moscow" will be held in New Delhi in 1998 and "Day of Delhi" will be held in Moscow in 1999. Both sides will exchange on reciprocal basis scholars, students, trainees for studying languages, history, culture, economy and social structures of each other country. Both sides will also participate in events connected with the 200th Birth Anniversary of A.S. Pushkin and 200th Birth Anniversary of Mirza Ghalib.

The two sides have also agreed to exchange experts and lectures in the field of fashion technology to interact with each other's teachers, graduates, students and specialists in design industry. The Programme would also strengthen personal contacts between youth and women of these two great nations and facilities establishing direct exchanges between the two Governments.

The signing of the Cultural Exchange Programme reached yet another milestone in the continuing cooperation between these two significant cultural traditions to promote better understanding between the peoples of Russia and India.

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RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 16, 1998

Volume No

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ANNEXURE

Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Hellenic Republic

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Hellenic Republic (hereinafter referred to as 'the two Parties')

Desirous of widening the existing links of friendship between the two Parties and fostering the establishment of a close cooperation between themselves in the field of tourism.

Have agreed to the following:

ARTICLE 1

The two Parties shall encourage measures for promoting and increasing tourism exchanges between themselves and, with this aim, each Party shall encourage the development of cooperation between the official Tourism Authorities in both countries.

ARTICLE 2

Within the limits established by their internal legislation, the two Parties shall favour:

- (a) Mutual tourism promotion and publicity.
- (b) Measures for simplifying, as far as possible, the formalities required for trips.
- (c) Exchanging information on their respective tourism industry and tourism development projects.
- (d) Exploring opportunities for cooperation in any other area of mutual interest for the development of their tourist relations.

ARTICLE 3

The two Parties shall facilitate the import and export of material and documents for publicity on tourism, free from customs duties, in accordance with the Additional Protocol to the "Convention Concerning Customs facilities for Touring" relating to the importation of tourist publicity, Documents and Material, done at New York on 4th June, 1954 as well as with their internal legislation on the matter.

ARTICLE 4

The two Parties, subject to their respective legislation, shall facilitate and encourage the cooperation between travel agencies, tour operators, hotel chains, airlines, shipping companies and any other organisations or firms of the tourist sector that may generate reciprocal tourism between the two countries.

The Parties will explore the possibilities of joint collaboration in the field of Rail Transport and Tourism and, for this purpose, exchange publicity and promotion material on rail services and over their railway systems and share experience and information regarding railway aspects of tourism.

ARTICLE 5

The two Parties shall promote and mutually facilitate, in accordance with the legislation in force in the two countries, the investments of Greek or Indian entrepreneurs as well as joint ventures in their respective tourism sectors.

ARTICLE 6

The two Parties shall exchange information on the tourism resources that they have: on their experience in the field of Management of hotels or other types of tourist accommodation: on the regulation and legislation that each Party may have on tourism activities as well as for the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural resources as sites for tourist attractions: on the organisation of vocational training of personnel employed in the tourism sector.

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ARTICLE 7

The two Parties shall proceed to a regular exchange of information and statistical data on the volume and characteristics of the potential of the tourism markets of both countries.

The two Parties agree that the parameters established by the World Tourism Organisation for gathering and presenting statistics on domestic and international tourism shall be applicable for such purposes.

ARTICLE 8

The two Parties shall study the possibility of exchanging educators in the field of tourism vocational training between the competent institutions, schools or organisations of the two countries

ARTICLE 9

The two Parties shall, as far as possible, encourage the cooperation between their travel agencies and other specialised bodies with a view to attract and promote travel from third countries

ARTICLE 10

The two Parties shall facilitate and assist each other, in accordance with their internal legislation and on the basis of reciprocity, in the event that they decide to establish a National Tourism Information Office, which will not exercise commercial activities, in the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of India respectively.

ARTICLE 11

For the follow-up of the implementation of this agreement, promotion and evaluation of the results of the same and submission of recommendations to their respective competent authorities, the Parties will form a Joint Commission, made up of equal number of members of both Parties to which representatives of the private tourism sector may also be invited to participate with the aim of helping in the achievement of the goals of the Agreement.

The Joint Commission will meet alternately in the two countries. The meetings will be convened at a venue and time agreed by the Parties.

ARTICLE 12

This Agreement shall enter into force provisionally on the date of its signing by the two Parties and definitely on the date upon which both Parties will have notified each other, through diplomatic channels of the completion of the legal formalities required in each country for the entry into force of the Agreement.

This Agreement will be valid for a period of five years and will be automatically renewed for successive five year periods, unless either of the Parties expresses its desire to terminate it by a written notification addressed to the other, through diplomatic channels, three months prior to the expiration of each five year period.

This Agreement may be amended and supplemented at any time as decided and agreed by the Parties.

The termination of this Agreement will not affect implementation of the programmes and projects that may have been formalised during the time it was in force unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Done at New Delhi on 13th January 1998 in two originals each in the Greek, Hindi and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergent interpretation the English text shall prevail.

(Srikanta Kumar Jena)
Minister for Parliamentary Affairs & Tourism
on behalf of the Government of the
Republic of India

(Alexandros Baltas)

Deputy Minister of National Economy
on behalf of the Government of the
Hellenic Republic

INDIA USA MALI

Date : Jan 16, 1998

February

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FRANCE

Visit of the Special Emissary of the French Foreign Minister

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 18, 1998 regarding visit of the Special Emissary of the French Foreign Minister:

Mr. Denis Bauchard, Special Emissary of the French Foreign Minister, visited New Delhi today (18-2-1998) and handed over a letter from President Jacques Chirac to Prime Minister on the recent developments relating to Iraq. Mr. Bauchard also explained to the Prime Minister the initiatives taken by France to evolve a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The positions of India and France on the crisis are very similar. Both countries believe that the crisis should be resolved through diplomatic means. They are convinced that military action against Iraq would be counter-productive: it would aggravate the sufferings of the Iraqi people and would have an adverse impact on the region as a whole.

Prime Minister highlighted to the French Envoy India's deep concern about the developments in Iraq, which is part of India's extended neighbourhood. He recalled the very substantial economic ties that India has with the region, and the presence of the 3-million strong Indian community whose welfare is of primary concern to the Government. Prime Minister also pointed out that military conflict would not serve any useful purpose.

Prime Minister complimented the French Government for its initiative in proposing arrangements with Russia and China that have enabled the UN secretary-general to visit Iraq. The Prime Minister called for sensitivity to the concerns of the Iraqi people. He also stressed the importance of respecting Iraq's dignity and sovereignty as a nation. The French Envoy agreed with this.

Feb 18, 1998

FRANCE INDIA IRAQ USA CHINA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 18, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Letter of felicitation from President of the Republic of India to President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Sri Lanka's Fiftieth Anniversary of Independence

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 4, 1998 containing the letter of felicitation from Shri K. R. Narayanan, President of the Republic of India, to Her Excellency Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, on the occasion of Sri Lanka's Fiftieth Anniversary of Independence:

"Excellency,

On the historic occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Independence of the Demo-

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cratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I extend to you my warmest greetings and felicitations.

The people of India have viewed with admiration Sri Lanka's emergence as a vibrant democracy and a progressive developing nation. India has also deeply appreciated Sri Lanka's role in promoting a spirit of cooperation in our region.

Over these years, 4our ties have expanded in every respect. I have no doubt that these will continue to link us, as nations and peoples, and' will be further strengthened in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Sri Lanka, as also for your health and well-being.(K. R. Narayanan)
Feb 04, 1998

INDIA SRI LANKA USA

Date : Feb 04, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Prime Minister writes to the UN Secretary General on recent developments in the Gulf

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 5, 1998 regarding Prime Minister's letter to, the UN-Secretary General on the recent developments in the Gulf:

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has written to the UN Secretary General on recent developments relating to Iraq.

This was a sequel to letters written by the Prime Minister to the President of the United States and leaders of the other permanent member States of the UN Security Council on the subject.

Shri Gujral drew attention to the serious adverse effect that any disruption of peace and stability in the Gulf would have on India's economy and national welfare. He reiterated India's support for the UN resolutions relating to Iraq, while expressing the view that the use of military force against Iraq would only complicate the situation.

In his letter, Shri Gujral has also strongly stressed that any military conflict would aggravate the enormous suffering which the people of Iraq have undergone because of the sanctions regime. In particular, the Prime Minister expressed concern for the plight of women and children who are the most adversely affected and are the main victims of malnutrition and shortage of medical supplies.

In this context, Prime Minister Gujral has expressed his appreciation to the UN Secretary General for the latter's initiative in recommending expansion of the oil-for food programme to ameliorate the acute hardships of the Iraqi people. The Prime Minister has also praised the Secretary General's plea to accord primacy to the process of diplomatic negotiations and his offer of mediation, and reiterated India's readiness to contribute to the process of bringing about a peaceful solution through diplomatic negotiations.
Feb 05, 1998

INDIA IRAQ USA

Date : Feb 05, 1998

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INDIA

Relief supplies from the Government of India to the earthquake victims of Rustaq, Takshar province of Afghanistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 11, 1998 regarding 17 tonnes consignment of relief supplies from the Government of India to the earthquake victims of Rustaq, Takshar province of Afghanistan:

Earlier this afternoon, a special chartered plane left Delhi carrying a con

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signment of relief supplies from the Government of India to the earthquake victims of Rustaq, Takshar province of Afghanistan. The 17 tonnes consignment included a large quantity of medicines, 4 tonnes of rice, 700 Kgs of tea and 4500 woolen blankets. The special relief flight, a chartered Tajik airways TU 154, will travel from Delhi to Dushanbe where the consignment will be handed over by the Indian representatives to the Afghan side through relief workers.

Earlier, President K. R. Narayanan and Prime Minister I. K. Gujral had sent a message to President Rabbani expressing sympathy with the affected people.
Feb 11, 1998

Date : Feb 11, 1998

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INDIA

Official Spokesman's statement regarding baseless allegation from Pakistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 11, 1998 regarding baseless allegation emanating from Pakistan regarding money being given to Prime Minister by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for electoral purposes:

In response to a query the Official Spokesman said that the baseless allegation in bad taste emanating from Pakistan regarding money being given to the Prime Minister by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for electoral purposes deserves to be dismissed with contempt. It is deeply regrettable that internal political rivalries within Pakistan should lead to such wild statements.

Feb 11, 1998

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 11, 1998

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1995

INDIA

Peaceful Solution to Iraq crisis

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 13 1998 regarding NAM's statement in New York on Iraq crisis:

The Non-Aligned Movement has issued a statement in New York on February 12, 1998 expressing support for current initiatives for finding a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis. NAM has also called for further personal efforts by the UN Secretary General in this regard.

It will be recalled that Prime Minister Shri I. K. Gujral had written to the President of the United States and leaders of the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as to the UN Secretary General on developments relating to Iraq over the past few weeks. He had specially expressed concern that any military conflict would aggravate the enormous suffering of the Iraqi people, specially of women and children who are the main victims and are adversely affected both by malnutrition and shortage of medical supplies. He had also advocated a

peaceful resolution of the crisis through diplomatic negotiations and the need for avoiding any military action. India has been watching the situation closely.

Prime Minister Shri Gujral has received a response from UN Secretary General to his letter of February 4, sharing concern at the present situation in Iraq and appreciating very much India's readiness to contribute to the process of finding a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the present crisis.

Feb 13, 1998

INDIA IRAQ USA

Date : Feb 13, 1998

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1995

INDIA

India welcome diplomatic breakthrough in Iraq

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 24, 1998 regarding diplomatic breakthrough in Iraq:

....We were happy to learn that after detailed discussions in Baghdad, the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Tariq Aziz, have signed an agreement to defuse the current crisis. India hopes that this agreement will be endorsed by the Security Council which will meet in New York later today.

We have always supported the resolution of the crisis through peaceful means. In our view, use of force would be counterproductive and would not meet the objectives to which the United Nations is committed in Iraq. This was emphasised by Prime Minister Shri Gujral in his letter to the President of the United States and leaders of the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan. In his response, the UN Secretary General had agreed with the Prime Minister about the need to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis and had appreciated India's readiness to contribute to the peace process.

We are watching developments closely. We remain concerned at the sufferings of the Iraqi people, specially women and children, who have borne severe hardship for the last seven years due to the sanctions regime to which Iraq has been subjected. In this context, India welcomes the recent doubling of the oil-for-food programme and calls for its speedy implementation.

India hopes that every effort would now be made to ease and normalize the situation in the Gulf. India has very close ties and deep cultural affinities with the Gulf and wishes for peace and stability in the region.

Feb 24, 1998

INDIA IRAQ USA MALI

Date : Feb 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Photography Exhibition on Kailash Manasarovar Yatra(February 28 - March 7, 1998)

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 28, 1998 regarding Photography Exhibition on Kailash Manasarovar Yatra from February 28 to March 7, 1998:

A Photography Exhibition on the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is being held in the Exhibition Hall of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in Ad 13havan, New Delhi, from February 28 March 7, 1998. The Exhibition was inaugurated by MST. Kamala Sinha, Minister of State for External Affairs on February 28, 1998, at 5.00 P.M. Smt. Sinha also released a book titled "A Journey to Heaven : Kailash Manasarovar", written by Shri C. M. Bhandari.

About 70-75 photographs of various stages of the Yatra are on display at the exhibition. The aim of the exhibition is to convey the breath-taking beauty of Kailash and Manasarovar, as well as the spectacular views en route, such as those of Om Parvat, Kali river and the unique flora and fauna of the region. The Photography Exhibition is being organised by Liaison Officers and Yatris who have undertaken the Yatra, with the aim of sharing this unique experience. The best available literature on Kailash Manasarovar will be on display and eminent scholars will deliver talks on the Yatra and religious, cultural and environmental aspects.

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is widely recognised as one of the most pious

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and difficult pilgrimages which can be undertaken. The Yatra resumed in 1981, following an agreement between the Governments of India and China. Mount Kailash is regarded as the abode of Lord Shiva and Parvati and mention of legends and myths associated with Kailash Manasarovar can be found in ancient Hindu scriptures such as the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads. According to Hindu traditions, Manasarovar is believed to be a creation of Brahma and a Parikrama of the lake with a circumference of 110 km is considered to wash away all sins.

The pilgrimage to Kailash Manasarovar is organised annually from June to September, and about 450-55CI yatris participate every year. The yatris are divided into 14 batches with each batch spending about 31 days on the pilgrimage. The basic objective of the pilgrimage is to

perform the Parikramas d Mount Kailash and Manasarovar lake, which are located at a height of between 15,000-19,500 feet. The Yatra involves extensive trekking across the Western part of the India-Nepal border before reaching the India-China border at Lipulekh Pass at a height of 17,000 feet. The Indian part of the trek crosses beautiful, towering Himalayan peaks and much of the route runs along the banks of the Kali river. Thereafter, the pilgrims spend about 13 days in Tibet, one of the most remote and exotic areas in the world.

The yatris who undertake the pilgrimage find it a memorable journey, which they cherish and remember with nostalgia for their entire life. It is the ambition Of many Indians to perform the Yatra at least once in their lifetime.
Feb 28, 1998

INDIA USA CHINA NEPAL

Date : Feb 28, 1998

March

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Date : Mar 01, 1998

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BANGLADESH

Text of Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's reply to H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on March 24, 1998 containing the text of Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's reply to the message of felicitations received on 19th March 1998 from H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh:

Excellency,

Thank you for the kind message of felicitations and good wishes on the occasion of my assumption of office as Prime Minister of India. I am grateful for the warm personal sentiments which you have conveyed, and am happy to note, in turn, the deep, and friendly sentiment your name evokes in my country.

I share your assessment of the progress our two countries have made in the development of our traditionally close and friendly bilateral relations. I look forward to working constructively with you to promote the continued growth

of our contacts and exchanges in different areas on the basis of mutual benefit and goodwill. My Government is committed to sustaining a stable, friendly and cooperative relationship. Your assurances of cooperation are specially welcome.

I also take this opportunity of reiterating my best wishes for the continued progress and welfare of the people of Bangladesh and their endeavour for building stability and prosperity, under your wise leadership.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, and my best regards and good wishes for your personal health and well-being.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Mar 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

OIC adopted resolution on Jammu & Kashmir

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 27, 1998 regarding resolutions on Jammu & Kashmir adopted by OIC :

We have seen reports that the OIC has once again adopted resolutions on Jammu & Kashmir, in its meeting in Doha.

Our position regarding such resolutions, which are adopted at Pakistan's behest, has already been made very clear. Such resolutions and pronouncements of the OIC on matters which are entirely with the domestic jurisdiction of India, are not acceptable to us, and are rejected outright. It is reiterated that the OIC has no locus standi whatsoever in this matter.

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INDIA QATAR PAKISTAN USA

Date : Mar 27, 1998

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1995

INDIA

Prime Minister Meets Haj Goodwill Delegation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1998 regarding meeting of Prime Minister with Haj Goodwill Delegation:

The Haj Goodwill Delegation for Haj-98 called on Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee this afternoon. The Prime Minister told the delegates that they were embarking on a sacred mission, and extended his best wishes to them for a successful Haj.

The Haj Delegation this year is led by Mr. Mohammed Fazal, former Member of the Planning Commission. The other members of the Delegation are:

1. Shri Mohammad Abdul Ali, former Nawab of Arcot, Deputy Leader
2. Smt. M. Fathima Beevi, Governor of Tamil Nadu
3. Justice B. A. Khan, Madhya Pradesh High Court
4. Shri E. Ahmed, MP
5. Shri P. M. Sayeed, MP
6. Shri Nasru Khan, Minister, Rajasthan
7. Shri Aizaz Rizvi, Minister, UP
8. Shri Ali Mohammed Sagar, Home Minister, J & K
9. Shri Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Minister, UP
10. Shri N. Mohammed Farook, Dy. Speaker, Andhra Pradesh
11. Dr. Abrar Ahmad, former MOS for Finance & Parliamentary Affairs
12. Shri Abdul Hafiz, Chairman, Delhi Pradesh Minority Morcha of BJP
13. Shri Abdul Sattar s/o Shri Ahmad Hussain, r/o 2952, Baradari Ballimaran, Delhi- 06
14. Shri Abdul Rasheed, D-1/3, Sarai Khalil, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-06
15. Shri Aslam Sher Khan, former MOS (PMO)
16. Shri Laljan Basha, former MP, Andhra Pradesh
17. Shri Shakir Hussain Ansari
18. Shri Hasan Ahmed
19. Shri Akbar-ul-Hasan Naqvi
20. Khwaja Afzal Nizami of Nizamuddin Dargah
21. Shri Jawed Habib

22. Syed Yusuf Ali, Chairman, AP State Waqf Board
 23. Mohd. Mahri Azhar, former MLA, Rajasthan
 24. Maulana Usmani, Badaun
 25. Mohd. Arif, 12 Nizammuddin (West), New Delhi
 26. Shri Tahseer Ahmad Ismail, 35, Amar Pura, Ujjain
 27. Shri Umair Ahmad Ilyasi, 1, Masjid Kasturba Marg, New Delhi- 01
 28. Shri Shakeel Ahmad, Joint Secretary, Min. of Welfare Member-Secretary.
3. While in Saudi Arabia, besides performing the Haj, the delegation will meet Prince Majid bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Makkah, Prince Abdul Majeed bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Madinah, and other Saudi dignitaries. The team will also meet delegates from other countries.
 4. This year, about one lakh Indian pilgrims are expected to perform Haj, of whom 66,000 will be going to Saudi Arabia through the Haj Committee. Following the fire at Mina last year, this year arrangements have been made to provide

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 air-cooled and fire-resistant tents. The Consulate has also made arrangements to train the Haj staff in fire-fighting and emergency evacuation measures.
 5. The Haj Goodwill delegation left Delhi this afternoon and was seen off by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Ms. Vasundhara Raje.

INDIA USA PERU SAUDI ARABIA

Date : Mar 31, 1998

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1995

MAURITIUS

Message from President, Shri K. R. Narayanan to H.E. Cassam Uteem, President of Republic of Mauritius

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1998 regarding President Shri K. R. Narayanan's message to H.E. Cassam Uteem, President of the Republic of Mauritius on 30th anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius:

It gives me great pleasure to convey to you on behalf of the Government and people of India, and on my own behalf, warm greetings and good wishes on the happy and important occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius.

The traditionally close ties of kinship and culture between our two countries and peoples have, over the last three decades, blossomed into a unique partnership, strengthened by frequent political contact and mutually beneficial economic and cultural exchanges. I recall with great happiness your recent visit to India which has helped to further enrich the content of our bilateral relationship.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and my good wishes for your personal happiness and for the success and well-being of the people of Mauritius.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Mar 11, 1998

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NEPAL

Text of a letter from President K. R. Narayanan to His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1998 containing the text of a letter dated @@19980330@@ from President K. R. Narayanan to His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal:

Your Majesty,

I was looking forward with great pleasure and eager anticipation to visiting your beautiful Kingdom early next month in response to Your Majesty's gracious invitation.

It is therefore with great regret that a touch of bronchitis has obliged me to postpone engagements and travels for the next week or two. I seek Your Majesty's acceptance of a brief postponement and

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another set of mutually suitable dates. These could be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Meanwhile may I convey to Your Majesty and Her Majesty Queen Aishwaraya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, once again, my sincere regrets and those of my wife for this unavoidable postponement.

I look forward to a very early reinstatement of the visit.

With the assurance of my highest consideration.

NEPAL INDIA

Date : Mar 31, 1998

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Presence of the ULFA and Bodo militants inside Bhutan

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Mar 02, 1998 regarding presence of the ULFA and Bodo militants inside Bhutan:

The Government of India is in close touch with the Government of Bhutan regarding the presence of the ULFA and Bodo militants inside Bhutan. The Government of Bhutan has expressed its deep concern that these militants have established camps in the jungles inside Bhutanese territory while carrying out insurgency in Assam. The issue is under active consideration and the two governments are in close consultation about how best the problem can be resolved. However, the contents of the articles appearing in some Indian newspapers recently in this regard have no basis in fact whatsoever.

BHUTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 02, 1998

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan's malicious and false allegations of the involvement of Indian agencies in acts of violence in Pakistan

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1998 regarding Pakistan's malicious and false allegations of the involvement of Indian agencies in acts of violence in Pakistan:

It is reprehensible that Pakistan's malicious and false allegations of the involvement of Indian agencies in acts of violence in that country have continued. These allegations were dismissed by us last week with the contempt they deserved. India is a responsible country and has never stooped to the level of sponsoring terrorism and its record speaks for itself.

2. Pakistan is an acknowledged sponsor of state terrorism and its terrorist activities have been consistently undertaken against India and the region and further afield. Its official agencies undertake terrorist acts directly and through harbouring, aiding an abetting fundamentalist groups who are provided sanctuary and operate from Pakistani territory. These have lately been stepped up, following the decisive failure of terrorist groups to disrupt the successful holding of elections in India, particularly in J&K. Recently, Pakistan supplied shoulder-fired missiles to the terrorists in J&K, a fact which was brought to the attention of the Pakistani leaders, who were advised against escalating the undeclared war in J&K.

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3. The virulent propaganda campaign against India launched recently by Pakistan is directed at covering its own involvement in these heinous acts and blur its track-record. These attempts cannot succeed for Pakistan already stands exposed as a terrorist state. We have conclusive evidence of the involvement of the ISI in bombings in various parts of India over the years. The bombings in Mumbai in 1993 have been traced to Pakistan, as have the explosions in Delhi in 1996, 1997 and this year. Terrorist attacks have also taken place recently in Tamil Nadu, J&K and the North-East.

4. The serious and endemic ethnic and sectarian violence with which Pakistan itself is beset is the consequence of the encouragement which the Pakistan state has provided to fundamentalist and terrorist groups. Pakistan's attempts to divert the attention of its people from its own policies which are now recoiling on itself are pathetic and ridiculous.

INDIA MALI PAKISTAN USA

Date : Mar 17, 1998

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1995

PAKISTAN

Text of Prime Minister Shri A. B. Vajpayee's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 23, 1998 containing text of Prime Minister Shri A. B. Vajpayee's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan:

Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee had received a message of felicitations from His Excellency Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on March 20th, 1998. Prime Minister's letter in reply to the message of felicitations was personally handed over last night to the Prime Minister of Pakistan by Shri Satish Chandra, our High Commissioner in Islamabad. The text of Prime Minister Shri A. B. Vajpayee's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan is given below:

"Thank you for your kind message of felicitations on my assuming the office of Prime Minister of India.

India and Pakistan must not remain mired in the past, the prisoners of old contentions. We must respond positively and with energy to the call of the future, and the aspirations of our peoples, specially the younger generations, for a more cooperative relationship.

We welcome your willingness to make the extra effort to give new content to our relations. I assure you that we will reciprocate in full measure and hope to establish a relationship based on mutual respect and regard for each other's concerns.

The renewal of the dialogue process and interaction at high political levels between our two countries has reflected the consensus in India. My Government is committed to the continuation of this process on a constructive and sustained basis.

Please accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Mar 23, 1998

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RUSSIA

Text of Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's reply to H.E. Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin President of Russian Federation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 24, 1998 containing text of Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's reply to the message of felicitations received on @@19980320@@ from H.E. Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, President of Russian Federation:

Excellency,

I thank you for your warm message of congratulation on my assumption of the office of Prime Minister of India.

We regard Russia as a close and trusted friend and the depth and resilience of our time-tested friendship has always been a source of particular satisfaction to us. I look forward to working with Your Excellency to further deepen and diversify our multifaceted ties and establish a strategic partnership in the interests of the people of India and Russia and of stability in the world. I am confident that, through our joint efforts, the close partnership between our two countries will strengthen even further.

I would also like to take his opportunity of renewing to Your Excellency our earlier invitation to visit India later this year and would like to assure you that a warm welcome awaits you here.

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

RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date : Mar 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Visit of the Special Envoy of President of Sri Lanka

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1998 regarding two days visit to India by the Special Envoy of President of Sri Lanka & Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka:

On the first day of his two day visit in India, reaffirming the long-standing ties of goodwill and mutual understanding, the Special Envoy of the President of Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar held useful discussions in accurate meetings with the Prime Minister, Shri A. B. Vajpayee and Union Home Minister, Shri L. K. Advani in New Delhi today.

The Special Envoy handed over a letter to the Prime Minister from President Chandrika Kumaratunge conveying her greetings and good wishes to the Prime Minister and to the new Government. Mr. Kadirgamar said he was personally delighted that Shri A. B. Vajpayee was Prime Minister and had retained the External Affairs portfolio.

During Mr. Kadirgamar's meeting with the Prime Minister and Home Minister, India's commitment to furthering the

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traditionally excellent relations with Sri Lanka was reiterated. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of strengthening regional cooperation through the SAARC mechanism. While reviewing bilateral economic relations the Prime Minister emphasised the importance of joint ventures between both countries.

Recalling India's consistent stand in favour of a peaceful and political settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity and territorial integrity, the Prime Minister assured Foreign Minister Kadirgamar of the importance India has always attached to close and cooperative relations with Sri Lanka. Prime Minister expressed confidence that the friendly ties between the two countries would continue to be strengthened in the coming years.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 21, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Letter of felicitations from US President Clinton to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Mar 20, 1998 containing text of US President Clinton's letter of felicitation to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on his assumption of office as Prime Minister of India:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I want to congratulate you and your colleagues on attaining office after a challenging campaign. India has once again demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democracy.

Our two countries have many shared values and goals. In that regard, I particularly look forward to working with you to advance our common interests in such areas as the development of regional energy resources, support for UN peacekeeping, and the expansion of our economic ties.

Over the past several months the United States and India have also pursued a policy of greater engagement, including a new strategic dialogue which we look forward to expanding with you government. Our two great countries have some differences, as do all nations, but far greater are our many shared values and goals.

I plan to visit India later this year. Between now and then I hope that we will have made concrete, material progress in our relationship. As you may know, Ambassador Richardson, Assistant Secretary Inderfurth, and NSC Senior Director Riedel will be coming to New Delhi in April. I believe this will be a valuable opportunity for an exchange of views, and I hope your government will look for opportunities to visit Washington for similar engagement with us.

The United States has bright hopes for the twenty-first century, and it is my desire that we may journey toward that destination together with India. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss issues and share your views.

Sincerely,
Sd
William J. Clinton

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USA INDIA

Date : Mar 20, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Positive developments in Indo-US relations

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1998 regarding telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and US President Bill Clinton:

Prime Minister Vajpayee today received a call from US President Bill Clinton congratulating him on his assumption of office.

Prime Minister Vajpayee and the US President briefly reviewed the recent positive developments in Indo-US relations, and agreed that the strategic dialogue between the two great democracies should be carried forward. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the current state of economic cooperation between India and the USA. President

Clinton referred to the positive contribution made by the Indian community in the USA to American society and to strengthening ties between India and the USA.

The Prime Minister also renewed to the US President the invitation to visit India, and conveyed that he was looking forward to welcoming the US President and Mrs. Clinton to India later this year. President Clinton said that he was looking forward to the visit. Both leaders welcomed the beginning of this informal contact and agreed to remain in regular touch in future.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 20, 1998

April

Volume No

1995

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INDIA USA BRAZIL PERU SAUDI ARABIA

Date : Apr 01, 1998**Volume No**

1995

INDIA

Shri Soli Sorabjee elected to UN Sub-Commission on Minorities

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 06, 1998 regarding Shri Soli Sorabjee elected to UN Sub-Commission on Minorities:

Shri Soli Sorabjee, former Solicitor General and Attorney General of India and well-known lawyer and human rights activist, was today elected to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, of the UN Commission on Human Rights. Shri Sorabjee was elected with a record 47 out of 51 valid votes cast, at elections held during the 54th regular session of the 53-member Commission currently underway in Geneva.

Brazil came second with 44 votes. From Asia, Sri Lanka with 43 and China with 41 votes were the other countries elected.

The Sub-Commission was established by the Commission on Human Rights in 1946 in order to undertake studies and make recommendations to the Commission concerning the prevention of discrimination of any kind relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms and the protection of racial, national, religious and linguistic minorities. The Sub-Commission consisting of 26 members meets annually in Geneva for 4 weeks. The members of the Sub-Commission, though they are nominated by Governments and elected by the Commission on Human Rights, serve in their personal capacity.

Shri Sorabjee is expected to contribute significantly to the work of the Sub-Commission, given his vast experience and knowledge and well-known commitment to human rights.

INDIA SWITZERLAND BRAZIL CHINA SRI LANKA USA

Date : Apr 06, 1998**Volume No**

1995

INDIA

Indo-US understanding and cooperation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 14, 1998 regarding Indo-US understanding and cooperation:

The Prime Minister received Mr. Bill Richardson, US Ambassador to the UN this morning. The Prime Minister welcomed the strategic dialogue between the two countries and reiterated his commitment to promoting Indo-US understanding and cooperation. He reconfirmed the invitation to President Clinton to visit India later this year. Ambassador Richardson conveyed that President Clinton was looking forward to the visit, the dates for which will be finalised through diplomatic channels. He handed over a letter to the Prime Minister from President Clinton. This letter speaks of President Clinton's desire to advance the shared interests and common objectives of the two countries and to strengthen and deepen Indo-US relations.

2. Ambassador Richardson also described the US perspective for the 21st century in which India and the United States should work together as countries with global responsibilities. Shri Vajpayee

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called for closer cooperation between India and the USA in the fields of trade, investment and science & technology. The Prime Minister and Ambassador Richardson agreed on the need to combat terrorism.

3. The Prime Minister also spoke briefly about the new Government's foreign policy priorities, including improving relations with our South Asian neighbours, which the American side welcomed.

INDIA USA

Date : Apr 14, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

State visit by President K. R. Narayanan to Peru and Brazil 29 April to 8 May 1998

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1998 regarding state visit of President K. R. Narayanan to Peru and Brazil from 29th April 1998 to 8th May 1998:

The President of India Shri K. R. Narayanan accompanied by First Lady Shrimati Usha Narayanan will be paying State Visits to Peru and Brazil from 29th April to 2nd May 1998, and 3rd May to 8th May 1998 respectively. These visits are being made on invitations from Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and Brazilian President Henrique Cardoso. En route to Lima, the President of India will make a transit halt in New York where he will receive the World Statesman Award instituted by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

INDIA BRAZIL PERU USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 20, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Chinese Chief of General Staff visit to India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 27, 1998 regarding first visit to India by the Chinese Chief of General Staff:

The Prime Minister received the Chief of General Staff of the Chinese Peoples Liberation Army in South Block today. This was the first ever visit to India by the Chinese Chief of General Staff.

2. The Prime Minister welcomed the positive trends in India-China relations and spoke of his desire to continue the momentum of our relations. He also requested General Fu to convey his good wishes to President Jiang Zemin, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji and Chairman NPC Li Peng.

3. Shri Vajpayee expressed the view that improvement in relations between two countries should be based on the recognition of and respect for each other's concerns. An understanding based on mutual respect between the two most populous countries in the world will contribute to peace and security in Asia and in the world. The Prime Minister drew particular attention to the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement of 1993 and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures of 1996 and said that India needed a stable environment in order to concentrate on raising the living standards of the people. There were some problems along the Line of Actual Control because it was not delineated and these should be addressed in a friendly atmosphere.

4. General Fu conveyed the greetings of the Chinese leaders and stressed the importance they attach to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, which were jointly put forward by the leaders of India and China. He also conveyed the desire

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to raise partnership oriented to the 21st century. The Prime Minister and General Fu also discussed bilateral issues, including greater economic and cultural cooperation and agreed that such cooperation was in their mutual interest.

5. The meeting lasted half an hour.

INDIA CHINA USA

Date : Apr 27, 1998

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Indians among victims of Mina Stampede

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1998 regarding names of seven Indians among victims of Mina Stampede:

According to Saudi authorities, yesterday, at around 12.40 pm local time, there was a stampede at Mina in which 114 pilgrims are believed to have been killed. The tragedy occurred when pilgrims were performing the last ritual of the Haj at Mina, namely the "stoning of the devil". The exact cause of the stampede is not known as yet. After the stampede, the Saudi authorities cordoned off the area and took the dead to the morgues and the injured to hospital.

Teams of officials of the Indian Consulate visited the morgue last night and positively identified thirteen victims as Indian nationals. Of these, the details of seven deceased are presently available:

S.No.	Name	Pilgrim Pass Passport Number
1.	Palikalakath Abdul Ahmed, 45 yrs (Mumbai)	35046
2.	Mrs. Fatma Bee, 32 yrs (Madhya Pradesh)	32572
3.	Mrs. Ayesha Bee, W/o Syed Sher Ali	544254 (Passport)
4.	Mr. Jameeludden Tamizudeen	5012900 (Passport)
5.	Mohsin Ali Siddiqui	933700 (Passport)
6.	Bibi Batul W/o Neaz Ahmad, 60 yrs (Madhya Pradesh)	PP???30405
7.	Mohd. Sharif Khan 70 yrs (Madhya Pradesh)	PP???14810

The Saudi authorities have announced that the total number of Indian pilgrims who were killed in the stampede is 24. Since many of the bodies are without any identification, Consulate officials will make a building-wise search for a determination. They will also be visiting hospitals in Makkah to identify the injured. It may take 2-3 days to obtain full information and to specifically identify the victims of the stampede.

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SAUDI ARABIA INDIA USA

Date : Apr 10, 1998

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Details of Indian Casualties in the Mina Stampede

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1998 giving details of Indian Casualties in the Mina Stampede:

The following is the complete list of Indian pilgrims who were killed in the stampede at Mina on 9th April:

1. Palikalakath Abdul Ahmad, 45 years, Maharashtra
2. Mrs Fatma Bee, 32, Madhya Pradesh
3. Mrs Ayesha Bee, W/o Syed Sher Ali
4. Jameeluddin Tamizuddin, 60, Bihar
5. Mohsin Ali Siddiqui, Resident of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
6. Mrs Bibi Batul, W/o Neaz Ahmad, 60, Madhya Pradesh
7. Mohd. Sharif Khan, 70, Madhya Pradesh
8. Mohd. Ilyas Multani, S/o Mohd. Ismail, 43, Madhya Pradesh
9. Mrs Yasina Bee, W/o Haji Issa Qureshi, 50, Maharashtra
10. Razzak Mohiuddin, Resident in Saudi Arabia
11. Mrs Raisa W/o Mohd. Shafi, 60, Delhi
12. Mrs P. K. Mariyam, W/o G. S. Abdul Kuddus, 46, Kerala
13. Mrs G. S. Bee Fathima, W/o G. S. Abdul Razzak, 47, Kerala
14. Mohd. Ashfaq, S/o Mohd. Yaman, 55, Delhi
15. Boquar Mohd. Ali, Resident in Saudi Arabia
16. Mrs Parisha Begum, W/o Abdul Razzak, 40, Tamil Nadu

17. Mrs Jamila, W/o Palikalakath Abdul Ahmad, 32, Maharashtra
18. Mrs Aziza Begum, W/o Sheikh Azimuddin, 68, Maharashtra
19. Mrs Bibi Dilara, W/o Jamiluddin Tamizuddin, 55, Bihar
20. Mrs Fahmida Begum, W/o Syed Razi, 66, Delhi
21. Mrs Nafisa, W/o Bevunhi, 49, Karnataka
22. Mrs Katija Begum, W/o Mohd. Jaffer, 38, Tamil Nadu
23. Jamal Mohd., S/o Qadir Ghani, 36, Tamil Nadu

The following is a list of Indian Pilgrims who were injured in the Mina stampede and have been admitted in hospitals in Makkah:

1. Sheikh Hasan Abdul Razzak, 64, Raichur, Karnataka
2. Farzan Ali, 30, Bulandshahar, UP
3. Shaifuddin Khan, 45, UP
4. Abdul Rehman, 45, karnataka
5. B. K. Mohd., 70, Kerala
6. Arsina Makkan, 60, Gujrat
7. Nafoesa Mohd., 60, Kerala
8. Tahina Begum, 38, Bulandshahar, UP
9. Zahida Begum, 35, Raichur, Karnataka
10. Hasina Mohiuddin, 45, Calicut, Kerala
11. Tahira Begum, 35, UP
12. Kulra Bee, 65, Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Name of the injuries are reported to be life-threatening.

Committee officials are maintaining continuous contact with the Saudi medical and Haj authorities in order to ensure that all Indians receive the best possible medical attention.

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SAUDI ARABIA INDIA USA FRANCE

Date : Apr 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Indian Casualties in the Mina Stampede

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 13, 1998 giving details of four more Indians who were killed in the Mina Stampede:

Further to the press release issued by this Ministry on es, de; , giving details of 23 Indians who were killed in the stampede at Mina on April 9, we have now received details of four more Indians who were killed in the stampede; these are as follows :

- (i) Mrs. Swafiya Palollathil, w/o Mr. Mahmood Haji, 48 years, Kerala.
- (ii) Mrs. Shirin Begum, w/o Syed Asghar Ali, 59 years, Madhya Pradesh.
- (iii) Mrs. Thithumma Mohammed, 65 years, Palghat, Kerala.
- (iv) Mr. Mundukattil-Abdurahiman Moulavi, 68 years, Palaghat, Kerala.

2. This brings to 27 the total number of Indian pilgrims who were killed in the Mina stampede, including 10 men and 17 women.

SAUDI ARABIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Apr 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Indian Casualties in the Mina Stampede

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 14, 1998 giving names of four more Indians who were killed in the Mina Stampede:

Further to the press release issued by this Ministry on lo, as f, giving details of Indians who were killed in the stampede at Mina, we have now received details of four more Indians who were killed in the stampede; these are as follows :

- (i) Mrs. Abida Bibi, w/o Mohd. Hasan Ansari, 50 years, Bihar.
- (ii) Mr. Sabbir, s/o Abdur Rashid, 50 years, Delhi.
- (iii) Mrs. Bilqes Begum, w/o Sabbir, 45 years, Delhi.
- (iv) Mr. Arachalakath Mammed Koya, Passport No. S-662441, Calicut, Kerala.

2. This brings to 31 the total number of Indian pilgrims who were killed in the Mina stampede, including 12 men and 19 women.

SAUDI ARABIA INDIA

Date : Apr 13, 1998

May

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CHINA INDIA NEPAL PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : May 01, 1998

Volume No

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CHINA

India-China Relations

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 06, 1998 regarding Improvement

in India-China relations:

In recent years, there has been steady improvement in India-China relations. Both sides have agreed to build a constructive and co-operative relationship oriented towards the 21st Century. The high-level political dialogue has made an important contribution to deepening understanding and fostering co-operation in diverse fields. Trade and economic interaction has increased manifold in recent years. There is also growing interaction between scholars, academicians, thinktanks, officials and people from different walks of life. This development is in keeping with the common endeavour of India and China to develop their respective economies and to improve the standard of living of their peoples.

We believe that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, jointly enunciated by India and China, are of continuing relevance to the development of inter-State relations. We see our relationship as one in which the two sides would be responsive to each other's concerns. Eliminating differences and promoting understanding would contribute to the development of good neighbourly relations between India and China, two of the world's largest and most populous countries. It would also contribute to the promotion of regional and international peace and stability.

It will be recalled that the Prime Minister as Minister for External Affairs in the Janata Government of 1977-79 had taken a personal and active interest in the normalisation of relations with China. It was at his initiative that the first understanding regarding maintenance of peace and tranquility along the India-China border was reached. This process has continued since then, through high level exchanges and official talks, for improvement of bilateral relations and resolving outstanding issues.

Government of India remains committed to this process and to the development of a friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly, mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour.

CHINA INDIA USA MALI

Date : May 06, 1998

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Nuclear Tests conducted by India

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 16, 1998 regarding India's taking a note of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China:

We have taken note of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China on 14 May in Beijing with regard to the nuclear tests conducted by India on 11 May and 13 May 1998.

2. As is well-known, India's relations with our neighbours have shown marked improvement in recent years. The trend in South Asia is towards greater regional cooperation and economic integration. In

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this context, accusations that India is seeking hegemony in South Asia are baseless, unwarranted and only hinder the process of relaxation of tensions and promotion of peace and stability through regional cooperation.

3. India has legitimate security concerns. India cannot but take into account the offensive nuclear weapon and missile capability in our region nor the well documented history of proliferation through clandestine acquisition, taking place in our neighbourhood. Assistance from external sources to the clandestine nuclear weapons and missile development programme in our immediate neighbourhood is well known. All this is itself a clear refutation of the allegation about the Indian tests triggering off a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

4. China's own record in respect of international opinion in continuing its programme of nuclear tests until considered necessary for the purpose of developing its nuclear weapons, is well known. Over a period of three decades between 1964 and 1996, China conducted 45 nuclear tests, of which 23 were atmospheric. On 8 June 1996, while announcing that it would conduct yet another test, China stated that "In the world today, there still exist huge nuclear arsenals and the threat of a nuclear war caused by the first use of nuclear weapons. Against such a background, for the purpose of the supreme interests of the state and the nation, China cannot but conduct the necessary and minimum number of nuclear tests. We have all along exercised maximum restraint in conducting nuclear tests and the number of tests we have conducted is extremely limited." It is strange that China is not willing to concede the same logic to India that it applies to itself. If China with a large nuclear arsenal built with the experience of over 44 tests felt compelled to test again in July 96, for its own security, then it should be possible to understand the rationale for India conducting a limited number of tests after a 24 year long period of voluntary restraint.

5. As has been pointed out in our earlier statements, India has carried out a limited number of tests in a planned series. These tests do not pose any threat to any country. India remains committed to the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a time-bound framework on a comprehensive, universal non-discriminatory and verifiable basis. We are willing to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings of CTBT but this cannot be in a vacuum. We remain open to a dialogue in this regard.

6. India and China are two of the world's largest and most populous countries. We see our relationship as one in which the two sides would be responsive to each other's concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences and to the development of friendly,

cooperative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour.

CHINA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 16, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Underground Nuclear Tests

Following is the text of a Press Statement issued in New Delhi on May 11, 1998 regarding three underground nuclear tests:

As announced by the Prime Minister this afternoon, today India conducted three underground nuclear tests in the Pokhran range. The tests conducted today were with a fission device, a low yield device and a thermonuclear device. The measured yields are in line with expected values. Measurements have also confirm-

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ed that there was no release of radioactivity into the atmosphere. These were contained explosions like the experiment conducted in May 1974.

These tests have established that India has a proven capability for a weaponised nuclear programme. They also provide a valuable database which is useful in the design of nuclear weapons of different yields for different applications and for different delivery systems. Further, they are expected to carry Indian scientists towards a sound computer simulation capability which may be supported by subcritical experiments, if considered necessary.

The Government is deeply concerned, as were previous Governments, about the nuclear environment in India's neighbourhood. These tests provide reassurance to the people of India that their national security interests are paramount and will be promoted and protected. Succeeding generations of Indians would also rest assured that contemporary technologies associated with nuclear option have been passed on to them in this the 50th year of our Independence.

It is necessary to highlight today that India was in the vanguard of nations which ushered in the Partial Test Ban Treaty in 1963 due to environmental concerns. Indian representatives have worked in various international forums, including the Conference on Disarmament, for universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable arrangements for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. The Government would like to reiterate its support to efforts to realise the goal of

a truly comprehensive international arrangement which would prohibit underground nuclear testing of all weapons as well as related experiments described as 'sub-critical' or 'hydronuclear'.

India would be prepared to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. But this cannot obviously be done in a vacuum. It would necessarily be an evolutionary process from concept to commitment and would depend on a number of reciprocal activities.

We would like to reaffirm categorically that we will continue to exercise the most stringent control on the export of sensitive technologies, equipment and commodities-especially those related to weapons of mass destruction. Our track record has been impeccable in this regard. Therefore we expect recognition of our responsible policy by the international community.

India remains committed to a speedy process of nuclear disarmament leading to total and global elimination of nuclear weapons. Our adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention is evidence of our commitment to any global disarmament regime which is non-discriminatory and verifiable. We shall also be happy to participate in the negotiations for the conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty in the Geneva based Conference on Disarmament.

In our neighbourhood we have many friends with whom relations of fruitful cooperation for mutual benefit have existed and deepened over a long period. We assure them that it will be our sincere endeavour to intensify and diversify those relations further for the benefit of all our peoples. For India, as for others, the prime need is for peaceful cooperation and economic development.

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INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND

Date : May 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Planned series of Nuclear Tests Completed

Following is the text of a Press Statement issued in New Delhi on May 13, 1998 regarding completion of planned series of nuclear tests:

In continuation of the planned programme of underground nuclear tests begun on the 11th of May, two more subkiloton nuclear tests were carried out at Pokharan range at 12.21 p.m. on the 13th of May, 1998. The tests have been

carried out to generate additional data for improved computer simulation of designs and for attaining the capability to carry out subcritical experiments, if considered necessary. The tests were fully contained with no release of radioactivity into the atmosphere.

This completes the planned series of tests.

Government of India reiterates the offer to consider adhering to some of the undertakings in the CTBT, in the framework of the proposal in its statement of the 11th May, 1998.

INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 13, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Underground Nuclear Tests

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 15, 1998 regarding Presidential Statement adopted by U.N. Security Council on Indian Nuclear Tests:

We have noted with regret that the Security Council has adopted a Presidential Statement on d , carr on the underground nuclear tests which we have conducted. We are surprised by this, because the Council has never thought it necessary even to take cognizance of the many hundreds of nuclear tests carried out over the last 50 years, including in 1995 and 1996, when the de facto moratorium on testing, which the Council recalls, was already in place.

2. The tests which our scientists carried out are not directed against any country Tests by themselves, and the reconfirmation of a capacity which had been demonstrated in 1974, do not jeopardise peace and stability. Nuclear weapon's do, and the refusal of the nuclear weapon states to consider the elimination of nuclear weapons in a multilateral and time-bound framework, despite the end of the Cold War, continues to be the single biggest threat to international peace and stability.

3. It is because of the continuing threat posed to India by the deployment, overtly and covertly, of nuclear weapons in the lands and seas adjoining us that we have been forced to carry out these tests, so that we can retain a credible option to develop these weapons, should they be needed for the security of India's people, who constitute one fifth of the world's population.

4. There is a strong national consensus supporting the Government's decision

to authorise these tests to protect India's security. Internationally, there is a growing realisation that it is disingenuous of the nuclear weapon states to insist that the retention of nuclear weapons is essential for their security but that the security of all other states depends on their abjuring these weapons. In this context, it is essential to recall that India has been subjected to aggression by one nuclear weapon state and to the threat of use of nuclear weapons by another. Our security concerns, therefore, go well beyond South Asia.

5. The Statement adopted by the Security Council, therefore, is to be viewed in this light and is completely unacceptable to us. India is a responsible member of

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the international community, and has consistently supported the United Nations. We were among the first to propose, and continue to promote, the goal of general and complete disarmament, and the elimination of all nuclear weapons. To this end, we have made a series of concrete proposals for the consideration of the international community, and the nuclear weapon states in particular. Every one of these has been thwarted and distorted for their own purposes by the nuclear weapons states. The CTBT, which we proposed in 1954 as a means of capping and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons, ended up in 1996 as a non-proliferation measure, which allowed for the continued testing and refining by the nuclear weapons states of their weapons, and cooperation between them for this purpose. The NPT, which also India proposed, became a completely discriminatory treaty, legitimizing the possession in eternity of nuclear weapons by the five nuclear weapon states. At the end of the Cold War, when the world expected the nuclear weapons powers to move towards nuclear disarmament, since the stated reasons for their retention of nuclear arsenals had been removed, they have started to alter their nuclear doctrines to justify the possible use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. The nuclear weapon states have completely set their face against the overwhelming wish of the international community, and increasingly significant sections of their own domestic strategic and military opinion, for meaningful progress towards nuclear disarmament. The nuclear weapons states have adopted every ploy possible to deflect attention from their policies, which constitute the single biggest threat to international peace and security. The Statement adopted by the Council is in this unhappy tradition.

6. We would like to take this occasion to express our appreciation to the members of the international community, who have shown understanding to India's concerns and actions.

INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : May 14, 1998

Volume No

1995

Press Statement by Shri Jaswant Singh

Following is the text of a Press Statement of Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission on May 18, 1998 regarding Underground Nuclear Tests:

With the five tests conducted on 11 and 13 May, India has completed its planned series of underground nuclear tests. The decision to undertake this limited series of tests was taken after due consideration of all factors relevant to India's national security. These tests were not intended to threaten any country but address the security concerns of the Indian people and provide them with necessary assurance.

In undertaking these tests, India has not violated any international treaty obligations. The CTBT, to which we do not subscribe, also contains provision permitting states parties to withdraw if they consider that their supreme interests are being jeopardised.

Since independence, India has been a staunch advocate of global nuclear disarmament. We have participated actively in all such efforts, convinced that a world without nuclear weapons will enhance both national and global security. India was the first to call for a ban on nuclear testing in 1954, for a non-discriminatory treaty on non-proliferation in 1965, for a treaty on non-use of nuclear weapons in 1978, for a nuclear freeze in 1982, and for a phased programme for complete elimination in 1988. Unfortunately, many of these initiatives were not accepted by the nuclear weapon states who still consider these weapons essential for their own security, and what emerged has been a discriminatory and flawed non-proliferation regime which affects our security adversely. For many years, we have conveyed our apprehensions to other countries but this did not lead to any improvement in our security environment. As a result, we were left

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with no choice but to develop the capability that had been demonstrated 24 years ago.

Today, India is a nuclear weapon state. This adds to our sense of responsibility as a nation that is committed to the principles of the UN Charter and promoting regional peace and stability. Efforts for closer engagement with our neighbours will be strengthened. Our dialogues with other key partners will be intensified covering the entire range of issues which require collective consideration.

As a civilisation that has traditionally been outward looking and as an independent non-aligned country with a long demonstrated commitment to multilateralism, we remain confident that a strong and stable India will be seen as a responsible and engaged member of the international community as we move towards meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

INDIA USA

Date : May 18, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India's Security

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 26, 1998 regarding statement issued by the European Union at Foreign Minister's level:

Government of India have seen the statement issued by the European Union at Foreign Minister's level on Monday 25 May, 1998.

Decisions relating to India's security are based on a firm national consensus. Any suggestion that India should conform to international regimes or face economic consequences is unacceptable. India's policies will be determined by its national leadership in India's interest alone. Whilst we remain open to dialogue with our partners, we cannot accept suggestions which either contain warnings or the suggestion of an ultimatum. India is a responsible member of the international community and a country which has an unblemished track record in the area of disarmament. Such suggestions are all the more surprising coming as they do either from those who possess nuclear weapons or those who enjoy the protection of a nuclear umbrella.

India's is a transparent and indigenously developed programme of defence preparedness designed to safeguard our territorial integrity and sovereignty. We dismiss suggestions which have the effect of eroding our independent decision making.

INDIA USA

Date : May 26, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Following is the text of a Suo Moto statement by Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee in Parliament on May 27, 1998 regarding Underground Nuclear Tests:

Sir,

I rise to inform the House of momentous developments that have taken place while we were in recess. On 11 May, India successfully carried out three underground nuclear tests. Two more underground tests on 13 May completed the planned series of tests. I would like this House to join me in paying fulsome tribute to our scientists, engineers and defence personnel whose singular achievements have given us a renewed sense of national pride and self-confidence. Sir, in addition to the statement I make, I have also taken the opportunity to submit to the House a paper entitled "Evolution of India's Nuclear Policy".

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2. In 1947, when India emerged as a free country to take its rightful place in the comity of nations, the nuclear age had already dawned. Our leaders then took the crucial decision to opt for self-reliance, and freedom of thought and action. We rejected the Cold War paradigm and chose the more difficult path of non-alignment. Our leaders also realised that a nuclear-weapon-free-world would enhance not only India's security but also the security of all nations. That is why disarmament was and continues to be a major plank in our foreign policy.

3. During the 50's, India took the lead in calling for an end to all nuclear weapon testing. Addressing the Lok Sabha on 2 April, 1954, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, to whose memory we pay homage today, stated "nuclear, chemical and biological energy and power should not be used to forge weapons of mass destruction". He called for negotiations for prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and in the interim, a standstill agreement to halt nuclear testing. This call was not heeded.

4. In 1965, along with a small group of non-aligned countries, India put forward the idea of an international non-proliferation agreement under which the nuclear weapon states would agree to give up their arsenals provided other countries refrained from developing or acquiring such weapons. This balance of rights and obligations was not accepted. In the 60's our security concerns deepened. The country sought security guarantees but the countries we turned to were unable to extend to us the expected assurances. As a result we made it clear that we would not be able to sign the NPT.

5. The Lok Sabha debated the issue on 5 April, 1968. Prime Minister late Smt. Indira Gandhi assured the House that "we shall be guided entirely by our self-enlightenment and the considerations of national security". This was a turning point and this House strengthened the decision of the then Government by reflecting a national consensus.

6. Our decision not to sign the NPT was in keeping with our basic objectives. In 1974, we demonstrated our nuclear capability. Successive Governments

thereafter have taken all necessary steps in keeping with that resolve and national will, to safeguard India's nuclear option. This was the primary reason behind the 1996 decision for not signing the CTBT, a decision that also enjoyed consensus of this House.

7. The decades of the 80's and 90's had meanwhile witnessed the gradual deterioration of our security environment as a result of nuclear and missile proliferation. In our neighbourhood, nuclear weapons had increased and more sophisticated delivery systems inducted. In addition, India has also been the victim of externally aided and abetted terrorism, militancy and clandestine war.

8. At a global level, we see no evidence on the part of the nuclear weapon states to take decisive and irreversible steps in moving towards a nuclear-weapon-free-world. Instead, we have seen that the NPT has been extended indefinitely and unconditionally, perpetuating the existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of the five countries.

9. Under such circumstances, the Government was faced with a difficult decision. The touchstone that has guided us in making the correct choice clear was national security. These tests are a continuation of the policies set into motion that put this country on the path of self-reliance and independence of thought and action.

10. India is now a nuclear weapon state. This is a reality that cannot be denied. It is not a conferment that we seek; nor is it a status for others to grant. It is an endowment to the nation by our scientists and engineers. It is India's due, the right of one-sixth of human-kind. Our strengthened capability adds to our sense of responsibility. We do not intend to use these weapons for aggression or for mounting threats against any country; these are weapons of self-defence, to ensure that India is not subjected to nuclear threats or

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coercion. We do not intend to engage in an arms race.

11. We had taken a number of initiatives in the past. We regret that these proposals did not receive a positive response from other nuclear weapon states. In fact, had their response been positive, we need not have gone in for our current testing programme. We have been and will continue to be in the forefront of the calls for opening negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, so that this challenge can be dealt with in the same manner that we have dealt with the scourge of two other weapons of mass destruction through the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

12. Traditionally, India has been an outward looking country. Our strong commitment to multilateralism is reflected in our active participation in organisations like the United Nations. This engagement will continue. The policies of economic liberalisation introduced in recent years have increased our regional and global linkages and my Government intends to deepen and strengthen these ties.

13. Our nuclear policy has been marked by restraint and openness. We have not violated any international agreements either in 1974 or now, in 1998. The

restraint exercised for 24 years, after having demonstrated our capability in 1974, is in itself a unique example. Restraint, however, has to arise from strength. It cannot be based upon indecision or doubt. The series of tests recently undertaken by India have led to the removal of doubts. The action involved was balanced in that it was the minimum necessary to maintain what is an irreducible component of our national security calculus.

14. Subsequently, Government has already announced that India will now observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting underground nuclear test explosions. We have also indicated willingness to move towards a de-jure formalisation of this declaration.

15. The House is no doubt aware of the different reactions that have emanated from the people of India and from different parts of the world. The overwhelming support of our citizens is our source of strength. It tells us not only that this decision was right but also that our country wants a focussed leadership, which attends to their security needs. This, I pledge to do as a sacred duty. We have also been greatly heartened by the outpouring of support from Indians abroad. They have, with one voice, spoken in favour of our action. To the people of India, and to Indians abroad, I convey my profound gratitude. We look to the people of India and Indians abroad for support in the difficult period ahead.

16. In this, the fiftieth year of our independence, we stand at a defining moment in our history. The rationale for the Government's decision is based on the same policy tenets that have guided us for five decades. These policies have been sustained successfully because of an underlying national consensus. It is vital to maintain the consensus as we approach the next millennium. In my statement today and in the paper placed before the House, I have elaborated on the rationale behind the Government's decision and outlined our approach for the future. The present decision and future actions will continue to reflect a commitment to sensibilities and obligations of an ancient civilisation, a sense of responsibility and restraint, but a restraint born of the assurance of action, not of doubts or apprehension. Avoiding triumphalism, let us work together towards our shared objective in ensuring that as we move towards a new millenium, India will take its rightful place in the International community.

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INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 27, 1998

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

President's visit to Nepal

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 18, 1998 regarding President's visit to Nepal from May 28 to 30, 1998.

At the invitation of His Majesty the King of Nepal, the President of India will be making a State Visit to Nepal from May 28 to 30, 1998.

The President will hold discussions with His Majesty the King, the Prime Minister of Nepal and other political leaders. He will be presented the keys to the city of Kathmandu by the city Mayor at a Civic Reception, and will be conferred a Doctorate of Letters by the Tribhuvan University.

The President will be accompanied by Smt. Usha Narayanan.

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date : May 18, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Calling in of Indian High Commissioner by Pakistan Foreign Secretary

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 28, 1998 regarding calling in of Indian Indian High Commissioner by Pakistan Foreign Secretary:

Our High Commissioner in Pakistan was called in by the Pakistan Foreign Secretary at 0210 hours (IST) this morning. The Pakistan Foreign Secretary conveyed to our High Commissioner that India was preparing to attack the nuclear facilities of Pakistan. Our High Commissioner dismissed this as an utterly absurd and malicious allegation. Pakistan has also sought to spread this canard in the UN and some important world capitals. In the normal course we would not have lent dignity to this vicious propaganda but as it could be a part of a more nefarious design, we would like to make it clear that India stands committed to uphold its treaty obligations and agreements including the India-Pakistan Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities. There is no intention, on our part, to heighten tension between India and Pakistan. We are in these Pakistani efforts yet another example of their deep frustration. We are confident that all concerned will reject these crude manifestations of the traditional Pakistani mindset of hostility against India.

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PAKISTAN INDIA MALI USA

Date : May 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

One More Nuclear Test Conducted by Pakistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 30, 1998 regarding one more nuclear Test conducted by Pakistan:

We are in the knowledge of Pakistan having conducted one more nuclear test today. The development was expected. Facts are being ascertained. Government's stand has been made clear by Prime Minister in Parliament yesterday. As is well known, India is already observing a voluntary moratorium. Pakistan has sought to justify its nuclear tests by projecting an alleged threat from India. As Prime Minister has already stated, India does not pose a threat to Pakistan. The Prime Minister also reiterated the offer to hold discussions with Pakistan on a no-first-use agreement reflecting our desire to maintain peace and stability in the region. Government is watching the situation carefully. Government remains fully prepared to deal firmly and effectively with any threat to India's national security.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 30, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Security Council Reaction to the Nuclear Tests Carried out by Pakistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 31, 1998 regarding Reaction of the Security Council to the Nuclear Tests carried out by Pakistan:

We note with regret that the Security Council, in reacting to the nuclear tests carried out by Pakistan, has made several unwarranted references to India. Much of the Council's statement is a repetition of the one it issued on 14th May to which we have already given a response on 15th May, 1998. Nevertheless, it would be appropriate to put the developments in perspective.

2. We are astonished that the Council urges India not to conduct any further tests. Prime Minister has repeatedly stated, as widely reported in the media, and confirmed in the suo moto statement delivered in Parliament on 27th May, 1998, that India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting tests. India is also willing to move to a de-jure formulation of this declaration. The Prime Minister has also announced that we are willing to participate in the negotiations on a fissile material cut off treaty in the Commission on Disarmament in Geneva.

3. The misleading references in Security Council's Presidential Statement obfuscate the nature of Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes, particularly the well documented fact that they are long established and are based on clandestine acquisitions and transfers.

4. India remains firmly committed to a policy of friendly and cooperative relations with all its neighbours, the promotion of peace and stability in the region and the resolution of all outstanding issues through bilateral dialogue and negotiations.

5. As the Prime Minister has stated, we have always desired to pursue the path of peace and of comprehensive and constructive dialogue with Pakistan. This is a manifestation of our national confidence and strength. Our proposals for the modalities of the dialogue as also a range of other proposals are with Pakistan and we await their response. Our dialogue includes peace and security issues including Confidence Building Measures. The international community can rest assured that on our part, there is no desire to heighten tensions and Pakistan faces no threat from India.

6. Our commitment to restraint is evident in the Prime Minister's statement in

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Parliament on 28th May, 1998 that the Government is ready to discuss a "no first use" agreement with Pakistan, as also with other countries bilaterally, or in a collective forum. The Presidential Statement ignores India's security concerns, which go beyond South Asia.

7. On the broad issue of the nuclear environment that forced us to conduct these tests, which the Prime Minister again emphasized in Parliament were not directed against any country, the Prime Minister reiterated our commitment to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time. India calls on all nuclear weapon states and indeed the international community to join with it in opening early negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention so that these weapons can be dealt with in a global nondiscriminatory framework as the other two weapons of mass destruction have been, through the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA SWITZERLAND USA

Date : May 31, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Official Meeting between British Prime Minister and the so-called Prime Minister of PoK

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 21, 1998 regarding official meeting between British Prime Minister and so called Prime Minister of PoK:

Government had received reports several weeks ago that the so-called Prime Minister of PoK, SULTAN MEHAMUD CHAUDHARY was to be officially received by a Minister in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London.

We had, in anticipation of this meeting taking place, conveyed our views to the British High Commissioner in New Delhi and to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London in appropriate terms in April, early May and again a few days ago. We had also pointed out that such a meeting, if it were to take place, could not be without negative consequences for relations between India and the United Kingdom.

We understand that the meeting took place in London on Tuesday, 19 May 1998. We have taken note of the British Government's decision to go ahead with this meeting inspite of our advice to the contrary. We reserve further comment.

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INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : May 21, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Statements of Senior US Officials

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs on May 18, 1998 regarding statements of Senior US Administration Officials:

We have noted statements of senior US Administration officials that they have been "seriously misled" by Indian Interlocutors. We completely disagree with this characterisation of the discussions between the two countries. India has refrained from commenting so far, keeping in mind the confidentiality of diplomatic exchanges. It has, however, now become necessary to reject this allegation. We cannot accept any claim of misrepresentation.

2. We have welcomed the broader interaction with the US over the last several months. During these discussions we have conveyed our readiness to work with the US government to deepen and broaden our mutually beneficial relations. We explained the rationale of our defence and nuclear related policies and hoped for better US government appreciation of our concerns.

3. We have always maintained that India's nuclear option is open and that decisions on these matters will be taken in the light of our security perceptions in the region and actions at the international level.

4. In the twenty or more meetings referred to by the US Spokesman, India never gave any assurances or guarantees. In fact, it was clearly pointed out that no assurances can be given.

5. It seems that the outbursts by US government representatives have more to do with the internal debate in US Administration circles, and the charges being levelled against certain sections of it.

USA INDIA

Date : May 18, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Statements of US Official on Indian leader

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 21, 1998 regarding remark made by James P. Rubin, Spokesman of the State Department of the United States:

We have taken note of the remarks made by Mr. James P. Rubin, Spokesman of the State Department of the United States regarding a senior Cabinet Minister of the Government of India. We had earlier drawn attention to intemperate outbursts

by the State Department Spokesman. Such language is not used in allusion to senior political leaders of any country, even those with whom there may be disagreements. We would expect that this courtesy, which is standard practice in responsible diplomatic communication, would be extended to India.

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USA INDIA

Date : May 21, 1998

Volume No

1995

MULTILATERAL

G - 15 Summit

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 01, 1998 regarding Eighth G-15 Summit:

Hon'ble Vice President of India would be representing India at the forthcoming Eighth G-15 Summit in Cairo from May 11-13, 1998. Vice President of India had also represented India at the last, i.e., Seventh G-15 Summit in Kuala Lumpur from November 3-5, 1997.

Commerce Minister of India will be attending the Second G-15 Trade Economic Ministers Meeting in Cairo on May 8, 1998.

Minister of State for External Affairs will be attending the Sixteenth Meeting of the G-15 Foreign Ministers in Cairo on May 09, 1998 and will assist the Vice President of India at the G-15 Summit.

A composite Indian business delegation from the apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be attending the G-15 business events being organised in Cairo in parallel with the Summit. These include: (i) Meeting of the G-15 Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry from May 7-8, 1998; (ii) Business Workshop Encounter from May 9-13, 1998; and (iii) Business Exhibition from May 11-13, 1998. As in the past, India is participating on a major scale at the G-15 Business Exhibition under the theme of "Modern India".

The Group of Fifteen (G-15) stands for the Summit Level Group of Developing Countries for South-South Consultation and Cooperation. The G-15's mandate includes both South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue. The Eighth G-15 Summit in Cairo is expected to focus on the themes of (i) the financial crisis in South East Asia which is a topical subject; and (ii) the Multilateral Trading System, given that the Summit is being held on the eve of the WTO Ministerial

Meeting in Geneva from May 18-20, 1998.

INDIA EGYPT USA SWITZERLAND

Date : May 09, 1998

June

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Date : Jun 01, 1998

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1995

AFGHANISTAN

Condolence Message on earthquake

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 02, 1998 containing a condolence message on the earthquake from Prime Minister Shri A. B. Vajpayee to H.E. Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of Afghanistan:

"I have learnt with deep sorrow of the devastating earthquake in Takhar and Badakshan Provinces of Afghanistan which has also led to tragic loss of life and property. I would like to convey to, Your Excellency, and to the people of Afghanistan the deepest sympathies of the Government and the people of India at this difficult time. Coming within four months of the earlier earthquake, we realise how much pain and suffering it would have brought to the affected areas. As in the past, the people of India stand by their Afghan brethren at this hour and will extend whatever assistance is possible to alleviate their sufferings.

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

AFGHANISTAN INDIA

Date : Jun 02, 1998

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Message from Shri K. R. Narayanan, President of the Republic of India to H.E. Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on June 5, 1998 containing text of a message from Shri K. R. Narayanan, President of the Republic of India to H.E. Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of Islamic State of Afghanistan on the earthquake in Northern

Afghanistan:

"Excellency,

I have been deeply grieved to learn that another massive earthquake has hit northern Afghanistan within a few months of the one in February. This earthquake which has also caused extensive loss of life and property will make the burden of suffering so much greater. On behalf of the government and the people of India and on my own behalf, I would like to convey our deep sympathies to the people of Afghanistan, particularly to the people in the affected areas. Please convey our heart-felt condolences to those who have suffered in this tragic earthquake."

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jun 05, 1998

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Relief Supplies to Afghan People

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 15, 1998 regarding relief supplies to Afghan people:

A consignment of relief supplies from the Government of India for the Afghan people affected by earthquake is reaching Afghanistan to-day. The 18 tonnes consignment included 200 sets of tents, 4000 blankets and 1 tonne of biscuits.

A special chartered plane carrying the relief supplies left Delhi on Jun 11, 1998,

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for Dushanbe. A massive earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter Scale had taken place in Takhar and Badakshan provinces of Afghanistan on May 30, 1998. It had affected an area of 1750 square kilometres and 70,000 people. The number of people who died in seven dozen villages is estimated between 4000-5000, with hundreds of injured requiring urgent attention.

Earlier, President K. R. Narayanan and Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee had sent messages of sympathy to Afghan President Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Following the earthquake in Afghanistan in early February, 1998, India had sent a similar consignment of relief supplies.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TAJIKISTAN USA TOTO

Date : May 30, 1998

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Foreign Secretary's Visit to Dhaka

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1998 regarding Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Raghunath's visit to Dhaka:

Foreign Secretary Shri K. Raghunath will be visiting Dhaka on 28-29 June 1998 for Foreign Office level consultations.

The discussions between the Foreign Secretaries will cover all matters of mutual interest, with a focus on bilateral relations.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Jun 27, 1998

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Chinese Ship Carrying Material for A. Q. Khan Research Laboratories

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 05, 1998 regarding a Chinese ship carrying material for A. Q. Khan Research Laboratories:

"We have seen reports regarding a Chinese ship carrying materials and equipment for use in the A.Q. Khan Research Laboratories. Reports of such nature need to be investigated thoroughly. If well founded, the report confirms yet again international concerns regarding clandestine external assistance to Pakistan's nuclear weapons and missile programme."

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CHINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 05, 1998

Volume No

1995

ETHIOPIA

Outbreak of Hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1998 regarding out-break of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea:

We are concerned at the recent out-break of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea and hope that the two countries would resolve their disputes in a peaceful manner through dialogue.

We had anticipated this development and had directed our Mission in Ethiopia to depute an officer to Eritrea to report on the situation, to work out an evacuation plan for our nationals and to liaise with the Eritrean authorities. Our First Secretary arrived in Djibouti on June 5 and has established contact with our nationals in Asmara. Following the hostilities, while air and telecommunication links between Eritrea and Ethiopia have been suspended, all our nationals are reported to be safe in Asmara.

On June 4, we had alerted our Department of Civil Aviation on the possibility of undertaking a special Air India flight to evacuate our nationals from Eritrea in case the need arose. However, in view of the alternate arrangements worked out, this would now not be required.

All arrangements have been made for evacuation of such of our nationals who wish to leave Eritrea. A charter carrying them would be leaving Asmara today evening and arrive at Mumbai in the early hours of Jun 09, 1998.

We have received full cooperation of the Government of Ethiopia and the Government of Eritrea in our planned evacuation operation.

ETHIOPIA ERITREA INDIA DJIBOUTI USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 09, 1998

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Indo-French Forums

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 29, 1998 regarding first meeting of Indo-French Forum:

The first meeting of the Indo-French Forum will be held in Paris from July 2-3, 1998. The Forum is a high level non-Governmental group of eminent persons from both countries drawn from the fields of art and culture, science and technology, business, academia and other walks of life. Their mandate is to advise the two Governments on ways of increasing and diversifying mutually beneficial exchanges between the two countries for qualitatively enriching the bilateral relationship.

2. The Indo-French Forum was set up at the initiative of the two Governments following discussions held during the visit of President Chirac to India in January, 1998. Dr. Karan Singh is the Co-Chairman from the Indian side. He has been conferred Cabinet status in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the Forum.

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3. The Co-Chairman from the French side is Mr. Jean Francois Poncet. He is the Chairman of the Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs. He had earlier been the Minister of Foreign Affairs from November, 1978 and May 1981.

4. The members of the Forum will call on President Chirac on , nged. They will also call on Mr. Claude Allegre, Minister of Education, Research and Technology on @@19980703@@. A number of other high level meetings are also being arranged.

FRANCE INDIA USA

Date : Jul 02, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Extradition of Anup Chetia, General Secretary ULFA

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 30, 1998 regarding extradition of Anup Chetia General Secretary ULFA:

We have read an agency report which alleges that the Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Raghunath had told Bangladeshi officials that India would not press for the extradition of ULFA General Secretary Anup Chetia. This is baseless and untrue. India has reiterated its demand for the handing over of Chetia.

INDIA BANGLADESH

Date : Jun 30, 1998

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Visit of Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 03, 1998 regarding visit of H.E. Dr. Seyed Kamal Kharrazi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran accompanied by a high-level delegation to India:

As part of the process of high-level interaction between India and Iran, His Excellency Dr. Seyed Kamal Kharrazi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran accompanied by a high-level delegation visited India on June 2-3, 1998. During his visit, Dr. Kharrazi was received by Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. He also held discussions with Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Vasundhara Raje on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee warmly welcomed Dr. Kharrazi and referred to the age-old and special ties between India and Iran. The Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to enhance these ties. Dr. Kharrazi reciprocated these sentiments and conveyed the greetings of President Seyed Mohammad Khatami to the Prime Minister.

The Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Vasundhara Raje and the

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Iranian Foreign Minister surveyed economic, technical and commercial cooperation between India and Iran. While expressing satisfaction at the progress in these areas, the two Ministers felt that efforts should be made by the two sides to realize the full potential for cooperation in these areas. The two Ministers also decided that the next meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission would be held in October in New Delhi. This would provide the two Ministers who are co-

chairmen of this Commission an occasion to review these issues in order to provide greater impetus in these sectors of the relationship.

At senior officials level, discussions took place to intensify cooperation between the two countries in the hydrocarbon sector.

The current situation in the region also came up during Dr. Kharrazi's discussions with the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs. The Prime Minister informed Dr. Kharrazi that our nuclear tests were undertaken to ensure our security. India did not pose a threat to any country. The Prime Minister noted that India is firmly committed to general and complete nuclear disarmament and meaningful progress in this direction is of critical importance to international peace and security. The Prime Minister said that India had also announced a number of confidence-building measures in the nuclear field. These are: (i) India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting tests; (ii) India is willing to participate in negotiations on the FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva; and (iii) India has announced that is ready to discuss a 'no-first-use' agreement bilaterally with Pakistan, as also with other countries, bilaterally or in a collective forum.

The Prime Minister also reiterated India's readiness for a direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan on all issues of mutual interest. He said that the two countries had identified subjects for discussions and India had given Pakistan in Dhaka in January this year its suggestions for the modalities of the dialogue. India was awaiting Pakistan's response. The Prime Minister also told Dr. Kharrazi that there is no place for any third-party mediation in India-Pakistan relations.

The Indian side clarified to the Iranian side that there is a set of issues relating to global nuclear disarmament and India is willing to discuss this with the nuclear weapon states and others. These issues cannot be placed in an exhaustive South Asian context. There are other issues which relate to India-Pakistan relations. These issues which include confidence-building measures can only be addressed bilaterally by the two countries.

IRAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND PAKISTAN BANGLADESH

Date : Jun 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

State visit of President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 30, 1998 regarding state visit to India of President

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom:

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives arrived in Delhi today on a two-day State visit to India. The visit is being undertaken in his capacity as Chairman of SAARC prior to the completion of his second tenure in this position. He was received at Palam by the MOS (EA), Ms. Vasundhara Raje.

Prime Minister and President Gayoom held talks at Hyderabad House followed by a working lunch hosted by the Prime

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Minister. Both leaders expressed great satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations and the close friendship which exists between India and the Maldives. They reviewed Indo-Maldives co-operation which was recognised as wide ranging and extensive. There was particular mention of the setting up of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital and the Maldives Institute of Technical Education in Male, both of which are contributing to the social sector in the Maldives in the respective areas of health and HRD. This is over and above the on-going feature of many Maldivians coming to India for education and many Indians working in the Maldives.

The two leaders discussed the forth-coming SAARC Summit which is scheduled to be held in Colombo from 29-31 July 1998. They both agreed that it was important for SAARC to accelerate economic co-operation and felt that the Summit could focus on this. They shared the view that the Summit should review the progress made in the SAPTA negotiations. They also felt that the Summit could provide a mandate for commencing negotiations on a SAFTA Treaty which would lay out a time-bound and transparent road map for achieving SAFFTA. The Male Summit had set up a Group of Eminent Persons to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of SAARC and formulate a SAARC Perspective Plan up to the year 2020. President Gayoom informed Prime Minister that he would be circulating the Report of the GEP shortly. Both leaders agreed that the Report would provide a valuable input and should be discussed at Colombo.

MALDIVES INDIA USA SRI LANKA

Date : Jun 30, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Train blasts in Sindh Province of Pakistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 07, 1998 regarding train blasts in Sindh Province of

Pakistan:

The reported statement of the Pakistan Information Minister regarding India's alleged involvement in the unfortunate train blasts in Sindh Province of Pakistan are baseless and false.

PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Jun 07, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Modalities of Official Dialogue between India and Pakistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 12, 1998 regarding modalities of official dialogue between India and Pakistan:

We received yesterday, a response from Pakistan to our proposals, given to them in January this year, regarding the modalities of the official dialogue between the two countries. We note that our view that the bilateral dialogue process should proceed ahead for mutual benefit is finding acceptance in Pakistan. We hope they will continue on this path.

India is committed to fostering a relationship of trust and friendship with Pakistan, based on mutual respect and regard for each other's concerns. This objective can only be achieved through a wide-ranging, comprehensive and sustained

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dialogue process which will build, as the Prime Minister said in Parliament, "a stable structure of cooperation", and also resolve outstanding issues. The Joint Statement of June 23, 1997, identifies the subjects for discussions. These are (i) Peace and Security, including CBMs, (ii) Jammu & Kashmir, (iii) Siachen, (iv) Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project, (v) Sir Creek, (vi) Terrorism and Drug Trafficking, (vii) Economic and Commercial Co-operation, and (viii) Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields.

We will be happy to resume, on the basis of the January, 1998 proposals, the round of Foreign Secretary talks which was adjourned in New Delhi last September. For this purpose we invite an official delegation led by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan to visit New Delhi on Jun 22, 1998.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jun 22, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary talks

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 12, 1998 regarding Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary talks:

It is encouraging that Pakistan too has now announced a moratorium. It will be recalled, India had announced a moratorium on nuclear tests more than three weeks ago and, despite subsequent tests by Pakistan, took the responsible decision to continue its moratorium. There are also other suggestions in this context which are best discussed under the first agenda item of the Foreign Secretary talks - Peace and Security including CBMs. We have already invited the Pakistan Foreign Secretary to visit New Delhi on 22 June, 1998 to resume the adjourned dialogue, where these issues should be addressed constructively.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jun 12, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Economic Co-operation between India and the U.S.

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1998 regarding Economic Cooperation between India and the U.S.:

We have taken note of the US Government's notification elaborating certain economic measures directed against India. It reiterates certain measures that were announced earlier and contains some additional measures which are on expected lines.

We consider it regrettable that these impediments have been placed in the way of the growing economic cooperation between India and the U.S. Coercive measures such as these interfering with the free flow of trade, investment and technology are unjustified and counter-productive.

The details, of these measures are being studied in the relevant agencies. We shall take all steps necessary to safeguard our economic and national interests.

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We are confident that the large, diversified and dynamic Indian economy will continue to generate expanding opportunities for our trade and investment partners. We will strive to ensure that their engagement in the Indian economy continues to grow to mutual advantage.

USA INDIA

Date : Jun 18, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US-China "Joint Statement on South Asia"

Following is the text of a statement of Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1998 regarding US-China "Joint Statement on South Asia":

We have seen the US-China "Joint Statement on South Asia". India categorically rejects the notion of these two countries arrogating to themselves, joint or individual responsibility for "the maintenance of peace, stability and security in the region". This approach reflects the hegemonistic mentality of a bygone era in international relations and is completely unacceptable and out of place in the present day world.

The statement contains a number of references to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. It is most ironical that two countries that have directly and indirectly contributed to the unabated proliferation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems in our neighbourhood, are now presuming to prescribe norms for non-proliferation. India's own consistent commitment to nuclear disarmament has been made amply clear in the constructive ideas that we have put forward over the years in international fora. In particular, the proposals we have made in recent weeks provide a meaningful framework for discussions which will enable forward movement towards a comprehensive, universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament regime. We would also like to make it clear that India

cannot consider the suggestions contained in the statement for curtailing our nuclear weapon or missile development programmes. India will continue to take decisions in this regard on the basis of its own national security requirements.

India's desire to develop friendly and peaceful relations and a stable structure of cooperation with Pakistan does not require reiteration. The way of achieving these objectives is through direct bilateral dialogue. We look forward to the resumption of this process in which there is no place for any kind of third-party involvement whatsoever. Our Prime Minister will be meeting the Prime Minister of Pakistan at the SAARC Summit in Colombo next month. The two Prime Ministers will hold bilateral talks on all issues of mutual interest.

USA CHINA INDIA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

Date : Jun 27, 1998

Volume No

1995

MULTILATERAL

Joint Communique issued by the Foreign Minister of China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA in Geneva

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 05, 1998 regarding Joint Communique issued by the Foreign Ministers of China, France, Russia, the U.K. and the USA in Geneva:

1. We have seen the Joint Communique issued by the Foreign Ministers of China,

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France, Russia, the UK and the USA in Geneva on Jun 04, 1998.

2. India has a consistent record as a responsible member of the international community, and a pioneer and leading participant in the movement towards global nuclear disarmament. Regrettably the world is still far from establishing a comprehensive and equitable regime of nuclear disarmament, primarily because the nuclear weapon states have not taken credible and effective steps towards this goal. What has been put in place is a deeply flawed and discriminatory non-proliferation system which has legitimised the possession of nuclear weapons by a few countries and their presence in our neighbourhood. It is this adverse security environment that has compelled us to take the decision to carry out nuclear weapon tests.

3. The P-5 are not unaware that one of the most serious threats to our security has arisen because of the non-observance of the obligations they have undertaken under the NPT. The clandestine transfer over the years of nuclear

weapons technology and fissile material to our neighbourhood is well known. Nevertheless the P-5 have declined to take any action to address a serious violation of a Treaty provision to which all of them were party.

4. India has not violated any treaty provisions which it has undertaken. Our tests are not directed against any country. We have not raised tensions nor do we intend to do so. India remains strongly committed to a comprehensive, universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament regime.

5. In keeping with this responsible approach as a nuclear weapon state we have reiterated our commitment to continue observing the strictest control on export of nuclear material or related technologies. We would also draw attention to the significant proposals we have made recently for confidence building measures in the field of nuclear disarmament and for peace and stability in the region and beyond, i.e.: (i) India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting further tests. India is also willing to move to the de jure formulation of this declaration. (ii) India is willing to participate in negotiations on the FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. (iii) India has announced that it is ready to discuss a non-first-use agreement bilaterally with Pakistan, as also with other countries, bilaterally or in a collective forum. These proposals provide a reasonable framework for addressing our common concerns.

6. We have also consistently worked to build confidence and promote peace and stability in our region. The initiatives we have taken along with other countries in this area have helped create a climate of cooperation and integration, at both bilateral and multi-lateral levels. With Pakistan we have sought to develop a peaceful and cooperative relationship. Direct bilateral dialogue is the only means of achieving this objective. This will facilitate working out the possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation as well as addressing of outstanding issues on the basis of mutual respect for each others concerns. We intend to continue in a constructive and sustained manner the broad based dialogue process which was renewed at our initiative in early 1997. Subjects for the dialogue have been mutually agreed on and include questions of peace and security, Jammu & Kashmir as well as trade and economic cooperation, people to people and cultural contacts, drug trafficking and cross-border terrorism. This process has been under way for over a year now. Our specific and well considered proposals for the modalities for further talks have been with Pakistan since January 1998 and a response from them is awaited. We reiterate once again that there is no room for any outside involvement of any nature whatsoever in this process.

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CHINA RUSSIA FRANCE USA SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC PERU PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 04, 1998

Volume No

1995

MULTILATERAL

Resolution adopted by U.N. Security Council

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 06, 1998 regarding resolution adopted by U.N. Security Council:

Referring to the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on 6.6.98, the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs has noted as follows.

We regret that the Security Council has acted in the way it has and produced a resolution which is coercive and unhelpful in respect of the objectives it seeks to address. The problem of non-proliferation cannot be arbitrarily confined to a narrow geographical segment, but can be addressed meaningfully only in a global framework. This narrow focus and approach by the Council will heighten tensions, not lessen them.

India has reiterated its commitment to non-proliferation frequently. India is conscious of its responsibilities as a nuclear weapon state. Our impeccable record speaks for itself and is better than that of many who have chosen to attempt to instruct us in the matter. India has proposed a series of measures, including no-first-use, moratorium on further testing and negotiations on FMCT. Attempts to coerce Member States to accede to international treaties is contrary to the norms of international law. The NPT represents an unequal world order. The Council's authority to decide on disarmament matters is questionable and not in conformity with the UN Charter.

The Security Council is strangely silent on many fundamental questions on its role under the UN Charter, raised by the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in the letter addressed to the President of the Security Council on 4th June, 1998.

We find it grotesque that an organ of the United Nations should seek to address India in this manner - a country that represents one-sixth of humanity and is the world's largest democracy and a founder member of the UN and NAM, a country which has contributed significantly to the evolution and growth of the organisation. India has consistently supported an enlightened multilateralism and globalism and participated constructively in the UN's activities since its inception including UN Peace Keeping Operations.

In respect of the global situation created by presence of nuclear weapons, we firmly recommend a global and comprehensive approach, working towards adopting a Nuclear Weapons Convention, in the shortest possible time.

India is committed to fostering friendship and cooperation with all neighbouring countries. With Pakistan, we are determined to resolve all outstanding issues through direct bilateral dialogue and establish a mutually beneficial relationship. Our proposals for resuming the dialogue are with Pakistan. There is no place for third party involvement of any nature whatso-

ever in this process.

INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 06, 1998

Volume No

1995

MULTILATERAL

Forthcoming Meeting of Foreign Ministers of G-8 and other Countries

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on Jun 10, 1998 regarding forthcoming meeting of Foreign Ministers of G-8 and other countries:

We have seen reports regarding a forthcoming meeting of Foreign Ministers of G-8 and other countries. Our reaction to the pronouncements in recent weeks of the UN Security Council, G-8 and P-5 countries makes it clear that India categorically rejects any suggestions for curtailing our nuclear weapon or missile development programmes. These are decisions to be taken by the Government of India

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on the basis of its own assessments and national security requirements.

We would urge these countries who claim to speak on behalf of the international community to take note of the unilateral gestures made by India in recent weeks. These include, inter-alia, the institution of a moratorium on nuclear testing; our willingness to explore ways and means for de jure formalisation of this undertaking; readiness to engage in negotiations on an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva; maintain and further develop strict export controls on nuclear and related materials and technologies; resume discussions with Pakistan on all issues including our suggestion for a no-first-use agreement.

These gestures and other statements reflect both our desire to further the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda as well as our commitment to pursuing direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan for promoting security and stability in the region. There is no place for any third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in this process.

Any action on the part of the G-8 which does not take these proposals into account is short sighted and will be counter productive. We would expect a positive response to our initiatives from those who claim to speak for the international community, rather than prescriptive and coercive suggestions which

are neither responsible nor constructive.

INDIA MALI SWITZERLAND USA PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 10, 1998

Volume No

1995

MULTILATERAL

Meeting of Foreign Ministers of G-8 Countries in London

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 13, 1998 regarding "Communique" issued by the Foreign Ministers of G-8 countries:

We have seen the "Communique" issued by the Foreign Ministers of the G-8 countries at their meeting held in London on Jun 12, 1998.

India's views on the contents of the communique have been clearly articulated in our government's responses to the declarations issued after the various meetings of the P-5, the G-8, and the United Nations Security Council Resolution. Attention is invited in particular to the Official Spokesman's statement of June 10, 98, relating to the latest G-8 meeting.

It is unfortunate that the G-8 statement ignores the positive postures made by Government of India in recent weeks. These include, inter alia, the institution of a moratorium on nuclear testing; our willingness to explore ways and means for de jure formalisation of this undertaking, readiness to engage in negotiations on an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva maintenance and further development, of strict export controls on nuclear related materials and technologies.

Further, India remains committed to developing a framework of peaceful relations with Pakistan through a broad-based and sustained bilateral dialogue. This provides an effective means of identifying the possibilities of mutually beneficial co-operation and resolving outstanding issues through bilateral negotiations. It would also include consideration process of dialogue, there is no place for third party involvement of any kind whatsoever. These gestures reflect both our desire to further the cause of global disarmament and non-proliferation as well as our dedication to promoting peace and stability in the region. It is a matter of regret that the G-8 Foreign Ministers Joint Communique has not taken into account these proposals but has instead repeated unrealistic prescriptions, couched in the language of pressure.

India has been a responsible member of the international community and remains

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strongly committed to the objective of disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular. However, we would like to make it clear that India's security concerns cannot be viewed in a narrow South Asian construct. Indeed, the pursuit of non proliferation in an arbitrary selective regional context remains the fundamental flaw in the global nuclear disarmament regime. Government of India cannot consider any prescriptions which have the effect of undermining India's independent decision making. Like any sovereign nation, India will continue to take decisions in this regard on the basis of its own assessment and national security requirements.

The G-8 have professed an interest in the welfare and economic growth of the people of the region. These professions are inconsistent with the actions threatened in the Joint Communique.

Independent of the advice of those who claim to bear the responsibilities of the international community, the Government of India is autonomously embarked on a well-considered, comprehensive and purposeful programme meant to further genuine non-proliferation and global nuclear disarmament, and aimed at building confidence and cooperation in the region. Coercive and intrusive prescription are not only ill-advised but also counter-productive. Instead of offering homilies, the leading industrial economies should reflect seriously on the proposals made by India in recent weeks which offer a reasonable framework for dialogue in meeting our common concerns.

UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA MALI SWITZERLAND PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 12, 1998

July

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ALGERIA INDIA SRI LANKA PAKISTAN SYRIA LEBANON USA

Date : Jul 01, 1998

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Appointment of Shri I. K. Gujral to a panel of eminent persons on Algeria

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 03, 1998 regarding appointment of Shri I. K. Gujral

to a panel of eminent persons on Algeria:

Former Prime Minister Shri I. K. Gujral has been appointed to a panel of eminent persons on Algeria constituted by UN Secretary General on Jul 02, 1998. The panel is headed by former President of Portugal Mr. Mario Soares and includes well known personalities such as Mr. Abdel Karim Kabariti, former Prime Minister of Jordan; Mr. Donald McHenry, former US Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Ms Simone Veil; former Secretary of State of France; and Mr. Amos Wako, Attorney General of Kenya, besides Shri Gujral.

2. The panel of eminent persons is scheduled to meet with UN Secretary General on July 8 and thereafter pay a brief visit to Algeria in the 4th week of July to study the situation on the ground. The Secretary General has set up the panel at the invitation of the Government of Algeria who have assured the Secretary General of ensuring free access to the panel to all sources of information in the country.

3. The inclusion of former Prime Minister Shri Gujral is a reflection both of the high regard in which he is held, and a reflection of the importance attached by the UN Secretary General to the role of India in fostering international cooperation for the promotion of universally accepted standards of human rights and civilisational values.

ALGERIA INDIA PORTUGAL JORDAN USA FRANCE KENYA

Date : Jul 02, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Press Statement by Prime Minister in Colombo

Following is the text of a Press statement issued by Prime Minister of India regarding meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif:

I was looking forward to meeting Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and we have had a good meeting. Our discussions were wide ranging and covered many issues of mutual interest. We recognised the importance of building mutual trust and confidence and of establishing stable and friendly ties. There are vast opportunities of cooperation which would benefit the peoples of both countries. We would like to concretise all these opportunities so that a comprehensive and constructive structure of cooperation can come into being.

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Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and I have agreed that the dialogue process

should be resumed and we have directed our Foreign Secretaries to meet today and tomorrow to work out the modalities of the resumption of the dialogue.

INDIA SRI LANKA USA

Date : Jul 02, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Prime Minister's address at SAARC Summit

Following is the text of a address by H.E. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India on Jul 29, 1998 at Colombo during Inaugural Session of Tenth SAARC Summit:

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, Secretary General of SAARC, Distinguished Delegates and Friends,

I am grateful to our gracious hosts and particularly to our friend, the President of Sri Lanka, for the warm welcome and splendid hospitality extended to us. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be in Colombo to participate in the Tenth SAARC Summit. This is my first visit abroad since assuming Office and it is only doubly appropriate that this is to attend the SAARC Summit - my first, and, to Sri Lanka - a country with which we share the closest bonds of friendship stretching back to antiquity. Our traditional historical links have been reinforced in recent times by our shared struggle against colonialism and our post-independence experience as countries seeking to develop within a democratic framework.

We are meeting in the Golden Jubilee year of Sri Lanka's independence. This gives our meeting added significance. Sri Lanka has made remarkable progress since its independence and it is with a sense of justifiable pride that its people are celebrating so joyously the 50th Anniversary of their Independence. I convey warm greetings and felicitations to you and to the Government and people of Sri Lanka on this happy occasion.

Madam Chairperson,

Our presence here today is a reflection of the affection and regard in which we all hold you. Our efforts to strengthen cooperation in our region have benefited greatly from the personal interest you have taken and the many initiatives you have suggested. Indeed, Sri Lanka has played a key role in forging a consensus on the vital issues of trade and economic cooperation in our region. I am sure that under your able guidance, this Summit will chart a concrete and forward-looking agenda for the future. I would also like to express

our deep appreciation for the wise counsel and able leadership provided by His Excellency President Gayoom in steering our Association over the last year.

Since the establishment of SAARC in 1985, this organisation has contributed to fostering regional cooperation. The first steps are always difficult. Over the years SAARC has gained experience. The people of the region now expect to see the economic benefits of regional cooperation touch their lives - this is the promise and the challenge that we must collectively address.

Today, as we stand on the threshold of a new century, we need to evolve a shared vision of the future of our region. Such a vision must be rooted in our common values and be based on our individual and collective strengths that will enable South Asia to realise its full potential in the coming century.

Major economic changes are taking place in the world around us which have a significant impact on our region. The twin trends of globalisation and liberalisation have dramatically altered the dynamics of the international economic environment. The increasing globalisation of economic processes has been accompanied by the emergence and consolidation of vast new economic groupings. The

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financial crisis in many countries including in East Asia has exposed the vulnerability of even relatively dynamic developing economies as well as the weakness of the international monetary and financial system to cope with the stresses and strains of global financial liberalisation. There is need for SAARC countries to identify, understand and face up to these challenges. We have, so far, not had to face similar difficulties in South Asia. We need to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our structures and policies, so as to make sure that we are able to avoid the difficulties, while taking full advantage of the globalisation and liberalisation that we are determined to follow. I propose that the Governors of our Central Banks and Finance Secretaries meet annually to have a dialogue on macro-economic policies and to share experiences and ideas.

Strengthening the framework of our economic cooperation must remain the focus of the SAARC agenda. All Governments should ensure that there are no delays in the SAARC process and that agreed time-tables for our various programmes are adhered to. In particular, we should not deny ourselves the benefits of trade liberalisation. Such measures not only promote growth but would also help in attracting foreign capital and resources to our region as well as in creating an overall climate that is favourable to peace and development.

Two rounds of trade liberalisation have been completed. India offered the maximum concessions in these two rounds covering over 1000 tariff lines. We also offered the deepest tariff cuts with special concessions for the Least Developed Countries. The impact of these openings will take some time to be assessed as they came into effect only between March and December last year.

The Third Round of SAPTA negotiations made a promising start in July last year with all delegations agreeing to go beyond a Product-by-Product approach and negotiate concessions on a sectoral or Chapter-wise basis. There has

unfortunately been delay in concluding these negotiations. We must collectively ensure that the momentum is maintained and that these talks are concluded quickly.

On its part, India is willing-to take concrete steps to speed up trade liberalisation. I take this opportunity to offer that, as a special gesture, India will lift Quantitative Restrictions maintained for Balance of Payments reasons on a preferential basis for SAARC countries with effect from Aug 01, 1998. This would involve lifting restrictions on over 2000 products and would substantially increase the opportunities for our SAARC partners to access our market and increase their exports. Our negotiators would also have the mandate to offer significant tariff reductions during the SAPTA negotiations.

Madam Chairperson,

Our decision taken last year in Male to advance the target date for achieving a Free Trade Area had galvanised the business community. We must reaffirm our commitment to the goal of SAFTA by the year 2001 and take steps to make this goal a reality. For this purpose, I propose that we begin immediate negotiations on a separate SAFTA Treaty which will spell out in detail the schedules for freeing trade, including elimination of discriminatory trade practices, lifting of non-tariff barriers and tariff reductions. In this process the special needs of the Least Developed Countries must be taken into account. This would provide a predictable and transparent road-map for achieving SAFTA and lend greater credibility and weight to our Association. We should aim to conclude this Treaty and have it in place by the year 2001.

India would also be willing to consider bilateral Free Trade Agreements with those countries which are interested in moving faster.

Trade and Investment are closely inter-linked. The promotion of joint ventures would develop trade complementarities and lead to an expansion of intra-SAARC trade which is at an unacceptably low level today. An institutional frame-

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work by way of bilateral or regional agreements for investment promotion and protection is essential to provide the necessary confidence to investors. A Regional Investment Agreement has been circulated at the First SAARC Meeting on Investment Promotion and Protection held in September last year and should be pursued. Similarly, regional arrangements for avoiding Double Taxation and for settlement of commercial disputes would need to be put in place. In this connection, we welcome the offer of Pakistan to host the First Meeting on Double Taxation Avoidance next month.

Steps at the institutional level need to be supported by a vigorous private sector effort to identify and implement specific projects on the ground. The decision of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry to convene an Annual SAARC Investment Forum is a welcome move. We, in India, have taken specific steps to promote investment by Indian entrepreneurs in SAARC countries. In January this year, we have doubled the ceiling for Overseas Indian Investment in SAARC countries under the Fast Track. I am now announcing a further substantial

increase, so that investments of up to US \$ 15 million will be cleared on the fast track, thus encouraging further economic cooperation among SAARC countries.

Collective self-interest has been the guiding spirit of regional cooperation the world over. Those regional groupings that have succeeded have done so by creating a common regional economic space, providing for the free flow of goods, capital and services. Our vision should be to look beyond SAFTA to the evolution of a SAARC Economic Community early in the next century.

Our region is energy-deficient even though some of the countries in our region have considerable untapped energy resources. We could take some immediate steps towards regional cooperation in this area which will contribute to the economic well-being of the producers and the users. We should also consider cooperation in infrastructure particularly transportation for removing the bottlenecks for expeditious movement of goods. Steps, such as these, will facilitate closer linkages and our move in the direction of an Economic Community.

Madam Chairperson,

Economic growth by itself will not mean much if vast sections of our people continue to live in hunger and ill-health and without shelter, clean drinking water and other essentials basic to a life of dignity. Poverty eradication, therefore, remains central to our development strategy. It is in recognition of this that SAARC has committed itself to the goal of eradication in the region through a concerted Agenda of Action. We must make effective use of the SAARC three-tier mechanism on poverty alleviation to share experiences, information and data learn from one another's success stories and also from our mistakes. Over the years, all of us have accumulated experience in planning. Perhaps a mechanism could be established to share experiences between our planning organisations.

It is important for SAARC to identify and implement specific technology initiatives which would have a direct impact in improving living conditions in our villages here the overwhelming majority of our peoples live. Technologies for rural telecommunication, drinking water and sanitation, development of improved plant varieties are some suggestions which come to mind. India would be happy to host a special Meeting of SAARC Ministers for Science and Technology to consider such a SAARC Technology initiative. We also offer to host a Meeting of our Health Ministers to consider cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicines in which all our countries have a rich heritage.

Madam Chairperson,

Apprehensions have been expressed in some quarters that recent developments in South Asia could cause a set-back to the SAARC process. Let me say that these apprehensions are misplaced. SAARC

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cooperation is driven by the imperative need for all South Asian countries to accelerate socio-economic development, reduce and eradicate poverty and enhance the quality of life of their peoples. It is in recognition of this that the

founding fathers of SAARC took a conscious decision not to burden it with bilateral concerns, many of which existed even then, and to keep contentious issues out of SAARC. India has scrupulously respected this provision of the SAARC charter. In fact SAARC reminds us that we should seek what unites us and not dwell on our divisions. At the same time, we have every reason to hope that building a positive framework of cooperation in our region will have a beneficial effect on bilateral relations. SAARC also provides a unique opportunity for informal bilateral discussions among the leaders and officials of Member States on the sidelines. Such exchanges do help to promote mutual trust and understanding.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me categorically reaffirm that India continues to seek good relations with all its neighbours and to work with them to build on our commonalities and shared aspirations for development. Differences should be resolved in a rational manner, peacefully and through bilateral negotiations. We have consistently been in favour of a serious sustained dialogue on these lines.

India strong commitment to global nuclear disarmament and our conviction that our security as well as that of the rest of the world would be best ensured in a nuclear-weapons free world, remains a principle element of our policy. We will continue working on effective programmes and initiatives to reach this objective. In particular, we will continue working actively for a Nuclear Weapons Convention providing for the elimination of nuclear-weapons worldwide within a timebound framework. This is by no means a utopian position. Experience in dealing with negotiations on other weapons of mass destruction such as the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions indicate that the only successful way is to negotiate treaties which are comprehensive in scope, universal in applicability and non-discriminatory in character. We are convinced that such an approach is also necessary in dealing with nuclear weapons. We are sure that SAARC Member countries also share this objective.

Madam Chairperson,

I think our deliberations over the next two days will be important. We must concentrate on the economic and social agenda and move forward at a pace which will yield tangible and concrete results and benefits for the over one billion people of our region, to strengthen their faith in SAARC, and in the ability of our peoples to work together for common good.

Madam Chairperson,

My fellow South Asian leaders,

Five millenia of cohabitation are drawing to a close and the sixth is about to start. We have come a long way together and we have to decide how and where we aim to go. We represent great civilisations, ancient yet vibrant and alive. Our people are talented, our lands wellendowed. And yet we are among the poorest in the world.

Together, we all fought a sustained and successful campaign of independence, and overcame the mightiest empire in the world. Today, fifty years after

Independence, it is time for us to break with the past and declare our interdependence and our essential oneness, even as we celebrate our national diversity. I offer the following thoughts for your consideration:

- enough of sterile ideology,
- enough of hostile nationalism,
- enough of conflict on the basis of religion and creed,

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- enough of poverty and backwardness,

let us now grow rich together.

This is the will of the people, this the dictate of times and this the duty of the leaders. Let us not falter.

Thank you.

INDIA SRI LANKA USA PERU MALDIVES PAKISTAN

Date : Aug 01, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Foreign Secretary's statement in Colombo on 31-7-98

Following is the text of a statement issued by Foreign Secretary in Colombo on Jul 31, 1998 regarding peaceful & friendly ties with Pakistan:

A stable, prosperous and secure Pakistan is in India's interest and we have always wanted peaceful and friendly ties with Pakistan and worked to develop a relationship based on trust and confidence. There are vast opportunities for cooperation in the economic, social and other sectors which can be utilised for the betterment of the lives of the two peoples. India strongly believes that for this purpose no time should be lost to put in place a stable structure of cooperation.

It may be recalled that the India-Pakistan dialogue process has traditionally been composite and broad-based. It was unfortunately interrupted in January 1994 at Pakistan behest. In spite of all our efforts, the hiatus continued for over three years. As a result of our consistent endeavours the official dialogue was resumed in March 1997.

During their meeting in June 1997, the Foreign Secretaries issued a Joint Statement identifying an agenda of 8 subjects for discussions between the two countries as well as a set of ideas regarding the modalities of these discussions. It may be noted that while the agenda was conclusively set out in the Joint Statement, the modalities had still to be finalised.

Our approach has all along been for a broad-based and composite dialogue which will move the relationship forward across a broad front. Such a comprehensive, constructive and sustained dialogue would build mutual trust and confidence, promote cooperation in areas of mutual benefit and address bilateral issues on which the two countries do not see eye to eye. This is in keeping with the usual pattern of interstate relations and dialogue process which addresses the totality of the relationship. The validity of such approaches is borne out by historical experience and its rationale lies in the need to generate confidence through cooperative interaction and mechanisms such as augmenting people to people contact, encouraging trade flows and there-by helping create an environment in which the difficult and complex issues can be seriously addressed. It is also obvious that hostile and inimical activities such as the promotion and abetment of terrorism practiced by Pakistan against India erodes such an approach. Hence, it is imperative that Pakistan ceases these activities immediately.

It is our conviction that a narrow segmented approach is inherently flawed and would not sustain a dialogue process in which complex and intractable issues are to be discussed. Such an approach is therefore, counterproductive and would defeat the very purpose which a mature and balanced dialogue seeks to achieve i.e. the building of a wide-ranging and enduring relationship. An obsessive focus on a single issue or a one point agenda is as neurotic for individuals as for nation states.

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During their meeting on 29.7.1998, Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif agreed that the dialogue process should move ahead and directed the Foreign Secretaries to finalise the modalities. In keeping with this directive, extensive discussions were held between the two sides. During these discussions, we emphasised that a composite dialogue process was essential in order to achieve appropriate results and establish good neighbourly and meaningful relations. We have stressed that a specific, substantive and broadbased dialogue will provide a timely opportunity for a meaningful discussion on confidence building measures and peace and security. We also stressed that India sincerely desired that all outstanding issues, including Jammu & Kashmir should be the subject of substantive and extensive discussions as part of a composite process. We once again pointed out the thrust and underpinnings of our composite and direct approach. We drew attention to the dangers inherent in a narrow and constricted approach which will only highlight differences and, vitiate the atmosphere and is, therefore, likely to disrupt and jeopardise the entire process. For us, the dialogue is a serious matter. It cannot be designed to pursue a limited agenda or promote a propagandist exercise.

As reiterated by our leaders on several occasions, we would like to commence

the dialogue process with Pakistan on the basis of the broad-based and composite approach outlined above. Accordingly, we will continue our efforts to get this dialogue process underway at the earliest. In order to achieve the same, we will be in touch with Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

PAKISTAN SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jul 31, 1998

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Visit of Shri Nareshwar Dayal, Secretary (East) to Syria and Lebanon

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 01, 1998 regarding visit of Shri Nareshwar Dayal, Secretary (East) to Syria and Lebanon:

Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Nareshwar Dayal, will be visiting Syria and Lebanon from 13-17 July.

The visit would provide an opportunity to continue high level Foreign Office consultations with Syria and Lebanon. The Permanent Under Secretaries in the Syrian and Lebanese Foreign Offices had visited India in 1997. India traditionally enjoys warm, friendly and cordial relations with both these countries. The present round of talks would provide opportunity for an exchange of views on matters of mutual interest and major international issues, aimed at further reinforcing mutual understanding, and cooperation in trade, economic scientific & technological, cultural & educational and other functional areas.

During the visit, Shri Dayal would also be calling on the political leaders of these two countries to brief them on the recent developments in the region.

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SYRIA LEBANON INDIA

Date : Jul 01, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meeting of Mr. Jaswant Singh Deputy Chairman Planning Commission of India and Mr. Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State of the U.S.A.

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 10, 1998 regarding Mr. Jaswant Singh - Mr. Strobe Talbott meeting in Frankfurt on July 9 & 10:

Mr. Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India and Mr. Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State, met in Frankfurt on July 9 & 10.

They continued discussions, which began in Washington on June 12 on matters related to disarmament and non-proliferation as well as regional and international developments.

Both sides have agreed to that these very useful and constructive contacts will continue. In that context, they also discussed the agenda for Mr. Talbott's forthcoming visit to Delhi on July 20-21, 1998.

USA INDIA

Date : Jul 10, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-US talks on security, disarmament and non-proliferation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1998 regarding discussions between Mr. Strobe Talbott and Mr. Jaswant Singh on security, disarmament and non-proliferation matters:

Mr. Strobe Talbott, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, and Mr. Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, continued their constructive discussions on security, disarmament and non-proliferation matters today. They also exchanged strategic perspectives on regional and international developments. The discussions were marked by a spirit of working together to find common ground and to narrow gaps in their governments' respective perceptions. The discussions will continue in the latter part of August in Washington.

Mr. Talbott and his delegation comprising:

1. General Joseph Ralston, Vice Chairman, JCS.

2. Ambassador Richard Celeste.
3. Mr. Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary.
4. Mr. Bruce Reidel, National Security Council.
5. Mr. Robert Einhorn.
6. Mr. Matthew Daley.

will be calling on the Prime Minister, later today.

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USA INDIA

Date : Jul 20, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meeting on Indo-US relations

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1998 regarding Indo-US relations:

The Prime Minister received this evening a delegation led by Mr. Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State of the United States of America and discussed the current state of Indo-US relations. The Prime Minister was assisted by Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, who has held three rounds of discussions with Mr. Talbott since 12 June 1998. The Minister of State of External Affairs, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and other officials were also present. Mr. Talbott was accompanied by Mr. R. F. Celeste, US Ambassador to India, General Ralston, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mr. K. I. Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State and other US officials.

Mr. Talbott gave a letter to the Prime Minister from President Clinton of the United States.

The Prime Minister was informed of the progress made towards the removal of problems in Indo-US relations which surfaced after the Indian underground nuclear tests conducted on the 11th and 13th of May, 1998. There is now a clearer understanding of each other's concerns and certain steps in the direction of addressing those concerns are contemplated. However, ground remains

to be covered and it has been agreed that another round of talks between Mr. Talbott and Shri Jaswant Singh, will be held in the second half of August in Washington.

The Prime Minister indicated to Mr. Talbott that he would soon send a reply to President Clinton. In the meanwhile he asked Mr. Talbott to convey his greetings to President Clinton as also the desire of India to put relations with the United States back on an even keel.

USA INDIA

Date : Jul 20, 1998

August

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AFGHANISTAN SUDAN USA INDIA KENYA TANZANIA NAMIBIA OMAN MAURITIUS SOUTH
AFRICA GERMANY PORTUGAL TURKEY IRAQ PAKISTAN

Date : Aug 01, 1998

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Current situation in Afghanistan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1998 regarding current situation in Afghanistan:

In response to a question regarding the current situation in Afghanistan, the official spokesman said that developments in Afghanistan impact on India's interests and national security. We have, therefore, closely followed and monitored the unfolding of events in Afghanistan. The official spokesman also recalled the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the two countries. India has always worked for the welfare of all Afghan people and has provided Afghanistan with technical and economic assistance as well as humanitarian aid. India has also welcomed all Afghans who wished to reside in the country on account of the unsettled conditions in Afghanistan.

The establishment of peace, stability and security in Afghanistan is important for the welfare of all Afghan people and the security and stability of our region. It is only through a broad-based government with the genuine participation of all the ethnic groups which constitute Afghanistan's plural society that a durable and enduring system of governance can be set up in Afghanistan. It is for the Afghan people and leaders to put this in place

through discussions and negotiations. The military solution which has been attempted in the recent past in Northern Afghanistan through the active support, collaboration and actual involvement of foreign forces can be neither successful nor enduring in resolving the Afghan conflict. This foreign interference must cease.

India is committed to the unity territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan. A broad-based international effort through the United Nations is required at this stage to address the Afghan situation. India stands ready to fully participate in these endeavours.

The official spokesman also condemned the capture of Iranian diplomats who were present in Mazar-e-Sharif when it fell to the Taliban forces. Those who hold these diplomats in captivity and their foreign mentors must ensure that no harm comes to them and they are released immediately.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA IRAN

Date : Aug 18, 1998

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

US air raids in Afghanistan & Sudan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 21, 1998 regarding US air raids in Afghanistan and Sudan:

In response to a question regarding US air raids in Afghanistan and Sudan, the Spokesman stated the following:

We have seen US statements that the US air strikes carried out yesterday in Afghanistan and Sudan were directed against terrorist targets. We await the full facts about this unilateral action.

2. India has consistently condemned international terrorism, and expressed its

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shock and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent lives which it leads to. We have also repeatedly highlighted the need for prompt and effective cooperation with the community of nations to counter and eradicate this growing scourge. It is an issue of particular concern to us, as India has itself been the victim of state sponsored, cross-border terrorism in its most heinous form. We have, on

numerous occasions, drawn the world's attention to the presence of training camps in our immediate neighbourhood, where terrorists are equipped and prepared for carrying out subversive activities in India, and in particular in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. Such terrorist training facilities have continued to function openly and in an unimpeded manner, in Pakistan, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and, present day Afghanistan.

3. The international community has unfortunately been silent or indifferent to these developments and unable to agree on concerted efforts to tackle the menace of international terrorism. It is also regrettable that India's appeals to include terrorism within the jurisdiction of the proposed International Criminal Court fell on deaf ears. If our calls for meaningful international cooperation against terrorism had been heeded, the problem would not have assumed its present serious dimension.

4. The events of the last few weeks once again make it clear that what is required is not selective unilateral action, but an effective international cooperative effort to identify and act against those responsible for international terrorism - whether individuals, terrorist groups or states.

AFGHANISTAN SUDAN USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date : Aug 21, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Suo Moto statement by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha

Following is the text of a Suo Moto statement by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on Aug 03, 1998:

Sir,

Over the last few weeks, Government has kept the House regularly informed about developments in the field of international relations and our foreign policy. I take this opportunity to bring Honourable Members up-to-date on the most recent events, especially SAARC, our relations with Pakistan, and the recent ARF and ASEAN dialogue meetings.

2. I visited Colombo on 28th - 31st July, 1998 to participate in the 10th SAARC Summit. I was accompanied by Commerce Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, as well as Minister of State for External Affairs who led our delegation at the Ministerial level meeting preceding the Summit.

3. The Summit reaffirmed the common desire of SAARC Member States to

strengthen cooperation in the region. There was general agreement with our perception that to meet the challenges and to avail of the opportunities presented by the substantially transformed global economic situation, it was essential to enhance bilateral as well as SAARC regional, economic, social and technical cooperation. The agenda and the discussions during the Summit were focussed on these areas.

4. It was agreed that SAARC must move purposefully towards setting up a Free

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Trade Area; a group of experts will be set up to negotiate a comprehensive legal framework for this purpose incorporating schedules for liberalised trade and facilitation measures, taking into account least developed countries' concerns. Parallel steps will be taken to conclude the third round of the trade negotiations under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement, and to commence the next round.

5. We have reiterated our commitment to, and readiness for bold initiatives to speed up trade liberalisation. I announced our Government's decision to lift all Quantitative Restrictions preferentially, on imports from SAARC countries, with effect from Aug 01, 1998. This is a decision with far-reaching positive economic and developmental consequences for the region and has been welcomed. We also made known our readiness to enter into bilateral free trade arrangements with interested SAARC countries. Sri Lanka has taken up this offer.

6. In our discussion, it was recognised that the benefits of trade liberalisation would be more extensive and balanced through promoting trade-related joint ventures, investment and trade-in-services such as tourism. India's decision to substantially increase the ceiling for investment for India under the fast track in SAARC countries, from US \$ 8 to US \$ 15 million has also been welcomed. This will encourage a greater flow of Indian investment and stimulate trade.

7. Important initiatives have been taken in the social sector to illustrate, a Social Charter for SAARC, agreement to finalise a convention to combat Illegal Trafficking in Women and Children. This is to be signed at the next SAARC Summit. A regional convention on child welfare will also be developed.

8. We underlined the importance of cooperation in energy through networking. India has, further, offered to host a special meeting of Science and Technology Ministers to consider a SAARC S&T initiative for regional projects in rural areas, directly benefiting the people. We also underlined the utility of cooperation in traditional systems of medicines and have invited participation in a Health Ministers' meeting in India for this purpose. India has reaffirmed support for comprehensive environment related proposals.

9. I would also like to draw attention to my bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit, with the Presidents of Maldives and Sri Lanka, the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Nepal and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bhutan. These meetings provided the occasion for renewing our friendly contact, for fruitful discussions enabling a review of our bilateral relations and of progress in specific areas of cooperation, as well as for

sharing our perceptions.

10. I took the opportunity, in my interaction with other leaders, to reiterate our commitment to peace and stability, setting at rest misconceptions about our recent nuclear tests. Our initiatives for confidence building and disarmament have been appreciated. There was agreement on the need to commence purposeful negotiations towards a comprehensive and nondiscriminatory global nuclear disarmament regime and a nuclear weapon-free world.

11. We have conveyed our appreciation to the Sri Lankan Government for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit, and in particular to President Chandrika Kumaratunga for the vision and efficiency with which she steered the Summit deliberations. We wish her well in her new responsibility in chairing SAARC. We assure Sri Lanka of our full support.

12. In my interaction with Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammed Nawaz Sharif, which included a long meeting on July 29, I reiterated our commitment to developing peaceful and friendly ties with Pakistan, and our interest in a secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan. I urged that we should work together to develop trust and confidence, and avail of the many opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic, social

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and other fields so that we can improve the lives of peoples. I further underlined the need to work together to address our differences in a rational and realistic manner. The atmosphere of our discussions was cordial and constructive. I look forward to continuing a purposeful interaction with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

13. My discussions with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also focussed on our official level dialogue. Honourable Members will recall that such a dialogue had been resumed last year, and that the subjects for discussion were jointly identified in June, 1997. The modalities for this purpose have not yet been finalised. We directed our Foreign Secretaries to meet and complete this exercise.

14. India has consistently underlined its commitment to a direct, composite dialogue with Pakistan. Such a comprehensive and sustained process will contribute to building trust and confidence, promote mutually beneficial co-operation and help address bilateral issues. The dialogue must address the totality of the relationship and not be pursued in a narrow, segmented fashion which would defeat its very purpose which is to build a wide ranging and enduring relationship. A direct bilateral interaction which seeks to generate confidence and foster co-operation in functional areas, and enhanced people to people contacts would also help create a positive climate, in which difficult issues under discussion could be purposefully addressed. It is recognised by the international community that all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, including Jammu and Kashmir should be settled bilaterally in a peaceful manner. The modalities which we have suggested would help ensure that the process moves forward on a broad front in a constructive and sustained manner, while at the same time providing a meaningful opportunity for discussions on confidence building measures, cooperation and dealing with outstanding issues, as part of a

composite process.

15. Our Foreign Secretaries met in Colombo and exchanged views on this subject. We will remain engaged in the process and continue contacts through diplomatic channels, to work out an agreement, so that the dialogue could be continued.

16. During my talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, I also emphasised that instigation and support of terrorism was incompatible with our common desire for friendly and peaceful relations and that these activities must cease immediately.

17. Honourable Members are aware that we also participated in this year's ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference which is an important part of ASEAN's interaction with its dialogue partners, as well as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meetings, held on July 24-29. Our delegation was led by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. My government has reaffirmed the policy of strengthening cooperation with countries in ASEAN and the Asia Pacific Region as a whole. Apart from bilateral contacts, we have also established active communication with them in the framework of the dialogue partnership and ARF. Our participation in these meetings this year, was particularly important, as it provided an opportunity to once again clarify our policy on nuclear disarmament in the context of the recent tests, as well as to demonstrate our continued engagement in the economic and political stability of the region and share perceptions on regional and international developments. While the ARF "Chairman's Statement" contained a paragraph disapproving of the recent tests in South Asia, with which we disassociated our selves, we also found a better overall understanding on the part of ASEAN countries of the rationale of our policy, as well as of the need for purposeful moves by the Nuclear Weapon states towards comprehensive, universal nuclear disarmament on a non-discriminatory basis. We assure the ASEAN countries that we fully respected the status of the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in South East Asia.

18. Our interaction with ASEAN reflected an understanding that cooperation and dialogue partnership with India had

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made good progress, and that we needed to jointly consolidate this through implementation of projects and measures under discussion, in trade and investment, infrastructure and human resource development, tourism, culture and people to people contacts.

19. The leader of our delegation also had constructive and forward looking discussion with the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries, Russia, China, Australia and New Zealand, the US Secretary of State and the Ministers of State of Japan and the United Kingdom. Our bilateral and multilateral interaction in the ASEAN and ARF meetings has helped our post-Pokhran-II diplomatic efforts. Our overall approach, and importance of the steps we have taken to address international and regional security concerns is better acknowledged. There is also continued recognition that India is a factor for peace, stability in the region.

INDIA USA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA MALDIVES BANGLADESH NEPAL BHUTAN PERU CHINA
RUSSIA NEW ZEALAND

Date : Aug 01, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India-Priorities for the 21st Century

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 06, 1998 regarding India's priorities for the 21st Century:

Ministry of External Affairs in association with World Link, which is the magazine of the World Economic Forum and Investor Access, a CD-Rom publisher in UK have brought out a CD-Rom on "India - Priorities for the 21st Century". This is a unique multimedia guide to India for investors which has about 30 minutes of video footage where the views of Industry Minister Shri Sikander Bakht and several Secretaries to Government of India on our foreign investment and related policies can be heard. The broad idea of this CD-Rom has been to convey a comprehensive picture about the evolving scene in India as the country moves towards the 21st century. Industrial and investment policies of all the States and Union Territories have been featured along with analysis of 20 different sectors, each highlighting the potential for growth and the vast opportunities opening up. An economic environment section brings out the economic policies and agenda of the Government and describes the present economic setting. The CD also has a complete guide for foreign investor on policies and procedures for foreign investment. There are several other interesting features like the Internet hub which highlights the contents of over 40 investment related websites of India or the corporate focus section which has a contact data base of over 600 listed Indian companies. There is also a data library which provides useful information about the various economic indicators. There are also some interactive tools which further enrich the CD and enhance its practical utility. In fact, with hyperlinks given for important websites, the CD virtually acts as a gateway to the larger data base contained in most of the investment related websites of India.

2. As per the arrangement worked out with World Link, the CD will be distributed by them to all the participants of the last Dayos Summit of WEF. Copies of the CD are also being sent to all our Missions abroad who will not only use it as a reference material and send copies to key local chambers of commerce or large corporate groups but also use it as a presentational aide while addressing investment promotion seminars or other such speaking opportunities.

3. This statement would not be complete without an acknowledgement of all the cooperation that Ministry of External Affairs has received from the other concerned Ministries of Government of India as well as the State Governments and several other agencies. Both State Bank of India and Tata Enterprises have also supported the project as co-publishers.

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INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Aug 06, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Terrorism in Kenya & Tanzania

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 08, 1998 regarding terrorism in Kenya & Tanzania:

The Government and the people of India are shocked and greatly saddened at the wanton acts of terrorism perpetrated yesterday in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam leading to tragic loss of life, injuries to innocent people and widespread damage to property.

Prime Minister of India has today sent messages to the President of Kenya, Tanzania and the United States of America expressing deep shock and sorrow over the incidents as well as underscoring the need for all countries to cooperate effectively to combat the scourge of international terrorism. He has also conveyed India's readiness to extend humanitarian assistance to Kenya and Tanzania.

INDIA KENYA TANZANIA USA

Date : Aug 08, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Prime Minister's visit to Oman, Namibia, South Africa & Mauritius

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 20, 1998 regarding Prime Minister's visit to Oman, Namibia, South Africa & Mauritius:

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India will be visiting Oman (August 29-30), Namibia (August 30-31), South Africa (September 1-2) and Mauritius (September 3-4), 1998.

2. The visit of Prime Minister to Oman, Namibia and Mauritius is aimed at further enhancing the existing friendly and close bilateral relations India has with these countries. Prime Minister's visit to South Africa is in the context of the forthcoming Non-Aligned Summit at Durban.

INDIA MAURITIUS NAMIBIA OMAN SOUTH AFRICA USA

Date : Aug 20, 1998

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1995

INDIA

President's visit to Germany, Portugal, Luxembourg and Turkey

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 28, 1998 regarding President's visit to Germany, Portugal, Luxembourg and Turkey:

The President of India will be paying State Visits to Germany, Portugal, Luxembourg and Turkey from September 6-21, 1998. He will be accompanied by Smt. Usha Narayanan. The Minister of Power, Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam will accompany the President to Germany and Portugal. The Minister of Industry, Shri Sikander Bakht will accompany him to Luxembourg and Turkey. The delegation will include four Members of Parliament: Smt. Jayanti Natarajan and Shri John Fernandes from Rajya Sabha; Shri Saifuddin Soz and Shri Suresh Kurup from Lok Sabha.

The State Visit to Germany from September 6-10, 1998 is at the invitation of President Roman Herzog. During his stay in Germany, the President will visit Bonn, Berlin and Baden Baden.

The President will have discussions with President Herzog, Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor Dr. Klaus Kinkel. President Herzog will host a State Banquet in honour of the President at the Petersberg State Guest House. Chancellor Kohl will host a lunch in honour of the President. The Chief

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Minister of the State of Baden Wuerttemberg, Erwin Teufel, will call on President Narayanan at Baden Baden.

In Bonn, the President will address the German Society for Foreign Affairs on the theme "India: A Global Perspective". He will also be meeting with leaders of German Trade, Industry and Finance. During his visit to Berlin, he will interact with distinguished academics and intellectuals at the internationally renowned Humboldt University.

The President will lay the foundation stone for the Chancery of the Embassy of India at Berlin at a function which will be attended by the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Mr. Eberhard Diepgen.

The State Visit to Portugal from September 10-14, 1998 is at the invitation of President Jorge Sampaio. It coincides with the world Exposition, EXPO'98, being held in Lisbon from May-September 1998. During his stay in Portugal, the President will visit Lisbon and Porto.

The President will hold discussions with Mr. Jorge Sampaio, the President of Portugal. Prime Minister Antonio Guterres, will call on him. The President will visit the National Assembly, the City Council of Lisbon, the Portuguese Industrial Association and the City Council of Porto. He will also visit the World Exposition EXPO'98 in which India is actively participating.

The State Visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg from September 14-16, 1998 is at the invitation of the Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg.

During his visit to Luxembourg, the President will hold discussions with Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. Jacques Poos and Mr. Jean Spautz, the President of Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg will call on the President. A Gala Dinner will be hosted at the Grand Ducal Palace by the Grand Duke in honour of the President. The Prime Minister of Luxembourg will host a lunch in honour of the President.

The President would attend an official reception in his honour at the City Town Hall in Luxembourg.

The State Visit to Turkey from September 16-21, 1998 is at the invitation of President Suleyman Demirel. During his stay in Turkey, the President will visit Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir.

The President will have discussions with President Demirel. The Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Mr. Hikmet Cetin, Prime Minister Mr. Mesud Yilmaz and the two Deputy Prime Ministers will call on him. The President will also have meetings with Parliamentarians and prominent Turkish business leaders.

The Bilkent University in Ankara will confer degree of Doctor of Political Sciences, Honoris Causa on the President.

Date : Aug 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

India-Iraq Joint Commission meets in New Delhi

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 31, 1998 regarding meeting of India-Iraq Joint Commission in New Delhi:

The 12th session of the India-Iraq Joint Commission opened in New Delhi on Monday, Aug 31, 1998, after a gap of ten years following the last meeting in Baghdad in 1988. The discussions at the

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Joint Commission will continue till September 2, 1988. The Joint Commission is co-chaired by the Indian Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri K. Ramamurthy, and the Iraqi Oil Minister, Mr. Amir Mohammed Rashid. The Joint Commission was set up in 1974 and has provided the framework within which bilateral economic relations between India and Iraq have been managed.

The Joint Commission consists of three Sub-Committees, namely, the Sub Committee on Technical, Educational, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation; the sub-Committee on Trade, Industry and Finance; and the Sub-committee on Petroleum and related matters. The three Subcommittees will have a wide ranging agenda which will include discussions relating to technical cooperation, finalisation of the Cultural Exchange Programme; cooperation in agriculture; identification of areas for industrial cooperation such as machine tools, power, water resources, telecommunications, petro-chemicals, railways and the petroleum sector.

Discussions will also relate to the extension of a line of credit by India to Iraq to be used for purchase of capital goods, consumer durables and for consultancy services. At the end of the Joint Commission, Memoranda of Understanding pertaining to cooperation in certain specific sectors are expected to be finalised.

While in India, the Iraqi Petroleum Minister, besides meeting his counterpart and co-Chairman of the Joint Commission, will also have meetings with the Ministers for Railways, Defence, Telecommunications and Industry. He will also be calling on the President and the Vice President.

IRAQ INDIA USA

Date : Aug 31, 1998

Volume No

1995

NAM

MOS(EA)'s meetings at the NAM Conference

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1998 regarding NAM meeting - Durban:

Minister of State for External Affairs (MOS EA), Ms. Vasundhara Raje has met with Foreign Ministers of Bhutan, Myanmar, Egypt and New Zealand today on the fringes of the NAM Ministerial Conference currently taking place in Durban before the forthcoming Summit Meeting being held in the same city. The Bhutanese Foreign Minister thanked MOS EA for India's unstinting support and expressed Bhutan's positive interest in a proposal that seeks to have an integrated hydel power grid in South Asia. The two sides agreed to co-ordinate their approaches on disarmament and economic issues at the meeting.

2. MOS EA discussed bilateral projects with the Myanmar Foreign Minister and the latter thanked India for a \$ 10 million credit in connection with the purchase of wagons. A road construction project was discussed and the Myanmar side expressed keen interest in co-operating with India in the Agriculture and Health Sectors.

3. MOS EA's meeting with the Egyptian Foreign Minister focussed on the perspectives of the two sides on disarmament.

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The objective of complete and total disarmament was shared by the two countries and the meeting underscored the fact that there was a great degree of harmony in their respective positions. The meeting with the New Zealand Foreign Minister was warm and cordial, and was arranged on his request.

4. MOS EA is expected to meet with Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Indonesia later in the afternoon today.

INDIA BHUTAN EGYPT NEW ZEALAND USA BANGLADESH

Date : Aug 30, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Kidnapping of staff member of Indian High Commission in Islamabad

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1998 regarding kidnapping of a staff member of Indian High Commission in Islamabad:

Shri Ajay Gupta, a staff member in the High Commission of India, Islamabad, and his three-year-old son were kidnapped by four Pakistani intelligence operatives on the evening of 10th August, while they were going to the market from their residence in Islamabad. He and his son were taken to an unknown location and kept in detention for one hour, during which time the intelligence operatives asked him to work for them as an informer. He was threatened that in the event of his not cooperating with them, they would kidnap his wife, and he was also warned about dire consequences to his son.

After learning of the incident, our High Commissioner in Islamabad handed over a note to the Pakistan Foreign Office conveying a strong protest as regards the abduction and unlawful detention of Shri Gupta and his three-year-old son. This was reiterated to the Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan in New Delhi, who was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs today. It was further conveyed that the Government of India had taken a very serious view of the intimidatory behaviour of Pakistani intelligence operatives whose conduct was highly reprehensible and completely unacceptable. It also constituted a breach of the bilateral code of conduct governing the treatment of diplomatic/consular personnel in the two countries and the international conventions relating to the treatment of Mission personnel.

Through the Acting High Commissioner, the Government of Pakistan was asked to have the incident immediately investigated, to provide an explanatory report as to what had happened to mete out prompt and exemplary punishment to those found guilty, and to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future. It was further demanded that Pakistan take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of our Mission personnel in Islamabad and put a stop to such incidents that vitiate the atmosphere of our bilateral relations.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Aug 14, 1998

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Consignment of medicine handed over from India to Tanzania

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 21, 1998 regarding consignment of medicine handed over from India to Tanzania:

The High Commissioner of India, Mr. Virendra Gupta, handed over a consignment of medicines from India to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Elly Mtango on Aug 20, 1998 for the benefit of the victims of the recent tragic bomb blast in Dar-es-Salaam. The medicines were handed over as a token of India's solidarity with the friendly and peace-loving people of Tanzania.

2. Earlier, the Prime Minister of India, in a special message to the President of The United Republic of Tanzania, had conveyed his sympathies for the innocent victims of the bomb blast and had offered humanitarian assistance. He had also noted in his message that international terrorism and its unforgivable consequences had to be resolutely fought by the effective cooperation of all the countries.

3. On e , to Mr. Sudhir Devare, India's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs who was visiting Tanzania for consultations prior to the Non-aligned Summit in Durban conveyed India's concern and sympathies over the incident during his courtesy calls on the Vice President of United Republic of Tanzania and other senior officials.

TANZANIA INDIA

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AFGHANISTAN IRAN BANGLADESH USA CAMBODIA INDIA IRAQ KUWAIT PAKISTAN GERMANY TURKEY

Date : Sep 01, 1998

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AFGHANISTAN

Iranian diplomats

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Sep 11, 1998 regarding killing of Iranian Diplomats by Taliban:

We have seen reports of an admission by the Taliban that nine of the Iranian diplomats who were in Mazar-e-Sharif when the Taliban over-ran that city were killed by the Taliban. We have been deeply shocked at this appalling crime. This savage act reflects upon the mentality and ideology of the Taliban. Our condemnation of this brutal act and our heartfelt grief, and sympathies, at this tragedy have been conveyed to the Iranian leadership.

AFGHANISTAN IRAN

Date : Sep 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Devastation Caused by Floods in Bangladesh

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 11, 1998 regarding floods in Bangladesh:

The Government of India has been deeply concerned about the extent of devastation caused by floods in Bangladesh. The Prime Minister had sent a message to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina on 28.8.98, expressing deep sympathy and conveying that India stood ready to associate itself with flood relief and post flood rehabilitation in Bangladesh. Prime Minister reiterated that in a subsequent telephonic conversation with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister.

The High Commissioner of India has been in close touch with the Government of Bangladesh regarding its requirements on the basis of which Government have, in the first instance, decided to gift 20,000 tonnes of rice, the movement of which is being tied up with the agencies concerned. Earlier, an emergency supply of medicines had commenced, with the first shipment of 750 kgs. of immediately available items arriving in Dhaka on 7.9.98.

BANGLADESH USA INDIA

Date : Sep 11, 1998

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1995

BANGLADESH

Donation of 20,000 MT of Rice to Bangladesh

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 17, 1998 regarding donation of 20,000 MT of Rice to Bangladesh:

Bangladesh is experiencing its worst floods in recent memory. The floods have caused widespread devastation and resulted in extensive loss of life and property. President Shri K. R. Narayanan, had sent a message of sympathy to the President of Bangladesh, H.E. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Prime Minister Shri A. B. Vajpayee had sent a letter and later

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spoke to Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, when he expressed India's readiness to associate itself in the relief work.

India has decided to donate 20,000 MT (approximate value of the consignment is Rs. 22 crores) of rice to assist in the rehabilitation efforts presently underway in Bangladesh. The consignment is likely to be dispatched shortly. GOI had earlier decided to supply essential medicines worth about Rs. 40 lakhs based on Bangladesh requirements. Half the consignment, of 3.75 MT has already reached Bangladesh in three lots on 7.9.98, 15.9.98 and 17.9.98. Another consignment of approximately 3.5 MT is being dispatched by air in the next 2 days.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Sep 17, 1998

Volume No

1995

CAMBODIA

Elections in Cambodia

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1998 regarding elections in Cambodia:

The Government of India is pleased to note that the National Election Committee of Cambodia has completed the impressive task of conducting democratic elections in Cambodia on 26 July, 1998 in a peaceful and orderly manner. On a request made by the Royal Government of Cambodia, a team of officials from the Election Commission of India was deputed to Cambodia to observe these elections. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Cambodian people participated in the elections with enthusiasm and this will undoubtedly contribute towards further consolidation of the democratic process in Cambodia.

CAMBODIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 15, 1998

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1995

INDIA

Press queries on reference to J & K

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Sep 08, 1998 in response to press queries on reference to J&K and India's nuclear tests in UNSG's Annual Report:

We have seen the following reference to the J&K issue in UN Secretary General's Annual Report on the work of the Organisation:

"The rising tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and other issues is also a major cause of concern"

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The UNSG's Report is a routine feature and is submitted every year to the General Assembly. References to the J&K issue have been included in the UNSG's Report since 1993.

2. There is no increase in tension between India and Pakistan. The two countries recently held discussions in Durban. We remain committed to carry forward the process of direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan. An understanding on the modalities of the dialogue has been reached and the process is expected to be resumed after final instructions are given by the PMs of India and Pakistan at their meeting in New York on Sep 23, 1998.
3. It is worth noting that the 113 NAM countries at Durban welcomed the commitment of India and Pakistan "to exercise restraint, which contributes to regional security, to discontinue nuclear tests and not to transfer nuclear weapon related material, equipment and technology".
4. In our view, the indefinite extension of the NPT, and the manner of finalising the CTBT, highlight the flaws in the current international non-proliferation regime, which legitimises the possession of nuclear arsenals with the five NPT nuclear weapon powers in perpetuity. We are glad that the UNSG's view converges with that of the NAM Declaration at Durban which recognised that, in this situation, the nuclear tests in South Asia underline the need to work even harder to achieve nuclear disarmament, including elimination of nuclear weapons.
5. India believes that disarmament issues should be discussed in a global, nondiscriminatory framework. India has proposed, and the recent NAM Summit at Durban has agreed, that an International Conference may be held, preferably in 1999, with the objective of arriving at an agreement, before the end of this millennium, on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

INDIA PAKISTAN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 23, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 11, 1998 regarding India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series:

The India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series was launched in December 1996 by the Government of India with the objective, to promote awareness about the reality and potential of the India-ASEAN partnership into the 21st century. Under this programme, eminent leaders and opinion makers, senior academics and media personalities, technologists and captains of trade and industry are invited to give public lectures on different aspects of economic, political and cultural ties between ASEAN countries and India. The Lecture Series aims to update the image that ASEAN and India have of each other, and ensure that the image has a dynamic quality.

The first India-ASEAN Lecture was delivered by the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Mahathir Mohamad on the 21st December 1996. The second lecture was delivered by Dr. Bernado Malvar Villegas of the University of Asia and the Pacific, Philippines on 17th June, 1997. The third lecture in the series was delivered by Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand on 12th May, 1998 in New Delhi. The fourth lecture was delivered by Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, Executive Editor, "The Nation", Bangkok, on 13th August, 1998. The lecture on 12th September, 1998 by Dr. J. Soedradjad Djiwandond, former Governor of Bank of Indonesia is the fifth in the series in India.

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From the Indian side eminent space scientist Professor U.R. Rao delivered lectures in Malaysia. Similarly, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Director General of CSIR delivered lectures in Thailand under this programme. A number of other lectures by visiting eminent persons from ASEAN in India as well as by Indian experts in ASEAN countries have been planned for the period 1998-1999.

Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) has been designated by the Government of India as the nodal institution to organise this lecture series.

INDIA USA PHILIPPINES THAILAND INDONESIA MALAYSIA

Date : Sep 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Speech of Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee at Asia Society, New York

Following is the text of a speech of Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee at Asia Society, New York on Sep 28, 1998:

Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Platt, Mr. Bouton, Distinguished members of the Asia Society, Friends,

It is a great honour for me to be invited this evening to speak at this renowned institution. Its well-deserved fame is the result of many years of sustained and dedicated work by some of the most eminent minds of the United States of America.

The Asia Society has provided a forum for the East and the West to meet, for Asia and America to meet and, on many occasions, for India and the USA to meet.

As all of us know through experience, the most productive meetings between nations are often those that take place outside the formal framework of diplomacy and summitry. It is when political leaders, intellectuals and policy makers of two or more countries meet and interact in informal and friendly settings that trust develops and understanding deepens.

I would, therefore, at the outset like to compliment the Asia Society for its excellent work in the field of what is called popular diplomacy.

MARCH ELECTIONS MIRROR INDIA'S DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM

Friends, this is my first visit to the USA after assuming the office of the Prime Minister of India.

In March this year, we completed what have been described as the largest elections in the history of the world, with an electorate of over 600 million people. To Indians today, the vast majority of whom were born in freedom, democracy is the natural and the only acceptable form of governance.

This very fact characterises the remarkable journey that India has travelled in fifty years during which India has remained true to its values, and has succeeded in knitting together its many diversities into a strong, coherent, pluralistic society.

Despite changes in government, the political system itself has remained remarkably stable. This testifies to the inherent strength and stability of democratic traditions in India.

India's commitment to democratic pluralism is also reflected in the Government which I head. Ours is a coalition Government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party. We have prepared a common programme which defines the National Agenda for Governance. We are convinced that maturing of coalition politics is

what India needs at the present juncture.

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Our objective is clear, to build a strong, prosperous and self-confident India, which occupies its rightful place in the comity of nations.

We know that India has what it takes to achieve a far higher - 7-8% - rate of annual GDP growth. We know that India has what it takes to emerge as a major manufacturing, trading and exporting power, by achieving global competitiveness in cost and quality.

We also know that faster economic growth is the key to overcoming the historical legacy of unemployment and material backwardness afflicting large sections of our population.

We are fully aware of the problems that lie in the path of achieving these goals. But we are also convinced that we can make light of these problems if we act in the national interest in all matters.

Personally speaking, I have always held the national interest above party and personal interest. This is the pledge I made to the people of India on August 15, in the concluding celebrations of India's fiftieth anniversary of independence. It is a pledge that I am determined to honour.

INDIA'S BIFOCAL VISION: NATIONALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

Friends, India's preoccupation with the imperatives of national reconstruction has never blinded us to our duties towards the world. As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, once vividly said, nationalism and internationalism are the two eyes of our national body.

India has never seen what is good for herself without having simultaneously seen what is good for the whole world.

India's freedom movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was without parallel in its endeavour to harmonise a nation's legitimate aspirations for political independence with the universal values and concerns of the human race.

In my lecture before this august audience today, I therefore wish to talk about both India and the world standing expectantly on the threshold of the 21st century. I do so from an Indian point of view. But I make bold to claim that the Indian point of view is broad enough to command respectful attention of every progressive opinion in America and the world.

The 20th century has been a time of unprecedented changes. The scale and newness of changes in this century have far surpassed anything recorded in known history of mankind. Of this century can it be truly said that "it was the best of times and it was the worst of times".

It has been a century of world wars and conflicts, of stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, of colonialism, hegemonism, terrorism and religious fanaticism.

At the same time, it has also been a century of freedom, relative peace, prosperity, advance of democracy, spectacular progress in science and technology, especially the recent advances in information and communication technology, and unprecedented levels of global cooperation.

The challenge before the world is: how can the worst features of this century be held in check, reversed and their non-recurrence ensured? The challenge also is: how can we better the best features of the 20th century for the benefit of all sections of humanity - and not just some select, privileged nations and classes, as has happened so far?

Will the new century be really new for humanity, or will it be a continuation of the old problems and crises and conflicts that we have seen in our times?

Will the world move decisively in the direction of peace and disarmament? Will mass poverty, undernourishment and starvation be things of the past? Will the world financial system become less volatile and more predictable? And will there be a just and equitable global economic order?

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Will we be able to overcome terrorism, ethnic strife and religious hatred in the coming century?

These are the questions that confront the leaders of the world in the twilight days of the 20th century. By leaders I do not mean only heads of governments. No History has thrown this challenge before all of us - leaders in government politics, business, international agencies, academic institutions, media and cultural organisations. Will we be able to rise to the occasion?

Today, India, USA and the world stand at a unique moment in history. As we peer into the future, we find that it is not so far away at all. In less than 500 days, we will leave the 20th century behind, the second millennium behind and enter into a new century and a new millennium.

As we all know, computer professionals around the world are busy grappling with what is famously called the Y2K problem. The problem basically is to re-programme the software to let the computers know that the year 2000 has begun. Computers will behave funnily and totally unreliably if the Y2K problem is not solved.

Drawing from computer terminology, let me pose the question: Have we - the political leaders, heads of governments, policy makers and intellectuals of the world - begun to re-programme our political and economic minds to take note of the fact that we are all soon going to enter a new era I call this the PE-Y2K - the Political Economic Year 2000 - problem.

WORLD PEACE: THE NEED TO MOVE FROM DETERRENCE TO DISARMAMENT

Friends, in order to successfully meet this challenge, leaders around the world need a new mindset. And the mindset necessary to sustain the world in the

21st century demands that all of us must first learn the lessons of the 20th century.

The greatest lesson of this century is that peace is the highest ideal. The 20th century witnessed two World Wars, each more ferocious than all the previous wars. The price humanity paid in these two global conflicts has been so frightening that the option before the world today is stark: another world war, which will be a nuclear war, and extinction; or peace, survival and progress.

For fifty years, world peace has been secured on the tenuous principle of nuclear deterrence. But this cannot be the durable basis for peace. The conscience of humanity demands that the world move away from deterrence to disarmament.

Unfortunately, however, traditional nuclear powers have paid little heed to this universal demand. They first used the Cold War as a pretext for a costly arms race. Now, even though the Cold War is over, they have sought to perpetuate their hegemony through discriminatory non-proliferation treaties which are bound to fail.

It is this hypocrisy and hegemony which forced India to rethink our nuclear policy recently. As you well know, my country has championed the cause of peace and disarmament with consistency and conviction for the past five decades.

We raised our voice for disarmament, both on our own behalf and on behalf of members of the Non-Aligned Movement, in every multilateral and bilateral forum. Not only was our demand disregarded, but also India's sovereign right to keep the nuclear option open was sought to be curtailed.

In the circumstances, we were forced to exercise our nuclear option both for reasons of national security and as a powerful challenge to the practitioners of nuclear apartheid. With this firm action, we have reminded the nuclear club that the voice of one-sixth of the humanity cannot be ignored.

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The lesson of the late 20th century is, thus, simple: Disarmament - real, visible, verifiable disarmament - is the only way to achieve the goal of non-proliferation.

I do hope that the leadership of America, the country with the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons and delivery systems and hence carrying the greatest responsibility for peace on earth, takes the right course of action in the coming years.

Apprehensions have been expressed in some quarters that recent developments in South Asia raise the spectre of an arms race and heightened tensions. These apprehensions are misplaced.

Those who voice this apprehension argue that India and Pakistan have fought three wars in the last fifty years. They forget to add that there has been no war for the last 25 of those 50 years. And that is because of the bilateral Shimla Agreement arrived at between India and Pakistan in 1972.

Contrary to what some may believe, bilateralism works. It is the intrusion by third parties, however well-intentioned, that creates complications.

DEMOCRATISATION OF THE WORLD ORDER

Disarmament in turn demands democratisation of the world order. And this brings us to the second greatest lesson of the 20th century.

This has truly been a Century of Democracy. More and more countries around the world have embraced democracy, of course with necessary local variations. But we see a strange dichotomy here.

Democracy at the global level, as a framework for setting the norms for international relations, has not kept pace with the march of democracy as a system of national governance. The rich and the powerful make and unmake rules to suit their partisan interests.

As the world moves into the 21st century, this situation is totally unsustainable. No nation, however rich and militarily powerful, can for long pursue interests that do not harmonise with the interests of the global community.

The age of colonialism, which was the curse of the past few centuries, is over forever. In no way can the unequal relations that marked this age be reviewed without deeply endangering peace and stability.

I do hope that America, the land that cherishes democratic values, takes concrete steps to promote democratisation of the world order. The process could begin with democratisation of the UN system.

NEED TO RESTRUCTURE INDO-US TIES FOR THE GOOD OF GLOBAL DEMOCRACY

Friends, we in India believe that Indo-US relations, restructured on an equal footing, commute the key element in the architecture of tomorrow's democratised world order. However, I must confess to being baffled by the unsatisfactory current state of relations between our two countries.

We are the two largest democracies in the world, and have similar political cultures, a free press and the rule of law. We both have tradition of private enterprise and free markets.

Above all, I see no conflict of interests between the two countries in the foreseeable future and yet all of us here would agree that the full potential of our relationship has not been realised in the last 50 years.

I have been trying to analyse the reasons and I think I can at least indicate where the shoe pinches us. First and foremost, it is American reluctance to accept us as a responsible member of the international community.

Whether it is regional arrangements dealing with Afghanistan, where we have vital security and other interests; whether it is cooperative arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region, where we have a

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clearly positive, moderating and stabilising role to play; whether it is global organisations like the UN Security Council or the discriminatory Non-Proliferation Treaty; in all of these the United States does not appreciate and accommodate India's interests and concerns.

Secondly, we have been subjected to technology denials virtually from the time of our Independence. Our own export control regimes are extremely stringent and there has been no leakage of equipment or technology from India. Despite this, we find the US unwilling to accommodate us in terms of technology transfers.

Similarly on South Asian issues, where our supreme national interests are involved, we encounter policy approaches from America that go contrary to our basic irreducible security needs.

An even more serious case of incomprehension in India are the public statements made by American leaders where our sensitivities are involved. The statement issued on South Asia during President Clinton's visit to China, and American attempts at putting pressure on Russia to end its defence and scientific cooperation with India are two prime examples of recent vintage.

For democratic governments like ours, which desire closer understanding with the USA, it becomes extremely difficult to move forward in the face of such public declarations.

Friends, I have argued for restructuring of Indo-US relations not just because they will help India - but also because they will help the US itself. Let me repeat what I have said earlier. Indo-US ties based on equality and mutuality of interests is going to be the mainstay of tomorrow's stable democratic world order.

REFORMING THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Friends, by now it is well recognised that economic democracy is at the very core of democracy, both in a domestic set up as well as in international relations. But the financial system that has come into being in the post-World War II period has proved itself to be anything but democratic.

The intrinsic inequities in this system cannot be rationalised by saying that they are the result of market forces that brook no governmental intervention. The 20th century has seen the heavy price that the dogma of communism extracted.

The world is today paying the price for another dogma; the dogma of the Invisible Hand of the market forces. We have seen how irrationally volatile the markets have been.

We have also seen how market instability in one part of the world quickly travels, like a seismic wave, to other parts of the world through the fault lines of the global financial system.

With market instability comes social and political instability. Overnight ordinary people lose see their hard-earned savings evaporate, investors lose their market capitalisation and countries lose the value of their currencies.

There is no doubt that nations that do not manage their economies on sound principle invite a penalty in this system. But often they and their innocent people pay the penalty of unemployment and price rise for no fault of their own.

It is rightly said that in the era of globalisation, the global market for goods, services, investments and human labour is one and indivisible - much like the atmosphere that surrounds our planet. Any damage to the atmosphere at one place adversely affects all the people inhabiting this planet.

Rich nations of the Western hemisphere, therefore, should not be under the illusion that they are immune from the crisis that is currently rippling through the Asian markets. There is an urgent need for collective global action to reform the world's financial system by refocusing

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it to meet the priority growth needs of the human race.

We in India have taken a principled stand towards globalisation - cautious, calibrated and steady integration. This approach has served our national interests well. We have remained largely unaffected by the turmoil in the Asian markets.

We know we have to implement many more internal and external reforms to harness the full potential of our economy. We shall definitely do so. At the same time, we shall continue to raise our voice for radically reforming the global economic order as the main guarantor for a stable and peaceful 21st century.

MANAGING DIVERSITIES: KEY TO PEACEFUL WORLD ORDER

There is a fourth important lesson of the 20th century and it has to do with how we manage diversities. All of us on this planet belong to different races, regions, religions, cultures and nationalities. We speak different languages and hold different views on politics and life. But we all share the same common home because we are all part of the same human family.

India's Vedic seers extolled this value by stating that, whereas the Truth is one, wise men express differently - Ekam Sat Viprah Bahudha Vadanti.

This was always true. But in the age of globalisation, when interaction and interdependence is a law rather than an exception, acceptance of the truth of 'Unity in Diversity' and 'Diversity in Unity' is not just an option. It is an inescapable necessity.

Sadly, unwillingness to accept this truth is at the root of much violence and strife in many parts of the world today. When such exclusivism and intolerance are wedded to narrow political goals, they even give rise to

terrorism.

Friends, terrorism has become one of the gravest threats to civil society, and national security. Here again, both India and the USA have been its victims. We were shocked and horrified at the wanton loss of innocent American and African lives in the recent attacks on the US Embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam.

We shared the anguish and anger that you felt. The forces of international terrorism that launched these cowardly attacks are active in our region also. India has been a target of relentless terrorist violence. You have Lockerbie, we have Kanishka. You have the World Trade Centre, we have Wandhama.

The threads lead back to one and the same source. It is contemptible that this is being sponsored and abetted from across our borders. One country in our region has already fallen to obscurantism. The international community must act determinedly to prevent the contagion from spreading.

As the world moves into the next century, we must accept multiculturalism and respect for diversities as a way of life. I am happy to note here that both India and the United States, which have a rich experience in peacefully managing diversities, can work together in this area for the benefit of mankind.

INDIA AND AMERICA; NATURAL ALLIES IN THE QUEST FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Friends, on all these major challenges facing mankind today, my belief is that progressive people all over the world have convergent views. I see this convergence especially among the forward-looking leaders, policy-makers and intellectuals of India and America.

It is this convergence, it is this commonality of concerns and cognition, which reinforces my belief that India and the United States are natural allies in the quest for a better future for the world in the 21st century.

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Thanks to the initiatives of non-governmental and non-partisan institutions like the Asia Society, I am sure this alliance will become stronger and stronger in the coming years.

In conclusion, as an ode to this natural Indo-American alliance, let me quote a few lines from the poem written by Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest Indian sages of modern times.

It is called 'TO THE FOURTH OF JULY'. It was written a hundred years ago, on July 4, 1898 when he was travelling with some American disciples through the woods of Kashmir.

Move on, O Lord, in thy resistless path!
Till thy high noon o'erspreads the world,
Till every land reflects thy light,
Till men and women, with uplifted head,
Behold their shackles broken, and

Know, in springing joy, their life renewed!
Thank you.

INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN CHINA KENYA

Date : Sep 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

India-Iraq Joint Commission concludes in New Delhi

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 02, 1998 regarding India-Iraq Joint Commission:

The 12th Session of the India-Iraq Joint Commission, which met in New Delhi between 31st August - 2nd September, 1998, concluded its deliberations today with the signing of the Agreed Minutes by the co-Chairmen, the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri V. K. Ramamurthy, and the Iraqi Minister of Oil, Mr. Amir Mohammed Rashid.

While in New Delhi, the Iraqi Minister called on the Vice-President, Shri Krishan Kant, and had meetings with the Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes, the Railway Minister, Shri Nitesh Kumar, and the Minister of Industry, Shri Sikandar Bakht. He had a meeting with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral, at which a number of other members of the Committee, representing different political parties, were present. The delegation also interacted with representatives of Indian enterprises from diverse sectors.

The two Ministers witnessed the signing of a bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme covering the period 1998-2001 and of an MoU on cooperation in the petroleum sector.

In his concluding remarks, Shri Ramamurthy spoke of the atmosphere of mutual cooperation and goodwill that had marked the discussions of the various Sub-Committees of the Joint Commission. The Iraqi Minister reciprocated these sentiments.

The various proposals for cooperation agreed to at the Joint Commission are as follows:

(i) India has agreed to extend a line of credit to Iraq of US \$ 25 million to be utilised by Iraq for purchase of capital goods, consumer durables and pharmaceuticals.

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(ii) Both sides have noted India's deep interest in participating in the rehabilitation and expansion of projects in Iraq in the power, petroleum, communications and fertiliser sectors. Specialised delegations from India would be visiting Iraq to identify specific projects.

(iii) The Indian side showed interest in participating in Iraq's hydrocarbons sector, particularly in areas such as consultancy, exploration, production and pipeline logistics. It was agreed that a joint study group would examine India's participation in upstream and down-stream projects. Again, India has also agreed to provide technical assistance and training to Iraq in the hydro-carbon sector.

(iv) An extensive programme for technical cooperation, including training, deputation of experts and study visits, has been agreed to. This will cover sectors such as agriculture, industry, transport and tele-communications.

(v) The Iraqi side have noted the interest of Indian companies in participating in Iraq's 'oil-for-food' programme. India will be purchasing about 1.50 million of crude from Iraq this year. The Iraqi side on its part specified its requirements in sectors such as agriculture, tele-communications, railways, water-treatment of sewage, housing, power, machinery and equipment, etc., which are seen as having potential for promoting India's exports to Iraq. India will also be participating in the Baghdad International Trade Fair in November, 1998.

(vi) Cultural ties between India and Iraq will receive a major fillip with the conclusion of the Cultural Exchange Programme covering the period 1998-2001. The Programme covers exchange of scholars, cultural troupes and provision of scholarships.

At the Joint Commission, the Iraqi side reiterated its commitment to positively address the question of dues owing to India under the deferred payment agreement, the Exim Bank line of credit and other heads, and to cooperate with Indian financial institutions to reconcile these accounts from time to time. The Iraqi side also agreed to positively address these claims after the lifting of sanctions.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Joint Commission would take place in Baghdad in 1999 at a date to be finalised through diplomatic channels.

IRAQ INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 02, 1998

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1998 regarding official visit to India of H.E. Mr. Talal Mubarak Al-Ayyar, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of the State of Kuwait:

A Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation, led by H.E. Mr. Talal Mubarak Al-Ayyar,

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Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait, is currently in India on an official visit. The visit of the goodwill delegation would enhance mutual understanding between the peoples and the governments of the two countries.

2. The leader of the delegation called on the President and the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, besides Smt. Sonia Gandhi, President of the AICC and Leader of the Opposition. The delegation also met a number of prominent Members of Parliament and exchanged views.

3. The Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation also had a meeting in South Block with Shri Nareshwar Dayal, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

4. The India-Kuwait Joint Commission meeting (JCM) is expected to be held in the near future. The JCM will consider ways and means to further strengthen the commercial and economic relations between the two countries. Currently, India imports crude oil and petroleum products worth more than US \$ 2,500/- million per year from Kuwait.

5. The Kuwaiti delegation appreciated the role of Indians in development and reconstruction of the Kuwaiti economy. There are at present 26.2 lakh Indian workers in Kuwait.

6. The Kuwaiti Deputy Speaker extended an invitation for a visit to Kuwait by an Indian Parliamentary Delegation.

KUWAIT INDIA USA

Date : Sep 30, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Bilateral Meeting

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1998 regarding bilateral meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan:

The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York on 23rd September, 1998.

Their discussions covered the whole range of bilateral relations. The two Prime Ministers also carried out a detailed review of new developments in the region during the past few months.

They reaffirmed their common belief that an environment of durable peace and security was in the supreme interest of both India and Pakistan, and of the region as a whole. They expressed their determination to renew and reinvigorate efforts to secure such an environment. They agreed that the peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, was essential for this purpose.

The two leaders reiterated their commitment to create conditions which would enable both countries to fully devote their resources, both human and material, to improving the lives of their people, particularly the poorest among them.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the agreement reached between the Foreign Secretaries on operationalizing the mechanism to address all items in the agreed agenda of 23rd June, 1997 in a purposeful and composite manner. They directed the Foreign Secretaries accordingly, to resume the dialogue on the agreed dates.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 23, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Joint Statement

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 24, 1998 regarding Joint statement issued in New York:

The Foreign Secretary of India, Shri K. Raghunath, and the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, met in New York on 23rd September, 1998.

2. Pursuant to the agreement set out in para 4 of the Joint Statement issued at Islamabad on 23rd June, 1997, the Foreign Secretaries agreed as follows:

- (i) The mechanism to address all the outstanding issues listed in para 4(i) of the Joint Statement would now be made operational.
- (ii) As stipulated in para 4(ii) of the Joint Statement, all the issues shall be addressed substantively and specifically through the agreed mechanism in an integrated manner.
- (iii) All outstanding issues shall be dealt with at the levels indicated below:
 - (a) Peace and Security including CBMs
(Foreign Secretaries)
 - (b) Jammu and Kashmir
(Foreign Secretaries)
 - (c) Siachen
(Defence Secretaries)
 - (d) Wuller Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project
(Secretaries, Water & Power)
 - (e) Sir Creek
(Additional Secretary (Defence/Surveyors General))
 - (f) Terrorism and Drug Trafficking
(Home/Interior Secretaries)
 - (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation
(Commerce Secretaries)
 - (h) Promotion of Friendly exchanges in various fields
(Secretaries, Culture)
- (iv) The detailed composition of the official teams is left to the discretion of each side.

3. The above mentioned subjects of this composite dialogue process will be discussed at the indicated levels in separate meetings. The dates of these meetings will be determined by mutual consent. At the each round, the Foreign Secretaries will hold separate meetings on (a) Peace and Security including CBMs and (b) Jammu and Kashmir and review the progress of the dialogue process.

4. The Foreign Secretaries will commence the substantive dialogue with separate meetings on a (a) Peace and Security including CBMs and (b) Jammu and Kashmir in Islamabad on 15-18 October, 1998. The remaining six subjects i.e. (c) Siachen (d) Wuller Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project, (e) Sir Creek, (f)

Terrorism and Drug Trafficking, (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation, and (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields, shall be taken up in substantive and separate meetings in New Delhi in the first half of November, 1998. The cycle of meetings of the Foreign Secretaries and other concerned officials on the subjects in the agreed agenda will be continued on this pattern on agreed dates.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

The Address of the Prime Minister of India to the 53rd U.N. General Assembly

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi containing the address of the Prime Minister to the 53rd U.N. General Assembly:

Mr. President,

May I congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the 53rd UN General Assembly? We wish you well in our shared endeavours in the United Nations and offer you our full cooperation. We would like to thank your predecessor for his engagement and contribution and to compliment him for the work throughout the last year.

2. I first addressed this august Assembly of the UN as Foreign Minister in 1977. Since then I have had the privilege to come for the General Assembly sessions for many years but it was without ministerial responsibility. I acknowledge with gratitude the confidence of successive Prime Ministers. To me it also signifies the consensus on national interests and the foreign policy of India. When I addressed the General Assembly in 1977, it was the turning point in many ways in the history of India. The Janata Government was a coalition of many factions who united in the restoration of our people's faith in democracy. Since, then we have had many changes of Government but the people's political awareness and their faith in the institutions which uphold our constitutional system has been unwavering. Today, when I come to this podium as Prime Minister I come on behalf of another coalition. India has demonstrated that democracy can take root in a developing country. I am confident that the Indian experience will prove that democracy can also provide the basis for stable, long-term economic growth in developing societies. This is the path that the people of India have chosen and I stand before you today as the symbol of this new

resurgent India.

3. Mr. President, the world of the 1970's has receded into history. The shackling constraints of the Cold War are gone. The distinguishing feature of the last two decades has been the spread of democracy world-wide. By force of example, we have been one of the authors of the triumph of democracy. From this flows our desire to see democratisation of the UN itself. An international body that does not reflect, and change with the changing international realities, will inevitably face a credibility deficit. We, therefore support a revitalised and effective UN, one that is more responsive to the concerns of the vast majority of its member States and is better equipped to meet the challenges ahead of us in the 21st century.

4. The Security Council does not represent contemporary reality, it does not represent democracy in international relations. Following the end of the Cold War, it has acquired the freedom to act but experience shows that the Council has acted only when it was convenient for its permanent members. The experience of Somalia does not do credit to the Security Council and there are other examples too. Peace-keeping operations cannot be a reflection of ulterior political priorities and perceptions.

5. There is only one cure to bring in fresh blood. The Security Council must be made representative of the membership of the United Nations. Developing countries must be made permanent members. It is a right to which the developing world is entitled. Presence of some developing countries as permanent members is

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inescapable for effectively discharging the responsibilities of the Security Council particularly when we see that the Council acts almost exclusively in the developing world. It is only natural that on decisions affecting the developing world, these countries have a say, on equal terms. Along with other measures, the Security Council too must be reformed, expanding its non-permanent membership so that more developing countries can serve on it. But this alone is not enough. Because as long as effective power in the Council rests with the permanent membership, the interests of the developing world will not be promoted or protected unless developing countries are made permanent members, on par with the present permanent members. Only this will make the Council an effective instrument for the international community in dealing with current and future challenges. The new permanent members must of course have the ability to discharge the responsibilities that come with permanent membership. India believes it can, and, as we had said before from this rostrum, we are prepared to accept the responsibilities of permanent membership, and believe we are qualified for it.

6. It will be a great day when democracy becomes the universal norm, and when the UN reflects this democracy in its institutions and functioning. However, open democratic societies have one scourge to contend with - terrorism. The challenge before countries like mine and other democracies is to maintain our openness, safeguard individual rights, and, at the same time, give no quarter to terrorists. Several speakers before me have recounted the terrible toll, worldwide, that terrorists have exacted, taking advantage of the trust that characterises open societies. I recall that the G-7 Summit almost two decades

back had identified terrorism as one of the most serious threats to civilised societies. Events since then including the blowing up of Air India Kanishka, the Pan Am Airlines over Lockerbie, to the recent bombings in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam - have only established the correctness of that judgement.

7. Mr. President, terrorism is one threat that affects us all equally. Terrorism takes a daily toll across the world. It is the most vicious among international crimes, the most pervasive, pernicious and ruthless threat to the lives of men and women in open societies, and to international peace and security. In India, we have had to cope with terrorism, aided and abetted by a neighbouring country, for nearly two decades. We have borne this with patience, but none should doubt the strength of our resolve to crush this challenge. Its tentacles have spread across the world. Today, it has linkages with illicit trade in drugs, arms and money laundering. In short, terrorism has gone global and it can only be defeated by organised international action.

8. Let us make up our minds once and for all - terrorism is a crime against humanity. Unilateral steps can hardly stand scrutiny in an open society, let alone in the eyes of the international community. It should be the primary task of all open and plural societies to develop collective means for tackling this menace. At the summit meeting in Durban, the Non-Aligned Movement has called for an international conference in 1999 to develop such a collective response. We urge that the 1999 conference launch the process of negotiations for an international convention to provide for collective action against States and organisations which initiate or aid and abet terrorism.

9. In this fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there is growing realisation that economic social, cultural, civil and political rights form a seamless web. Analyses carried out in recent years by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees amply reflect the vicious cycle of how violations of economic, social and cultural rights inevitably lead to violations of civil and political rights. In defining its index, the Human Development Report gives a higher weightage to economic criterion for developing countries; this weigh-

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tage is reduced for developed countries, highlighting the importance of the right to development for developing societies. It is therefore a matter of concern that the absolutism sought to be advocated in the promotion of human rights is often at the cost of the right to development.

10. India has ratified both the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. Other institutions in our country - the National Human Rights Commission, a free media, an independent judiciary - all serve to assure that the international human rights statutes are enjoyed by all citizens. We also remained convinced that unless progress is made on economic, social and cultural rights including the right to development, the world will continue to witness international conflict leading to migrations, displacement of people and human rights abuses.

11. In the closing years of the 20th century, the challenge of nuclear disarmament is another of the priorities facing the international community. We have successfully prohibited chemical and biological weapons in recent decades.

The present century has witnessed the development and the tragic use of nuclear weapons. We must ensure that the legacy of this weapon of mass destruction is not carried into the next century.

12. For the last half-century, India has consistently pursued the objectives of international peace along with equal and legitimate security for all through global disarmament. These concepts are among the basic tenets of our national security. India has, over the years, sought to enhance its national security by promoting global nuclear disarmament, convinced that a world free of nuclear weapons enhances both global and India's national security.

13. The negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) began in 1993 with a mandate that such a treaty would "contribute effectively to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in all aspects to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore, to the enhancement of international peace and security". India participated actively and constructively in the negotiations, and sought to place the Treaty in a disarmament framework by proposing its linkage with a time-bound programme for the universal elimination of all nuclear weapons.

14. It is a matter of history that India's proposals were not accepted. The treaty, as it emerged, was not accepted by India on grounds of national security. We made explicit our objection that despite our stand having been made clear, the treaty text made India's signature and ratification a pre-condition for its entry into force.

15. Mindful of its deteriorating security environment which has obliged us to stand apart from the CTBT in 1996, India undertook a limited series of five underground tests, conducted on 11 and 13 May, 1998. These tests were essential for ensuring a credible nuclear deterrent for India's national security in the foreseeable future.

16. These tests do not signal a dilution of India's commitment to the pursuit of global nuclear disarmament. Accordingly, after concluding this limited testing programme, India announced a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions. We conveyed our willingness to move towards a de jure formalisation of this obligation. In announcing a moratorium, India has already accepted the basic obligation of the CTBT. In 1996, India could not have accepted the obligation as such a restraint would have eroded our capability and compromised our national security.

17. Mr. President, India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the

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CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expected that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this Treaty without conditions.

18. After protracted discussions, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva is now in a position to begin negotiations on a treaty that will prohibit the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Once again, we are conscious that this is a partial step. Such a treaty, as and when it is concluded and enters into force, will not eliminate existing nuclear arsenals. Yet, we will participate in these negotiations in good faith in order to ensure a treaty that is non-discriminatory and meets India's security imperatives. India will pay serious attention to any other multilateral initiatives in this area, during the course of the negotiations in the CD.

19. As a responsible state committed to non-proliferation, India has undertaken that it shall not transfer these weapons or related know-how to other countries. We have an effective system of export controls and shall make it more stringent where necessary, including by expanding control lists of equipment and technology to make them more contemporary and effective in the context of a nuclear India. All the same time, as a developing country, we are conscious that nuclear technology has a number of peaceful applications and we shall continue to cooperate actively with other countries in this regard, in keeping with our international responsibilities.

20. A few weeks ago, at the Non-Aligned Summit in Durban, India proposed, and the Movement agreed that an international conference be held preferably in 1999, with the objective of arriving at an agreement, before the end of this millennium on a phased programme for the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. I call upon all members of the international community, and particularly the other nuclear weapon states to join in this endeavour. Let us pledge that when we assemble here in the new millennium, it shall be to welcome the commitment that mankind shall never again be subjected to the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

21. Mr. President, the decade of the 1990s has fallen far short of expectations; nowhere is this more apparent than on the global economic scene. The sense of triumphalism that heralded the wave of global capitalism is now giving way to caution and realism. What was initially seen as an Asian flu is now spreading to other continents.

22. The hypothesis that unfettered capital flows would foster economic development with the global financial markets adjusting the exchange rates stands falsified. What we have seen is the growth of a large volume of "virtual money" that has not been generated by productive economic activity. But the power of the "virtual money" is real, evident in the fact that national regulatory mechanisms are unable to cope with the impact of its rapid movement in and out of currencies. Its volatility in the short run does not follow economic logic but rumour and sentiment, with results that are self-reinforcing. In developing countries and in western financial capitals, there is now a growing acceptance that premature liberalisation of capital markets has been a primary cause of the current crisis.

23. Does it mean that the world should turn back from globalisation? Our answer is an emphatic NO. Rising economic interdependence is a phenomenon driven by the technological imperative, but we must learn how to manage the change. India has not been affected as severely as some other countries, largely because

we adopted policies that were more prudent. But a drop in commodity prices by 30 per cent in a year and a reduction in net capital flows by 50 per cent to the emerging markets will have a negative impact on growth everywhere, including in the developed world.

24. I must emphasise that democratically elected leadership in open developing societies, such as India, also faces another challenge. We cannot let an unbridled

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free market system aggravate existing economic and social disparities. In fact, we need policy instruments to reduce disparities thus creating a more stable environment in the long term. Such policies are necessary in accountable democracies and in no way inconsistent with managed liberalisation.

25. It is high time, Mr. President, that we begin a new international dialogue, on the future of a global and inter-dependent economy. This is a task for the sovereign states represented here and cannot be left solely to the dynamics of an unregulated market place.

26. Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends, I think I speak for all of us when I say that we are on the threshold of a new age. This is an over-used phrase, but we are all aware that an exciting new universe is within our reach. Several centuries ago, Isaac Newton described his scientific discoveries as pebbles on the beach, while the Ocean of Truth lay undiscovered. It was modest of that great scientist to so describe his work, but I believe that we are now actually sailing in the Ocean of Truth. We have made exciting discoveries and will make many more which will move humankind forward.

27. And yet, there is also an uneasy feeling that all is not well. The world is not at ease with itself. Forces are bubbling under the surface tranquility in almost all parts of the world that threaten the gains of the last century, and which seek to lead the world towards bigotry, violence and unhealthy exclusivism.

28. India has a message: not a new one, for almost all religions have expressed the thought before. But we have preserved the tenets - of freedom, equality and tolerance in our daily lives. If the world of the 21st century is to be a better place than the world we have seen so far, these values must prevail. History also shows that these are easier to prescribe than to observe. And yet, as we move towards ever-closer interdependence, there is no alternative. The world and its leaders must summon the will to rise to the occasion and enter the new age with a new outlook. This is the task before us and I declare India's readiness to make its full contribution in the testing times ahead.

29. I close with an ancient sloka from the Rig Ved composed thousands of years ago in Sanskrit, the oldest language in the World:

"Svastir manushebhyaha
Oordhvam Jugatu beshajam
Sam no astu dvipathe

Sam Chathusthate
Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti".

meaning:

Let all human beings be blessed with prosperity
Let all flora and fauna which are life line of all creatures, grow abundantly
Let there be harmony with all two-legged creations
Let there be harmony with all four-legged creations
Let there be peace, peace, peace. (Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti).

Thank you, Mr. President.

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INDIA USA MALI SOMALIA KENYA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND

Date : Sep 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

MULTILATERAL

Address by the Prime Minister of India at the XII NAM Summit at Durban

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 03, 1998 regarding address by the Prime Minister of India at the XII NAM Summit at Durban:

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by saying how pleased we are to be here, in a Summit of the Non-Aligned, where the torch tended so carefully over the last three years by President Samper Pizano of Colombia, will pass into your hands.

2. As a figure who has played a historic role in the 20th century, it is fitting and a matter of pride that Nelson Mandela will guide the destinies of the Movement now. We wish our South African friends every success in their stewardship of our Movement and offer our fullest cooperation to them. This would be our tribute to South Africa, for it was here that Mohandas Gandhi emerged from the shadows of obscurity to become the Mahatma who is today a beacon of hope to humankind. This is also our last Summit this century - a century that has seen much bloodshed and suffering. It is up to us, representing the majority of the people of this world, to ensure that the next century is one of peace and prosperity.

3. For much of this century, South Africa has dominated the agenda of the

Non-Aligned Movement as a victim of political and social repression. It is in the fitness of things that the wheel of history has turned full circle and South Africa will now lead the Movement into the next century as a multi-racial democracy. India will fully cooperate with South Africa to revitalise the agenda of NAM. At this Summit and the ensuing years of South Africa's chairmanship, the Movement should formulate a focussed strategy to articulate the concerns of the developing countries to address the challenges of the 21st century. This would be a crowning achievement for South Africa and the Non-Aligned Movement.

4. Since India emerged as a free country in 1947, disarmament has remained a cornerstone of our foreign policy. Our leaders saw it as a natural course for a country that had waged a unique struggle for independence on the basis of 'ahimsa' and 'satyagraha'. A nuclear-weapon-free-world, they reasoned, would enhance the security of all nations. This conviction remains as strong today as it was in 1954 when India raised the call for "negotiations for prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and in the interim, a standstill agreement to halt nuclear testing". The goal was a ban that would stop nuclear weapons research and development. This goal still eludes us. The Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 drove testing underground. The so-called Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty of 1996 is also another partial test ban treaty, which allows states possessing nuclear weapons to continue to refine and improve their arsenals.

5. Our position on the Non-Proliferation Treaty is well known and has been consistent since the Treaty was first proposed. It is a discriminatory, treaty and has not served the purpose of non-proliferation but has given the right to five countries to proliferate vertically in disregard of universal opinion against the very existence of nuclear weapons. The commitment undertaken by the nuclear weapon states to work for general and complete disarmament has been disregarded completely. Even the undertaking to prevent the transfer of nuclear materials and technology has not been adhered to.

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6. At the first Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978, India moved a resolution, along with a number of other Non-Aligned nations, declaring that the use of nuclear weapons be considered a crime against humanity. The second Special Session of the General Assembly in 1982 strengthened this with a draft Convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons. Even today, five nuclear weapon states and their allies continue to oppose this resolution in the United Nations General Assembly. They also recently opposed the Indian proposal that the use of nuclear weapons should be included in the list of war crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the proposed international Criminal Court.

7. During the 1980s, when there was increased concern about a re-emergence of the nuclear arms race, India, along with Sweden, Greece, Mexico, Argentina and Tanzania, launched a six-nation five-continent initiative which once again focussed on the banning of all nuclear tests a ban that would be a meaningful step towards disarmament. The two leading nuclear weapon states remained opposed to this appeal.

8. In 1988, at the third Special Session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament, India put forward an Action Plan for the establishment of a

nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world order. It was a phased plan that envisaged a step-by-step approach, leading to the verifiable elimination of all nuclear arsenals. This unfortunately, was dismissed by the nuclear weapon states as Utopian.

9. Many of us supported the call for the amendment of the Partial Test Ban Treaty into a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty launched by Mexico. India was one of the countries that also took the lead in depositing before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1995 which led to the historic opinion of the ICJ a year later, on the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. We have welcomed the ICJ affirmation that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all aspects under strict and effective international control.

10. Since the first summit in 1961, our Movement has registered many achievements to its credit. But on the issue of global nuclear disarmament, which was identified as a priority by our leaders in 1961, we have yet to make decisive headway.

11. With the end of the Cold War, we are convinced that there is a window of opportunity that needs to be exploited. Many sections of the international community are now re-evaluating their earlier positions and becoming convinced of the merits of a phased approach for nuclear disarmament which they considered too idealistic in 1988. The Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons declared that "the opportunity now exists, perhaps without precedent or recurrence to make a new and clear choice to enable the world to conduct its affairs without nuclear weapons".

12. Many others are realising that the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty cannot provide a lasting and genuine solution to the problem of proliferation. It is vital for our Movement at this juncture, to renew our commitment to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free-world and take advantage of this environment. Many of us have called, on the basis of the document adopted at the Cartagena Summit, for multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development production, testing, deployment, stockpiling transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.

13. India's recent nuclear tests took place in a geo-political environment where our security was becoming ever more threatened by the overt and covert nuclearisation of our neighbourhood. We do not, however, believe now, any more than we ever did before, that nuclear weapons are here to stay. On the contrary, if the established nuclear weapon states agree to negotiations to abolish nuclear

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weapons, we will be the first to join. Today, I urge them as India has urged them so many times before, to join us in the Non-Aligned Movement in negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention, through which we can eliminate this last category of weapons of mass destruction. This Movement in keeping with its longstanding commitment, is issuing a historic call today for safeguarding our future. Let us pledge that when we assemble at the next Summit in 2001, it will be to welcome

the collective decision that nuclear weapons shall not cast their shadow into the new millennium.

14. Apprehensions have been expressed in some quarters that recent developments in South Asia raise the spectre of an arms race and heightened tensions. These apprehensions are misplaced. India continues to seek good relations with all its neighbours and to work with them to build on our commonalities and shared aspirations. Differences should be resolved in a rational manner, peacefully and through bilateral negotiations. I have had a cordial meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan at Colombo and our delegations have continued the dialogue here. This is not the place to air the differences in some of our positions. The Shimla Agreement, which both India and Pakistan have ratified, provides an agreed mechanism for resolving these differences amicably among ourselves. Let me say this loud and clear: there is no place for any third party involvement in this process, however well intentioned. The State of Jammu & Kashmir is, and will remain, an integral part of India. The real problem there is one of cross-border terrorism.

15. The international system in which the Movement must function remains beset with inequality and uncertainty. Ethnic conflict continues in Europe as well as other parts of the world. The Middle East Peace Process remains deadlocked. Religious fundamentalism and terrorism daily claim innocent victims in many parts of the world. Protectionism, currency speculation and flight of capital have been a setback to the economies of many developing countries. Pressures on developing countries have intensified as the new architecture of the multilateral regime in trade, investment, development cooperation, environment and human rights shrinks the political space available to developing countries. The United Nations is being asked to shoulder increasing responsibilities but its financial resources rest on shaky foundations. Expansion and reform of the Security Council should be based on global and non-discriminatory criteria. NAM and developing countries are most often the objects of the Council's actions; they must have a role in decision making in the Council on the basis of equality. To meet the aspirations of its members, NAM has to develop the strength to translate its numbers into an effective voice in international affairs. It has to regain lost ground in a changed international environment.

16. Another priority should be to set an agenda for the management of the international economy. Protectionism has returned in markets of the developed world; trade and investment are being increasingly used to promote political objectives, on labour standards, intellectual property rights, human rights and the environment. These are defences thrown up against the recent successes of some developing countries. These members of our Movement have emerged in the vanguard of international growth, but others have not only been economically marginalised by globalisation, even the stability of their societies is threatened. In either case, our voice must be heard. Instead, we have heard ad nauseam that we should trust the magic of the marketplace. We have discovered the hard way that the magic wears off fast. And in each country, the marketplace has to be run according to rules, which that country must determine as the only guardian of the well-being of its people.

17. But, we are told, the global marketplace will be anarchic, subject to no control, a place of mystery where the managers of investment funds can bring

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down an economy, almost at whim. The lesson that we have been asked to learn from the South-East Asian experience is that there must be firmer domestic controls on financial institutions in developing countries. But there is no agenda set to bring international controls or accountability to the international marketplace, or to examine the systemic flaws in the architecture of the international financial and monetary system, or the havoc it plays on all vital aspects of the economy.

18. The Movement needs to be far more active than it has so far been. The Ad hoc Panel of Economists which we set up last year has produced a report; several important meetings have been held in recent months at the United Nations to ponder the implications of the crisis. As recent events have shown, economic crises lead to political tensions; they tear at the social fabric of our countries. The crisis which started in East Asia will not end there; all of us will be touched by it. We must therefore take decisions at our level to guide our actions in an uncertain world; we must set up a system through which the non-aligned can work continuously on the critical economic issues of our day. If the Non-Aligned Movement does not shape the future of the international economy through continuous attention, it is we who will suffer most from the consequences of this neglect. We must demonstrate the political will to see this through together, no matter how hard the negotiations, and we must take substantive decisions at this Summit to be better served in strengthening our analytical resources, negotiating capacity and mutually supportive action in a variety of ways, taking advantage of the substantial capabilities we have built up among ourselves.

19. The current international economic environment, characterised by shrinking Official Development Assistance flows, especially those channelised through multilateral organisations, causes serious concern. The central role of these bodies, especially the UN, in promoting inter-national cooperation for development, must be strengthened. Ways must be devised to make decision-making in international financial and trade institutions equitable and more responsive to our requirements. The developmental focus of their activities needs to be restored. The International Conference on Finance for Development, a long-standing demand of the Movement, will be a significant step in the attainment of these objectives. Effective participation of the members of this Movement in the preparatory process is imperative for ensuring its success.

20. The exponential increase in the capacities of our countries, developed through our unremitting efforts, have not only improved the conditions of our peoples, but have opened new vistas for South-South cooperation. We must build on the existing complementarities, and also endeavour to build new ones. In the ultimate analysis, there is no alternative to self-reliance.

21. Another area which merits greater attention is Africa which has not had the consideration this continent deserves. The Secretary General of the United Nations produced a report a few months ago, which the Security Council looked at but the roots of crisis can only be addressed in other forums and by other means. The Economic and Social Council will shortly be adopting a decision to focus on Africa in 1999. Our hosts have some ideas of their own; so, too, do

other African States. The Movement should work with them if they think that we have something to offer to support the initiatives taken by Africans themselves. They could examine the usefulness of an international conference or a Special Session of the UN General Assembly to focus on the special needs of Africa.

22. The entire purpose of development for us is to restore to our citizens the human rights that colonialism trampled upon. These rights are still under constant threat from poverty, social backwardness, and racial and other forms of discrimination. It is therefore ironic that the Non-Aligned

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are sometimes seen as being defensive on human rights. Perhaps this is because we do not accept partial and self-serving approaches that ignore the international obligations and co-operation that are necessary for their full enjoyment, in particular for the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. In this, the fiftieth year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is important that the Movement work for a deeper understanding of the relationship between democracy, development, human rights and international cooperation.

23. The scourge of terrorism is spreading tentacles and knows no frontiers. A month ago, innocent lives were lost in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam in violence of the utmost malignancy. Those acts of terrorism made the headlines, but several of our countries are no strangers to lives lost daily to terrorist outrages, with the rest of the world either silent or indifferent, unable to agree, for reasons of political convenience or worse, on a definition of terrorism which ought to be a straightforward matter. Some, with myopic loftiness, are far too willing to judge democracies on the same scale on which they place the terrorists who batten on open societies. Terrorism is a plain, naked assault on humanity and the values that civilised societies live by. If we honour Gandhi's legacy, and Madiba's example, the Non-Aligned must reject the false claim of moral equivalence. Evil cannot be equated with good; there is just fight against "adharmā", against evil, that must be fought. This cannot be done by unilateral or selective action. It calls for concerted international effort. The time has come for an international conference to discuss and agree on measures to combat and defeat this menace through collective action.

24. Let us not waste our time squabbling over the fine print in the Final Document. Poverty is real, discrimination is real, violence is real; these are the realities that claim the lives of our citizens. The Movement must grapple with these realities, and not be content with sterile debate over definitions. Collective action for common good was what the Non-Aligned Movement was created for. Under your Chairmanship, Excellency, that is what we must do.

25. We hope the Durban Summit will be the beginning of an African renaissance, to which the NAM would have contributed and which will strengthen the Movement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC COLOMBIA SOUTH AFRICA USA ARGENTINA GREECE

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection

The Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany expressing the deep concern of both countries for the global environment and interest of all in its conservation for the health and well-being of present and future generations.

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keeping in view that sustainable development requires environmentally sound management of natural resources,

considering the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992 and

desirous of promotion and establishment and development of closer and long-term cooperation between both countries in the field of protection and improvement of the environment.

have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

The Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany shall co-operate as the nodal agencies in the field of environmental protection on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Article 2

Cooperation may be carried out, inter alia, in the following priority areas:

1. Identification of pollution problems of mutual concern and assessment of relevant control technologies keeping in view specific areas mentioned hereunder:

- a) Water pollution control, including such aspects as waste water treatment for industrial, municipal and agricultural pollution, exchange of information on water quality standards, sludge disposal, protection of groundwater sources, clean-up of rivers;
 - b) Air pollution control, including stationary and mobile sources;
 - c) Solid waste management, safe disposal and recovery, management of industrial wastes, in particular hazardous wastes, reduction of wastes from packaging materials;
2. Environmental policy and management, including the legal and administrative measures related to the protection of the environment in terms of modalities laid down in Clause 2 of Article 3 of this Memorandum of Understanding, and economic instruments which are aimed at the internalization of environmental costs;
 3. Environment and energy, including improvement of energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energies and facilitation of private sector activities in the area of climate change, with reference to the decisions of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
 4. Reinforcing environmental awareness, including environmental education and public participation;
 5. Application of environmentally sound technologies, including cleaner production technologies;
 6. Environmental problems in their relation to other policy areas and the relationship between environment and development;
 7. Exchange of views on global topics of mutual interest in the follow-up of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, especially in those areas which are covered by international conventions and protocols;
 8. Exchange of views on and cooperation within the Commission on Sustainable Development;
 9. Protection and rational use of soil and land resources, including prevention of desertification;
 10. Protection and conservation of flora and fauna with special attention to

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the study of rare and endangered species, to the prevention of trade in such species, and to the setting up of special protection zones, national parks and natural sanctuaries.

Article 3

The cooperation may be carried out in the following forms:

1. Joint organization of meetings, technical symposia and conferences on

subjects of mutual interests;

2. Exchange of information and data on policies, environmental practices and legal provisions as well as analysis and assessment of environmental impacts;
3. Visits by scientific and technical experts or officials to discuss the subjects mentioned in Article 2 of this Memorandum of Understanding;
4. Other means of cooperation as are mutually agreed upon.

Article 4

Each side intends to appoint a Coordinator who is to be responsible for the identification and implementation of the forms of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding as stipulated in Article 3.

Each side intends also to make such administrative arrangements as it deems desirable to enable its most effective participation in the various activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.

As per mutual agreement, joint meetings of the Coordinators may be held to review current and future activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Activities under this Memorandum of Understanding should be on the basis of availability of funds for such activities and are subject to the applicable laws and legal provisions in each country. Each side intends to bear the costs of its own participation in the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding unless otherwise agreed.

Article 5

The results of the cooperation may be passed on to third parties by mutual agreement.

In exchanging information and disseminating it to third parties, both sides intend to take into account existing legal provisions, the rights of third Parties and international obligations.

Information should be used by mutual agreement.

Article 6

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding should be construed to prejudice the existing rights and duties of both sides arising from international agreements or membership of an economic community.

Article 7

The cooperation in the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to last five years and may be extended for subsequent periods of five years. The cooperation may be terminated if one side declares its intention to terminate the cooperation with a period of notice of six months.

This Memorandum of Understanding is signed, identically worded, in the Hindi,

English and German languages.

Sd/-

For the Ministry of
Environment and Forests of
the Republic of India

Sd/-

For the Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety of the
Federal Republic of Germany

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INDIA GERMANY USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Portuguese Republic for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Portuguese Republic, desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, have agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I

SCOPE OF THE CONVENTION

Article 1

PERSONAL SCOPE

This Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

Article 2

TAXES COVERED

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a

Contracting State or of its political or administrative subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property and taxes on the amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises.

3. The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are in particular:

a) In the case of the Portuguese Republic:

(i) Personal income tax (Imposto sobre o Rendimento das Pessoas Singulares - IRS);

(ii) Corporate Income tax (Imposto sobre o Rendimento das Pessoas Colectivas - IRC);

(iii) Local surtax on corporate income tax (Derrama); (hereinafter referred to as "Portuguese tax");

b) In the case of the Republic of India:

The income tax including any surcharge thereon; (hereinafter referred to as "Indian tax").

4. The Convention shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of the Convention in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any substantial changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

CHAPTER II

DEFINITIONS

Article 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) the term "Portugal" means the territory of the Portuguese Republic situated in the European

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Continent, the archipelagoes of Azores and Madeira, the respective territorial sea and any other zone in which, in accordance with the laws of Portugal and international law, the Portuguese Republic has its jurisdiction or sovereign rights with respect to the exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the sea bed and subsoil, and of the superjacent waters;

- (b) the term "India" means the territory of India and includes the territorial sea and airspace above it, as well as any other maritime zone in which India has sovereign rights, other rights and jurisdictions, according to the Indian law and in accordance with International law, including the U.N. Convention on the law of the Sea, 1982;
- (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Portugal or India as the context requires;
- (d) the term "tax" means Portuguese tax, or Indian tax, as the context requires;
- (e) the term "person" includes an individual, a company, a body of persons and any other entity which is treated as a taxable unit under the taxation laws in force in a Contracting State;
- (f) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (g) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (h) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (i) the term "competent authority" means:
- (i) in Portugal: the Minister of Finance or the Director General of Taxation (Director-Geral dos Impostos) or their authorised representative;
- (ii) in India: the Central Government in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) or their authorised representative;
- (j) the term "national" means.
- (i) any "individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
- (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State.
- (k) The term "fiscal year" means:
- (i) in the case of Portugal, the civil year as laid down in the IRS Code or the taxation period as defined in the IRC Code;
- (ii) in the case of India, "previous year" as defined under section 3 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

2. As regards the application of the Convention at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has at that time

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under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Convention applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

Article 4

RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
 - a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
 - (b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
 - c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State of which he is a national;
 - d) if he is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which its place of effective management is situated. If the State in which its place of effective management is situated can not be determined, then the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

Article 5

PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:
- a) a place of management;
 - b) a branch;
 - c) an office;
 - d) a factory;
 - e) a workshop;
 - f) a sales outlet; and
 - g) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources, including an installation or structure used for the exploration or exploitation of natural resources only if so used for a period of more than 120 days in a fiscal year.

3. A building site, construction, installation or assembly project or supervisory

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activities in connection therewith constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than nine months.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

- a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
- c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
- e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
- f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person -

other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies - is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned State, if

a) he has and habitually exercises in that State an authority to conclude contracts on behalf of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited wholly to the activities described in paragraph 4;

b) he has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise and some additional activities conducted in that State on behalf of the enterprise have contributed to the sale of the goods or merchandise.

6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of all independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

7. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, an insurance enterprise of a Contracting State shall, except in regard to re-insurance, be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it collects premiums in the territory of that other State or insures risks situated therein through a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies.

8. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

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CHAPTER III

TAXATION OF INCOME

Article 6

INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for

the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships, boats, motor vehicles and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.
5. The foregoing provisions shall also apply to income from moveable property, or income derived from services connected with the use or the right to use the immovable property, either of which, under the taxation law of the Contracting State in which the property is situated, is assimilated to income from immovable property.

Article 7

BUSINESS PROFITS

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as is attributable to (a) that permanent establishment; (b) sales in that other State of goods or merchandise of the same or similar kind as those sold through that permanent establishment; or (c) other business activities carried on in that other State of the same or similar kind as those effected through that permanent establishment.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere, subject to the provisions of the domestic laws of the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
4. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

5. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

6. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8

SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the enterprise is a resident.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

3. Whenever companies from different countries have agreed to carry on an air transportation business together in the form of a consortium, the provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to such part of the profits of the consortium as corresponds to the participation held in that consortium by a company that is a resident of a Contracting State.

4. For the purposes of this Article profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall mean profits derived from the transportation by sea or air of passengers, mail, livestock or goods carried on by the owner or lessees or charterers of the ships or aircraft, including profits from:

(i) the sale of tickets for such transportation on behalf of other enterprises;

(ii) the incidental lease of ships or aircraft used in such transportation;
and

(iii) the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related equipment for the transport of containers) by the enterprise engaged in international traffic in connection with such transportation.

5. Interest on funds generated by the operation of ships or aircraft and arising directly to a permanent establishment of an enterprise of one Contracting State in the other Contracting State, shall be regarded as profits derived from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic. It is clarified that such interest shall not refer to interest on funds representing investments.

Article 9

ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES

1. Where

- a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
- b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, than any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two en-

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terprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Convention and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

Article 10

DIVIDENDS

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but:
 - a) Where the dividends are paid by a company which is a resident of Portugal to a resident of India who is the beneficial owner thereof, the Portuguese tax so charged shall not exceed.
 - (i) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends; or
 - (ii) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owners is a company that, for an uninterrupted period of two years prior to the payment of the dividend, owns directly at least 25 per cent of the capital stock (capital social) of the company paying the dividends.

b) Where the dividends are paid by a company which is a resident of India to a resident of Portugal who is the beneficial owner thereof, the Indian tax so charged shall not exceed:

(i) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends; or

(ii) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company that, for an uninterrupted period of two fiscal years prior to the payment of the dividend, owns directly at least 25 per cent of the capital stock of the company paying the dividends.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares, "jouissance" shares or "jouissance" rights, mining shares, founders' shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident. The term also includes profits attributed under an arrangement for participation in profits (associacao em participacao).

4. The provision of paragraph 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected

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with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

Article 11

INTEREST

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which

it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State shall be exempted from tax in that State.

a) if the debtor of such interest is that State, a political or administrative subdivision or a local authority thereof; or

b) if interest is paid to the other Contracting State, a political or administrative subdivision or a local authority thereof or an institution (including a financial institution) in connection with any financing granted by them under an agreement between the Governments of the Contracting States.

4. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Article.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political or administrative subdivision thereof, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent established or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Con-

tracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 12

ROYALTIES AND FEES FOR INCLUDED SERVICES

1. Royalties and fees for included services arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such royalties and fees for included services may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties and fees for included services is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films and films or tapes or any other means of reproduction for use in connection with radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial, or scientific experience.

4. For the purposes of this Article "fees for included services" means payments of any kind, other than those mentioned in Article 14 and 15 of this Convention, to any person in consideration of the rendering of any technical or consultancy services (including through the provisions of services of technical or other personnel) if such services:

a) are ancillary and subsidiary to the application or enjoyment of the right, property or information for which a payment described in paragraph 3 is received, or

b) make available technical knowledge, experience, skill, know-how or processes or consist of the development and transfer of a technical plan or technical design which enables the person acquiring the services to apply the technology contained therein.

5. Notwithstanding paragraph 4, "fees for included services" does not include payments.

a) for services that are ancillary and subsidiary, as well as in-extricably and essentially linked, to the sale of property;

b) for services that are ancillary and subsidiary to the rental of ships, aircraft, containers or other equipment used in connection with the operation of ships or aircraft in international craft;

- c) for teaching in or by educational institutions;
- d) for services for the personal use of the individual or individuals making the payment;
- e) to an employee of the person making the payments or to any individual or firm of individuals other than a company) for professional services as defined in Article 14;
- f) for services rendered in connection with an installation or structure used for the exploration or exploitation of natural resources referred to in paragraph 2 (f) of Article 5;

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- g) for services referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 5.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties and fees for included services, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties and fees for included services arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties and fees for included services are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

7. Royalties and fees for included services shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State where the payer is that State itself, a political or administrative subdivision thereof, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties and fees for included services, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or fixed base in connection with which the obligation to pay the royalties and fees for included services was incurred, and such royalties and fees for included services are borne by that permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties and fees for included services shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

8. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties and fees for included services, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 13

CAPITAL GAINS

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.
3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the enterprise is a resident.
4. Gains from the alienation of shares in the capital stock of a company the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property situated in a Contracting State may also be taxed in that State. Gains from the alienation of shares other than those mentioned above in a company which is a resident of a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.
5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be taxable

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only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

Article 14

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State except in the following circumstances, when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:
 - a) if he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other State; or
 - b) if his stay in the other State is for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in the other State may be taxed in that other State.
2. The term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

Article 15

DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:
 - a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned, and
 - b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
 - c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised abroad a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic may be taxed in the Contracting State of which the enterprise is a resident.

Article 16

DIRECTORS' FEES

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors or supervisory board (in Portugal, conselho fiscal) or of another similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

Article 17

ARTISTES AND SPORTSMEN

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by a
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resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

3. However such income shall not be taxed in the State mentioned in paragraph 1 if the said activities are exercised during a visit to that State by a resident of the other Contracting State and when such visit is wholly or substantially financed by that other State, a political or administrative subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 18

PENSIONS

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 19

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

1. a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political or administrative subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State;

b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:

i) is a national of that State; or

ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2. a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political or administrative subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political or administrative subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 20

PROFESSORS, TEACHERS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS

1. A professor, teacher or research scholar who is or was a resident of the Contracting State immediately before visiting the other Contracting State for the purpose of teaching or engaging in research, or both, at a university, college, school or other approved institution in that other Contracting State shall be

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exempt from tax in that other State on any remuneration for such teaching or research for a period not exceeding two years from the date of his arrival in that other State.

2. This Article shall not apply to income from research, if such research is undertaken primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

3. For the purposes of this Article and Article 21, an individual shall be deemed to be a resident of a Contracting State if he is resident in that State in the fiscal year in which he visits the other Contracting State or in the immediately preceding fiscal year.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 1 "approved institution" means an institution which has been approved in this regard by the competent authority of the concerned State.

Article 21

STUDENTS AND TRAINEES

Payments which a student, a business apprentice or trainee who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives, for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training, shall not be taxed in that State, provided that such payments:

- a) arise from sources outside that State;
- b) are remuneration from employment in that other State in an amount not exceeding US \$3000 per annum during a period not exceeding two years from the day of his first arrival in that other Contracting State, provided that such employment is directly related to his studies.

Article 22

OTHER INCOME

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income

from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment of fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, if a resident of a Contracting State derives income from sources within the other Contracting State in the form of lotteries, crossword puzzles, races including horse races, card games and other games of any sort or gambling or betting of any form or nature whatsoever, such income may be taxed in the other Contracting State.

CHAPTER IV

METHODS FOR ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

Article 23

ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. The laws in force in either of the Contracting State will continue to govern the taxation of income in the respective Contracting States except where provisions to the contrary are made in this Convention.

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2. In the case of Portugal double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Where a resident of Portugal derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in India, Portugal shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the income tax paid in India. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in India.

3. In the case of India double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Where a resident of India derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Portugal, India shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the income tax paid in Portugal whether directly or by deduction at source. Such amount shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in Portugal.

4. Where in accordance with any provisions of this Convention income derived by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such State may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.

5. The tax paid in a Contracting State mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be deemed to include the tax on dividends, interest, royalties and fees for included services and business profits which would have been payable as laid down in this Convention but for the legal provisions concerning tax reduction or exemption of the Contracting States for the encouragement of genuine investment or economic development. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply for the first seven years during which this convention is applicable. This period may be extended by mutual agreement between the competent authorities.

CHAPTER V

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 24

NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 6 of Article 11, or paragraph 4 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties, technical fees and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State.

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4. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

5. The provisions of this Article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2, apply to taxes of every kind and description.

Article 25

MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 24, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Convention. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Convention. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Convention.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly, including through a joint commission consisting of themselves or their representatives, for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

Article 26

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information, including authenticated copies of the documents, as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by the Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the Convention. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.
2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to

impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;

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b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;

c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).

Article 27

COLLECTION ASSISTANCE

1. The Contracting States agree to provide mutual assistance and support for recovering, in accordance to the respective provisions and rules of their legislatures or regulations, the taxes covered by this Convention, when these amounts are definitely due under the laws and regulations of the Contracting States seeking the assistance for such recovery.

2. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall consult each other to decide the mode of application of this Article in case they consider the rendering of assistance for collection of taxes feasible.

Article 28

MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULAR POSTS

Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions and consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

Article 29

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which diplomatic notes indicating the completion of internal legal procedures necessary in each Contracting State for the entry into force of this Convention have been exchanged.

2. This Convention shall apply:

a) in Portugal:

(i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, the fact giving rise to them appearing on or after the first day of January in the year next following the year in which this Convention enters into force;

(ii) in respect of other taxes as to income arising in the fiscal year

beginning on or after the first day of January in the year next following the year in which this Convention enters into force;

b) in India:

in respect of income arising in any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of April next following the calendar year in which this Convention enters into force.

Article 30

TERMINATION

This Convention shall remain in force indefinitely but either of the Contracting States may, on or before the thirtieth day of June in any calendar year from the fifth year following that in which the notifications have been given, terminate the Convention through diplomatic channels. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect:

a) in Portugal.

(i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, the fact giving rise to them appearing on or after the first day of January of the year next following the date on which the period

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specified in the said notice of termination expires;

(ii) in respect of other taxes, as to income arising in the fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January next following the date on which the period specified in the said notice of termination expires;

b) in India:

in respect of income arising in any fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of April next following the date on which the period specified in the said notice of termination expires.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the Portuguese Republic

Protocol

At the moment of signing the Convention between the Republic of India and the Portuguese Republic for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, the undersigned have agreed upon the following which shall be an integral part of the Convention.

Ad Article 3

For the purposes of paragraph 3, the reference to the time of application of the Convention shall mean the time when the income which is the subject matter of this Convention arises.

Ad Article 3 and 23

For the purposes of paragraph 1(d), of Article 3 and Article 23 the expression "tax" shall not include any amount which is payable in respect of any default or omission in relation to the taxes to which this Convention applies or which represents a penalty imposed relating to those taxes.

Ad Article 5

For the purposes of paragraph 2, a warehouse in relation to a person providing storage facilities for others will be considered as constituting a permanent establishment.

Ad Article 6

For the purposes of paragraph 1, it is agreed that the Contracting State of which the person deriving income from property is a resident is also entitled to tax such income.

Ad Article 7

For the purposes of paragraph 3, it is agreed that the provisions of the domestic tax laws referred to therein relate, in the case of India, to section 44C of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961. It is further agreed that in no event the conditions and limits referred to in section 44C shall not be less favourable than those in force on the date of the signing of this Convention.

Ad Article 13

For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 4, it is agreed that the Contracting State of which the person deriving the capital gains is a resident is also entitled to tax such capital gains.

Ad Article 23

It is understood that the term "economic development" used in paragraph 5 of Article 23 would mean industrial development or development of infrastructural facilities.

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Ad Article 24

1. The provisions of Article 24 do not preclude the application of any provision of the tax law of the Contracting States dealing with thin capitalisation problems.
2. The provisions of Article 24 shall be construed in the sense that insofar as the deductibility of the incurred disbursements is concerned, each

Contracting State may apply its own procedures regarding the burden of proof.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not be construed as preventing a Contracting State from charging the profits of a permanent establishment which a company of the other Contracting State has in the first mentioned State at a rate of tax which is higher than that imposed on the profits of a similar company of the first mentioned Contracting State subject to the difference between the two rates not being more than 10%.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the Portuguese Republic

INDIA PORTUGAL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE III

Agreement for Mutual Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

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

Considering that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 form the basis of national and international drug control efforts;

Sharing deep concern over the illicit cultivation, production, processing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in some part of the world affecting the peoples of both countries;

Reaffirming their determination to fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

Taking into consideration their constitutional, legal and administrative systems and with due respect for the national sovereignty of their respective States;

Have reached mutual understanding on the following points:

ARTICLE 1

1. The Parties undertake to cooperate with and assist each other in the prevention, investigation and the prosecution of illicit trafficking and narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and in the substances frequently used in their illicit production as listed in Table I and Table II

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in the Annex to The Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

2. Keeping in view their position as the only traditional opiate suppliers to other countries for meeting their medical requirements, the Parties agree to share, to the extent possible, information on cultivation of opium poppy and its harvest including information of scientific nature like production of varieties of opium poppy enriched in alkaloid content, factors affecting opium poppy crop and the technology and methods to counter such factors and the technology of production of concentrate of poppy straw and extraction of alkaloids.

ARTICLE 2

1. In order to facilitate the exchange of information and to carry out requests for co-operation, the Parties shall designate nodal agencies. In respect of the Republic of India the nodal agency is the Narcotics Control Bureau and in respect of the Republic of Turkey the nodal agency is the Department of Combating Smuggling and Organized Crime of General Directorate of Security.

2. A list of postal addresses of the nodal agencies and the contact officers is appended as Annexure -I. Normal exchange of information shall be in the relevant formats appended as Annexure II and III. Other information of relevance shall be transmitted in any form suitable for the purpose.

ARTICLE 3

The cooperation between the Parties shall be carried out in accordance with the domestic legislation of the two countries, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the relevant recommendations of the Customs Cooperation Council and the International Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance for the Prevention, Investigation and Repression of Customs Offences and, where appropriate in accordance with the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and with ICPO/Interpol norms and practices of cooperation.

ARTICLE 4

1. The competent authorities of the Parties shall cooperate with each other to the fullest extent possible and in accordance with their national law in the fight against illicit trafficking.

2. The competent authorities of the Parties shall exchange, without any delay detailed informations on the identities of illicit traffickers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and of those who participate in such an offence in any manner.
3. The competent authorities of the Parties shall exchange, without awaiting request and when they deem it as useful, all the information and documents seized while combating smuggling and the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as exchange new techniques and developments on such offences and on trafficking methods.
4. Copies of documents of investigation shall be in English.
5. All oral or written information and documents to be exchanged pursuant to this Agreement shall be kept confidential in accordance with the Conditions which may be required by the Party supplying them.
6. Information, communications and documents obtained shall be used solely for the purposes of this Agreement. They shall not be used for any other purposes unless the Party supplying them expressly approves such use.
7. In cases of emergency where the request for assistance has not been conveyed in writing, such request shall be later confirmed in writing.

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ARTICLE 5

The competent authorities of the Parties, in accordance with national and international legislation, shall cooperate to implement controlled delivery methods and to conduct mutual operations.

ARTICLE 6

1. The Parties shall, when necessary, reciprocally invite the officials of each other's competent authorities for consultations with a view to improving co-operation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
2. The Parties shall invite, when necessary, the authorities of the other Party to assist the investigation of specific cases of illicit trafficking.

ARTICLE 7

Keeping in view the objectives of this Agreement and subject to their national law, the Parties shall exchange literature on drug abuse control and texts of their laws and procedures on the subject.

ARTICLE 8

In order to attain the objectives of this Agreement, the Parties shall hold meetings of working groups as often as required. Financial and material expenses for these meetings shall be borne by the receiving side. The expenditure on

international travel shall be borne by the dispatching side.

ARTICLE 9

For the purposes of this Agreement, drugs are understood to be substances that are included in the schedules appended to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Precursors and essential chemicals are those which are included in the Tables annexed to the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and notified as such a substance under the laws of the Parties.

ARTICLE 10

The Parties shall put samples of the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances seized their respective territories at the disposal of competent national laboratories with international standards for analysis and examination to determine their origin, when available, as well as their chemical and physical specifications. Data and conclusions thus obtained shall be exchanged as relevant.

ARTICLE 11

This agreement may be amended by mutual agreement through exchange of letters between the Parties.

ARTICLE 12

The procedural arrangements for the implementation of this Agreement shall be worked out jointly by the competent authorities of the Parties.

ARTICLE 13

This Agreement is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

ARTICLE 14

This agreement shall be valid for one year and shall automatically be extended per annum unless one of the Parties notifies the other to terminate the Agreement, at least six months before the date of its expiry.

Signed at Ankara on this 17th day of September 1998 in two originals each in Turkish, Hindi and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-
On behalf of
The Republic of India

Sd/-
On behalf of
The Republic of Turkey

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ANNEXURE I

NODAL AGENCIES FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

INDIA

Agency :Narcotics Control Bureau, 1 st Floor,
Wing No. 5, West Block-1, R. K. Puram
New Delhi - 110066 (INDIA)

Telex No. :3162755

Fax No. :6885240

Contact Officer in Delhi :Deputy Director General

Telephones :6885278 (O) 674677

Alternate :Deputy Director

Telephones :6885226 (O) 5441944

TURKEY

Agency :General Directorate of Security

Department of Combatting Smuggling
and Organized Crime

Konur Sokak No: 40 06640 Bakanliklar
/ AN-KARA

Contact Officer in Ankara: Head of Department

(Department of Combatting Smuggling
and Organized Crime)

Telephone :00.90.312.4170620
00.90.312.4192240

ANNEXUR II

CASES OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

Reference : Date:
Sender :

1. Name of the seizing agency
2. Type of drug seized
3. Quantity
4. Chemical analysis report
5. Place of seizure

6. Date of seizure
7. Packing, labelling and trade marks
8. Particulars of conveyance used
9. Name and nationality of the custodian/owner of the conveyance
10. Name of company, air-line, ship
11. Mode of concealment
12. Route
13. Place of production/processing
14. Place where drug contraband/obtained
15. Origin/sources
16. Destination
17. Any equipment/accessories seized
18. Any other information

ANNEXURE III

PROFORMA FOR REPORTING ON PERSON(S) INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING/SMUGGLING

(In cases implicating more than one person, please use separate form for each)

1. Name and aliases used :
2. Father's name :
3. Sex :
4. Age :
5. Date and place of birth :
6. Nationality :
7. Passport No. :
8. Place/date of issue :
9. Occupation :

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10. Address :
11. Extent of involvement :
12. Previous involvements :
13. Associates :
14. Arrested/Detained :
15. Place of arrest :
16. Judicial or administrative measures taken :
17. Attach photocopy of the first page of passport :

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

(Please indicate details of the case necessary for furtherance of investigation)

TURKEY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE IV

Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Turkey concerning the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments

The Republic of India and the Republic of Turkey, (hereinafter called the Parties).

Desiring to promote greater economic cooperation between them, particularly with respect to investment by investors of one Party in the territory of the other Party;

Recognizing that agreement upon the treatment to be accorded such investment will stimulate the flow of capital and technology and the economic development of the Parties;

Agreeing that fair and equitable treatment of investment is desirable in order to maintain a stable framework for investment and maximum effective utilization of economic resources; and

Having resolved to conclude an agreement concerning the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments.

Hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

For the purpose of this Agreement;

1. The term "investor" means:

(a) natural persons deriving their status as nationals of either Party according to its applicable law;

(b) companies, including corporations, firms or business associations incorporated or constituted under the law in force in either of the Parties, and engaged in substantive business operations in the territory of that Party.

2. The term "investment" means every kind of asset established or acquired including changes in the form of such investment in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party in which the investment is made and in particular,

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though not exclusively, shall including the following:

- (a) shares, stocks or any other form of participation in companies;
 - (b) returns reinvested, claims to money or any other rights having financial value related to an investment;
 - (c) movable and immovable property, as well as any other rights as mortgages, liens, pledges and any other similar rights as defined in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Party in whose territory the property is situated;
 - (d) intellectual property rights, goodwill, technical processes and know how in accordance with the relevant laws of the respective Party;
 - (e) business concession conferred by law or by contract, including concessions related to natural resources;
3. The term investment shall cover all investments existing at the time of entry into force of the Agreement as well as those made or acquired thereafter.
4. The term "returns" means the amounts yielded by an investment and includes in particular, though not exclusively, profit interest, and dividends.
5. (a) The term "India" means the territory of the Republic of India and includes the territorial sea and airspace above it, as well as other maritime zones in which India has sovereign rights, other rights and jurisdiction in accordance with International Law.
- (b) The term "Turkey" means the territory of the Republic of Turkey, as well as the maritime zones over which Turkey is entitled to sovereign rights and exercises jurisdiction in accordance with International Law.

ARTICLE II

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

1. Each Party shall encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other Party to make investments in its territory, and treat such investments on a basis no less favourable than that accorded in similar situations to investments of investors of any third country, within the framework of its laws and regulations.
2. Each Party shall accord to these investments, once established, treatment no less favourable than that accorded in similar situations to investments of its investors or to investments of investors of any third country, whichever is the most favourable.
3. Subject to the laws and regulations of the Parties relating to the entry, sojourn and employment of non-citizens:
- (a) nationals of either Party shall be permitted to enter and remain in the territory of the other Party for purposes of establishing, developing, administering or advising on the operation of an investment to which they, or an

investor of the first Party that employs them, have committed or are in the process of committing a substantial amount of capital or other resources;

(b) companies which are legally constituted under the applicable laws and regulations of one Party, and which are investments of investors of the other Party, shall be permitted to engage top managerial and technical personnel of their choice, regardless of nationality.

4. The provisions of this Article shall not be construed so as to oblige one Party to extend the investors of the other Party the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege which the former Party may grant to:

(a) a customs union, free trade zone, monetary union or similar inter-

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national agreement establishing such unions or other forms of international cooperation to which either of the Parties is or may become a party, or

(b) any arrangement or international agreement relating wholly or partially to taxation.

ARTICLE III

EXPROPRIATION AND COMPENSATION

1. Investments shall not be expropriated, nationalized or subject, directly or indirectly, to measures of similar effect (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") except for a public purpose, in a non-discriminatory manner, with the payment of fair and equitable compensation and in accordance with laws in force and the general principles of treatment provided for in Article II of this Agreement.

2. Compensation shall be equivalent to the real market value of the expropriated investment before the expropriatory action was taken or became public knowledge. This shall include interest at a prevailing rate until the date of payment. Compensation shall be paid without delay, be effectively realizable and be freely transferable as described in paragraph 2 Article IV.

3. Investors of either Party whose investments suffer losses in the territory of the other Party owing to war, insurrection, civil disturbance or other similar events shall be accorded by the other Party treatment no less favourable than that accorded to its own investors or to investors of any third country, whichever is the most favourable treatment, as regards any measures it adopts in relations to such losses.

ARTICLE IV

REPATRIATION AND TRANSFER

1. Each Party shall permit all transfers related to an investment to be made freely and without delay into and out of its territory. Such transfers include:

- (a) returns;
- (b) proceeds from the sale or liquidation of all or any part of an investment;
- (c) compensation pursuant to Article III;
- (d) reimbursements and interest payments deriving from loans in connection with investments;
- (e) salaries, wages and other remunerations received by the nationals of one Party who have obtained in the territory of the other Party the corresponding work permits relative to an investment;
- (f) payments arising from an investment dispute.
- (g) Transfers shall be made in the currency in which the investment has been made or in any convertible currency at the rate of exchange in force at the date of transfer, unless otherwise stated by the investor and the hosting Party.

ARTICLE V

SUBROGATION

1. If the investment of an investor of one Party is insured against non-commercial risks under a system established by law, and where the insurer has made payment to such investors in respect of their claims under this Agreement, any subrogation of the insurer which stems from the terms of the insurance agreement shall be recognized by the other Party.
2. The insurer shall not be entitled to exercise any rights other than the rights which the investor would have been entitled to exercise.
3. Disputes between a Party and an insurer shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of this Agreement.

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ARTICLE VI

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN ONE PARTY AND INVESTORS OF THE OTHER PARTY

1. Disputes between one of the Parties and an investor of the other Party, in connection with his investment, shall be notified in writing, including a detailed information, by the investor to the host Party of the investment. As far as possible, the investor and the concerned Party shall endeavour to settle these disputes by consultations and negotiations in good faith.
2. If these disputes cannot be settled in this way within six months following the date of the written notification mentioned in paragraph 1, may, at the choice of investor, unless otherwise mentioned hereafter, be submitted:
 - (a) for resolution, in accordance with the law of the Party which has admitted the investment to that Party's judicial, or other competent bodies; or

(b) to international arbitration by reference to:

(i) the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) according to the Convention on Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States, in case both Parties become signatories to the Convention.

(ii) Additional Facility for the Administration of Conciliation, Arbitration and Fact-finding Proceedings, by mutual consent,

(iii) an ad hoc court of arbitration laid down under the Arbitration Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), subject to following modifications:

* the appointing authority under Article 7 of the Rules shall be the President, the Vice-President or the next senior Judge of the International Court of Justice who is not a national of either Party. The third Arbitrator shall not be a national of either Party.

* the Parties shall appoint their respective arbitrators within two months.

* the arbitral award shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

* the arbitral tribunal shall state the basis of decision and give reasons upon the request of either party.

3. The arbitration awards shall be final and binding for all parties in dispute. Each Party commits itself to execute the award according to its national law.

ARTICLE VII

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN THE PARTIES

1. The Parties shall seek in good faith and a spirit of cooperation a rapid and equitable solution to any dispute between them concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement. In this regard, the Parties agree to engage in direct and meaningful negotiations to arrive at such solutions. If the Parties cannot reach an agreement within six months after the beginning of disputes between themselves through the foregoing procedure, the disputes may be submitted, upon the request of either Party, to an arbitral tribunal of three members.

2. Within two months of receipt of a request, each Party shall appoint an arbitrator. The two arbitrators shall select a third arbitrator as Chairman, who is a national of a third State. In the

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event either Party fails to appoint an arbitrator within the specified time, the other Party may request the President of the International Court of Justice to

make the appointment.

3. If both arbitrators cannot reach an agreement about the choice of the Chairman within two months after their appointment, the Chairman shall be appointed upon the request of either Party by the President of International Court of Justice.
4. If, in the cases specified under paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Article, the President of the International Court of Justice is prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Party, the appointment shall be made by the Vice-President and if the Vice-President is prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Party, the appointment shall be made by the most senior member of the Court who is not a national of either Party.
5. The tribunal shall have three months from the date of the selection of the Chairman to agree upon rules of procedure consistent with the other provisions of this Agreement. In the absence of such agreement, the tribunal shall request the President of the International Court of Justice to designate rules of procedure, taking into account generally recognized rules of international arbitral procedure.
6. Unless otherwise agreed, all submissions shall be made and all hearings shall be completed within eight months of the date of selection of the Chairman, and the tribunal shall render its decision within two months after the date of the final submissions or the date of the closing of the hearings, whichever is later. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decisions, which shall be final and binding, by a majority of votes.
7. Expenses incurred by the Chairman, the other arbitrators, and other costs of the proceedings shall be paid for equally by the Parties. The tribunal may, however, at its discretion, decide that a higher proportion of the costs be paid by one of the Parties.
8. A dispute shall not be submitted to an international arbitration court under the provisions of this Article, if the same dispute has been brought before another international arbitration court under the provisions of Article VII and is still before the court. This will not impair the engagement in direct and meaningful negotiations between both Parties.

ARTICLE VIII

APPLICABLE LAWS

1. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, all investment shall be governed by the laws in force in the territory of the Party in which such investments are made.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this Article nothing in this Agreement precludes the host Party from taking action for the protection of its essential security interests or in circumstances of extreme emergency, in accordance with its laws normally and reasonably applied on a non discriminatory basis.

ARTICLE IX

APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES

If the provisions of law of either Party or obligations under international law existing at present established hereafter between the Parties in addition to the present Agreement contain rules, whether general or specific, entitling investments by investors of the other Party to a treatment more favourable than is provided for by the present Agreement, such rules shall to the extent that they are more favourable prevail over the present Agreement.

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ARTICLE X

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which the exchange of instruments of ratification has been completed. It shall remain in force for a period of ten years and shall continue in force unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article. It shall apply to investments existing at the time of entry into force as well as to investments made or acquired thereafter. This Agreement shall not, however, be applicable to disputes which had arisen before its entry into force.

2. Either Party may, by giving one year's written notice to the other Party terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial ten year period or at any time thereafter.

3. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement between the Parties. Any amendment shall enter into force when each Party has notified the other that it has completed all internal requirements for entry into force of such amendment.

4. With respect to investments made or acquired prior to the date of termination of this Agreement and to which this Agreement otherwise applies, the provision of all of the other Articles of this Agreement shall thereafter continue to be effective for a further period of ten years from such date of termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Ankara on the day of 17th September, 98 in the Turkish and English languages all of which are equally authentic.

In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-

For the Government of the
Republic of India

Sd/-

For the Government of
the Republic of Turkey

INDIA TURKEY USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE V

Memorandum of Understanding between National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI), Ministry of Commerce, Republic of India and Export Promotion Centre (IGEME), Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade, Republic of Turkey

Recognising the importance of the availability of economic and business related information in the economic cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Turkey, the National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI), Ministry of Commerce and Export Promotion Centre (IGEME), Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade, collectively referred to as "the parties" hereto agreed as follows:

1. The NCTI and IGEME shall provide each other at their own costs with timely, reliable and useful economic

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and business related information on Republic of India and Republic of Turkey.

2. The parties hereto shall provide information to each other on the basis that the information are not classified as commercially sensitive and confidential government documents. Each party can also restrict the disclosure and distribution of the information provided. Both parties agreed that those information will not be provided to the third party. The specific types of economic, trade and business related information to be provided by the parties are given below:

- (a) To exchange information on electronic media and hard copy on complementary basis;
- (b) To exchange country profile and product profile of the respective countries;
- (c) To exchange information on following with reference to their country and specific product(s);
- (d) To assist each other in bringing importers and exporters of their country together in promotion or trade between the two countries;

- (e) To assist visiting delegations by arranging meetings and helping delegates in locating the local partners.
3. The parties hereto shall respect and preserve the other party's copyright in the materials provided as well as any related intellectual property rights.
 4. To further the cooperation on the exchanges of information the parties hereto shall meet as may be necessary and mutually agreed upon.
 5. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) shall be automatically renewed annually unless terminated by-either party giving one year's written notice.
 6. This MoU is written in English language.
 7. This MoU of cooperation shall be governed by the laws in force in Republic of India and the Republic of Turkey.

This MOU has been signed by the parties hereto on 17 September, 1998.

R.M. Abhyankar
Ambassador of India to Turkey

Signed for and on behalf of National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI)

Ministry of Commerce
Republic of India

Yavuz Ege
Undersecretary of Foreign Trade

Signed for and on behalf of Export Promotion Centre
(IGEME)
Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade Republic of Turkey

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INDIA TURKEY USA

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE VI

Protocol of Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of India and the Scientific and Technical Research Council of TurkeyThe Council of Scientific and Industrial Research,

India (hereinafter referred to as CSIR) and The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (hereinafter referred to as TUBITAK) Desirous to develop Scientific and Technical Cooperation for promoting friendly relations and cooperation between their countries and in pursuance of Article 16 of the Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the years 1996-1998 signed in Ankara on 21 November 1995. Have agreed as follows: ARTICLE I CSIR and TUBITAK shall support promotion and extension of Cooperation in Scientific and Technological Development in the fields of mutual interest to both sides. ARTICLE II This Cooperation between CSIR and TUBITAK would include: 1. Exchange of Scientists, research scholars and specialists etc. for the purpose of research, consultation and exchange of experience. 2. Exchange of Scientific and Technical information and documentation. 3. Organisation of bilateral Scientific and Technical Seminars and courses on problems of interest to their countries. 4. Joint identification of scientific and technical problems, formulation and implementation of joint research projects and programmes which might lead to application of the results of such research in industry, agriculture and other fields, and exchange of experience and know-how result therefrom. 5. Setting up of joint laboratories or pilot stations for research and development activities. Other forms of scientific and technological cooperation as may be mutually agreed upon. ARTICLE III

CSIR and TUBITAK will, within the framework of their responsibilities and in accordance with their respective funding criteria, support joint research projects. Joint research projects will be developed by researchers of scientific institutions of the two countries. The researchers will submit their proposals to CSIR and TUBITAK respectively. The Project proposals will be evaluated independently by both CSIR and TUBITAK according to their own criteria and regulations. Approval or rejection is subject to a joint decision of CSIR and TUBITAK.

ARTICLE IV

Any information concerning the results obtained from the cooperative programme for scientific and technological development covered under the present Protocol shall not be transmitted to any third person, party, organisation or to any other country without the mutual consent and written approval of both sides. In the case of obtaining, as an outcome of co-

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operation within the framework of the present Protocol, of any results carrying commercial value, the procedure of their utilisation and transfer to any third party shall in each case be decided on by the competent organisations of both sides.

ARTICLE V

Nothing in this Protocol shall be construed so as to prejudice the existing rights and duties of either party arising from other agreements under international law to which it is a party.

ARTICLE VI

Both sides, within their range of competence and taking into account the applicable laws and regulations of the respective countries, shall facilitate and encourage cooperation projects in the fields of industrial and technological research and development on the basis of mutual benefit between interested industries and organisations in the public and private sectors of each country

jointly wherever possible.

ARTICLE VII

Either side will arrange for the secondment and recruitment of experts in various fields of Science and Technology on the request of the either side for a short-term or long-term assignment; arrange for receiving researchers and technicians for undergoing training at its research institutes and centres on terms and conditions to be mutually agreed upon. All expenses will be borne by the requesting side.

ARTICLE VIII

The financial conditions for exchange of other visits under this Protocol would be as follows:

- (a) International travel expenses to be borne by the Sending Side;
- (b) The Receiving Side will meet the expenses of local hospitality (boarding, lodging, medical expenses in case of emergency and internal travel). Provided that sufficient notice of the visit has been given and arrangements have been approved by the Receiving Side.

The details of financial terms and conditions will be on the same line as admissible under the on-going bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme.

ARTICLE IX

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of its signing and remain in force for a period of five years, and shall be automatically renewed for subsequent periods of one year each unless either side gives a prior notice to the other side six months in advance of its intention to terminate this Protocol before the expiry of the said period. In the event of termination, the ongoing projects and programmes shall be governed by the terms and conditions of this Protocol.

Done in three original copies in Hindi, Turkish and English in duplicate, all the texts being equally authentic, and signed in Ankara on 17 September, 1998.

In case of divergence in the interpretation of the articles of this Protocol, the English text will prevail.

Sd/-

R.M. Abhyankar
Ambassador of India to Turkey
For the Council of Scientific
and Industrial Research of India
(CSIR)

Sd/-

Prof. Dr. Dincer Ulku
President

For the Scientific and Technical
Research Council of Turkey
(TUBITAK)

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INDIA USA TURKEY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE VII

Executive Programme for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Iraq for the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001

In accordance with Article 16 of the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Iraq, signed in Baghdad on April 19, 1973, and for promoting cultural, educational and scientific co-operation, the two Governments have agreed on the following programme for the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001:

I. HIGHER EDUCATION

1. The two sides shall consolidate co-operation between universities and scientific institutions in both countries and encourage direct co-operation between similar institutions and, especially between:

- (i) Baghdad University and one of the Indian universities.
- (ii) Basrah University and one of the Indian universities.
- (iii) Colleges of Al-Anbar University and their counterparts in the Indian universities.

2. The two sides shall encourage the exchange visits of professors, academic staff and researchers, not exceeding six in all, for:

- (i) delivering lectures for a period of 2-3 weeks;
- (ii) conducting joint researches for a period of 3-6 months; and
- (iii) participating in conferences, seminars and symposia held in both countries.

3. The two sides shall exchange professors to work in the universities of

both countries on contract basis. Details shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

4. The Indian side shall offer the Iraqi side 20 scholarships annually for postgraduate and Ph.D. studies. Details of specialisation and other details shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

5. The Iraqi side shall allocate annually to the Indian side five scholarships for post-graduate and above level studies in Iraqi universities/higher institutions for Arabic language, literature, archaeology, history and area studies, etc.

6. The two sides shall continue their efforts to acquaint themselves about the educational and higher education systems of the other country for the purpose of signing a protocol establishing the equivalence of diplomas and certificates granted in both countries and shall exchange, for this aim, delegations to study the educational system and collecting relevant data.

7. Both sides shall endeavour to exchange educational delegations in the field of higher education to get acquainted with the development of the educational process in both countries. Details shall be settled mutually.

8. The two sides shall facilitate the exchange of audio-visual aids, results of published researches, photocopies of Arabic manuscripts available in the Indian cultural institutions, scientific

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books and publications on heritage of both the countries.

9. On specific request, India shall endeavour to provide training facilities to medical and paramedical staff of Iraq. The details shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

10. India shall send to Iraq medical and paramedical professionals for discussing areas of mutual interest and jointly review progress in the field of health sciences, which may be of benefit to both countries.

11. Both sides shall explore the possibilities of medical and health research studies of common interest to both the countries, such as in the areas of cardio-vascular diseases, micro-nutrient, malnutrition, traditional medicines etc.

12. Both sides will exchange historians (not more than three from each side) for a period of 4-8 weeks, books abstracts and journals and hold joint seminars and symposia in the field of history.

13. India will send and Iraq will receive a cultural anthropologist for 3 months during 1998-99 to visit the University of Baghdad and some other institutions to study the multi-ethnic relation and integration of the present-day population of Iraq.

14. Both sides shall explore the possibility of finalising the Protocol of

Scientific & Technical Co-operation between the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, India, and the Scientific Council of Iraq. For this purpose, both sides could consider exchanging delegations for finalisation of the programme of co-operation.

II. EDUCATION

15. The two sides shall encourage exchange of publications and information so as to get acquainted with the experiences of the other side in the following fields:

- (i) Educational, administrative and financial legislations.
- (ii) School textbooks and teaching aids for both general and vocational education.
- (iii) Educational publications.
- (iv) Special publications, journals and periodicals in the field of computers in education.
- (v) Publications in educational statistics.
- (vi) Publications on schools and laboratories.
- (vii) Curricula of teachers' training institutions.

16. Both sides shall exchange publications, educational films and slides, etc. in the area of school education, including materials on vocational education.

III. CULTURE

17. The two sides shall exchange the following:

- (i) Art and folklore exhibitions.
- (ii) Books and publications, colored slides and photographs that reflect culture and civilisation of both countries.

18. The two sides shall exchange visits of artists, musicians, theatrical and fashion show groups at conferences, seminars, musical events, cultural festivals or any other occasions agreed by them. Details shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

19. The National Library, Calcutta, shall exchange publications and reprographic materials of mutual interest with libraries and institutions in Iraq and also exchange library experts

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on a reciprocal basis for a period of 3-4 weeks.

20. Both sides will exchange exhibitions of contemporary art. Details will be

settled through mutual consultations.

21. The Indian side shall provide training facility to one archivist/technician from Iraq in one-year diploma course in archives-keeping or short-term (8 weeks) course in records management or reprography or conservation of documents in the School of Archival Studies, National Archives of India. All expenditure, excluding training fee of the Iraqi nominee, shall be borne by the Iraqi Government.

22. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will establish contact with appropriate Iraqi institutions for exchange of documentation and reprographic copies of art objects of archaeological and archival interest, including source material such as photographs, slides, sketches, etc.

23. India will participate in an international exhibition in Iraq, accompanied by a Commissioner and a Technical Expert, and Iraq will participate in the next Triennial-India.

24. Both sides will explore the possibility of exchange (free of charge of microfilm copies of rare books and manuscripts between the manuscript libraries of each other's country.

25. Both sides will exchange scholar-librarians for researching their material in the manuscript-libraries as also for participating in research seminars pertaining to Presco-Arabic/Islamic studies.

26. Both sides will encourage the setting up of joint research programmes to be undertaken by mixed research teams composed of specialists on specific projects of mutual interest. (Within the framework of this programme, both sides shall organise at least one joint seminar in a period of two years).

27. Iraq will send and India will receive an exhibition 'Art Treasures from Iraq' for a period of two months, accompanied by an expert.

28. India will send and Iraq will receive an exhibition of masterpieces of Islamic Art from the collection of the National Museum, India, for a period of two months, accompanied by an expert.

29. Both sides will exchange 2-3 standard art publications and 20-25 colour reproductions of masterpieces of art.

IV. INFORMATION & MASS MEDIA

30. Both sides shall encourage the development of co-operation between radio/TV organisations of the two countries.

31. Both sides shall observe the National Days of each other by putting out special radio/TV programmes on such occasions.

32. Both sides shall exchange TV programmes of mutually accepted quality, including programmes on music, art, culture and science.

33. Both sides shall exchange two journalists each, including those engaged

in dissemination of Government information, for a period not exceeding two weeks, once in two years.

34. Both sides shall be invited to participate in each other's film festivals.

35. Both sides shall endeavour to organise film weeks in the other country on reciprocal basis, accompanied by a delegation of two members.

36. Both sides shall examine the possibility of co-producing a film as may be agreed upon mutually.

37. Both sides shall endeavour to conclude a protocol on co-operation in the sphere of information and mass

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media, including TV. The details shall be worked out mutually.

38. Both sides shall encourage exchange of acquaintance visits by officials working in the government-owned media and those engaged in coordination in the government of such media for exchange of views, sharing of experience and identification of new areas of co-operation.

39. Both sides shall encourage exchange of acquaintance visits by experts in the film organisation of the Government of both countries and those responsible for co-ordination in the Government of such organisations for exchange of views and gaining experiences.

V. SPORTS AND YOUTH

40. A. India will send and Iraq will receive:

(i) A wrestling senior team to Iraq during 1998-1999. (Exact date and duration will be settled through mutual consultations).

(ii) A judo junior team for training-cum-competition for a period of one month. (Composition and exact date will be settled through mutual consultations).

(iii) An Indian team, not exceeding five persons, for a period of one week. The discipline and the details shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

B. Iraq will send and India will receive:

(i) Two students for diploma course during the academic year.

(ii) A boxing team for a period of one month for training-cum-competition programme. (Composition and exact dates will be settled through mutual consultations).

(iii) An Iraqi team not exceeding five persons for a period of one week.

The discipline and the details shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

41. A. The sending side shall inform the receiving side about the proposed itinerary, bio-data, including the languages spoken, at least two months prior to the expected date of visit of the delegation or individual(s) selected under this programme and at least four months in advance in the case of performing delegations and exhibitions.

B. The receiving side shall intimate the acceptance or otherwise of the proposal within one month after receipt of the communication from the sending side.

C. After acceptance of the proposal the sending side shall inform the receiving side, at least three weeks in advance, of the exact model and time of arrival of the person/persons.

D. The persons invited should know either the language of the receiving side or English.

42. Both sides agree that in the case of deputing professors from any of the two countries, it is necessary to inform the other side of the details of the fields for which the professor is required, and if possible, one year prior to the date of joining.

43. In order to ensure proper preparation and publicity, the sending side shall provide the receiving side with technical specifications and other information, viz. space required, etc. for the exhibition, stage and other requirements in the case of artistic groups, at least three months before the proposed date of opening of the

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exhibition or visit of artistic ensembles. The exhibits will be delivered at the place of destination at least four weeks before the opening of the exhibition.

44. A. The receiving side shall announce the granting of scholarships not later than 31st of December.

B. The sending side shall forward to the receiving side the candidates files not later than 28th of February.

C. The candidates files must contain:

(i) Curriculum vitae;

(ii) Copies of diplomas or degrees;

(iii) Details of study or research programmes; and

(iv) Health certificate.

D. The receiving side shall give notice of the scholars to be accepted not later than 30th of June.

E. Scholars must have adequate knowledge of either the language of the receiving side or English. In the event the scholar does not satisfy this condition, the receiving side shall endeavour to arrange the required facilities at the expense of the sending side according to details to be worked out mutually.

45. The activities and exchanges proposed in this programme shall be undertaken in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving country.

46. Any additional proposal(s), not included in this programme, may be added by mutual consent through diplomatic channels.

47. The individual article(s) of the present programme may be amended or modified subject to the consent of both sides.

48. The present programme will come into force from the date of signing until 31.12.2001, and shall remain in force until the next programme is concluded.

49. Both sides shall endeavour to obtain admissions for students of each others' country in universities in co-ordination with the cultural offices of the respective Embassies of the two countries.

VII. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

50. Exchange of persons up to six months (artists, academics, experts, delegations, persons accompanying exhibitions, etc.):

A. Unless otherwise specified, the sending side shall bear the international cost of travel both-ways between the two countries.

B. The receiving side shall bear expenses on the following:

(i) Board and lodging or free lodging with suitable cash allowance to cover expenses for board at the rates in force at the time of visit.

(ii) Internal travel.

(iii) Local transport or a suitable cash allowance in lieu thereof at rates applicable at the time of the visit.

(iv) Pocket money (cash allowance) for incidental expenses in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the receiving country.

(v) Free medical treatment in government hospitals in case of sudden illness.

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(vi) Provision of Interpreter, if necessary.

51. Exchange of persons for more than six months

A. Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, the sending side shall cover international travel expenses, both-ways.

B. The receiving side shall pay:

- (i) A suitable monthly salary depending upon the status of the person concerned according to the rules and regulations of the receiving side.
- (ii) A suitable furnished living accommodation or a suitable allowance according to the contract.
- (iii) Expenses on internal travel if on duty.
- (iv) Paid leave as per university/institution rules.
- (v) Free medical facilities to the person concerned and his/her family.
- (vi) Exemption from income tax as admissible under the rules.
- (vii) Duty-free concession available under the normal baggage rules.
- (viii) Import of professional equipment may be allowed duty-free if the condition and rules thereof are satisfied.
- (ix) In the case of professors assigned on contract basis, the receiving side shall meet the international cost, both-ways.

52. Scholarship

A. The sending side shall bear the international travel expenses both-ways between the two countries.

B. Each side shall provide to the scholars of the other side:

- (i) Maintenance allowance for higher studies-research/training or specialisation at rates admissible from time to time.
- (ii) Actual tuition/examination/compulsory fees.
- (iii) Medical expenses (except those incurred on tonics, dentures, surgical appliances, spectacles and similar articles) according to the rules of the institutions concerned.
- (iv) Expenses on approved study tours as per rules of the institution.
- (v) Cost of books, instruments and equipment necessary for the course of studies within the ceiling prescribed from time to time.
- (vi) Hostel reservation charges, if any.

53. Exhibitions

A. The sending side shall meet the cost of transportation of the exhibits to the first place of destination in the receiving country.

B. The receiving side shall meet the cost of transportation of the exhibits

to the other places within its territory and back to the capital of the sending side.

C. The receiving side shall meet the cost connected with the setting up of the exhibition and publi-

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city, including printing of catalogues, posters, brochures, etc.

D. The receiving side shall extend due care and attention to the exhibits.

E. The sending side shall bear the cost of insurance.

F. In case of any damage to the exhibits, the receiving side shall provide all documents concerning the damage to enable the sending side to claim damages from the insurance company. The costs concerned with the preparation of these documents shall be borne by the receiving side.

G. If the exhibition is sent to another country, the financial liability of the receiving side on transport cost will not exceed the estimated transport cost of sending the exhibition back to the sending country.

H. Any person accompanying the exhibition will be governed by the terms of article 50.

54. Performing troupes/films

A. In the case of performing groups/films, unless otherwise specified, the sending side will be responsible for shipping expenses of stage equipment/films, both ways.

B. The receiving side will provide the necessary facilities (suitable auditorium, lights, sound, etc.) for the presentation of performances, including normal facilities like ironing costumes, if required, and light refreshments to performing artists during rehearsals/intervals/during shows. The cost of organising performances, including publicity and transport of stage properties and films within its territory, shall be borne by the receiving side.

C. The members of the performing delegation shall be governed by article 50.

Done at New Delhi on Eleventh day of Bhadrapada, 1920 (Saka) corresponding to the second day of September, 1998 in two originals each in Hindi and English, both being equally authentic, except that in case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India

Sd/-

(Mrs. Kasturi Gupta Menon)
Joint Secretary,
Department of Culture,
Ministry of Human Resource

Development

For the Government of the Republic of Iraq

Sd/-

(Dr. Thamir Aalwan Musleh)
Director of the Eastern
Scholarships Division,
Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research

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INDIA IRAQ USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE VII

Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Oil, Iraq and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, India

1. The Republic of Iraq and the Union of India have historical ties and longstanding economic co-operation of mutual benefit. Large hydrocarbon resources of Iraq and India's enormous economic potential hold out great prospects of expanding the economic relations between the two countries. The association between India and Iraq in petroleum sector has in the past included activities such as consultancy services, exploration, production, besides crude oil supplies and pipeline logistics. Both sides have noted with satisfaction that efforts to renew this association re-commenced in 1995. Purposeful talks were held between Indian organisations such as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) with Iraq's organisations such as SCOP, SOIDC, PETCOM, SOMO etc.

II. SECTORS OF CO-OPERATION

Several areas of co-operation in the hydrocarbon sector have been identified in the meetings of the Sub-Committees on Oil Sector co-operation at the 12th Meeting of Iraq-Indo Joint Commission. Both sides express the desire to actively pursue the discussions and encourage bi-lateral visits so as to cultivate long term relationships that would enhance mutual economic co-operation and identify new opportunities. Accordingly, this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter called the MOU) is entered into at New Delhi, India on 2nd September, 1998 between Ministry of Oil, Iraq and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.

The following areas of collaboration were identified:

a. Technical Assistance and Training

* The Indian side will formulate and present proposals for assistance, work association and training to Iraqi personnel in the upstream and downstream sectors of the Oil Industry through ONGC Videsh Ltd. Proposals will be prepared by the end of December '98. ONGC and ONGCVL would offer 500 mandays for training.

* ONGC-VL/IOC/EIL will appropriately consider opening office(s) in Baghdad. The Iraqi Oil Ministry would provide the necessary support.

b. Upstream Hydrocarbon Sector

Joint Study Group with experts from Iraq Oil Ministry and ONGC/OVL will identify potential projects for investment by India. Such projects could include development of oil fields, up-gradation of producing oil fields undertaken by Ministry of Oil, Iraq and rehabilitation of production facilities.

c. Downstream Hydrocarbon Sector

India expressed interest in assisting Iraq in rehabilitating, revamping, optimising and upgrading the existing downstream facilities consisting of refineries, petrochemical projects, pipelines etc. Indian participation could include:

* Refurbishment and commissioning of Hydrocracker unit.

* Rehabilitation of damaged lube oil plant in refineries.

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* Revamping and rehabilitation of waste water treatment plant in refineries.

* Revamping and rehabilitation of product depots, modernisation of the downstream marketing infrastructure.

* Revamping and modernisation of existing bottling plants and marketing distribution infrastructure for domestic LPG.

d. Development of Oil Related Industry in Iraq

* The Iraqi side expressed its desire to build up national capability in Iraq to fabricate equipment and manufacture components and systems required by its oil industry. The Indian side extended its willingness in supporting these efforts.

* Iraq imports large quantity and variety of materials and equipment for its Oil Industry. The requirement is for upstream as well as downstream sectors. It was noted that a substantial quantum of these items can be supplied from India. A sample list of items has been provided by the Iraqi side for Indian industry to study and react.

III. JOINT WORKING GROUP

* It was agreed to establish a Joint Working Group comprising of experts from oil industry of two sides to prepare a Plan for implementation of the identified areas of co-operation ONGC-VL, IOC and EIL were nominated by the Indian side as lead organisations in this behalf in the upstream, downstream sector and for other development of oil related industries. Sub-groups under the Joint Working Groups consisting of representatives from respective companies of India and Iraq would be constituted to work out the details in the identified areas.

* The Joint Working Group would also study the modalities of financing the identified projects.

* The Joint Working Group would meet periodically to monitor the progress at venue(s) to be decided mutually.

IV. LONG TERM CO-OPERATION CONTRACTS

It was noted that Indian companies have offered bids for the development of a discovered field and for an exploration block in Iraq. The Iraqi side stated it would endeavour to take decision on these offers, subject to technical and financial competitiveness of the Indian offer and having regard to the growing bi-lateral relations between India and Iraq. Iraqi side requested Indian companies to prepare financial package for development of projects in Iraq. Indian side stated that it would examine it.

V. CRUDE OIL TRADING

For the period upon November 1998, IOC and SOMO have agreed for import of about 0.95 MMT of Iraqi Basrah Light crude oil by India. During the period December 98 to March 99, IOC requested to lift a quantity of 0.54 MMT Basrah Light crude oil from Iraq. The Iraqi side would make endeavour to meet the requirement.

Sd/-

(Nirmal Singh)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Sd/-

(Dr. Radhwan Hammoudi Al-Saadi)

Director General of Oil Products
Division, ministry of Oil, Iraq
Division, ministry of Oil, Iraq

IRAQ INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA RUSSIA

Date : Sep 03, 1998

October

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PAKISTAN SUDAN TURKEY USA VIETNAM

Date : Oct 01, 1998

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

India's Contribution to the Flood Relief Efforts in Bangladesh

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External

Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 12, 1998 regarding India's contribution to the flood relief efforts in Bangladesh:

A consignment of 40 metric tonnes of wheat seeds will be flown by IAF aircraft to Dhaka on Monday, Oct 12, 1998 as part of India's contribution to the flood relief efforts in Bangladesh. The seeds will be carried in an IAF IL-76 from Agra.

2. The consignment represents the first instalment of a gift of over 800 tonnes of seeds. The remainder is scheduled to move by special train from Agra, reaching Darshana Station across the Indo-Bangladesh border by the end of the month.
3. The seeds being supplied are in accordance with the varieties suitable to Bangladeshi conditions and have been identified in consultation with the agricultural authorities in Dhaka. The despatch of seeds to Bangladesh, following this year's catastrophic floods, is of particular importance in view of the great damage caused to the agricultural sector in that country. Timely sowing of the winter crop is therefore, crucial.
4. The gift of seeds worth approximately Rs. 2 crores represents the second area of assistance sent by India to Bangladesh as flood relief. Earlier, in September, 7.6 tonnes of medicines worth about Rs. 40 lakhs had been airlifted.
5. The Government of India will further be gifting 20,000 tonnes of parboiled rice to Bangladesh. The consignment, worth Rs. 22 crores or US \$ 5.2 million, is scheduled to start arriving in Bangladesh later this month.
6. As a friendly neighbour with which India has close and cordial relations, there has been genuine concern, a sense of shared suffering and a desire to assist in some manner in the face of this year's unprecedented floods in Bangladesh. The President and the Prime Minister had both sent messages of concern and sympathy to their Bangladesh counterparts. The Prime Minister had also spoken to Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, in this connection. The two Prime Ministers agreed to remain in touch about further rehabilitation requirements.

BANGLADESH INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Oct 12, 1998

Volume No

1995

BHUTAN

Official visit of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan to India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 02, 1998 regarding official visit of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan to India:

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan is paying an official visit to India from October 5-8, 1998.

The visit carries forward the tradition of regular contacts at high levels between

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the two countries. During the visit, the King will meet the President, Prime Minister and several senior Cabinet Ministers to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The visit of His Majesty and his discussions with various leaders would serve to strengthen the long-standing and close ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Bhutan.

BHUTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Oct 02, 1998

Volume No

1995

BULGARIA

State visit to India of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Mr. Peter Stoyanov accompanied by Madam Stoyanova

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1998 regarding state visit to India of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Mr. Peter Stoyanov accompanied by Madam Stoyanova:

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Mr. Peter Stoyanov, accompanied by Madam Stoyanova and a high level delegation, will be paying a State visit to India from October 25 to 30, 1998. During the visit, President Stoyanov will have separate meetings in New Delhi with the President of India, the Vice President of India, the Prime Minister of India, as well as other Indian dignitaries.

Besides New Delhi, President Stoyanov will also be visiting Agra, Udaipur and Mumbai.

BULGARIA INDIA

Date : Oct 16, 1998

Volume No

1995

BULGARIA

State visit of Bulgarian President to India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 26, 1998 regarding state visit of Bulgarian President to India from 25-30 October, 1998:

H.E. Mr. Peter Stoyanov, the President of Bulgaria arrived in New Delhi on 25th October, '98 on a State visit. On that day he visited the Red Fort and the Laxmi Narain Temple. A ceremonial reception was accorded to him today and he had a fruitful meeting with the Prime Minister this afternoon. In the evening the Vice President of India called on him. The President of India will host a banquet in his honour tonight. At the end of the meeting with the Prime Minister 2 agreements and on MOU were signed. These were as follows:

INDO-BULGARIAN BILATERAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENT

The Indo-Bulgarian BIPA was signed by Shri Yashwant Sinha, Minister of Finance, from the Indian side and Mr. Mario Tagarinski, Minister for State Administration, from the Bulgarian side. The finalisation of this Agreement puts in place the framework for the promotion and protection of investments from India to Bulgaria and vice versa.

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AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ITPO AND INTERNATIONAL FAIR (IF) INC. PLOVDIV

This Agreement was signed by Mr. K. T. Chako, Executive Director, ITPO, and Mr. Alexander Tassov, Deputy Minister of Trade and Tourism, Government of Bulgaria. This Agreement's aim is to promote bilateral cooperation between the two concerned organisations for expansion of trade between India and Bulgaria. It will put in place the framework for increased participation in each other's international trade fairs. IF Inc. Plovdiv will provide an area of 144 sq. mts. free of charge to ITPO at the International Fair of Consumer goods to be held in Bulgaria in May '99. The ITPO will also provide to the IF Inc. Plovdiv an equal area free of charge at the India International Trade Fair '99.

MOU BETWEEN THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRADE INFORMATION (NCTI) AND THE BULGARIAN EXPORT PROMOTION CENTRE

This MOU was signed by Mr. Anil K. Singh, Executive Director, NCTI and Mr. Alexander Tassev, Deputy Minister of Trade and Tourism, Government of Bulgaria. The objective of this MOU is to exchange economic and business related information between the two organisations in order to strengthen economic cooperation between India and Bulgaria.

BULGARIA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 26, 1998

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Chinese reaction to Prime Minister's meeting with the Dalai Lama

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 23, 1998 regarding Chinese reaction to Prime Minister's meeting with the Dalai Lama:

In response to a question regarding the Chinese reaction to Prime Minister's meeting with the Dalai Lama, the Spokesman said that the reaction of the Chinese side is neither called for nor justified. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been received, in his capacity as a revered spiritual and religious personage, by successive Indian Prime Ministers. His Holiness the Dalai Lama is also received by leaders in other countries.

CHINA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 23, 1998

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Official Spokesman's comments in response to a Question on Kosovo (FRY)

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 09, 1998 regarding Official Spokesman's comments in response to a question on Kosovo (FRY):

India believes that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the international borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must be fully respected by all States. UN Security Council Resolu-

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tions 1160 (31 March 1998) and 1199 (23 September 1998) on the Situation in Kosovo (FRY) have also reaffirmed the commitment of all UN Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We believe that in such situations consultation and dialogue, rather than confrontation, should characterise interaction between States.

YUGOSLAVIA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 09, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Statement by Prime Minister on arrival in New Delhi

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1998 containing statement by Prime Minister on arrival in New Delhi from New York and Paris:

I have just returned from a visit to New York for the UN General Assembly and Paris for a bilateral visit.

During my visit to New York from 23-28 September 1998, I addressed the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 1998. I reiterated our commitment to universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament and our earnest desire to work with all other countries, particularly the Nuclear Weapons States to eliminate this category of weapons of mass destruction. Regarding CTBT, I conveyed our preparedness to bring our ongoing discussions with key interlocutors to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. Our views on the growing menace of terrorism which transcends national boundaries are finding increasing resonance in the international community. Another issue that I highlighted was the need for a new international dialogue on the future of the global economy involving both developing and developed countries. Our position on these issues, which are of contemporary relevance, has been welcomed by international community and media.

I had productive and friendly talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. We approved the understanding arrived at Durban by our delegations on the modalities of the dialogue process. Foreign Secretary-level talks will begin on

15 October 1998 in Islamabad and will be followed in Delhi. We agreed to commence direct bus services from Lahore to New Delhi. This will facilitate greater people-to-people contact. We also agreed to hold discussions on purchase of electricity by India from Pakistan. I believe that a new beginning has been made in our relations with Pakistan.

I met a number of opinion-makers of the US and shared our perceptions and concerns with them. I also spoke at the Asia Society where I explained my vision of India and Indo-US relations. I have sensed a growing understanding for our security concerns. There was a growing feeling that Indo-US relations need to be revitalised which we welcome.

I also met a cross-section, of the Indian-American community. They were very supportive of India and expressed their desire to contribute to its development. I visited the Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan. An agreement on publishing the Encyclopaedia on Hinduism was signed in my presence. I also met a number of prominent members of the US business community and reiterated our

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commitment to economic reforms. They appreciated the steps taken by my Government to expedite decision-making and facilitate the implementation of investment proposals. They emphasised the importance they attach to India, and conveyed their desire to see the early removal of economic restrictions on cooperation between India and the US.

I was in Paris on 29-30 September. The visit was both substantive and productive. This was my first bilateral visit to a P-5 country since assuming office six-months ago. I had extensive discussions with President Chirac as well as Prime Minister Jospin and his senior cabinet colleagues dealing with Finance, Defence and Education Research and Technology. I also met with a wide cross-section of French decision makers including legislators, members of the Indo-French Forum and captains of French industry. My visit was a continuation of the process of developing the new relationship with France, set in motion by the visit of President Chirac in January 1998 as the Chief Guest during the Republic Day celebrations in the 50th year of our Independence. I am confident that this visit will further consolidate this new dimension in our bilateral relationship. President Chirac and I have decided to initiate a strategic dialogue between the two countries. He has nominated Mr. Errera as the French Special Envoy and I have nominated Principal Secretary Brajesh Mishra as the Indian Special Envoy. Both countries share a perspective that the new world order has to be a genuine multi-polar world order. Our bilateral relationship is poised to grow in the coming months in a multi-faceted manner. A large number of high-level visits have been planned. I have also invited Prime Minister Jospin who has agreed to visit India in the near future.

INDIA FRANCE USA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 01, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Statement of Official Spokesman regarding Jammu & Kashmir

Following is the text of a statement by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 08, 1998 regarding Pakistan's claim of negotiating on behalf of "Kashmir People":

In response to a question, the Official Spokesman dismissed as utterly absurd Pakistan's claim that it would negotiate on behalf of the "Kashmir people" at the forthcoming India - Pakistan talks in Islamabad and that the "Kashmir people" will, at a later stage, be involved in these talks. The Official Spokesman reiterated that the state of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and a part of the territory of the state is under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan. In keeping with the Simla Agreement, India is committed to a resolution of all issues, including this issue, through peaceful negotiations.

During the forthcoming talks, India will also strongly take up Pakistan's abetting of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir Pakistan's attempts at destabilising the state by sponsoring terrorism are continuing unabated. India has successfully thwarted the challenge of the terrorists. Pakistan must abandon this policy as it is counterproductive not only for good bilateral relations but also for Pakistan itself.

India remains steadfast in its desire to establish mutual trust and confidence and a stable structure for cooperation. India is also determined to address all outstanding issues in good faith and sincerity. The composite dialogue process, which will begin with the forthcoming discussions in Islamabad and New Delhi, will hopefully, open a new and positive chapter in bilateral relations. India is committed to do all that it can to make this possible. It is hoped and expected that Pakistan will do the same and not use the dialogue for narrow propagandist purposes.

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INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Oct 08, 1998

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1995

INDIA

Issue of Separate Passports to Minor Children

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 29, 1998 regarding separate passports to minor children:

As part of Government's continuing endeavour to streamline procedures for issue and servicing of passports for the benefit of the general public, it has been decided to discontinue the present system of endorsing the names of minor children in their parents' passports and to issue separate passports to minor children.

This measure has been introduced in the wake of the practice increasingly being followed by foreign diplomatic missions for granting visas to minor children only if they are in possession of separate passports.

The fee for issue of a passport to a minor child would be restricted to Rs. 200 only. All children who apply for separate passport will be automatically granted endorsement of 'Emigration Clearance Not Required (ECNR)' provided their parents have the same endorsement on their own passports.

INDIA

Date : Oct 29, 1998

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Signing of Wye River MOU between Israel and Palestinian Liberation Organisation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1998 regarding signing of Wye River MOU between Israel & PLO:

India welcomes the Wye River Memorandum of Understanding signed between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) on 23 October 1998 in Washington DC to facilitate implementation of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip signed on 28 September 1995 at Cairo and the Hebron Protocol of January 1997. It represents an important milestone in the Middle East Peace Process which had so far remained stalled.

India calls upon the parties concerned to refrain from taking unilateral measures and to faithfully implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). India believes that this MOU will improve the quality of life of the Palestinian

people and pave the way to commence Final Status Negotiations so that a just, lasting and comprehensive peace could be achieved in the region on the basis of the principle of "Land for Peace" and the relevant UN Resolutions.

India reiterates its commitment to the Middle East Peace Process and stands ready to play its role in the region.

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ISRAEL INDIA EGYPT USA

Date : Oct 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

India's Concern in the Conduct of Nuclear Tests and the Nuclear Policy

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 09, 1998 regarding India's concern in the conduct of Nuclear tests and nuclear policy:

During the meetings of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri G. M. C. Balayogi with his Moroccan counterpart today and during his subsequent meeting with the Moroccan Prime Minister Abderrahman Yousseoufi, the Moroccan leaders strongly endorsed India's concerns in the conduct of the nuclear tests and the nuclear policy pursued by the Indian Government. They expressed full understanding of India's reasons because India is surrounded by nuclear weapon States. Both the Moroccan leaders stressed special role played by India in the international scene and emphasised the importance of continued major role by India in the present international context which shows an unprecedented level of economic disarray and political imbalances.

The Indian Parliamentary delegation representing 8 parties arrived in Morocco on October 7 for a six-day visit. The delegation called on the Moroccan Speaker Abdelwahed Radi on the morning of October 8 followed by a two hour exchange of views with the leaders of all the political groups represented in the Moroccan Parliament covering the entire spectrum of political opinion in that country. During these meetings as well as in the meetings with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Foreign Trade Minister of Morocco held subsequently, Moroccan leaders paid tribute to India's pioneering role in the liberation of Asia and Africa which was an inspiration in their freedom struggle and India's major role in removal of apartheid in South Africa. They paid tribute to India as an example for the developing world because it showed how a young country could foster and maintain democracy.

The Moroccan Parliamentary and Government leaders stressed the need to reinvigorate NAM and expressed their desire to exchange concrete ideas with Indian Government for this purpose. They also called for increased political exchanges of which the Parliamentary delegation was the most recent example.

The two Speakers decided to establish an Indo-Moroccan Parliamentary Friendship Group which would be constituted soon and which will maintain constant contact with each other for exchange of views on all questions of mutual interest so that the friendly relations between the two countries could be actively promoted further in all fields.

The Moroccan leaders reiterated their expectation that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed of Morocco will visit India at an early date. They look forward to this visit as milestone and a turning point in the friendly relations between the two countries.

Speaking during the luncheon given in honour of the Indian delegation, Moroccan Speaker reiterated the well-known Moroccan position that questions between India and Pakistan are to be solved through peaceful bilateral negotiations and took note of the recent initiatives taken by India to begin a dialogue with Pakistan on all outstanding issues.

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The Indian Parliamentary delegation will be special guests during the formal opening of the Moroccan Parliament by His Majesty King Hassan II on October 9.

The delegation will also be visiting the historic cities of Casablanca, Fez and Marrakech before they depart for India on October 12.

MOROCCO INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 09, 1998

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

India-Namibia Plastic Technology Centre

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1998 regarding India-Namibia Plastic Technology Centre:

On 28th October, 1998 Shri S. T. Devare, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs and Shri M. Ahmad, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed an agreement designating NSIC

as the implementing agency for a project to set up a Plastic Technology Demonstration and Common Facility Centre in Namibia. The Centre to be called "India-Namibia Plastic Technology Centre" will cost the Indian Government Rs. 3.40 crores. The Project is to be set up under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Government of India.

Under an earlier Agreement with the Government of Namibia in August this year signed during the visit of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to that country, the two countries agreed on the terms for executing the Project.

The site selected for the Project is Ondangwa town which is located 750 Kms. North of the country's capital city Windhoek. The basic idea of setting up of the Centre is to acquaint the Namibians with the Plastic Technology needed mainly for manufacturing household articles such as tumblers, mugs, lunch boxes, buckets, etc. NSIC, besides commissioning the Project, will also provide training to Namibian personnel to run the Centre.

The Centre will also provide common facility services as an integral part of the Project to be utilised for doing job work for small plastic-based industries (existing or anticipated to grow) in and around the Project site in the future.

NAMIBIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indo-Pak Talks

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 06, 1998 regarding Indo-Pak talks on different subjects:

In the context of the resumption of their official dialogue, India and Pakistan had agreed last month that talks on the subjects of Siachen, Tulbul Navigation Project, Sir Creek, Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Terrorism and Drug Trafficking and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields would be held

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in New Delhi in the first half of November, 1998. Specific dates have now been decided for discussions on the above mentioned subjects of the composite dialogue process, and Pakistani delegations will be visiting New Delhi from November 5th to 13th, 1998 on the basis of the schedule given below:

Subject	Dates of Talks	Delegation Leaders
1. Tulbul Navigation Project	5th Nov.	Secretaries, Water & Power
2. Siachen	6th Nov.	Defence Secretaries
3. Sir Creek	9th Nov.	Surveyor General/ Additional Secretary (Defence)
4. Economic & Commercial Cooperation	10th Nov.	Commerce Secretaries
5. Terrorism & Drug Trafficking	12th Nov.	Home/Interior Secretary
6. Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields	13th Nov.	Secretaries, Culture

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 06, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Dialogue between India & Pakistan

Following is the text of a statement by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 15, 1998 regarding Dialogue between India & Pakistan:

In response to a question, the official spokesman said that India has always desired peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan and for this

purpose had urged Pakistan to engage in a broadbased and comprehensive dialogue which moves the relationship forward over a broad front. The dialogue would, inter alia, provide for a discussion on all outstanding issues including Jammu & Kashmir. All Indian proposals for the composite dialogue process have included discussions on Jammu & Kashmir. India has always desired that Jammu & Kashmir should be taken in a direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan. The dialogue process, which will begin with Foreign Secretary's visit to Islamabad, has now become possible because India and Pakistan have agreed on the modalities of the dialogue on this basis.

The official spokesman further said that there was no question of India acting under international pressure and there was no place for any third party involvement in India-Pakistan ties. The international community has shared this view and has strongly expressed its desire that India and Pakistan should resolve all outstanding issues peacefully and bilaterally.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 15, 1998

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Dialogue between India & Pakistan

Following is the text of a statement by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 17, 1998, regarding Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary level talks:

The Foreign Secretaries discussed Agenda item Jammu & Kashmir. They reiterated their respective positions and exchanged perceptions on the subject.

The discussions were held in a frank and candid manner and will continue in the next round of the Foreign Secretary talks.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 17, 1998

Volume No

Joint Press Statement

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement by Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Foreign Secretary of India in Islamabad on Oct 18, 1998:

Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Mr. K. Raghunath, Foreign Secretary of India, met in Islamabad on 15-18 October, 1998. They held separate meetings on Agenda item (a) Peace and Security including Confidence-building Measures, and (b) Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of the 23rd June, 1997 Agreement. The talks were held in a cordial and frank atmosphere within the framework of the composite and integrated dialogue process.

2. The deliberations between the Foreign Secretaries were guided by the shared belief of their Prime Ministers as expressed in their Joint Statement of 23 September, 1998 that an environment of durable peace and security was in the supreme interest of both countries and the region as a whole, and that the peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir was essential for this purpose.

3. The Foreign Secretary of India called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and conveyed to him a message of goodwill from Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee. The Prime Minister of Pakistan warmly reciprocated the Indian Prime Minister's good wishes. The Indian Foreign Secretary also called on Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz.

4. The meeting on 16 October, 1998 discussed issues of Peace and Security including CBMs. Both sides underscored their commitment to reduce the risk of a conflict by building mutual confidence in the nuclear and conventional fields.

5. The meeting on 17 October discussed Jammu and Kashmir. The two sides reiterated their respective positions.

6. The two Foreign Secretaries agreed that the next round of talks on the issues of Peace and Security and CBMs and Jammu and Kashmir respectively and a review of the round would be held in the first half of February 1999 in New Delhi.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 18, 1998

SUDAN

Relief Supplies to Sudan

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1998 regarding relief supplies to Sudan:

Government of India are concerned at the loss of life and property caused due to recent floods in Sudan. To alleviate the sufferings of the friendly people of Sudan, Government of India have decided to send relief supplies consisting of baby milk powder and medicines. One and a half tons of powder have already been despatched; the medicines will be air-freighted within the next 10-15 days.

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SUDAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 16, 1998

Volume No

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TURKEY

Visit of Vice President Shri Krishan Kant to Turkey

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1998 regarding Vice President Shri Krishan Kant's visit to Turkey:

At the invitation of the Government of the Turkish Republic, Hon'ble Vice-President Shri Krishan Kant will visit Turkey from 28th October to 1st November, 1998 to represent India at the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Turkish Republic.

TURKEY INDIA

Date : Oct 27, 1998

Volume No

1995

75th Anniversary Celebrations of Turkish Republic

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 29, 1998 regarding visit of Shri Krishan Kant Vice-President of India to Turkey for the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Turkish Republic:

Shri Krishan Kant, Vice-President of India arrived Ankara late yesterday for the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Turkish Republic. He was received by Mr. Hikmet Cetin, Speaker of the Parliament, on arrival at Ankara airport. He immediately met President Suleyman Demirel at the airport. President Demirel recalled the landmark visit of President Narayanan to Turkey in September. Vice-President stated that it was a pleasure to be in the land of the great Kemal Ataturk. He stated that the common ideals of democracy and secularism to which India and Turkey subscribe, and which derive their inspiration from Kemal Ataturk, provide a solid basis for building bilateral relations. We are looking forward to much closer cooperation in all sectors. President Demirel welcoming the Vice-President, conveyed the thanks of his Government for Vice-President's presence on the momentous occasion.

Later in the evening, Vice-President met Mt. Bulent Ecevit, Deputy Prime Minister, who called on him at his hotel. Discussions emphasised the need for closer cooperation in the political and foreign policy areas and for sharing of experiences in electoral reform. Deputy Prime Minister Ecevit also suggested closer cooperation in Defence industry and space technology. Mr. Bulent Ecevit who is a senior statesman, has translated extracts of the Geeta and Geetanjali in Turkish. An invitation to Mr. Bulent Ecevit to visit India was reiterated.

The celebrations today commence with laying of wreath at Ataturk's Mausoleum followed by formal presentation of felicitations to President Demirel. The events include a parade followed by a State Reception and ballet performance. The second day's programme at Istanbul include a Reception by Prime Minister Yilmaz.

Vice-President is expected to meet Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sezgin. He is also scheduled to meet Prime Minister Yilmaz Istanbul.

After Istanbul, Vice-President would visit Izmir which is now twinned with Mumbai. A Park was dedicated to

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Mahatma Gandhi at Izmir during President's visit. A visit to Antalya on the way back is also in the programme. 15 Heads of State, mostly from Central Asia and the Baltic countries and Pakistan and 15 Vice-Presidents, Speakers and Prime Ministers are attending the celebrations, apart from 50 ministerial-level delegations.

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1995

UNITED NATIONS

Statement by H.E. Mr. Sharad Pawar, Member of Parliament, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha at the General Debate of the First Committee at New York

Following is the text of the statement by H.E. Mr. Sharad Pawar, Member of Parliament, leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha at the General Debate of First Committee at New York on Oct 14, 1998:

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation extends to you, Sir, its sincere congratulations on your election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee. We are confident that with your vast diplomatic skills and experience you will be able to steer the work of this Committee to a fruitful outcome, to which end my delegation pledges its full cooperation with you.

2. Mr. Chairman, the international security and disarmament agenda remains burdened with a flawed security paradigm constructed during the cold war years. This paradigm is underscored and underwritten by the privileged possession of nuclear weapons by a self anointed few, legitimized through the NPT. Clearly this security paradigm is in need of replacement with one that ensures the achievement of objectives of international peace and security along with equal and legitimate security for all through global disarmament. We hope that the deliberations of this Committee will lead to a paradigm shift which will contribute to a forward-looking disarmament agenda for next year, one which will enable the international community to greet the next millennium with the confidence that the threat posed by nuclear weapons will be eliminated for ever.

3. The failure of the international community to come to grips with the threat posed by nuclear weapons is due to the draw backs in the main legal instrument that was designed to deal with nuclear weapons - the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Rather than serving the purposes of non-proliferation the NPT may have resulted in the reverse - it facilitated vertical proliferation of several magnitudes from the time the Treaty entered into force; by attempting to reinforce nuclear monopoly, it in fact accentuated security concerns of others; by seeking to perpetuate inequality and differentiated standards of national security it in effect severely compromised the evolution of a sustainable international security system. The NPT has not prevented countries, nominally non nuclear, from enjoying the security of a nuclear umbrella. Even the undertaking to prevent the transfer of nuclear materials and technology has not been adhered to. The global non proliferation regime stands challenged by none other than the Non-proliferation Treaty itself. While India remains committed to the goals of a global non-proliferation regime, events have served to only

reconfirm the shortcomings of the NPT.

4. The success achieved in the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons point to instructive lessons for the efforts

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that need to be undertaken for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The non-discriminatory international Conventions prohibiting chemical and biological weapons respectively were based on a devaluation of the military utility of these weapons and on the belief that rather than partial and discriminatory arms control, the interests of international security are better served with their complete prohibition and elimination. Disarmament was the chosen path and the dividends are there for all to see. As an original state party to the CWC, India has endeavored to discharge, fully and faithfully, its obligations under the Convention. As the first Chairman of the Executive Council India strived hard to fulfill its responsibilities. We are hopeful that the negotiations underway in Geneva in the BTWC AD HOC Group, will be undertaken in accordance with the agreed mandate and without artificial deadlines, and yield results as soon as possible, before the Fifth Review Conference in a Protocol that not only strengthens the implementation of the BTWC but also gives full expression, in a non-discriminatory manner, to the developmental imperatives contained in Article III as well as Article X of the Convention, whose full operationalization would contribute to the conclusion of an universally acceptable, legally binding instrument that strengthens the 1972 BW Convention.

5. Mr. Chairman, the START process seems to be at a standstill. The initial promise of deep, continuous and irreversible reductions in strategic nuclear forces, held out by the positive post cold war climate, appears to be fading. Even if this process is reinvigorated, and we hope that this is possible sooner rather than later, the reductions planned under the extended time-tables of START II and those envisaged under a future START III, will mean that the remaining nuclear arsenals would be larger than at the time of the Cuban Missile crisis. Reductions since 1990, in the US and Russian strategic nuclear forces, in terms of the number of warheads by delivery system, amount to just one third, mostly in the older generation of nuclear forces. Those remaining under deployment would benefit from continuing efforts at modernization of nuclear forces, including through nuclear testing using non explosive techniques.

6. Doctrines of first use of nuclear weapons and the substantial numbers under hair trigger alert pose unacceptable risks, including of accidental or unauthorised launch of nuclear weapons. We are concerned that even with the end of the cold war there are today more than 5,000 nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert. Serious attention needs to be paid to various proposals for global de-alerting, de-targeting and de-activating of nuclear weapons that could contribute to confidence-building and to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons. India proposes to introduce a resolution entitled "Reducing Nuclear Danger", and we hope that this initiative of India aimed at focussing international attention on this clear and present danger, will receive wide spread support.

7. Several distinguished institutions, including several NGOs, media and other voices from the civil society the world over have supported the call for a

world order based on the principles of equal and legitimate security for all, convinced that it is both essential and possible to bring about the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The International Court of Justice concluded unanimously that there exists an obligation not just to begin but also to "bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to the nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control." We need to consider further steps that can build upon that historic advisory opinion.

8. The meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-aligned countries in Durban, South Africa, representing five sixths of humanity, noted that the present situation, whereby nuclear weapon states insist that nuclear weapons provide unique security benefits, and yet monopolize the right to own them is highly

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discriminatory, unstable and cannot be sustained. The Durban Summit accepted India's proposal that an international conference be held, preferably in 1999, with the objective of arriving at an agreement, before the end of this millennium on a phased program for the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, addressing the General Assembly on in, to called upon all members of the international community and particularly the other nuclear weapon states to join in this endeavour. There is no dilution of India's commitment to the goal of global nuclear disarmament. I would like to remind this Committee that the then Prime Minister of India Mr. Rajiv Gandhi proposed in 1988 at the Third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament "An Action Plan for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons", calling on the international community to immediately undertake negotiations with a view to adopting a time bound Action Plan to usher in a world order free of nuclear weapons and rooted in non-violence.

9. This Committee is aware of the circumstances leading to India standing aside from the CTBT in 1996. That decision, taken on the basis of national consensus, was governed by considerations some of which have been addressed through the limited series of five underground nuclear tests conducted by India, on 11 and 13 May 1998. These tests were conducted as a measured response to a deteriorating security environment and were not in violation of any legal obligation entered into by India. Thereafter, India announced a voluntary moratorium on further underground test explosions, thus already accepting the basic obligation of the CTBT.

10. Mr. Chairman, as noted in its Annual Report, the Conference on Disarmament agreed for establishment this year an ad hoc committee to negotiate a treaty that will prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. We recall in this context the significance of resolution 4675 L adopted by the General Assembly without a vote. We are aware that when the CD is able to successfully negotiate such a treaty, it will only be a partial measures and will not eliminate existing nuclear arsenals. India's participation in these negotiations will be to ensure that it is non-discriminatory and consistent with India's security interests. The peaceful applications of nuclear technology are of critical importance for developing countries. Discriminatory restrictions on access to materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, including restrictions which negatively impact

on nuclear safety, must give way to open and transparent arrangements. Attempts seeking the politicization of the work of the IAEA, in violation of its statute, are a matter of concern.

11. The agreement reached in the CD on an ad hoc committee on Fissile Material was made possible by the flexibility of a large section of its delegations whose highest priority remains the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament. This flexibility should not be misread. The CD cannot lose sight of the actual priorities in the disarmament agenda that the international community expects of it. We believe that there should be no slackening of efforts on part of all delegations, especially those that have been reluctant to such an ad hoc committee, to agree to the commencement in the CD, the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, negotiations on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a nuclear weapons convention. Like in previous years India will be cosponsoring with other Member states a resolution on "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear weapons".

12. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons can form the bedrock of Negative Security Assurances (NSA) which are comprehensive, legally binding and irreversible. We welcomed the establishment of an ad hoc committee on NSAs in the CD this year and look forward to the carrying forward of the useful work done by this ad hoc committee next year. For its part, and conscious of its responsibilities as a nuclear

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weapon state. India has stated that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons and that it remains willing to strengthen this undertaking by entering into bilateral agreements on no-first use or multilateral negotiations on a global no first use. Having stated that we shall not be the first to use nuclear weapons, there remains no basis for their use against countries which do not have nuclear weapons.

13. We have consistently maintained that nuclear weapon free zones cannot do justice to the wide variety of concerns emanating from the global nature of the threat posed by nuclear weapons. We, however, respect the sovereign choice exercised by non-nuclear weapon states in establishing nuclear weapon free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the Region concerned. At the fifth session of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Manila, India stated that it fully respects the status of the Nuclear weapon free zone in South East Asia and is ready to convert this commitment into a legal obligation. India will remain responsive to the expressed need for such commitments to other nuclear weapon free zones as well.

14. As a responsible member of the international community, India remains fully committed to maintaining and further strengthening of an effective system of export controls on technologies that would be in line with the objectives of non-proliferation in all its aspects. At the same time, as a developing country that has had to pay a high developmental cost in view of the persistence of discriminatory control mechanisms, some contrary to existing treaty provisions, India has been fully supportive of multilaterally negotiated, universally acceptable, nondiscriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual use

technologies and high technologies with military applications. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary General in bringing out the Report "Role of Science and Technology in the context of international security and disarmament" (A/53/202). With a view to carrying forward the consideration of this subject, at a time of continuing appetites of military doctrines of major powers for ever more advanced applications of science and technology for military purposes, India proposes, along with co-sponsors which have extended invaluable support a resolution entitled "The role of Science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

15. The Conference on Disarmament was unable during its 1998 session to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to address issues related to the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. India was one of the co-sponsors of 62/37 which reiterated that the CD has the primary role in the negotiations of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. Current developments aimed at incorporating space as an integral dimension of warfare, and in the field of ballistic missile defenses, do not augur well for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We support the early commencement of negotiations in the CD of an appropriate instrument that would, as first step, ensure the non-weaponization of space while at the same time preserving the use of space-which is the common heritage of mankind, for the full range of peaceful and developmental activities.

16. India remains committed to the objective of a non-discriminatory and universal ban on anti personnel land mines. This objective can be achieved through a phased approach that enjoys international consensus and by addressing humanitarian concerns and the legitimate defense requirements of States. We believe that the phased approach commends itself as a confidence building process enabling States, especially those with long borders, to remain sensitive to their legitimate security needs while enabling meaningful international efforts for addressing the critical humanitarian crisis that has resulted from long years of indiscriminate transfers and use of anti-personnel land mines. We also believe that the process of the complete elimination of anti-personnel land mines will be felicitated by the availability of

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alternative non-lethal technologies that can perform, cost effectively, the legitimate defensive role of anti-personnel land mines. The critical and interrelated issues of mine clearance and mine victim assistance deserve greater attention and India which has actively participated in UN demining activities is willing to extend all possible support. India has made an active contribution to the CCW process and we are hopeful of ratifying its amended Protocol II as soon as possible. We would also be supportive of negotiations in the CD on a ban on transfers on the basis of a mandate that reflects the interests of all delegations.

17. We had expressed our concerns regarding the continuing transfer of small arms and light weapons, especially where illicit trade in such weapons leads to diversion to non-state entities fueling strife and terrorism. The transnational linkages and networks are expanding by the day and we note that there is now a greater awareness of the magnitude and ramifications of this problem which can

have a disproportionately large negative impact on the internal stability and the socio-economic development of the States effected. The recommendations received last year of the Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms deserve our continuing attention with a view to taking concrete steps to fight this menace. We are hopeful that the Disarmament Commission which is in its second year of deliberating on "Guidelines on Conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of UNGA resolution 51/45 N, would adopt, through consensus, practical guidelines that would contribute towards controls on the illicit transfers of small arms.

18. The process of injecting greater transparency in the global arms trade would contribute to confidence and deserves our support. India has regularly provided information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms since its inception. We believe that further consolidation and universalization of the Register is necessary to realize its full potential whereupon we will be in a better position to assess to what extent and in which direction the process can be carried forward. It is with this perspective that we voted in favour of UNGA resolution 52/38 R which requests the Secretary General to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register with the assistance of a Group of Governmental Experts to be convened in the year 2000.

19. The deliberations of the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission on the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament had the benefit of the resolution 52/38 F adopted without a vote. However, consensus on the objectives and agenda of an SSOD IV remained elusive in the UNDC. The Heads of State or Government at the Durban NAM Summit reaffirmed the need to continue to press for further steps leading to the convening off SSOD IV with the participation of all member states of the United Nations as well as the need for SSOD IV to review and assess the implementation of SSOD I. We believe that other initiatives, especially on the priority issue of nuclear disarmament, would complement as well as contribute to the success of SSOD IV when it is convened.

20. Mr. Chairman, we have noted with satisfaction that agreement was possible regarding rationalization of the work and the reform of the agenda of the First Committee as well as the revitalization, rationalization and streamlining of the work of the Disarmament Commission. We believe that these measures, along with the able support of the Department of Disarmament Affairs, will be a step in the direction of gearing up the disarmament machinery for achievement of the principles and priorities established by consensus in the declaration and Programme of Action contained in the Final Document of SSOD I.

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USA INDIA SWITZERLAND PERU CUBA RUSSIA SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PHILIPPINES

Date : Sep 24, 1998

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Indo-Vietnam Science & Technology Cooperation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Oct 03, 1998 regarding Indo-Vietnam Science & Technology Cooperation:

India and Vietnam has been cooperating in the field of Science & Technology for several years. Under the agreement, a detailed programme of cooperation has drawn up annually to encourage visits by Indian and Vietnamese scientists to each others institutions. Under this programme of cooperation/agreement a team comprising of 13 Scientists/Experts will be visiting Hanoi to participate in the 5th ASEAN Science & Technology Week (ASTW) scheduled to be held from 5-15 October 1998 in Hanoi. 5th ASTW is being organised by the Ministry of Science, Technology & Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and delegation from all other ASEAN countries would also be gathering in Hanoi for this important event. The Indian delegation has Senior Scientists from the Departments of Technology Information Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC), Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Department of Electronic (DoE) and Department of Biotechnology (DOB).

2. There is a cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development also. Under this, 30 scholarships are offered by India to Vietnamese Scientists every year for training in various fields of Science & Technology. The areas that have been identified for cooperation under the Indo-Vietnam "Programme of Cooperation" are in the field of Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, Information Technology, Electronic & Computers and Science & Technology Management.

3. Additionally, for several years the "Atomic Energy Commission" of India and Vietnam have cooperated in developing the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In February 1998 a team of Vietnamese Scientists from Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission visited India and a return visit by a team of Indian Scientists is likely some time later this year.

4. Progress has also been made in establishing new areas of cooperation such as 'Oceanography', bringing together the Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang (Vietnam) and the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, India. NIO, Goa is organising an international seminar on Information Technology (ITO-98) in Goa from 12-16 October 1998. Two Senior Vietnamese Scientists from Institute of Oceanography Nha Trang would be visiting India to participate in ITO-98 on the invitation of NIO, Goa.

5. "Second Session of Indo-Vietnamese Joint Commission on Science & Technology" is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 2-3 November 1998. During this session, the teams of Vietnam and Indian Scientists will draw up a programme of cooperation for the coming year in various fields of Science & Technology. Also in November 1998, Hanoi will be the venue for the three-day "Indo-Vietnamese Joint Seminar on Biotechnology". It is expected that a six-member delegation of Indian Scientists would visit Hanoi for this purpose.

Similarly, in December 1998, the "ASIA-TECH-98 Exposition" will be organised in Hanoi from 14-17 December 1998. It is hoped that there will be a strong Indian presence on the occasion of this important event.

6. In keeping with the excellent traditions of mutual support, the Scientific and Technological institutions of India and Vietnam are poised to make substantial progress in the field of Science & Technology and Human Resource Development.

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VIETNAM INDIA USA

Date : Oct 03, 1998

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1995

ANNEXURE I

Resolution on "Reducing Nuclear Danger"

In a major initiative at the 53rd UNGA currently underway in New York, India proposed a resolution entitled "Reducing Nuclear Danger". This is the first time that a resolution has been proposed before the world body drawing attention to the dangers posed by doctrines of hairtrigger alert of nuclear weapons entailing risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which could have catastrophic consequences for all mankind.

Speaking at the First Committee, which deals with issues of international security and disarmament, Shri Sharad Pawar, Member of Parliament stated that the initiative of India was aimed at focusing international attention on this clear and present danger. The resolution being proposed by India calls upon all states possessing nuclear weapons to undertake immediate steps for reducing the risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution notes that the reduction of tensions brought about by a change in nuclear doctrines could positively impact on international peace and security and improve the climate for further reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. Significantly the resolution recognizes the need for a review of nuclear doctrines with a view to arriving at a globally negotiated No-first Use Nuclear Agreement. India already has a stated policy of no-first use of nuclear weapons and no use of nuclear weapons against non nuclear weapon states.

The practice of maintaining nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert evolved during the cold war. During the height of the cold war there were several thousand nuclear weapons in the arsenals of nuclear weapon states espousing strategy of first use of nuclear weapons, ready for launch within moments as part of what was known as "launch-on-warning" strategy. While political

antagonisms of the cold war may have subsided the nuclear doctrines inherited from the cold war period have remained intact though a limited number of measures of de-alerting and detargeting of nuclear weapons have been undertaken in the last few years. It is estimated that even now there are more than 5000 nuclear warheads on hair trigger alert ready for launch at very short notice. There is thus a continuing threat of accidental or unintentional launch of nuclear weapons.

Concerns regarding hair-trigger alerts have been expressed by several distinguished institutions and individuals including the following: the Simson Centre Report of December 1995, the Canberra Commission Report of August 1996, the Statement made by 61 Generals and Admirals of December 1996; the US National Academy of Sciences study released in June 1997 on 'The Future of US Nuclear Weapons Policy'. Senator Sam Nuon along with Bruce Blair of the Brookings Institution have also advocated dealerting of nuclear weapons. In the Geneva based Conference on Disarmament the non aligned countries belonging to the group known as the G-21 proposed in August 1996, as part of a Programme of Action of Elimination of Nuclear Weapons a stand down of nuclear weapon systems from a state of operational readiness as one of the early steps in the phased elimination of nuclear weapons. Therefore, concerns regarding hair-trigger alerts have cut across geographic as well as political groupings.

The resolution proposed by India aims at bringing together countries which share these widespread concerns while highlighting the need for states possessing nuclear weapons to stand down their nuclear arsenals thus contributing to confidence building and strategic stability globally.

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INDIA USA AUSTRALIA SWITZERLAND

Date : Oct 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the promotion and protection of investments

The Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties");

Desiring to create conditions favourable for fostering greater investment by investors of one State in the territory of the other State.

Recognising that the encouragement and reciprocal protection under

International agreement of such investment will be conducive to the stimulation of individual business initiative and will increase prosperity in both States;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Agreement:

(1) The term "investor" shall mean:

(a) With respect to the Republic of India:

- natural persons deriving their status as Indian nationals from the law in force in India;

- corporations, firms and associations incorporated or constituted or established under the law in force in any part of India;

(b) With respect to the Republic of Bulgaria:

- a natural person who is a national of the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with its applicable legislation;

- any company, organization or association with or without juridical personality incorporated or constituted in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Bulgaria with a seat in its territory;

(2) The term "investment" shall mean every kind of asset invested, including changes in the form of such investment, in accordance with laws and regulations of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment is made and in particular, though not exclusively, includes:

(a) moveable and immovable property as well as other rights such as mortgages, liens or pledges;

(b) shares, stocks debentures or other forms of participation in companies;

(c) claims to money or to any performance under contract having a financial value;

(d) intellectual property rights, in accordance with the relevant laws of the respective Contracting Party;

(e) business concession conferred by law, under a contract, or an administrative act of competent State authorities.

(3) The term "returns" means the monetary amounts yielded by an investment such as profit, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties and fees;

(4) The term "territory" means:

(a) in respect of the Republic of India: the territory of the Republic of India including its territorial waters and the airspace above it and other maritime zones including the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf over which the

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Republic of India has sovereignty, sovereign rights or exclusive jurisdiction in accordance with its laws in force, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and International Law.

(b) in respect of Bulgaria: the territory under the sovereignty of the Republic of Bulgaria including the territorial sea, as well as the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone, over which the Republic of Bulgaria exercises sovereign rights or jurisdiction in conformity with international law.

Article 2

SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall apply to all investments made by investors of either Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party, accepted as such in accordance with its laws and regulations, whether made before or after the coming into force of this Agreement.

Article 3

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT

(1) Each Contracting Party shall encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other Contracting Party to make investments in its territory, and admit such investments in accordance with its laws and regulations.

(2) Investments and returns of investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times be accorded fair and equitable treatment in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article 4

NATIONAL TREATMENT AND MOST-FAVOURABLE-NATION TREATMENT

(1) Each Contracting Party shall accord to investments of investors of other Contracting Party, treatment which shall not be less favourable than that accorded either to investments of its own investors or to investments of investors of any third State.

(2) In addition, each Contracting Party shall accord to investors of the other Contracting Party, including in respect of returns on their investments, treatment which shall not be less favourable than that accorded to investors of any third State.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) above shall not be construed so as to oblige either Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other Contracting Party the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from:

(a) any existing or future customs unions, free trade area, economic communities or similar international agreement to which it is or may become a party, or

(b) any matter pertaining wholly or mainly to taxation.

Article 5

EXPROPRIATION

(1) Investments of investors of either Contracting Party shall not be nationalised, expropriated or subjected to measures having effect equivalent to nationalisation or expropriation (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") in the territory of the other Contracting Party except for a public purposes in accordance with law on a non-discriminatory basis and against fair and equitable compensation. Such compensation shall amount to the market value of the investment expropriated immediately before the expropriation or before the impending expropriation became public knowledge, whichever is the earlier, shall include interest at the rate applicable in the territory of that Contracting Party until the date of payment, shall be made without unreasonable delay, be effectively realizable and be freely transferable.

(2) The investors affected shall have right, under the law of the Contracting

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Party making the expropriation, to review, by a judicial or other independent authority of that Party, of his or its case and of the valuation of his or its investment in accordance with the principles set out in this Article. The Contracting Party making the expropriation shall make every endeavour to ensure that such review is carried out promptly.

(3) Where a Contracting Party expropriates the assets of a company which is incorporated or constituted under the law in force in any part of its own territory, and in which investors of the other Contracting Party own shares, it shall ensure that the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article are applied to the extent necessary to ensure fair and equitable compensation in respect of their investment to such investors of the other Contracting Party who are owners of those shares.

ARTICLE 6

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES

Investors of one Contracting Party whose investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war or other armed conflict, a state of national emergency or civil disturbances in the territory of the latter

Contracting Party shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, no less favourable than that which the latter Contracting Party accords to its own investors or to investors of any third State. Resulting payments shall be freely transferable.

Article 7

REPATRIATION OF INVESTMENT AND RETURNS

(1) Each Contracting Party shall permit investors of the other Contracting Party, after the fulfilment of their fiscal obligations, the free transfer, without undue delay and on a non-discriminatory basis of all funds related to an investment in its territory. Such funds shall include in particular, though not exclusively:

(a) Capital and additional capital amounts used to maintain and increase investments;

(b) Net operating profits including dividends and interest in proportion to their share-holdings;

(c) Repayments of any loan including interest thereon, relating to the investment;

(d) Payment of royalties and services fees relating to the investment;

(e) Proceeds received from sale of their shares;

(f) Proceeds received by investors in case of sale or partial sale or liquidation of the investments;

(g) The earnings of nationals of one Contracting Party who work in connection with investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) of this Article shall affect the transfer of any compensation under Article 6 of this Agreement.

(3) Currency transfer under paragraph (1) of this Article shall be permitted in the currency of the original Investment or any other convertible currency. Such transfer shall be made at the prevailing market rate of exchange on the date of transfer.

Article 8

SUBROGATION

Where one Contracting Party or its designated agency has guaranteed any indemnity against non-commercial risks in respect of an investment by any of its investors in the territory of the other Contracting Party and has made payment to such investors in respect of their claims

under this Agreement, the other Contracting Party agrees that the first Contracting Party or its designated agency is entitled by virtue of subrogation to exercise the rights and assert the claims of those investors. The subrogated rights or claims shall not exceed the original rights or claim of such investors.

Article 9

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN AN INVESTOR AND A CONTRACTING PARTY

(1) Any dispute between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party in relation to an investment of the former under this Agreement shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably through negotiations between the parties to the dispute.

(2) If such a dispute cannot be settled within six months from the date either Party to the dispute requested settlement through negotiations, the Parties to the dispute may by mutual consent submit the dispute to the competent court of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment was made. Alternatively, the dispute may be submitted by either Party to:

(a) the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) set up by the Convention on Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States done at Washington, March 18, 1965 in case both Contracting Parties are parties to the Convention. As long as this provision is not complied with, the dispute may be settled by mutual consent under the regulations of the ICSID Additional Facility for the Administration of Conciliation, Arbitration and Fact-Finding Proceedings; or

(b) an ad hoc arbitral tribunal to be established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, 1976 (UNCITRAL), subject to the following modifications:

(i) The appointing authority under Article 7 of the Rules shall be the President, the Vice-President or the next senior judge of the International Court of Justice, who is not a national of either Contracting Party. The third arbitrator shall not be a national of either Contracting Party.

(ii) The parties shall appoint their respective arbitrators within two months.

(iii) The arbitral award shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and shall be binding on the parties to the dispute.

(iv) The arbitral tribunal shall state the basis of its decision and give reasons upon the request of either party.

(3) For the purpose of this Article, an investment dispute is defined as a dispute involving (a) the interpretation or application of an investment agreement between a Contracting Party and an investor of the other Contracting Party, (b) an alleged breach of any right conferred or created by this Agreement with respect of an investment.

(4) The award shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

Article 10

DISPUTES BETWEEN THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

(1) Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement should, as far as possible, be settled through negotiations.

(2) If a dispute between the Contracting Parties cannot thus be settled within six months from the time the dispute arose, it shall upon the request of either Contracting Party be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.

(3) Such an arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way: within two months of the receipt of the request for arbitration, each

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Contracting Party shall appoint one member of the tribunal. Those two members shall then select a national of a third State who on approval by the two Contracting Parties shall be appointed Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within two months from the date of appointment of the other two members.

(4) If within the periods specified in paragraph (3) of this Article the necessary appointments have not been made, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make any necessary appointments. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President shall be invited to make the necessary appointments. If the Vice-President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he too is prevented from discharging the said function, the Member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.

(5) The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decisions shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own member of the tribunal and of its representation in the arbitral proceedings; the cost of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties. The tribunal may, however, in its decision direct that a higher proportion of costs shall be borne by one of the two Contracting Parties, and this award shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. The tribunal shall determine its own procedures.

Article 11

ENTRY AND SOJOURN OF PERSONNEL

A Contracting Party shall, subject to its laws applicable from time to time relating to the entry and sojourn of non-citizens, permit natural persons of the

other Contracting Party and personnel employed by companies of the other Contracting Party to enter and remain in its territory for the purpose of engaging in activities connected with investments.

Article 12

APPLICABLE LAWS

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, all investments shall be governed by the laws in force in the territory of the Contracting Party in which such investments are made.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this Article nothing in this Agreement precludes the host Contracting Party from taking action for the protection of its essential security interests or in circumstances of extreme emergency in accordance with its laws normally and reasonably applied on a non discriminatory basis.

Article 13

APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES

If the provisions of law of either Contracting Party or obligations under international law existing at present or established hereafter between the Contracting Parties in addition to the present Agreement, contain rules, whether general or specific, entitling investments by investors of the other Contracting Party to a treatment more favourable than is provided for by the present Agreement, such rules shall to the extent that they are more favourable prevail over the present Agreement.

Article 14

ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of Instruments of Ratification.

Article 15

DURATION AND TERMINATION

(1) This agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years and there-

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after it shall be deemed to have been automatically extended unless either Contracting Party gives to the other Contracting Party a written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement. The Agreement shall stand terminated one year from the date of receipt of such written notice.

(2) Notwithstanding termination of this Agreement pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article, the Agreement shall continue to be effective for a further period of ten years from the date of its termination in respect of investments

made or acquired before the date of termination of this Agreement.

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

Done at New Delhi on this 26th day of October, 1998 in two originals each in the Hindi, Bulgarian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-

For the Government of
the Republic of India

Sd/-

For the Government of
the Republic of Bulgaria

INDIA BULGARIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE III

Memorandum of Understanding between the National Centre for Trade Information, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi and the Bulgarian Export Promotion Centre, Ministry of Trade and Tourism, Sofia

Recognising the importance of the availability of economic and business related information in the economic co-operation between the Republic of India and Republic of Bulgaria.

The National Centre for Trade Information, Ministry of Commerce hereinafter referred as "NCTI" and the Bulgarian Export Promotion Centre, Ministry of Trade and Tourism, hereinafter referred as "BEPC" and collectively referred to as "the Parties hereto" agree as under:

1. The NCTI and BEPC shall provide each other at their own costs with timely, reliable and useful economic and business related information on the Republic of India and Republic of Bulgaria.

2. The Parties hereto shall provide information to each other in the basis that the information are not classified as commercially sensitive and confidential government documents. Each party can also restrict the disclosure and distribution of the information provided. Both Parties hereto agree that

those information will not be provided to third party.

3. The specific types of economic, trade and businesses related information on electronic media and hard copy to be provided by the Parties hereto are given below:

3.1 Country Profile and Product Profile of respective countries.

3.2 Current information with reference to their country and specific product (s).

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4. The parties hereto shall assist each other in:

4.1 Bringing importers and exporters of their country together in promotion of trade between the two countries.

4.2 Visiting delegations by arranging meetings and help delegates in locating the local partners.

5. The parties hereto shall respect and preserve the other Party's copyright in the materials provided, as well as, any related intellectual property rights.

6. To further the co-operation on the exchange of information the Parties hereto shall meet as may be necessary and mutually agreed upon.

7. This Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred as "MoU" shall enter into force upon the date of its bilateral signing.

8. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be automatically renewed annually unless terminated by either Party hereto giving 6 months written advance notice.

9. This MoU of co-operation shall be governed by the laws in force in the Republic of India and Republic of Bulgaria.

10. This MoU has been signed in 2 original copies in English, all two being equally authentic on 26th October, 1998 in New Delhi, the Republic of India.

Sd/-

(ANIL K. SINGH)

Executive Director

National Centre for Trade Information

Signed for and on behalf of

National Centre for Trade Information

Ministry of Commerce

Republic of India

Sd/-

(A. TASSEV)

Deputy Minister on

Trade and Tourism

Signed for and on behalf of

Bulgarian Export Promotion Centre
Ministry of Trade and Tourism
Republic of Bulgaria

BULGARIA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE IV

Agreement of mutual cooperation between the India Trade Promotion Organisation and the International Fair Inc. Plovdiv

The India Trade Promotion Organisation - "Pragati Bhawan", Pragati Maidan, New Delhi-110 001, the Republic of India - Telephone: 00-91-11-3318374, Fax: 00-91-11-3318142, represented by Mr. K. T. Chacko, Executive Director and hereinafter called ITPO.

AND

The International Fair Inc. Plovdiv - 37, Tzar Boris III - Obeditel, 4003 Plovdiv, the Republic of Bulgaria - Telephone 00-359-32-231094, Fax: 00-359-32 273078 represented by Mr. Kr. Obretenov,

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Chairman of the Board of Directors and Mr. Al. Daykov, Executive Director and hereinafter called IF Inc. Plovdiv.

Considering the roles they play in the economic development of their respective countries and taking into consideration the benefits from strengthening the bonds between the Republic of India and Republic of Bulgaria, we have agreed the following:

The ITPO and IF Inc. Plovdiv would promote mutual co-operation for expansion of trade between the Republic of India and Republic of Bulgaria by participating in International trade fairs being organised in each other's country.

In pursuance of the above Agreement, the two Parties hereby agree for the following:

1. Both Parties have agreed to allocate stands on reciprocal basis in the fairs organised by each other.
2. The ITPO shall allocate to the IF Inc. Plovdiv free of charge one

stand of 144 sq. mtrs. area with ready built standard stand (with octonorm system in booths of 9 sq. mtrs. or in multiples thereof) for the India International Trade Fair'99 that will be held in the Republic of India between November 14-27, 1999.

3. The IF Inc. Plovdiv shall allocate to the ITPO free of charge one stand of 144 sq. mtrs. area with ready built standard stand (with octonorm system in booths of 9 sq. mtrs. or in multiples thereof) for International Fair of Consumer Goods that will be held in the Republic of Bulgaria in May 1999.

OTHER CONDITIONS

1. Both Parties would endeavour to allocate upon specific request a larger area with payment of the tariffs in force for the respective exhibiting events.

2. The other supplementary specified services will be carried out against payment at the tariffs in force.

3. The both Parties will order the final area and specified services within the deadline time stipulated in the registration forms for each above mentioned exhibiting events with the understanding that together with the order the payment due, will be effected.

4. Any litigation or disputes will be settled by the two Parties through mutual consultations.

Signed today, i.e. on 26th October, 1988 at New Delhi, in two English original copies - one copy for each party.

For the ITPO

Authorised Signatory
On behalf of the
IF Inc. Plovdiv

Sd/-
K. T. Chacko
Executive Director

Sd/-
A. Tassev
Deputy Minister of
Trade and Tourism

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INDIA BULGARIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE V

Memorandum of Understanding between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA)

With a view to promote, improve and develop the economic relations and trade between the business communities in India and Bulgaria.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi and

The Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA), Sofia.

Have agreed to sign the hereunder Memorandum of Understanding.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the apex organisation for industry in India. CII serves as a reference point for Indian Industry and the international business community. CII identifies and strengthens industry role in the economic development of the country.

CII's principal objectives are to provide information, advisory, consultative and representative services to industry and government. The principles of CII include professional, analytical and unbiased approach and fostering competitiveness of Indian Industry through global and partnerships.

The Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA) is a voluntary, non-governmental organisation of the Bulgarian business and industry. BIA is a non-profit organisation, incorporating physical persons and legal entities conducting business activity in the field of private, public and co-operative sectors of economy.

The principal objective of the Bulgarian Industrial Association is to integrate the interests of its members and promote their development for the realisation of effective and prosperous economic activities.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Bulgarian Industrial Association have been assigned the task of contributing to the economic co-operation between Bulgaria and India as well as of enhancing knowledge and understanding of each other.

OBJECTIVES

1. To facilitate and provide the businessmen of both countries with opportunities for doing business.
2. CII and BIA would endeavour to undertake studies to determine the support which might benefit their respective members under this understanding which fill

further be developed into specific programmes.

3. To develop acquaintances and friendly relations between the two business communities at the decision-making levels providing them with chances to explore the avenues of co-operation.
4. To approach national authorities, if needed, at both ends, to improve the climate for the above-mentioned co-operation by removing impediments and increasing the encouragement for mutual investments.
5. To encourage the exchange of goods and service through personal contacts.
6. To encourage deeper and long-term market establishment including mutual investment by supplying the proper information and services for the businessmen taking interest.

TERMS OF OPERATION

1. The parties under this Understanding shall develop their initiatives into specific programmes.

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2. Close and regular contacts shall be maintained between the two parties.
3. CII and BIA shall assist and facilitate members visiting India and Bulgaria.
4. Financing, membership and programme of CII and BIA is the responsibility of each party independently.
5. When appropriate, CII and BIA shall join particular support undertaking (excluding financial support) as to assisting the participation of their members in exhibitions, fairs, etc., if such support is desirable and feasible.
6. BIA and CII agree to exchange professional experience relating to the services rendered to their members for the successful outcome of the specific programmes.
7. CII and BIA agree to exchange information about products and industrial processes which may be available, industrial training, sources of financing, offers and requests for joint ventures, licensing and identification of possible partners.
8. BIA and CII agree to share information on economic and commercial matters with regard to Bulgaria and India and on specific industrial sectors of both countries and on those requested by either of the signing parties.
9. BIA and CII agree to support activities such as seminars, courses and conferences organised for Bulgarian and Indian specialists in India and in Bulgaria in those industrial sectors agreed upon between the Bulgarian Industrial Association and the Confederation of Indian Industry as well as to promote those events through their publicity media.

10. CII and BIA agree to provide full co-operation to each other in the promotion of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions both in Bulgaria and in India.

This Memorandum of Understanding entered into in Mumbai on 29 October 1998.

Sd/-

Jayant Bhuyan
Senior Director
Confederation of Indian Industry

Sd/-

Tonio Dimitrov
Director
International Economic Relations
Bulgarian Industrial Association

INDIA USA BULGARIA PERU

Date : Oct 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE VI

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Namibia for setting up of the Plastic Technology Demonstration and Common Facility Centre at Ondangwa, Namibia, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Government of India

The Government of India and the Government of Namibia, in the spirit of close and friendly relations existing between the two countries and being desirous of further expanding and strengthening cooperation.

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Have entered into this Agreement for gifting of a Plastic Technology Demonstration and Common Facility Centre to Namibia as a sign of deep and abiding friendship between the people of India and the people of Namibia.

Article I

1.1 The Plastic Technology Demonstration and Common Facility Centre will be located at Ondangawa, in the existing facilities at the Development Brigade Corporation (DBC) or any other appropriate site at Ondangwa.

1.2 The Centre will be named as INDIA-NAMIBIA PLASTIC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (INPTC).

1.3 The INPTC would be set up on turnkey basis by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), New Delhi on behalf of the Government of India.

1.4 The Government of India has appointed the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), New Delhi to act as its Implementing Agency.

1.5 The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Republic of Namibia will be designated as the nodal agency of Government of Namibia and will coordinate all actions on its behalf for effective and expeditious implementation of the INPTC project. The NSIC shall liaise directly with the MTI for matters connected with the project.

1.6 The INPTC on completion, commissioning and formal handing over, will become the property of the Government of Namibia. The Government of Namibia will assume full responsibility for its management, maintenance, running and upkeep.

1.7 The Namibian side would consult NSIC before any modification in the structure even after handing over of the INPTC.

Article II

2.1 The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) will be the nodal Ministry on behalf of the Government of India, responsible for implementing the project. The Government of India agrees to gift the machines and equipments required for the INPTC project to the Government of Namibia. The machines and equipment will be shipped to the port of Walvis-Bay by the Government of India.

2.2 The NSIC will arrange for on-site training of Namibian personnel required for management, maintenance and upkeep of the INPTC. Raw material will be provided by the NSIC, for trial and commissioning period.

2.3 Ministry of Trade & Industry, Government of Namibia, will ensure availability of trained personnel, whenever available, during the entire period of implementation of the project.

Article III

3.1 The Ministry of Trade and Industry, Government of Namibia, shall provide the following facilities for the successful completion of the project:

INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) To provide sheds for installation of project having total area of 2250 sq. mtrs. for both the Plastic Technology Demonstration Centre and Common Facility Centre with 750 KW 3 - phase power supply at 440 volts. 50 cycle/sec.

(b) Preparation of the foundation of the machinery as per the foundation drawings to be supplied by NSIC, including foundation material like cement, bricks and other material as may be required for each machine.

(c) To provide electrical connections with isolating switches upto each machine

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as per the layout drawing provided by the NSIC.

- (d) To provide water connection with drainage system for the individual machines where required.
- (e) To procure tools, cutters, spare parts etc. for long term running of the Centre.
- (f) To supply consumables like lubricating hydraulic oil, grease and cotton waste for long term running of the Centre.
- (g) To provide contingency funds to meet unforeseen requirement at the time of installation, commissioning and trial phase.
- (h) Salaries for all Namibian personnel engaged in the Plastic Technology Demonstration and Common Facility Centre will be paid by the Namibian side.

3.2 Experts for Technical Assistance:

An eight member team of experts consisting of three engineers and five technicians will be deputed by NSIC to provide the required technical assistance for the project as per details given below:

No. of Experts	Duration Man-month
4 Experts	- for 12 month (i.e. 48 man month) including installation and commissioning.
4 Experts	- for 1 month (i.e. 4 man month) during installation and commissioning.

For these experts, the MTI shall provide the following facilities:

- (a) Furnished accommodation with power and water.
- (b) Local transport for official purpose.
- (c) Medical facilities limited to OPD only at State Hospital.
- (d) Material handling equipment for unloading and movement of machines and equipment.
- (e) Services of trained personnel during the entire period of implementation of the project.

3.3 The Government of Namibia shall meet the following expenditure:

- (a) Custom Duty and any other levy/cess on machinery and equipment for the Centre, if applicable.

(b) Statutory payments to local authorities towards land, building or supplies for the centre.

3.4 The Ministry of Trade and Industry shall provide the following facilities:

(a) Arrange clearance of consignment on arrival at Walvis Bay and arrange transportation to the project site and proper storage facilities till the arrival of the experts for installation.

(b) Provide for counterpart staff both for management level and technical level to take over the Centre from the Indian experts on completion of technical assistance. They should be associated with the Indian technical experts from the time of installation itself.

3.5 General facilities to be provided by the Ministry of Trade and Industry:

(a) Office accommodation including computer/printer and communication facilities, such as telephone and telefax.

(b) Secretarial services to be provided by the MTI Regional Office at Ondangwa.

(c) Security arrangements at site and storage areas where machines and equipment would be stored.

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(d) Safety equipment (fire extinguishers, first aid box, etc.)

(e) Legal assistance, if required, in pursuance of the project.

Article IV

All expenditure relating to deputation of experts except those mentioned in Article 3.2 will be borne by the Government of India.

Article V

The parties to this Agreement, may by mutual consent add, modify, amend or delete any words, phrases, sentences or articles in this Agreement.

Article VI

In the event of any difficulties, differences or dispute arising between the Implementing Agency and the Nodal Agency in connection with the interpretation or application of this Agreement, the two Governments shall consult each other with a view to resolving any such difficulties, differences or dispute.

Article VII

This Agreement will come into effect on the date of its signing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments have signed this Agreement at WINDHOEK on ---- day of --- - 1998 in two originals in English.

For the Government of the
Republic of India

For the Government of the
Republic of Namibia

INDIA NAMIBIA USA

Date : Oct 03, 1998

November

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Date : Nov 01, 1998

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HUNGARY

50th Anniversary of the Establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Hungary

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1998 on 50th Anniversary of Indo-Hungary diplomatic relations:

Today (18 November 1998) marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Hungary.

To commemorate this important event, several functions are being organised in India and Hungary. An International Round Table Conference on "India and Hungary: Perspectives on the Changing World Order" is being held at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi from 17-18 November, 1998, with the participation of distinguished academics and experts from India and Hungary. The Seminar was inaugurated on 17th November, 1998 by Prof. Ashis Datta, Vice Chancellor of JNU. The key-note address was delivered by Shri S. T. Devare, Secretary (ER), MEA. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Devare emphasised the historically close, friendly, and multifaceted relations between India and Hungary, which predated the establishment of diplomatic relations. He noted that with the maturing of democracy in Hungary, the traditional friendship between the two countries had acquired a new dimension based on shared democratic values, beliefs and aspirations. He stressed Hungary's importance as a trade and economic partner of India in Central Europe and stated that economic reforms in both countries had opened up fresh opportunities for intensifying bilateral cooperation. Shri Devare emphasised the convergence of views of the two countries on a wide range of international issues, which was a source of added inspiration for the two countries to work jointly on issues of global significance. He expressed confidence that through joint efforts the bilateral ties between the two countries would develop and diversify even further to mutual benefit.

Similar functions to commemorate the historic event are being held in Hungary. A symposium "Hungary, India and the European Union" is being held in Budapest on 26th November with the support of the Hungarian Foreign Affairs Institute. It is expected that there would be high level participation on both sides at the Symposium, including by eminent Indian academicians.

HUNGARY INDIA

Date : Nov 18, 1998

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HUNGARY

Symposium on "Hungary, India and the European Union"

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 27, 1998 on symposium on "Hungary, India and the European Union":

A symposium on "Hungary, India and the European Union" was inaugurated on 26th November by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister for Human Resource Development to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Hungary. The wellattended Symposium was co-inaugurated by the Hungarian Minister of State for

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Foreign Affairs, Dr. Janos Herman and the resource persons included former Foreign Secretary Shri A. P. Venkateswaran, Dr. V. A. Pai Panandikar, President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy research and Prof. R. K. Jain of J.N.U. Dr. Joshi dwelt upon the long history of cultural contacts between India and Hungary which were diversified into a multi-faced relationship during last 5-decades. He expressed hope that Hungary's impending entry into EU would add another dimension - multi-lateral - to the traditionally warm and friendly ties between the two countries.

Other items on HRD Minister's programme to commemorate the event included unveiling of a plaque at the birth place of well-known painter Amrita Sher-Gill of Indo-Hungarian parentage and attending a special Reception at Ambassador's Residence.

During his stay, Dr. Joshi had cordial and fruitful discussions with Prof. Janos Hamori, Minister for National Cultural Heritage, Dr. Janos Martonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Zoltan Pokorny, Minister of Education. HRD Minister also paid visit to Department of Indology in ELTE, the oldest university in Hungary, where, inter alia he also presented more than 50 books on Sanskrit language and literature. The Minister also paid visit to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and saw their 'Oriental Collection' including some Sanskrit manuscripts over two centuries old, as also collections of the well-known Hungarian Indologists of the past, such as Sandor Csoma Korosi.

Tomorrow, i.e., 27th November, before leaving Hungary, the Minister is due to call on the Hungarian President Dr. Arpad Goncz, whose special affection and regard for India is well-known.

A 6-page special supplement on India was also brought out by Hungary's most popular and prestigious daily, 'Nepszabadsag' to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations.

HUNGARY INDIA USA

Date : Nov 27, 1998

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1995

INDIA

Parliamentary Consultation Committee of Ministry of External Affairs

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 11, 1998 regarding meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee:

The Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs met today at 1100 hrs. under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. Smt. Vasundhara Raje, Minister of State for External Affairs, and senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of External Affairs were also present. This inaugural meeting of the newly constituted Committee was well attended; 16 members of the Lok Sabha and 14 Members of the Rajya Sabha being present.

The agenda of the meeting comprised Indo-Pak relations and India's nuclear policy.

Prime Minister emphasised India's desire to have peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan. He expressed satisfaction that a composite direct bilateral dialogue process had begun between the two countries which would help to foster confidence and trust, put in place a stable structure of cooperation and address out-

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standing issues. PM also recalled that Government was bound by the Parliamentary Resolution of 1994 on Jammu & Kashmir.

There was unanimity among the members in calling upon Pakistan to respect the status-quo established by the Simla Agreement of 1972 and to show its serious intention of working with India to build normal relations, by abandoning its path of state-sponsored terrorism, and in expressing a resolve to defeat Pakistan proxy war.

Members called for greater people to people contact between India and Pakistan. PM fully shared this sentiment and underlined India's commitment to this process. It was noted during the discussions that the dialogue addressed difficult issues which required perseverance and it was also noted that there was no place for third party involvement. Members expressed the hope that the composite dialogue would lead towards full normalisation of relations.

Responding to queries about India's proposals, PM gave details about the ten specific CBMs proposed by India which were practical steps. The hope was expressed that Pakistan would give serious consideration to these proposals.

PM recapitulated the rationale of our decisions and elements of our nuclear policy in terms of a minimum nuclear deterrent and a no-first-use doctrine, and emphasised the Government's commitment to maintaining national consensus on the issue of national security.

Members raised a number of issues relating to CTBT. Prime Minister recalled the national consensus on maintaining the nuclear option and pointed out that the tests carried out were necessary to ensure the future credibility of India's nuclear deterrent. Having achieved this objective, India had declared a moratorium and would now ensure credibility of its nuclear deterrent through other means that did not require explosive testing. Prime Minister informed Members that the issue of India's adherence to CTBT was one of the subjects of discussion in our dialogue with the key interlocutors including USA. In view of the reservations expressed by several members on this issue, he assured them that Parliament would be taken into confidence on any decision taken by the Government in keeping with the tradition of national consensus building.

Government had indicated its strong opposition to the decision taken by certain countries on imposing coercive economic measures following the tests. At the same time, as a country with a large and diversified economy, there was sufficient resilience to withstand the impact of sanctions. Members also pointed to the expression of confidence reflected in the response to the issue of Resurgent India Bonds.

It was pointed out that India's decision were based not on the quest for status but in response to our essential security needs. Prime Minister emphasised that India's commitment to nuclear disarmament remains undiluted. We have supported initiatives for global nuclear disarmament in the past and continue to support them today. We are ready to work with all countries, individuals and NGOs to register progress towards the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free-world. It is precisely this approach along with that of a responsible country which has adopted a policy of minimum deterrent and no-first use that sets us apart from other nuclear weapon states.

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INDIA PAKISTAN USA MALI CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 11, 1998

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1995

IRAQ

Iraq development

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1998 regarding developments in Iraq:

We have watched with deep concern the rapid deterioration in the situation in the Gulf following the decision of the Government of Iraq to suspend cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM). Military forces in the Gulf are being strengthened and there is talk of armed action against Iraq.

While India urges full implementation of the UN Resolutions relating to Iraq, we still hope that the present crisis can be defused peacefully and further sufferings of the people of the region avoided. In this context we would support efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to pursue a diplomatic resolution of differences between Iraq and UNSCOM.

MALDIVES

Vice-President's visit to the Maldives

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 10, 1998 on Vice-President's visit to the Maldives:

The Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant accompanied by his wife is leading a delegation to the Maldives, to participate in the ceremonies connected with the inauguration of President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom for a 5th term. It may be recalled that President Gayoom was re-elected in a referendum held on 16.10.98. The Vice-President left for Male this afternoon and will be in Male till the morning of Friday, Nov 13, 1998.

India and the Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links. India was among the first to recognise Maldives and establish diplomatic relations after that country attained independence in 1965. The President of the Maldives visited India in June-July 1998, in his capacity as the Chairman of SAARC. The visit provided a useful opportunity to review the state of bilateral relations.

India has a multi-faceted cooperation programme with the Maldives. A Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation was set up in 1986. India's assistance to the Maldives has focused on health care and human resources development. During Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Male in February 1986, it was agreed that a medical complex would be established in Male with Indian assistance. Pursuant to this agreement, a 200 bed hospital, having all

major specialised departments, including ICU, CCU, Ots, Dental and psychiatric departments and a Nurses Training Centre was established in Male and was formally

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inaugurated by our Prime Minister in April 1995. India is assisting in the running of the hospital by providing doctors and other personnel required by the hospital.

The Maldives Institute of Technical Education (MITE) was set up with Indian assistance. It was formally inaugurated by the President of Maldives on 5.5.97. and has a capacity to train at least 200 students a year in various technical/vocational disciplines.

Indian experts including doctors, nurses, teachers and sports coaches have been deputed to the Maldives from time to time at the request of the Maldivian Government. About 70 Maldivians are offered training in India every year in diverse areas including medicine, engineering, computers etc.

Educational Consultants India Ltd. (Ed. CIL), has been offering assistance to the Maldives in the area of human resource development by helping the Maldives in placing its candidates in Indian institutions and by organising specially tailored courses for persons sponsored by the Maldivian Government.

The visit of the Vice-President testifies to the importance that India attaches to its relations with its friendly neighbour, the Maldives. During the visit, the Vice-President will, apart from participating in the ceremonies connected with the inauguration of President Gayoom, will also call on President Gayoom. The Vice-President will be visiting the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) and the Maldives Institute of Technical Education which are lasting symbols of Indo-Maldives cooperation.

IRAQ INDIA USA MALDIVES CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 13, 1998

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1995

MALDIVES

Vice-President attends President Gayoom's Inauguration

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 11, 1998 regarding President Gayoom's swearing in ceremony attended by Vice-President:

The Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant, represented the Government and the people of India at the ceremony held in Male today, to swear in Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom as the President of the Maldives for a 5th consecutive term. The Vice-President, accompanied by his wife is presently on a visit to Male from 10-13 November, 1998, leading a delegation to participate in the ceremonies connected with the inauguration of President Gayoom. President Gayoom was sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Rasheed Ibrahim, at 10.00 A.M. today in the presence of the members of the Majlis, visiting delegations and Maldivian leaders. The Vice-President will be calling on President Gayoom later today.

Indo-Maldivian relations over the years have been marked by cordiality and warmth and President Gayoom had taken personal interest in strengthening these multifaceted relations. India has been cooperating with the Maldives in its developmental efforts. India's assistance to the Maldives has focused on health care and human resources development. The 200 bedded Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, established with Indian assistance was inaugurated in 1995. Another important institution set up with Indian help is the Maldives Institute of Technical Education, which was inaugurated by President Gayoom in May 1997. The institution has a capacity to train at least 200 students a year in various technical/vocational disciplines. The Vice-President will be visiting these two lasting symbols of Indo-Maldives cooperation tomorrow.

3. The Vice-President will be meeting the members of the Indian community on Nov 12, 1998 at a reception to be

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hosted in his honour by India's High Commissioner in Male, Mr. K. S. Jasrotia. There are over 5000 Indian nationals in the Maldives, who have made positive contribution to the developmental efforts of that island nation.

MALDIVES INDIA USA

Date : Nov 12, 1998

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MALDIVES

Vice-President calls on President Gayoom

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 12, 1998 regarding call on President Gayoom's by Vice-President:

The Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant, who is presently on a visit

to the Maldives called on the Maldivian President Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, on 11.11.1998. The discussions between the two leaders covered areas of bilateral cooperation and ways and means to strengthen SAARC. The Maldivian President expressed his keenness on early implementation of SAFTA. Later, the Vice-President participated in the reception held by President Gayoom, to mark his swearing in earlier in the day as President for a fifth consecutive term.

The Vice-President visited the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital today, where he was received by the Maldivian Minister for Health, Mr. Ahmed Abdulla. After visiting all the facilities in the hospital, he observed that IGMH is a role model for India's cooperation in the health sector with other countries. Later he visited the Maldives Institute of Technical Education.

The Vice-President also visited the 400 year old Mosque 'Hukuru Miskiy'. The Mosque had been restored by the Archeological Survey of India in 1988. The Vice-President will be returning to India tomorrow on completion of his visit to the Maldives.

MALDIVES INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Nov 12, 1998

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PAKISTAN

Joint Press statement on Wullar Barrage/Tulbal Navigation Project

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement issued at New Delhi on Nov 05, 1998 regarding dialogue between India and Pakistan on Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project:

As part of the composite and integrated dialogue between India and Pakistan on the basis of the agreed agenda of 23rd June, 1997, Wullar Barrage/Tulbal Navigation Project was discussed in New Delhi on 5.11.1998. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Z. Hasan Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources and the Pakistan delegation was led by Syed Shahid Husain Secretary to Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Water and Power.

Syed Shahid Husain will call on Shri B. C. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India.

The discussions were held in a frank and constructive atmosphere. While re-

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affirming their continued commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, both

sides exchanged views and took note of the previous discussions on the subject from October 1987 to August 1992.

It was agreed that the discussions would continue at the next round of the dialogue process with a view to finding a solution to the issue consistent with the provisions of the Treaty.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 05, 1998

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PAKISTAN

Joint Press statement on the Siachen Issue

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement issued at New Delhi on Nov 06, 1998 regarding Indo-Pak discussion on Siachen:

As part of the composite and integrated dialogue process between India and Pakistan on the basis of the agreed agenda of the Joint Statement of June 23, 1997, discussions were held on the Siachen issue in Delhi on Nov 06, 1998. The Indian delegation at these discussions was led by Defence Secretary, Shri Ajit Kumar and the Pakistani delegation by Defence Secretary Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Iftikhar Ali Khan.

2. The Pakistan Defence Secretary also called on Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister), Shri George Fernandes.

3. Discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The two sides stated their respective positions on the issue.

4. It was agreed to continue discussions on the issue during the next round of the dialogue process.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 06, 1998

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PAKISTAN

Joint Press Statement on Sir Creek discussion

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement issued at New Delhi on Nov 09, 1998, Indo-Pak talks on Sir Creek:

As part of the composite and integrated dialogue between India and Pakistan on the basis of the agreed agenda of 23 June, 1997, Sir Creek was discussed in New Delhi on 9th November, 1998.

2. The Indian delegation was led by Lt. Gen. A. K. Ahuja, Surveyor General of India and the Pakistan delegation was led by Rear Admiral M. Jameel Akhtar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
3. The discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The two sides stated their respective positions.
4. It was agreed to continue discussions during the next round of the dialogue process.

PAKISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Nov 09, 1998

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PAKISTAN

Joint Press Statement on Economic and Commercial Cooperation

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement issued at New Delhi on Nov 10, 1998 regarding Indo-Pak discussion on Economic and commercial cooperation:

1. As part of the composite and integrated dialogue process between India and Pakistan on the basis of the agreed agenda of June 23, 1997, discussions were held on Economic and Commercial Cooperation in Delhi on Nov 10, 1998. The Indian delegation at these discussions was led by Commerce Secretary, Shri P. P. Prabhu,

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and the Pakistan delegation by Commerce Secretary Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman.

2. Mr. Mohammad Sulaiman will call on Commerce Minister, Shri R. K. Hegde at 1600 hrs. today.

3. The discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere.
4. They exchanged views on various aspects of Economic and Commercial Cooperation and decided to continue discussions at the next round of the dialogue process.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 10, 1998

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PAKISTAN

Joint Press Statement-India-Pakistan Talks on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement issued at New Delhi on Nov 12, 1998 regarding India-Pakistan Talks on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking:

The following is the text of the Joint Press Statement issued at the end of the talks held between India and Pakistan:

"As part of the composite and integrated dialogue between India and Pakistan on the basis of the agreed agenda of 23 June, 1997, Terrorism and Drug Trafficking were discussed in New Delhi on 12th November, 1998.

The Indian Delegation was led by Shri B. P. Singh, Home Secretary and the Pakistan Delegation was led by Mr. Hafeezullah Ishaq, Secretary, Ministry of Interior.

The discussion was held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The two sides stated their respective positions.

It was agreed to continue discussions during the next round of the dialogue process".

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 12, 1998

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PAKISTAN

Joint Press Statement on Cultural Exchange

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement issued at New Delhi on Nov 13, 1998 on promotion of friendly exchanges in various Fields:

1. As part of the composite and integrated dialogue between India and Pakistan on the basis of the agreed agenda of 23rd June, 1997, Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in Various Fields was discussed in New Delhi on the 13th November 1998. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. R. V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Secretary, Department of Culture, and the Pakistan delegation was led by Syed Roshan Zamir, Secretary of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs of the Government of Pakistan.
2. Syed Roshan Zamir will call on Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister for Human Resources Development.
3. The discussions were held in a frank, cordial and constructive atmosphere.
4. Both sides exchanged views on various aspects of Promotion of Friendly Exchanges between India and Pakistan and agreed to continue discussions at the next round of the dialogue process.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 13, 1998

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PAKISTAN

Press Release on Economic & Commercial Cooperation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 20, 1998 regarding sale of Power by Pakistan to India and Delhi-Lahore Bus Service:

During the recent bilateral meetings on Economic & Commercial Co-operation and Friendly Exchanges in Various Fields, held as a part of the composite dialogue process, it was agreed that technical level discussions will be held between India and Pakistan on the sale of power by Pakistan to India and to finalise an Agreement as also commercial and operational details for the Delhi-

Lahore/Lahore-Delhi Bus Service. It has now been decided that Indian delegations will visit Pakistan from 24th to 27th November 1998 for discussions on sale of power and from 1st to 4th December 1998 for discussions on the Bus Service.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 20, 1998

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1995

PAKISTAN

Press Release on Release of Indian/Pakistan Fishermen

Following is the text of a statement of Official Spokesman issued at New Delhi on Nov 23, 1998 regarding release of Indian Fishermen and Fishing Vessels by Pakistan and vice-versa:

In response to a question, the Official Spokesman stated that 190 Indian fishermen/31 fishing vessels released by Government of Pakistan sailed from Karachi on the evening of 21st November 1998 and arrived in Okha (Gujarat) this morning. We are glad that the Indian fishermen have returned home.

India had conveyed to Pakistan on 31st October, 1998 and again on 2nd November, 1998 the decision to release 149 Pakistani fishermen/18 fishing vessels, including 40 Pakistan fishermen arrested on 24th October 1998. Pakistan was requested to make necessary arrangements for their return. Having not received any response from the Government of Pakistan so far, they have again been reminded today.

India and Pakistan have agreed that, in future, fisherman of either country, arrested for inadvertently straying into the territorial waters of the other, would be released immediately on completion of necessary procedures.

PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Nov 23, 1998

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RUSSIA

Visit of Russian Prime Minister

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1998 regarding visit of H.E. President B. N. Yeltsin and H.E. Prime Minister Y. M. Primakov to India:

The Russian authorities have suggested a visit by His Excellency Prime

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Minister Y. M. Primakov to India during December 1998. They have also indicated that this is not a substitution for the State visit to India by His Excellency President B. N. Yeltsin, which still stands. Mutually convenient dates for these visits are presently being worked out.

RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date : Nov 19, 1998

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SAARC

Seventeenth SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Programme Meeting, New Delhi (November 17-18, 1998)

Following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1998 regarding Seventeenth SAARC Audio Visual Exchange Programme Meeting:

The SAVE Programme, conceived at the Bangalore Summit, has been operational since 1987. Its basic aim is to promote mutual understanding in the region and facilitate the attainment of SAARC objectives which broadly are to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia, improve their quality of life and accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development.

The SAVE Programme has so far emphasised the positive features of the Region's shared cultural ethos and similarities in the perceptions of its peoples. Several programmes on culture, tourism and development have been broadcast so far. Joint productions by Member States of both Radio and Television programmes have also been undertaken to enhance the quality of Programmes. Cooperation has extended to training programmes on various aspects of the broadcasting sectors.

The SAARC Audio Visual Exchange Programme Committee meets periodically to review and scrutinise the programme.

The Meeting will be inaugurated by Shri P. G. Mankad, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India at the Sheesh Mahal Hall, Hotel Taj Palace, Sarder Pater Road, New Delhi on 17th November 1998 at 10.00 hrs. Details of the programme are attached.

All SAARC countries have confirmed their participation in the Meeting.

In addition to the substantive agenda, the Meeting will screen and select audio and video tapes for broadcast during the next year under the SAVE Programme. Other items include identification of Projects which could be executed through funding from multilateral agencies, holding SAARC film festivals, production of a Documentary on SAARC - The first Decade" and consideration of the "SAARC Plan of Action on Media and Information" adopted at the SAARC Information Ministers' Meeting in Dhaka in April, 1998.

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INDIA USA BANGLADESH

Date : Nov 13, 1998

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U.S.A.

Indo-US Economic Relation

Following is the text of a statement of the Official Spokesman issued at New Delhi on Nov 07, 1998 regarding lifting of some Economic restrictions:

We have seen news reports emanating from Washington regarding lifting of some economic restrictions imposed by the United States against India. We have always maintained that such unilateral and coercive measures are unjustified and counter-productive and should be lifted.

India has been engaged in an intensive dialogue on a range of issues relating to disarmament and non-proliferation with the United States. These discussions have led to a narrowing of gaps of perception. We note that according to press reports, it is in recognition of this that the United States has lifted some of the measures.

We are of the firm view that all such measures, particularly, those relating to lending by multi-lateral financial institutions should go. The multilateral institutions, in particular, are economic and development-oriented organisations, and should not be misused for political purposes to suit the whims and preferences of particular countries.

In this context, we also note press reports quoting US Government officials stating that the US will work to permit lending from the multi-lateral financial institutions to support an IMF agreement with Pakistan "whose implosion Washington is keen to prevent". India has nothing against economic assistance to Pakistan and has consistently voted in the World Bank and other forums in favour of such assistance. The remarks attributed to US officials, however, reveal a selective and discriminatory approach which we find hard to understand and reconcile with.

USA INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 07, 1998

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U.S.A.

Export Restrictions and Embargoes from the United States

Following is the text of a statement of the Official Spokesman issued at New Delhi on Nov 14, 1998 regarding restrictions and embargo on Indian Companies by the U.S.A.:

The US Government has published an "Entities List of Government Departments, Research Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings and Private Companies in India which will be subject to export restrictions and embargoes from the United States.

We regard this as a highly unfortunate development. These restrictions interfere with the free flow of trade, technology & finance and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial business interaction.

This decision reflects the continuation of a coercive approach that is entirely misplaced and counter productive. Such steps are unhelpful for meaningful discussions towards an improvement in bilateral relations which is desired by both countries.

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USA INDIA

Date : Nov 14, 1998

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U.S.A.

Joint Press Statement issued at Rome after Indo-US Talks

Following is the text of a Joint Press Statement issued at Rome after Indo-US talks on Nov 20, 1998:

Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of the Government of India Jaswant Singh and Deputy Secretary of State of the United States Strobe Talbott met in Rome on November 19-20, 1998 for the seventh round bilateral discussions. The two sides reviewed issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, and bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments. Mr. Singh and Mr. Talbott received and discussed an extensive report on the recent meeting on export controls between Indian and American delegations in New Delhi on November 9-10. Those talks were deemed helpful to the prospect of continuing cooperation in this area. The Indian delegation raised its concern about the recently published entities list and access to international financial institutions. The American delegation described the circumstances that will enable the two countries to transcend such difficulties as currently exist. Both delegations found the November 19-20 exchanges constructive and judge that they will contribute to an atmosphere that will facilitate further progress in establishing the positive environment both sides seek. The two sides will meet again in January in New Delhi to carry forward this process.

USA ITALY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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ANGOLA INDIA CHINA GREECE ISRAEL USA RUSSIA SRI LANKA THAILAND

Date : Dec 16, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANGOLA

Indian Contingent to U.N. Observer Mission in Angola

Following is the text of a Official Spokesman's statement issued at New Delhi on Dec 07, 1998 regarding relocation of Indian Military personnel in Angola:

In response to a question, the Spokesman stated:

The Government has learnt that 10 Indian military personnel, who were part of the Indian contingent to UN Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA), have been relocated by the UN from Andulo to Luanda. Similarly, UN has relocated military personnel of other nationalities (Senegal, Sweden, Brazil and Bulgaria) from Bailundo. The movement of these personnel had been restricted by UNITA forces. The Government of India was in constant touch with UN authorities in regard to safety and security of Indian personnel.

2. All Indian troops deputed to UN Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) are safe.

3. There are a total of 162 Indian troops (151 military and 11 police personnel) in Angola.

ANGOLA INDIA BRAZIL BULGARIA SENEGAL SWEDEN

Date : Dec 07, 1998

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Text of a Message from External Affairs Minister Shri Jaswant Singh to his Chinese Counterpart

Following is the text of a message from External Affairs Minister Shri Jaswant Singh to his Chinese counterpart, H.E. Mr. Tang Jiaxuan Minister of Foreign Affairs in response to his felicitations and best wishes on assumption of office as the Minister of External Affairs:

"Excellency,

I thank you for your message of felicitations and best wishes on my assumption of office as the Minister of External Affairs.

India seeks friendly, good neighbourly, constructive and co-operative relations with China on the basis of Panchsheel, the Five Principles Coexistence. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to address and resolve outstanding issues.

I recall our meeting in Manila in July and look forward to continuing our interaction to further mutual understanding, co-operation and friendship, so essential for our two countries and peoples.

With the assurances of my highest consideration."

(Jaswant Singh)

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CHINA INDIA PHILIPPINES

Date : Dec 07, 1998

Volume No

1995

DPRK

India-DPRK 25th Anniversary of Bilateral Relations

Following is the text of a Press Release issued at New Delhi on Dec 10, 1998 on the above subject enclosing text of a message from External Affairs Minister to his counterpart in DPRK:

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Dec 10, 1998, the Foreign Ministers of both countries exchanged messages. The text of External Affairs Minister's message to the DPRK Foreign Minister is annexed.

Secretary level functions were organized by the Foreign Ministries of both countries for the respective Embassies in New Delhi and Pyongyang, to mark the occasion.

INDIA KOREA NORTH KOREA

Date : Dec 10, 1998

Volume No

1995

DPRK

TEXT OF EAM'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf, I have pleasure in extending to you and to the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, felicitations and greetings on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The history of interaction between the peoples of our two countries is long established. Through history, our two civilisations have enriched each other. The ties that bind our people go back more than two millennia when scholars and missionaries from our two countries traversed the continent of Asia. This common Asian heritage brings us together. It is also a source of strength and inspiration in this changing world.

The past twentyfive years of our diplomatic ties are characterised by warmth, goodwill, mutual respect and friendly relations. As members of the Non-aligned Movement, our two countries have cooperated in a spirit of solidarity to meet various challenges. Our approach on many international issues are similar.

It is satisfying also that, in these twenty five years following the establishment of diplomatic relations, our two countries have maintained close ties, and forged bonds of friendship. Exchange of visits at various levels, including at high political, governmental and official levels, has contributed to promoting mutual cooperation in diverse fields. The several bilateral agreements we have reached have resulted in mutually beneficial interaction in trade, agriculture, science and technology, art, literature, culture, sports, public health and mass media. People-to-people contacts have enhanced mutual understanding and strengthened the friendly links. It is my hope that our friendship and cooperation will be further developed and deepened in the years ahead.

Since Independence, India has consistently pursued the objectives of international peace along with equal and legitimate security for all through global nuclear disarmament. These concepts are among the basic tenets of our national security. India has, over the years, sought to enhance its national security by promoting global nuclear disarmament, convinced that a world free of nuclear weapons enhances both global and India's national security.

We have consistently favoured the achievement of the unification of Korea by means of dialogue and in a peaceful manner. Concerted efforts to ensure peace and stability on the Korean peninsula would contribute to the well-being of the

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people of the region. We hope that the process of dialogue and understanding will move forward purposefully to gain the objective of peaceful reunification and ensure durable peace.

On this historic day, we cannot but recall the contribution made by late President Kim Il Sung for promoting relations between our two countries. We are confident that under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Kim Jong Il, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, Chairman of the National Defence Commission & Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, India-DPRK friendship will grow further.

Please accept, Excellency, on this important day in our bilateral relations, my best wishes for the well-being, happiness and prosperity of the friendly people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and for your personal good health, happiness and success.

(Jaswant Singh)

H.E. Mr. Paek Nam Sun,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
Pyongyang.

INDIA KOREA USA NORTH KOREA

Date : Dec 10, 1998

Volume No

1995

GREECE

Annual Foreign Office Consultations between India and Greece

Following is the text of a Press Release issued at New Delhi on Dec 03, 1998 regarding Vth Round of Annual Foreign Office Consultations between India and Greece:

The Vth Round of Annual Foreign Office Consultations between India and Greece were held in Athens on November 30 and December 1 1998. The two delegations were led by Shri N. Dayal Secy (East) and Mr. Pavlos Apostolidis, Secretary General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs respectively. The discussions covered a wide range of issues i.e. political, economic, cultural etc. Apart from a broad review, several new initiatives were discussed. The Joint Economic Commission between India and Greece is scheduled to meet shortly. Both sides agreed to add greater economic content to the relationship.

Secretary (East) also called on Mr. George Papandreou, the Minister for European Affairs in the Greek Government. These discussions covered issues relating to the enlargement of the EU, European Monetary Integration, issues relating to Common Foreign and Security Policies (CFSP) etc.

Both sides agreed to maintain the momentum of high level visits following the visit to India earlier this year of the President of Greece, H.E. Constantinos Stephanopoulos. Other high level visits scheduled for 1999 were also discussed.

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GREECE INDIA USA

Date : Dec 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Prime Minister's Statement in Parliament on "Bilateral Talks with United States (15th December 1998)

Following is the text of Prime Minister's statement in Parliament on "Bilateral Talks with United States":

Sir,

Since the May 11 and 13 tests, the Government has, from time to time, taken the House into confidence and sought views of the Hon'ble Members. This was done through statements and discussions in the House on 27-29 May, 8 June and on 3-4 August. Nevertheless, I wish to reemphasise some salients of our policy.

2. I take this opportunity to reiterate that India's commitment to global nuclear disarmament remains undiluted. As Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware, India has consistently maintained that a nuclear-weapon-free-world would enhance not only our security but the security of all nations. That is why numerous initiatives in this direction were taken during the last fifty years; such steps as would encourage decisive and irreversible measures for the attainment of this objective. Regrettably, the international community, particularly countries that have based their security on nuclear weapons or a nuclear umbrella, have been reluctant to embrace this objective. Keeping open our nuclear option, therefore, became a national security imperative three decades ago, an imperative equally valid for India in the post-Cold War period. The option that was exercised in May '98 was thus a continuation of a decision taken near 25 years earlier, during which period India had demonstrated an exemplary nuclear restraint, given the exceptional security related complexities of our region. I wish to place on record that successive governments continued to safeguard this option,

demonstrate our capability and take such steps as were necessary to ensure the viability of the option through weaponisation.

3. Just as our conventional defense capability has been deployed in order to safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India against any use or threat of use of force, the adoption of our nuclear deterrent posture has also followed the same logic. We have announced our intention to maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent, but one that is credible. Mindful of our global and enhanced responsibility to address concerns of the international community, and in order to re-assure all countries about the defensive nature of our nuclear capability, we have engaged in bilateral discussions with key interlocutors. In international forums, like the United Nations, India is the only country possessing nuclear weapons to raise a call for negotiating a gradual and progressive elimination of all nuclear weapons, within a time-bound framework.

4. We also have an established tradition of consultation with friendly countries on all important international issues. Successive governments have pursued an open, positive and constructive approach in our foreign relations. This is in keeping with our national ethos. It is within this framework that India had been engaged, even before May 1998, in a wide-ranging and broad-based dialogue with the United States. This included discussions on disarmament and non-proliferation and on larger strategic issues.

5. Following the May 11 and 13 nuclear tests, apprehensions were expressed in some quarters. It was, therefore, decided to have more focussed and intensive discussions. Accordingly, Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

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was designated as our Representative, to carry forward this dialogue. Similarly, President Clinton designated Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, as the US interlocutor.

6. This dialogue has been conducted on the basis of a set of comprehensive proposals, put forward by India, to the international community, soon after the May tests. As the House would recollect, these proposals comprise: a voluntary moratorium on underground nuclear test explosions; our willingness to move towards a de-jure formalisation of this commitment, a decision to join negotiations on a treaty for a ban on future production of fissile material for weapons purposes; and, our determination to make more stringent the existing system of export controls over sensitive materials and technology.

7. Since the 11 June 1998 Washington meet, six rounds of discussions between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Talbott, have been held. Both teams have worked purposefully to narrow gaps of perception and to establish common ground. These exchanges have been marked by a sense of responsibility, candour and a sincere attempt to understand each other's concerns and points of view. The Government is entirely mindful that the issues involved touch upon matters of vital interest to both countries. In these talks, we have firmly put across our security concerns and the imperative of maintaining a minimum, credible, nuclear deterrent. I wish to inform the House that the talks are premised on this basis. Also there now exists some understanding of our security concerns and

requirements.

8. The talks have focussed on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation. It is agreed that regional issues shall be kept distinctly apart. As Hon'ble Members are well aware, India's concerns in these matters go beyond the South Asian region, and involve a wider perspective.

9. After six rounds, talks have narrowed and are now focussed on the following four issues :

CTBT:

10. India remains committed to converting our voluntary moratorium into a de-jure obligation. In response to the desire of the international community, as expressed to us in our bilateral and multilateral interactions, that the Treaty should come into effect in September 1999, in my address to the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September, I reiterated broadly what I had said in Parliament, that: "India is now engaged in discussions with our key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this Treaty without conditions."

11. That remains our position. For the successful conclusion of the talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient.

12. The House will be reassured that in the assessment of our scientists, this stand does not come in the way of our taking such steps as may be found necessary in future to safeguard our national security. It also does not constrain us from continuing with our R & D programmes, nor does it jeopardise in any manner the safety and effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent in the years to come.

FMCT:

13. We have expressed our willingness to join the FMCT negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. It is our understanding, as that of many other countries, who have confirmed this to us, that the objective of these negotiations is to arrive at a non-discriminatory treaty, that will end the future production of fissile material for weapons purposes,

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in accordance with the 1993 consensus resolution of the UN General Assembly. We are willing to work for the early conclusion of such a treaty.

14. It was suggested to us that we might examine announcing a moratorium on fissile material production. We have conveyed that it is not possible to take such steps at this stage. We will, of course, pay serious attention to any negotiated multilateral initiatives in the course of the FMCT negotiations.

EXPORT CONTROLS:

15. Discussions in this area have registered progress. An expert level meeting of officials from both sides was held in New Delhi on 9-10 November. In light of our additional capabilities, as a responsible state possessing nuclear weapons, and as earlier announced, we are taking steps to make more stringent our laws in this regard. We have also conveyed that India should be provided better access to dual-use and high technologies in view of India's impeccable record of effective control over sensitive technologies. The expert-level meeting was categorised as helpful by both, India and the US, to the prospects of continuing cooperation in this area.

DEFENCE POSTURE:

16. As Hon'ble Members are, no doubt, aware, matters relating to defence postures are sovereign functions, not subjects for negotiations. In fact, our talks are based on the fundamental premise that India will define its own requirements, for its nuclear deterrent, on its own assessment of the security environment. The US and other interlocutors, are interested in understanding our positions and our policies better.

17. We have formally announced a policy of No-First-Use and non-use against non-nuclear weapons states. As Hon'ble Members are aware, a policy of no-first-use with a minimum nuclear deterrent, implies deployment of assets in a manner that ensures survivability and capacity of an adequate response. We are also not going to enter into an arms race with any country. Ours will be a minimum credible deterrent, which will safeguard India's security, - the security of one-sixth of humanity, now and into the future. The National Security Council, with the assistance of its subsidiary bodies, the establishment of which has been announced, will make important contributions to elaborating these concepts.

18. We have expressed our reservations about provisions of certain export control regimes that ostensibly seek to promote non-proliferation objectives, but are discriminatory in application. India's missile development programme is an indigenous programme, that was launched almost 15 years ago. This programme is regularly reviewed, taking into account our security environment, particularly missile acquisitions and deployments in our region. We have announced that a new version of the Agni, with an extended range is under development. Flight-testing of such an enhanced range Agni will be conducted fully in accordance with established international practice. While our decision is to maintain the deployment of a deterrent which is both minimum but credible, I would like to re-affirm to this House that the Government will not accept any restraints on the development of India's R & D capabilities. Such activity is an integral of any country's defense preparedness and essential for coping with new threat perceptions that may emerge in the years ahead. This Government remains unequivocally opposed to any suggestions that seek to place India at a technological disadvantage through intrusive or sovereignty violative measures.

19. At the same time, we will continue to take initiatives in the international forums towards fulfilling the objective of complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. At this year's UN General Assembly, we had taken the initiative for, what could be an important first step, through a resolution on 'Reducing Nuclear Danger'. This initiative was intended to

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urge countries to move back from the nuclear hair-trigger response postures of the Cold War. If such initiatives are multilaterally accepted by other nuclear weapon states, they will, of course, be accordingly reflected in our own positions, too.

20. In the course of these discussions with the United States and other countries, I have kept in touch with leaders of various political parties. We have issued statements from time to time on pronouncements and declarations by various countries. This corpus of Statements in Parliament and through Official Spokesman conveys our position and is well known to Hon'ble Members. These issues have also been discussed, at considerable length, in meetings of the Standing Committee and the Consultative Committee of Parliament. The viewpoints expressed by Hon'ble Members in these discussions, have provided us valuable guidance in conducting discussions with the United States and other countries.

21. The dialogue with the United States will be continued at the next meeting scheduled to be held in the second half of January, in New Delhi.

22. While there is no time-frame for the conclusion of these talks, it is the intention of both countries, that a stable understanding should be reached on the remaining issues at an early date. This would provide a further momentum to bilateral relations, which is desired by both countries.

23. In addition to the talks between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Strobe Talbott, we have had detailed exchanges with France and Russia. Discussions have also taken place with UK and China at the level of Shri Jaswant Singh and at official level with Germany and Japan as well as with other non-nuclear weapon states. I have been in regular correspondence with President Clinton. Our correspondence has touched not only upon issues under discussion between our Representatives but also on larger aspects of Indo-US relations. It is my view that the future of Indo-US relations is much larger than the four issues under consideration. President Clinton has also expressed to me, his desire for a broad-based relationship with India that befits the two largest democracies of the world. I have fully reciprocated these sentiments. Indeed, our ongoing dialogue with the United States is geared towards that end. I am confident this House will want to wish it all success.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI SWITZERLAND RUSSIA FRANCE CHINA UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY JAPAN

Date : Dec 03, 1998

Volume No

1995

Prime Minister's Response to the Debate in Rajya Sabha Dec 16, 1998

Following is the text of the Prime Minister's response to the Debate in Rajya Sabha on Dec 16, 1998 on India's Nuclear Policy:

I would like to thank all Hon'ble Members for their constructive participation in the discussions on this important subject. The discussions involve issues that touch upon some of the most vital national security interests. This House has addressed them with the utmost seriousness, which such issues require. The views expressed by Hon'ble Members will provide us with valuable guidance, which we accept and appreciate.

Shri Jaswant Singh has responded to most of the specific questions raised. Members may rest assured that those views expressed by Hon'ble Members which have not been specifically touched on, have been carefully noted and will inform Government's thinking and further action on these matters.

Many members have referred to the basic principles of India's nuclear policy.

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There is no difference of opinion on this subject. We are all agreed that our basic commitment is to the universal elimination of all nuclear weapons. We will continue to make all efforts and take all initiatives towards the fulfillment of this objective.

Meanwhile we live in a nuclearized world. This is not a choice that we have made, but one which has been thrust upon us. We have the supreme national obligation of ensuring the security of present and future generation. It is in that context that Government has announced its determination to maintain a credible minimum nuclear deterrent.

Some Hon'ble Members have asked about the operational aspects of the minimum deterrent. Shri Jaswant Singh has referred to this in his speech. As he explained, it is not a question of numbers but of a policy approach which grows out of our national experience and is based on the consensus that exists on these matters. Our approach is not expansive or aggressive but which carries assurance and self-confidence. It also means having not only the capability but the means to deter present threats and defend ourselves against any future threats.

The existence of the deterrent and India's sovereign right to determine its nature, are the fundamental premises on which discussions with all our interlocutors including the United States are based. Our discussions with them will be continued on the basis of the constructive and the responsible proposals that India has put forward before the international community and the positions I have outlined in my statement. I am happy to note, as has emerged in the debate, that this approach enjoys broad-based support in this House.

Almost all Hon'ble Members have referred to the CTBT. Shri Jaswant Singh has responded to the technical aspects. No country can compel India to do things not in its security interest. Having conducted the series of tests that were necessary, we are currently guided by the assurance that our stand does not constrain our R&D programme or the ability to maintain the safety and effectiveness of our deterrent, now and in the future. I have said on many occasions that I will consult all parties and take Parliament in confidence on all such important matters and that is precisely what we have done yesterday and today in this House.

Many Hon'ble Members have expressed views about the attitude of the nuclear weapon states. This is something we are all aware of. We have always collectively raised our voice against a discriminatory world order whether in security or political or economic spheres. Our actions are fully consonant with India's long tradition of independence of decision making in national interest and of not submitting to threats or pressures. Having safeguarded our vital security interests, we would like to look ahead, towards a more stable, equitable and productive relationship with all countries. That is the spirit in which India will continue to conduct its discussions as a responsible member of the international community. It is a constructive spirit which guides our dialogue with US and other countries.

I thank all Hon'ble members for the very constructive debate that we have witnessed. This has given strength and encouragement to the government.

Thank you, Sir.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 16, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Statement by Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha

Following is the text of the Prime Minister's statement in Lok Sabha regarding developments relating to Iraq:

We have been closely following developments relating to Iraq. India has close historical ties and strong affinities with the countries and peoples of the region. We have been deeply concerned about the sufferings of the people of Iraq, and have called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the

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relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We have consistently counseled restraint and moderation in resolving differences that have emerged from time to time in the interaction of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) with Iraq.

The Government of India is gravely concerned at and deplores these airstrikes being carried out on Iraq by the U.S. and U.K. It is particularly regrettable that this unilateral step has been undertaken at the very time when the UN Security Council was in session to discuss developments arising from the report of the Head of UNSCOM, which the UNSG had forwarded to the Council with his recommendations proposing alternative courses of action. This attack raises serious questions regarding the functioning of the collective and consultative procedures of the UN Security Council. It also undermines the ability of the Council to verify Iraq's compliance with the relevant Council resolutions.

It has been our considered view that use of force in this situation would be counter-productive. This issue needs to be resolved diplomatically through peaceful means and dialogue. We have supported efforts by the UN in this direction. We have noted the statement of the UN Secretary General expressing deep regret at the latest development. We call for an immediate halt to the military action and a resumption of diplomatic efforts under the auspices of the UN.

The Indian community in Iraq numbering about 50 persons is safe. We have been in touch with our Embassy and are taking all measures to ensure their welfare.

INDIA IRAQ CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Dec 16, 1998

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Copublishing of a book titled "Independent India: The First Fifty Years"

Following is the text of a Press Release issued at New Delhi on Dec 28, 1998 regarding copublishing of a book titled "Independent India: The First Fifty Years" by ICCR and Oxford University Press:

The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) has copublished a book with Oxford University Press titled 'Independent India: The First Fifty Years'. The first copy of the book will be presented to the President Shri K. R. Narayanan by the Vice President and President of ICCR Shri Krishan Kant on 29 December, 1998 at 1830 hrs. at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

INDIA

Date : Dec 28, 1998

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Visit of Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

Following is the text of a Press Release issued on Dec 11, 1998 on visit of Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Preacher of Al Aqsa Mosque Sheikh Ekrima Sa'id Sabri:

Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Preacher of Al Aqsa Mosque Sheikh Ekrima Sa'id Sabri is currently visiting India on a goodwill mission. He was received by the Vice President and the Prime Minister. He briefed the Indian leaders on the situation in the region and developments in the peace process. He was assured of India's consistent moral, political and economic support to the brotherly people of Palestine.

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ISRAEL USA INDIA

Date : Dec 11, 1998

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Donation to Palestine

Following is the text of a Press Release issued on Dec 01, 1998 at New Delhi regarding India's donation to Palestine:

An International Donors' Conference was held in Washington D.C. on , ties, to help the Palestinian people. At this Conference, India pledged an amount of US \$ 1 million. Its utilisation will be decided in consultation with the Palestinian authorities.

At the earlier International Donors' Conferences held in Washington D.C. (1993) and Paris (1996), India had pledged US \$ 1 million each time.

INDIA USA FRANCE

Date : Nov 30, 1998

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Visit of Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation

Following is the text of a Press Release issued on Dec 15, 1998 at New Delhi regarding visit of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov from 20-22 December 1998:

The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov, will be paying an official visit to India from 20-22 December, 1998. He will be accompanied by a high level delegation.

2. The visit continues the tradition of high level interaction between India and the Russian Federation. Discussions during the visit are expected to focus on a wide range of bilateral issues as well as on major international topics of mutual interest. A number of bilateral documents are expected to be signed during the visit. These will lead to a further consolidation of Indo-Russian cooperation in diverse fields.

RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date : Dec 15, 1998

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Indo-Russian Press Statement

Following is the text of a Press Release issued on Dec 22, 1998 at New Delhi on conclusion of Russian Prime Minister visit to India from 20-22 December 1998:

The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov, paid an official visit to India from 20-22 December 1998. The visit marked a continuation of the long-standing tradition of high level bilateral exchanges between India and the Russian Federation.

During the visit, H.E. Mr. Primakov called on the President of India, Shri K. R. Narayanan, the Vice President of India, Shri Krishan Kant, and held in-depth talks with the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Meetings with other high Indian dignitaries were also held. The discussions were held in the warm and

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friendly atmosphere traditional to such Indo-Russian exchanges.

Both Sides expressed satisfaction that Indo-Russian bilateral cooperation was proceeding well in all spheres. They agreed to identify new ways to jointly exploit the tremendous capabilities, including scientific, technical and industrial skills, available in India and Russia. It was also agreed to jointly exploit the new opportunities emerging from economic changes underway in both countries. The determination to impart a qualitatively new character and long-term perspective to their multifaceted ties and actively develop them into the 21st century was reaffirmed.

The Sides intend to move towards strategic partnership, which will be confirmed during their next Summit level meeting by the signing of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation. This would mark a new step forward in the elaboration of the principles contained in the bilateral Treaties of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation of 9 August 1971, of Friendship and Cooperation of 28 January 1993, the Declaration on further Development and Enhancement of Cooperation of 30 June 1994 and the Moscow Declaration on the Protection of Interests of Pluralistic States of 30 June 1994. This political document of paramount importance will set new parameters and guide the further development of the close partnership between India and Russia.

The Sides expressed deep satisfaction over the outcome of the 5th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, held in Moscow from 26-28 November 1998. While appreciating the growth of Indo-Russian trade in 1997-98, it was hoped that the implementation of long-term bilateral trading arrangements in jointly identified items would lend stability to bilateral trade and encourage its growth on a sustained basis. The Sides agreed to make concerted efforts to significantly increase trade in the years ahead.

The Sides expressed particular satisfaction that cooperation was progressing well in such fields as power, oil and natural gas, coal, steel and transport, and agreed to further strengthen it to mutual benefit.

It was noted that wide-ranging and multifaceted cooperation in science and technology continued to show excellent progress. The Sides agreed to focus efforts on commercially exploiting the achievements of joint research in science and technology.

The Sides expressed satisfaction over their continuing cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Acknowledging the importance of people-to-people contacts and expressing satisfaction at the present level of Indo-Russian cultural exchanges, the Sides agreed to further intensify such cooperation.

Satisfaction was expressed over the progress in broad, mutually beneficial military-technical cooperation during recent years, which has good prospects.

The following bilateral documents were signed during the visit: Extradition Treaty, Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Consular Convention, Long term Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation upto the year 2010, Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation, Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Communications, Air Transport Agreement. The Sides expressed the confidence that their signing would further reinforce the framework of their cooperative ties in the concerned fields.

While reiterating their commitment to the ideals of peace, democracy, rule of law, non-violence and secularism, the Sides proceed from the understanding that it was necessary to create a multipolar world

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based on the sovereign equality of all states, democratic values and justice. They agreed to jointly contribute to securing international peace and security, the democratisation of international relations, as well as to the promotion of the establishment of a new, just and stable world order with a strengthened role for the UN and its specialized agencies.

During the talks, views were also exchanged on a wide range of important international issues of mutual interest. In these discussions both sides supported the process of nuclear non-proliferation. The discussions also demonstrated a convergence of views on international terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and arms, as well as the situation in and around Afghanistan and other parts of the world, the Middle East Peace Process, Asia-Pacific problems.

Both sides expressed the view that the development of active and constructive bilateral relations between India, Russia, and other major countries of the Asia and Pacific region would contribute to stability and security.

The Russian side also reaffirmed its support for India's efforts to normalise relations with Pakistan on the basis of the 1972 Simla Agreement.

The Sides deplored the recent missile strikes against Iraq. They strongly urged resumption of diplomatic efforts under UN auspices. The Sides noted that these actions had raised serious questions regarding the functioning of the collective and consultative procedures of the UN Security Council.

Acknowledging the important role of India and the Russian Federation in international affairs, the Sides agreed to maintain regular consultations on major foreign policy issues and initiatives.

The Sides agreed on the need to expand the UN Security Council to make it more representative and increase its effectiveness. Russia considers India, an influential member of the international community, to be a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

Both sides assess the talks held in New Delhi as an important and constructive stage in preparation for the next Indo-Russian summit in 1999.

RUSSIA USA INDIA AFGHANISTAN MALI PAKISTAN IRAQ

Date : Dec 22, 1998

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Visit of Sri Lankan President H.E. Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (December 27-29, 1998)

Following is the text of a Press Release issued at New Delhi on Dec 26, 1998 regarding visit of Sri Lanka President visit to India from December 27-29, 1998:

Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, will pay a State visit to India from December 27-29, 1998. She will be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister for Cultural and Religious Affairs & Buddha Sasana, Mr. Lakshman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Health, Highways and Social Services, Mrs. Pavithra Wanniarachchi and senior officers.

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During the visit, President Kumaratunga will call on President, Shri K. R. Narayanan and hold official talks with the Prime Minister. She will also interact with leaders of Indian business and industry.

The Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President will participate in a joint foundation stone laying ceremony for the expansion of the Sri Lankan Pilgrims Rest at New Delhi. The Rest is built on land gifted to Sri Lanka by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1957.

During the visit, India and Sri Lanka are likely to focus on issues involving the establishment of a Free Trade Area between the two countries and also sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the setting up of an India-Sri Lanka

Foundation. The Foundation would work towards promoting bilateral exchanges in the field of art, culture, trade, commerce and science & technology. Both countries would contribute matching amounts of Rupees 2 crore towards the setting up of the Foundation. The functioning of the Foundation would be governed by an independent Board and its activities would be financed by the interest accruing to the initial corpus of Rupees 4 crores.

The Sri Lankan President's visit will further strengthen the close and friendly ties between India and Sri Lanka and expand areas of bilateral cooperation. The Fourth Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission was recently held in New Delhi. The deliberations of the Joint Commission were indicative of the keenness of both sides to strengthen cooperation in all spheres. Both countries accord high priority to maintaining close and cooperative relations and effective regional cooperation.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 26, 1998

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Visit of Sri Lankan President to India

Following is the text of a Press Release issued at New Delhi on Dec 13, 1998 regarding visit of Sri Lankan President from December 27-30, 1998:

At the invitation of the President of India, Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, paid a State visit to India from 27-30 December, 1998. She was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister for Cultural and Religious Affairs & Buddha Sasana, Mr. Lakshman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine, Mrs. Pavithra Vanniarachchi and senior officers.

2. During her visit, President Kumaratunga called on the President, Shri K. R. Narayanan and held talks with the Prime Minister, Shri A. B. Vajpayee.
3. The talks between the two sides covered the full range of bilateral relations and several regional and international matters of mutual interest. Both sides expressed great satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations and the warmth and understanding that exist between the two countries.
4. During the visit, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the President of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga signed an agreement to establish a Free Trade Area between India and Sri Lanka. The free trade arrangement is expected to lead to the steady expansion of bilateral trade

and investment through the graduated reduction of tariffs. India will phase out tariffs on Sri Lankan goods in three years; Sri Lanka will take eight years to remove tariffs on Indian goods. The value of two-way trade in 1997 was US \$ 603 million (Indian exports to Sri Lanka. US \$ 569 million; Sri Lankan exports to India: US \$ 44 million). The Agreement has built in safeguards to prevent market

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disruption with respect to sensitive domestic sectors on both sides.

5. The two countries reaffirmed the high priority attached by them to effective regional cooperation and agreed on the need for early commencement of negotiations on the SAFTA Treaty. (It may be recalled that at the 10th SAARC Summit in Colombo it was decided that the agreement for the SAARC Free Trade Area SAFTA would be ready by 2001).

6. A Memorandum of Understanding on the setting up of an India-Sri Lanka Foundation was signed by the External Affairs Minister and the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. The Foundation, to be set up with matching contribution of Rupees 2 crores from both sides, would work towards promoting bilateral exchanges in the field of art, culture, trade, commerce and science & technology. The Foundation would be governed by an independent Board.

7. The Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President participated in a joint foundation stone laying ceremony for the expansion of the Sri Lankan Pilgrims Rest at New Delhi. The Rest is located on land gifted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1957 and provides transit accommodation to pilgrims of all faiths from Sri Lanka, India and other countries.

8. The Sri Lankan President met leaders of Indian business and industry over a luncheon meeting. She spoke of the potential for the growth of trade between India and Sri Lanka in a new era signalled by the FTA agreement. She expressed the hope that SAARC member countries would find it possible to move rapidly towards free trade arrangements with India and each other. She comprehensively reviewed the economic situation in Sri Lanka and the region and invited the Indian business community to participate fully in the economic development of Sri Lanka.

9. The visit helped to strengthen further the close and friendly ties between India and Sri Lanka and to expand areas of bilateral cooperation. The discussions between the two sides were held in an atmosphere of great cordiality and deep understanding. The discussions reflected the high priority attached by both countries to the maintenance of close, cooperative and friendly relations.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 13, 1998

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Visit of H.R.H. Crown Prince of Thailand

Following is the text of a Press Release issued at New Delhi on Dec 23, 1998 regarding visit of H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand from December 23-29, 1998:

H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand alongwith his two daughters H.R.H. Princess Bajrakitiyabha, H.S.H. Princess Siriwanwaree Mahidol and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, is paying a 7-day State visit to India (December 23-29) at the invitation of the Hon'ble Vice-President of India. Apart from his discussions with the President, Vice President, and Prime Minister in New Delhi, the H.R.H. Crown Prince would be visiting Agra, Jaipur, Bangalore and Mysore. This is H.R.H. Crown Prince's 2nd visit to India, the first one being in April, 1992.

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THAILAND INDIA USA

Date : Dec 23, 1998

Volume No

1995

BIMST-EC

Joint Statement of the BIMST-EC Ministerial Meeting

Following is the text of a Joint Statement issued on conclusion of 2nd BIMST-EC Ministerial Meeting held at Dhaka on Dec 19, 1998:

The 2nd Ministerial Meeting of BIMST-EC was convened in Dhaka on 19 December, 1998 attended by H.E. Mr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Mrs. Vasundhara Raje, Minister of State for External Affairs, Republic of India, H.E. U. Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Union of Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Lakshman Kiriella, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and H.E. M. R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand and their respective delegations.

At the conclusion of their meeting, the Leaders of Delegations issued the following Joint Statement:

1. We reaffirm the aims, purposes and principles contained in the Bangkok Declaration of June 6, 1997 on the establishment of the Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand-Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC) and the Declaration of December 22, 1997 on the admission of the Union of Myanmar and renaming BIST-EC as BIMST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand-Economic Cooperation).
2. We note with satisfaction the progress already achieved towards the realization of the objectives agreed among us at the special BIMST-EC Ministerial Meeting organized in Bangkok on December 22, 1997.
3. We adopt the criteria for admission of Observers and Guests in future appropriate meetings of BIMST-EC. We welcome all countries and international organizations satisfying the criteria, principles and procedures which we have adopted (defined in the document annexed to this statement), and who may wish to participate in the activities of BIMST-EC as Observers or Guests, and are desirous of contributing to the realization of the goals of social, economic and industrial cooperation and progress within the BIMST-EC sub-region.
4. We note the interest of Nepal in BIMST-EC activities and welcome Nepal as an Observer.
5. We emphasise the need for establishing a BIMST-EC Economic Forum which will work as an important engine of greater economic co-operation and progress within the BIMST-EC sub-region. We reiterate our resolve to take all necessary steps for making the BIMST-EC Economic Forum operational for convening at the next BIMST-EC Ministerial Meeting. We welcome the agreement of Bangladesh, current Chairman of BIMST-EC, to take initial steps in establishing the Economic Forum. The BIMST-EC Economic Forum will serve to promote Government-Private Sector cooperation among the member countries.
6. We welcome the formation of the BIMST-EC Business Forum by the representatives of private sector of BIMST-EC countries at a meeting organised by ESCAP in Bangkok in March 1998. We hope that the BIMST-EC Business Forum will enhance private sector cooperation among the member-countries of the BIMST-EC region in identified sectors, sub-sectors and projects.
7. We have identified six sectors for cooperation namely, Trade & Investment,

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Technology, Transportation and Communication, Energy, Tourism and Fisheries. We appreciate the initiatives taken by the member countries to act as Lead Countries in the sectors, sub-sectors and projects as identified by the SOM. We request the respective Lead Countries to take further steps to form sectoral committees for which they have offered to become lead countries so that these committees can draw up detailed proposals of cooperation for implementation. We call upon the lead countries of various sectoral committees to convene the meetings as soon as possible and report the progress to the next Ministerial Meeting.

8. We encourage the participation of the private sector, as required, in BIMST-EC activities at the sectoral, sub-sectoral and project level.

9. We express our appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of the Royal Thai Government for his initiative in organizing the BIMST-EC Economic Ministerial Retreat of Aug 07, 1998 in Bangkok. The guidelines provided in the form of agreed conclusions reached by the Economic Ministers served as important inputs towards formulation of the work plan of BIMST-EC and would enhance and deepen the scope of trade, investment and infrastructure cooperation among member countries.

10. We reaffirm the significant potential for cooperation in tourism sector in promoting people to people contact and reinforcing the historical, cultural and economic synergies of the BIMST-EC sub-region. We appreciate the initiative of India, taken in pursuance of the decisions of the Special Ministerial Meeting of December 1997, in convening the Tourism Summit in Calcutta in October 1998 and note the Action Plan adopted at the Meeting. We welcome the recommendation to declare the Year 2001 as Visit BIMST-EC Tourism Year and call upon the concerned authorities and private sectors to take tangible steps towards this.

11. Conscious of the important role that can be played by transport and communication linkages in enhancing commercial, industrial, cultural and social interaction and tourism in the BIMST-EC sub-region, we reiterate the emphasis that we place on developing rail, road, multi-modal transport, shipping and air linkages. This would reinforce complementarities arising out of the Bay of Bengal rim identity of BIMST-EC. In this context, we recognise the importance of the speedy implementation of BIMST-EC component of Trans Asian Railway and Asian Highway Projects.

12. We reaffirm that the energy sector being another important dimension of BIMST-EC cooperation, it will receive priority attention. Efforts will be made to draw up appropriate action plans and to work out arrangements for the enhancement of cooperation in the areas of natural gas, wind, solar and water tidal wave energy resources.

13. We reiterate the need for the promotion of cooperation in Fisheries, through the conduct of a comprehensive study on marine resources, processing and marketing to be conducted in coordination with the relevant international organizations.

14. We acknowledge the important contribution of ESCAP towards furthering economic cooperation among the BIMST-EC countries. We request that, in pursuance of the UN GA draft resolution (agenda item 114 on Programme Planning, ref. doc. no. A/C.5/53/L.18 dated 11 December 1998), ESCAP should continue to play an active role in the BIMST-EC projects by assisting the various sectoral committees, specially in the aspects of providing background information for cooperation, technical support, seeking funding and participating in other required areas.

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15. We shall seek to forge stronger links with development partners and international organizations, including the World Bank, the Asian Development and the UNDP.

16. We urge member countries to take advantage of the advances in information technology in coordinating the work of BIMST-EC through inter alia virtual conferencing and the internet. We welcome the offer of India to establish a BIMST-EC Net for facilitating virtual interaction.

17. We agree that on assumption of Chair, a member state would provide secretarial support for co-ordination of BIMST-EC activities till the end of the Chair's tenure. Upon assuming chairmanship that member country will also chair the Working Group meetings. We express our profound appreciation to Thailand for having assumed the Chairmanship of the Working Group and provided valuable secretarial services to BIMST-EC since its inception.

18. We reiterate our faith in the importance of Asian solidarity, enhancing South-South cooperation among developing countries in the face of opportunities and challenges that are being presented by globalization and liberalization of the international trade and financial systems.

19. We reaffirm our belief in the need to coordinate our positions and policies on major issues relating to international flows of goods, services and capital within the framework of international institutions such as the World Trade Organization and others.

20. In addressing the future directions of BIMST-EC, we resolve to:

- i) Fully exploit the complementarities within our region;
- ii) Exert combined political will for the success of the Organization;
- iii) Ensure that each of us individually is able to reap adequate benefits from BIMST-EC cooperation, with special attention to those at lower stages of development;
- iv) To develop short, medium and long term plans and strategies and to implement them in a systematic and coordinated manner;
- v) To act as a bridge between the South Asian and South East Asian Regions;
- vi) Aim and strive to develop BIMST-EC into a free trade arrangement and to focus on activities that facilitate trade, increase investment and promote technical cooperation among member States.
- vii) Foster South-South cooperation and help in our equitable and beneficial integration into the global economy.
- viii) Act as a vehicle for making the international economic and trading system more favourable to developing countries;
- ix) Remove constraints and facilitate trade in goods and services and in people to people contacts;
- x) To vigorously pursue sub-regional energy cooperation; and

xi) To work towards transport and communication network and linkages.

21. We look forward to the next Ministerial Meeting of BIMST-EC which would be held in New Delhi, India in the last quarter of 1999.

22. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Bangladesh for the warm hospitality extended to us and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

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USA BANGLADESH INDIA UNITED KINGDOM THAILAND SRI LANKA NEPAL

Date : Aug 07, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Establishment of the India-Sri Lanka Foundation

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties")

Desiring to further promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the peoples of India and Sri Lanka by a wider appreciation and greater sharing of knowledge of Indo-Sri Lanka relations in all its aspects and the exchange of professional talent through academic and technical contacts between the two countries.

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article I

There shall be established a Foundation, to be known as the India - Sri Lanka Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the "Foundation"), with the objective of fostering Indo-Sri Lanka relations, particularly through the enhancement of economic, scientific, educational, technical and cultural cooperation between India and Sri Lanka and the promotion of greater understanding between the peoples of the two countries. The Foundation shall function under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and shall implement programmes aimed at achieving the goals thereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum").

Article II

The Foundation shall be financed through revenues from a Trust Fund to be set up through grants made by the Parties. The principal of the Trust Fund shall comprise a sum of Indian Rupees 40 million, of which each Party shall contribute an equal share in their respective currencies, based on parity rates prevalent on the date of entry into force of this Memorandum. The said principal may be augmented through mutual consultation and confirmed through an exchange of Diplomatic Notes between the Parties.

Article III

The revenues from the Trust Fund, within the conditions and limitations hereinafter set forth, shall be used by the Foundation for the purpose of:

- i) financing higher studies, research and other educational activities and in-service training for citizens of India and Sri Lanka at Institutions of learning located in India and Sri Lanka;
- ii) financing visits and exchanges between India and Sri Lanka of scholars, academics, professionals, artists and experts in the fields referred to in Article I and such other fields as may be agreed upon by the Board of the Foundation.
- iii) financing other related programmes and activities such as seminars, symposia, colloquia and workshops on subjects of common interest.
- iv) extending financial support to those non-governmental organisations both in India and Sri Lanka, whose work, in the opinion of the two Parties help to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Foundation.
- v) contributing towards the publication of standard works on Indo-Sri Lanka

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relations in specific fields as may be determined by the Foundation.

- vi) encouraging the translation of standard works of Sri Lankan literature into Indian languages and vice-versa and arranging for their publication.
- vii) adopting any other measures which may be considered necessary for the fulfillment of the objectives of the Foundation.

Article IV

The following shall be among the thrust areas for the activities to be carried out by the Foundation:

Education and Culture; Archaeological Studies; Agricultural Research; Science and Technology; Health; Technical Training; Developmental Studies and Women's Studies.

Article V

In furtherance of the aforementioned purposes, the Foundation may, subject to the provisions of this Memorandum, exercise all the powers necessary for carrying out the purposes of this memorandum including the following:

- 1) receive funds;
- 2) open and operate bank accounts in India and Sri Lanka in the name of the Foundation;
- 3) disburse funds and make grants and advance of funds to meet the objectives of the Foundation;
- 4) plan, adapt, carry out programmes in accordance with the purposes of this Memorandum;
- 5) recommend\nominate to educational institutions in India and Sri Lanka trainees, professors, research scholars, teachers and professionals resident in India or Sri Lanka for various programmes\courses in such institutions;
- 6) provide for periodic audit of the accounts of the Foundation, in such frequency as may be decided from time to time by either Government, by auditors nominated separately by the Parties.

Article VI

The management and direction of the affairs of the Foundation shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of 6 Directors (hereinafter designated as "the Board"). The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India shall be the co-Chairpersons of the Board. For this purpose, in the absence of either High Commissioner, the respective Acting High Commissioners would serve as co-Chairpersons ad interim. With regard to the balance, the Parties shall each nominate two other members to the Board, both of whom shall be of recognised competence and who have distinguished themselves in fields relevant to the activities of the Foundation and who will hold office in their personal capacity. Respective High Commission officials designated by the concerned co-Chairpersons shall act jointly as co-Secretaries to the Foundation.

Article VII

All commitments, obligations and expenditures by the Foundation shall be made pursuant to an annual budget to be approved by the Board. The Board may, however, frame such rules as would permit the Board to incur expenditure upto specific monetary ceilings on specific projects\schemes not otherwise budgeted for.

Article VIII

The Board shall adopt such by-laws and appoint such committees as it shall deem necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Foundation.

Article IX

A report on the activities of the Foundation shall be prepared annually by

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the Board and two copies shall be presented to each of the Governments.

Article X

The co-Chairpersons of the Board shall be responsible for the direction and supervision of the Board's programmes and activities in accordance with the Board's resolutions and directives and the provisions of the Memorandum.

Article XI

Meetings of the Board shall be held once a year alternatively in India and Sri Lanka. However, the Board may, if it so decides, call for additional meetings as necessary.

Article XII

The nodal authorities responsible for the implementation of the present MOU shall be the respective Foreign Secretaries of the two governments.

Article XIII

The present Memorandum may be amended on terms mutually agreed upon through an exchange of diplomatic notes between the Parties.

Article XIV

The Parties shall make every effort to facilitate the task of the Foundation and assist in the resolution of such problems which may arise in the operation thereof through bilateral discussions.

Article XV

The implementation of the present Memorandum will be without prejudice to the activities under the Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka in terms of the Cultural Cooperation Agreement concluded between the two Governments on November 29, 1977 at New Delhi. The Parties will endeavour to ensure to the extent feasible, that there is no overlap of activities under the present Memorandum and the aforesaid programme.

Article XVI

This memorandum shall come into force upon the date of signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done at New Delhi on the 28th day of December 1998 in two originals each in Hindi, Sinhala and English languages. In case of doubt in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-
(Jaswant Singh)
Minister of External Affairs
For the Government of
the Republic of India

Sd/-
(Laxshman Kadirgamar)
Minister of Foreign Affairs
For the Government of the
Democratic Socialist Republic
of Sri Lanka

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INDIA SRI LANKA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 07, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of India and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties").

CONSIDERING that the expansion of their domestic markets, through economic integration, is a vital prerequisite for accelerating their processes of economic development.

BEARING in mind the desire to promote mutually beneficial bilateral trade.

CONVINCED of the need to establish and promote free trade arrangements for strengthening intra-regional economic cooperation and the development of national economies.

FURTHER RECOGNISING that progressive reductions and elimination of obstacles to bilateral trade through a bilateral free trade agreement (hereinafter referred to as "The Agreement") would contribute to the expansion of world trade.

HAVE agreed as follows:

Article I

OBJECTIVES

1. The Contracting Parties shall establish a Free Trade Area in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and in conformity with relevant provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994.
2. The objectives of this Agreement are:
 - (i) To promote through the expansion of trade the harmonious development of the economic relations between India and Sri Lanka.
 - (ii) To provide fair conditions of competition for trade between India and Sri Lanka.
 - (iii) In the implementation of this Agreement the Contracting Parties shall pay due regard to the principle of reciprocity.
 - (v) To contribute in this way, by the removal of barriers to trade, to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade.

Article II

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this agreement.

1. "Tariffs" means basic customs duties included in the national schedules of the Contracting Parties.
2. "Products" means all products including manufactures and commodities in their raw, semi-processed and processed forms.
3. "Preferential Treatment" means any concession or privilege granted under this Agreement by a Contracting Party through the elimination of tariffs on the movement of goods.
4. "The Committee" means the Joint Committee referred to in Article XI.
5. "Serious Injury" means significant damage to domestic producers, of like or similar products resulting from a substantial increase of preferential

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imports in situations which cause substantial losses in terms of earnings, production or employment unsustainable in the short term. The examination of the impact on the domestic industry concerned shall also include an evaluation of other relevant economic factors and indices having a bearing on the state of the domestic industry of that product.

6. "Threat of serious injury" means a situation in which a substantial

increase of preferential imports is of a nature so as to cause "Serious injury" to domestic producers, and that such injury, although not yet existing is clearly imminent. A determination of threat of serious injury shall be based on facts and not on mere allegation, conjecture, or remote or hypothetical possibility.

7. "Critical circumstances" means the emergence of an exceptional situation where massive preferential imports are causing or threatening to cause "serious injury" difficult to repair and which calls for immediate action.

Article III

ELIMINATION OF TARIFFS

The Contracting Parties hereby agree to establish a Free Trade Area for the purpose of free movement of goods between their countries through elimination of tariffs on the movement of goods in accordance with the provisions of Annexures A & B which shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article IV

GENERAL EXCEPTIONS

Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent any Contracting Party from taking action and adopting measures, which it considers necessary for the protection of its national security, the protection of public morals, the protection of human, animal or plant life and health, and the protection of articles of artistic, historic and archaeological value, as is provided for in Articles XX and XXI of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, 1994.

Article V

NATIONAL TREATMENT

The Contracting Parties affirm their commitment to the principles enshrined in Article III of GATT 1994.

Article VI

STATE TRADING ENTERPRISES

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent a Contracting Party from maintaining or establishing a state trading enterprise as understood in Article XVII of General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, 1994.
2. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that any state enterprise that it maintains or establishes acts in a manner that is not inconsistent with the obligations of the Contracting Parties, under this Agreement and accords non-discriminatory treatment in the import from and export to the other Contracting Party.

Article VII

RULES OF ORIGIN

1. Products covered by the provisions of this Agreement shall be eligible for preferential treatment provided they satisfy the Rules of Origin as set out in Annexure C to this Agreement which shall form an integral part of this Agreement.
2. For the development of specific sectors of the industry of either Contracting Party, lower value addition norms for the products manufactured or produced by those sectors may be considered through mutual negotiations.

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Article VIII

SAFEGUARD MEASURES

1. If any product, which is the subject of preferential treatment under this Agreement, is imported into the territory of a Contracting Party in such a manner or in such quantities as to cause or threaten to cause, serious injury in the importing Contracting Party, the importing Contracting Party may, with prior consultations except in critical circumstances, suspend provisionally without discrimination the preferential treatment accorded under the Agreement.
2. When action has been taken by either Contracting Party in terms of paragraph 1 of this Article, it shall simultaneously notify the other Contracting Party and the Joint Committee established in terms of Article XI. The Committee shall enter into consultations with the concerned Contracting Party and endeavour to reach mutually acceptable agreement to remedy the situation. Should the consultations in the Committee fail to resolve the issue within sixty days, the party affected by such action shall have the right to withdraw the preferential treatment.

Article IX

DOMESTIC LEGISLATION

The Contracting Parties shall be free to apply their domestic legislation to restrict imports, in cases where prices are influenced by unfair trade practices like subsidies or dumping. Subsidies and dumping shall be understood to have the same meaning as in the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, 1994 and the relevant WTO Agreements.

Article X

BALANCE OF PAYMENT MEASURES

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Agreement, any Contracting Party facing balance of payments difficulties may suspend provisionally the preferential treatment as to the quantity and value of merchandise permitted to be imported under the Agreement. When such action has taken place, the Contracting Party, which initiates such action shall simultaneously notify the other Contracting Party.

2. Any Contracting Party, which takes action according to paragraph 1 of this Article, shall afford, upon request from the other Contracting Party, adequate opportunities for consultations with a view to preserving the stability of the preferential treatment provided under this Agreement.

Article XI

JOINT COMMITTEE

1. A Joint Committee shall be established at Ministerial level. The Committee shall meet at least once a year to review the progress made in the implementation of this Agreement and to ensure that benefits of trade expansion emanating from this Agreement accrue to both Contracting Parties equitably. The Committee may set up Sub-Committees and/or Working Groups as considered necessary.

2. In order to facilitate cooperation in customs matters, the Contracting Parties agree to establish a Working Group on Customs related issues including harmonisation of tariff headings. The Working Group shall meet as often as required and shall report to the Committee on its deliberations.

3. The Committee shall accord adequate opportunities for consultation on representations made by any Contracting Party with respect to any matter affecting the implementation of the Agreement. The Committee shall adopt appropriate measures for settling any matter arising from such representations within 6 months of the

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representation being made. Each Contracting Party shall implement such measures immediately.

4. The Committee shall nominate one apex chamber of trade and industry in each country as the nodal chamber to represent the views of the trade and industry on matters relating to this Agreement.

Article XII

CONSULTATIONS

1. Each Contracting Party shall accord sympathetic consideration to and shall afford adequate opportunity for, consultations regarding such representations as may be made by the other Contracting Party with respect to any matter affecting the operation of this Agreement.

2. The Committee may meet at the request of a Contracting Party to consider any matter for which it has not been possible to find a satisfactory solution through consultations under paragraph 1 above.

Article XIII

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. Any dispute that may arise between commercial entities of the Contracting Parties shall be referred for amicable settlement to the nodal apex chambers. Such references shall, as far as possible, be settled through mutual consultations by the Chambers. In the event of an amicable-solution not being found, the matter shall be referred to an Arbitral Tribunal for a binding decision. The Tribunal shall be constituted by the Joint Committee in consultation with the relevant Arbitration Bodies in the two countries.

2. Any dispute between the Contracting Parties regarding the interpretation and application of the provisions of this Agreement or any instrument adopted within its framework shall be amicably settled through negotiations failing which a notification may be made to the Committee by any one of the Contracting Parties.

Article XIV

DURATION AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall remain in force until either Contracting Party terminates this Agreement by giving six months written notice to the other of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

Article XV

AMENDMENTS

The Agreement may be modified or amended through mutual agreement of the Contracting Parties. Proposals for such modifications or amendments shall be submitted to the Joint Committee and upon acceptance by the Joint Committee, shall be approved in accordance with the applicable legal procedures of each Contracting Party. Such modifications or amendments shall become effective when confirmed through an exchange of diplomatic notes and shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Provided however that in emergency situations, proposals for modifications may be considered by the Contracting Parties and if agreed, given effect to through an exchange of diplomatic notes.

Article XVI

ANNEXURES TO BE FINALISED

Annexures D(i) and D(i) (Negative Lists of India and Sri Lanka respectively), E (Items on which India has undertaken to give 100% tariff concession on coming into force of the Agreement) and F (Items on which Sri Lanka has undertaken to

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give 100% tariff concession on the coming into force of the Agreement) shall be finalised within a period of 60 days of the signing of this Agreement. All the Annexures shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

Article XVII

ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the Contracting Parties hereto have notified each other that their respective constitutional requirements and procedures have been completed.

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

Done in duplicate at New Delhi this 28th day of December 1998 in two originals in the English language.

Sd\
For the Government of the
Republic of India

Sd\
For the Government of the
Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka

Supplementaries

Annex. - 'A'

The Government of India shall grant duty free access to all exports from Sri Lanka in respect of items freely importable into India, except on items listed in Annex. D of this Agreement, in accordance with the phase out schedule detailed below:

1. Upon entry into force of the Agreement:
 - (a) Zero duty access for the items in Annexure 'E'.
 - (b) 50% margin of preference on the remaining items except on items listed in Annexure D. Concessions on items in Chapters 51 to 56, 58 to 60 and 63 shall be restricted to 25%.
2. The margin of preference on the items mentioned in (b) above shall be increased to 100% in two stages within three years of the coming into force of the Agreement, except for the textiles items referred to in 1 (b) above.

Annex. - 'B'

Government of Sri Lanka shall provide tariff concessions on exports from India to Sri Lanka in respect of items freely importable into Sri Lanka, as detailed below:

1. Zero duty for the items in Annex 'F' - I, upon entering into force of the Agreement.
2. 50% margin of preference for the items in Annex 'F' - II, upon coming into

force of the Agreement. The margin of preference in respect of these items shall be deepened to 70%, 90% and 100%, respectively, at the end of the first, second and third year of the entry into force of the Agreement.

3. For the remaining items except those in Annex 'D', the tariffs shall be brought down by not less than 35% before the expiry of three years and 70% before the expiry of the sixth year and 100% before the expiry of eight years, from the date of entry into force of the Agreement.

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Annex. - 'C'

RULES OF ORIGIN

1. Short title\commencement:

These rules may be called the rules of Determination of Origin of Goods under the Free Trade Agreement between the Democratic Socialistic Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of India.

2. Application:

These rules shall apply to products consigned from the territory of either of the Contracting Parties.

3. Determination of Origin:

No product shall be deemed to be the produce or manufacture of either country unless the conditions specified in these rules are complied with in relation to such products, to the satisfaction of the appropriate Authority.

4. Claim at the time of importation:

The importer of the product shall, at the time of importation:

(a) make a claim that the products are the produce or manufacture of the country from which they are imported and such products are eligible for preferential treatment under the Agreement, and

(b) produce the evidence specified in these rules.

5. Originating products:

Products covered by the Agreement imported into the territory of a Contracting Party from another Contracting Party which are consigned directly within the meaning of rule 9 hereof, shall be eligible for preferential treatment if they conform to the origin requirement under any one of the following conditions:

(a) Products wholly produced or obtained in the territory of the exporting Contracting Party as defined in rule 6; or

(b) Products not wholly produced or obtained in the territory of the exporting Contracting Party, provided that the said products are eligible under

rule 7 or rule 8.

6. Wholly produced or obtained:

Within the meaning of rule 5(a), the following shall be considered as wholly produced or obtained in the territory of the exporting Contracting Party.

- (a) raw or mineral products¹ extracted from its soil, its water or its sea bed;
- (b) vegetable products² harvested there;
- (c) animals born and raised there;
- (d) products obtained from animals referred to in clause (c) above;
- (e) products obtained by hunting or fishing conducted there;
- (f) products of sea fishing and other marine products from the high seas by its vessels^{3,4};
- (g) products processed and/or made on board its factory ships exclusively from products referred to in clause (a) above^{4,5};
- (h) used articles collected there, fit only for the recovery of raw materials.
- (i) waste and scrap resulting from manufacturing operations conducted there;
- (j) products extracted from the seabed or below seabed which is situated outside its territorial waters, provided that it has exclusive exploitation rights;

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- (k) goods produced there exclusively from the products referred to in clauses (a) to (j) above.

7. Not wholly produced or obtained:

(a) Within the meaning of rule 5(b), products worked on or processed as a result of which the total value of the materials, parts or produce originating from countries other than the Contracting Parties or of undetermined origin used does not exceed 65% of the f.o.b. value of the products produced or obtained and the final process of manufacture is performed within the territory of the exporting Contracting Party shall be eligible for preferential treatment, subject to the provisions of clauses (b), (c), (d) and (e) of rule 7 and rule 8.

(b) Non-originating materials shall be considered to be sufficiently worked or processed when the product obtained is classified in a heading, at the four digit level, of the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System different from those in which all the non-originating materials used in its manufacture are classified.

(c) In order to determine whether a product originates in the territory of a Contracting Party, it shall not be necessary to establish whether the power and fuel, plant and equipment, and machines and tools used to obtain such products originate in third countries or not.

(d) The following shall in any event be considered as insufficient working or processing to confer the status of originating products, whether or not there is a change of heading:

1) Operations to ensure the preservation of products in good condition during transport and storage (ventilation, spreading out, drying, chilling, placing in salt, sulphur dioxide or other aqueous solutions, removal of damaged parts, and like operations).

2) Simple operations consisting of removal of dust, sifting or screening, sorting, classifying, matching (including the making-up of sets of articles), washing, painting, cutting up;

3) (i) changes of packing and breaking up and assembly of consignments,

(ii) simple slicing, cutting and repacking or placing in bottles, flasks, bags, boxes, fixing on cards of boards, etc., and all other simple packing operations.

4) the affixing of marks, labels or other like distinguishing signs on products or their packaging;

5) simple mixing of products, whether or not of different kinds, where one or more components of the mixture do not meet the conditions laid down in these Rules to enable them to be considered as originating products;

6) simple assembly of parts of products to constitute a complete product;

7) a combination of two or more operations specified in (a) to (f); 8) slaughter of animals.

(e) The value of the non-originating materials, parts or produce shall be:

(i) The c.i.f. value at the time of importation of the materials, parts or produce where this can be proven; or

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(ii) The earliest ascertainable price paid for the materials, parts or produce of undetermined origin in the territory of the Contracting Parties where the working or processing takes place.

8. Cumulative rules of origin:

In respect of a product, which complies with the origin requirements provided in rule 5(b) and is exported by any Contracting Party and which has used material, parts or products originating in the territory of the other Contracting Party,

the value addition in the territory of the exporting Contracting Party shall be not less than 25 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the product under export subject to the condition that the aggregate value addition in the territories of the Contracting Parties is not less than 35 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the product under export.

9. Direct consignment:

The following shall be considered to be directly consigned from the exporting country to the importing country:

- (a) if the products are transported without passing through the territory of any country other than the countries of the Contracting Parties.
- (b) the products whose transport involves transit through one or more intermediate countries with or without transshipment or temporary storage in such countries; provided that:
 - (i) the transit entry is justified for geographical reason or by considerations related exclusively to transport requirements;
 - (ii) the products have not entered into trade or consumption there; and
 - (iii) the products have not undergone any operation there other than unloading and reloading or any operation required to keep them in good condition.

10. Treatment of packing:

When determining the origin of products, packing should be considered as forming a whole with the product it contains. However, packing may be treated separately if the national legislation so requires.

11. Certificate of origin:

Products eligible for a Certificate of origin in the form annexed shall support preferential treatment issued by an authority designated by the Government of the exporting country and notified to the other country in accordance with the certification procedures to be devised and approved by both the Contracting Parties.

12. Prohibitions:

Either country may prohibit importation of products containing any inputs originating from States with which it does not have economic and commercial relations;

13. Co-operation between contracting parties:

- (a) The Contracting Parties will do their best to co-operate in order to specify origin of inputs in the Certificate of origin.
- (b) The Contracting Parties will take measures necessary to address, to investigate and, where appropriate, to take legal and/or administrative action

to prevent circumvention of this Agreement through false declaration concerning country of origin or falsification of original documents.

(c) Both the Contracting Parties will co-operate fully, consistent

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with their domestic laws and procedures, in instances of circumvention or alleged circumvention of the Agreement to address problems arising from circumvention including facilitation of joint plant visits and contacts by representatives of both Contracting Parties upon request and on a case-by-case basis.

(d) If either Party believes that the rules of origin are being circumvented, it may request consultation to address the matter or matters concerned with a view to seeking a mutually satisfactory solution. Each party will hold such consultations promptly.

14. Review:

These rules may be reviewed as and when necessary upon request of either Contracting Party and may be open to such modifications as may be agreed upon:

Notes:

1. Includes mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials as well as mineral or metal ores.
2. Includes agricultural and forestry products.
3. "Vessels" shall refer to fishing vessels engaged in commercial fishing, registered in the country of the Contracting Party and operated by a citizen or citizens of the Contracting Party or partnership, corporation or association, duly registered in such country, at least 60 per cent of equity of which is owned by a citizen or citizens and/or Government of such Contracting Party or 75 per cent by citizens and/or Governments of the Contracting Parties. However, the products taken from vessels, engaged in commercial fishing under Bilateral Agreements which provide for chartering\leasing of such vessels and/or sharing of catch between Contracting Party will also be eligible for preferential treatment.
4. In respect of vessels or factory ships operated by Government agencies, the requirements of flying the flag of the Contracting Party does not apply.
5. For the purpose of this Agreement, the term "factory ship" means any vessel, as defined, used for processing and/or making on board products exclusively from those products referred to in clause (f) of Rule 6.
6. Cumulation as implied by Rule 8 means that only products which have acquired originating status in the territory of one Contracting Party may be taken into account when used as inputs for a finished product eligible for preferential treatment in the territory of the other contracting Party.

To qualify for preference, products must:

- (a) fall within a description of products eligible for concessions in the country of destination under this agreement.
- (b) comply with ISFTA Rules of Origin. Each Article in a consignment must qualify separately in its own right; and
- (c) comply with the consignment conditions specified by the ISFTA Rules of Origin. In general products must be consigned directly within the meaning of Rule 9 hereof from the country of exportation to the country of destination.

II. Entries to be made in Box 8

Preference products must be wholly produced or obtained in the exporting Contracting Party in accordance with Rule 6 of the ISFTA Rule of Origin, or where not wholly produced or obtained in the exporting Contracting Party must be eligible under Rule 7 or Rule 8.

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- (a) Products wholly produced or obtained enter the letter 'A' in box 8.
- (b) Products not wholly produced or obtained; the entry in box 8 should be as follows:
 - 1. Enter letter 'B' in box 8 for products, which meet the origin criterion according to Rule 7. Entry of letter would be followed by the sum of the value of materials, parts or produce originating from non-contracting parties or undetermined origin used, expressed as a percentage of the f.o.b. value of the products; (example 'B' () percent.
 - 2. Enter letter 'C' in box 8 for products, which meet the origin criteria according to Rule 8. Entry of letter 'C' would be followed by the sum of the aggregate content originating in the territory of the exporting Contracting Party expressed as a percentage of the f.o.b. value of the exported product; (example 'C' () per cent.

INDIA SRI LANKA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 07, 1998

Volume No

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ANNEXURE III

Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Sides,

- wishing to further strengthen and develop trade, economic, industrial, financial, scientific and technical cooperation on a long term basis;
- taking into account new opportunities emerging from the processes of economic change in both the countries;
- Have agreed as follows.

I. General

The Sides agreed that while realising the existing potential and opportunities in the traditional areas of trade and economic relations, new areas such as computing, bio-technology, aviation, environment, space communication etc. were required to be given a thrust.

With the aim of promoting wide ranging cooperation in the above mentioned areas, the Sides agree to promote and encourage activities of Indian and Russian entities, enterprises and companies in their countries, and joint activities in third countries, in accordance with the respective legislation of the two countries.

The Sides agree to have regular interaction in the financial sector in order to facilitate diversification of trade and economic cooperation and to mitigate difficulties of either side, subject to the respective legislation of the two countries.

Keeping in mind the delimitation of powers between the Federal and the Regional levels and the respective legislation

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in the two countries, the Sides agree to facilitate closer interaction and cooperation amongst the regions of the two countries in the areas of trade and investment.

II. Trade

Recognizing the considerable potential that exists for increasing bilateral trade, the Sides agree to take necessary steps to diversify the basket of bilateral trade by encouraging trade in non-traditional goods; facilitating consignment exports under the debt repayment route; and having long term trading arrangements in agreed commodities.

The Sides consider that there is potential for increasing the volume of bilateral trade turnover to two times by 2000 and four times by 2005.

III. Economic, Industrial, Investment and Financial Cooperation

The Sides, noting the importance of development of bilateral economic relations, shall raise the level of cooperation in sectors such as power, space, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, oil, gas and petrochemical industry, food processing, textiles, leather and other manufacturing industries, agriculture, construction, geology, transport and communication, telecommunications, information technology including software, tourism, healthcare, bio-technology, consumer goods and packaging, small and medium enterprises; banking; insurance; auditing; accounting; consultancy etc.

Noting that the two countries have already signed agreements on avoidance of double taxation and on investment protection and promotion, the Sides agree to continue to work further towards the establishment and development of a legal framework in order to create, on a continuous basis, favourable conditions for trade, investment including joint ventures, industrial and financial cooperation.

The Sides, within the framework of the legal system in both countries, shall create and encourage a conducive environment for development of cooperation in the above mentioned fields including facilitating the development of joint businesses, technology transfer, investments, exchange of experts, setting up of offices and branches of the enterprises, participation in fairs and exhibitions and other forms of cooperation.

The Sides shall facilitate the setting up of branches and subsidiaries of the banks and other financial institutions of each other country. They shall also encourage access to multilateral funds and funds from other third country sources for the implementation of projects including joint ventures by the enterprises of either country.

The Sides agree to encourage the cooperation between enterprises of the two countries in developing information, credit, insurance and transport infrastructure for enhancing bilateral trade and investment.

IV. Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The Sides note that the cooperation in science and technology is an important part of relations between the two countries.

The Sides shall undertake efforts and encourage activities of organisations and enterprises of both countries aimed at more effective utilisation of their scientific and technological potential for solutions of scientific and technological problems of mutual interest and for further development of trade and economic relations between the countries.

The Sides shall take active steps in the following directions:

- development of, and extending the areas of, scientific and technological cooperation;
- establishment of direct links between the scientific Organisations of the Sides;

- establishment of joint scientific - research organisations and other forms of cooperation;

- The Sides agree to continue and intensify interaction within the framework of the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology (ILTP) and other bilateral programmes. The Sides shall promote industrial realisation of results of such S&T interactions.

V. Other spheres of cooperation

The Sides agree to develop cooperation in healthcare including drugs and pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical devices by joint research, exchange of delegations and specialists, promoting direct contacts between scientific research entities of the both countries, exchange of medical and technical information etc.

The Sides agree to take the following steps for cooperation in designing, consultancy and standardization, including:

- participation of the organisations and companies of both countries, on the basis of competitive bidding or direct financing, in preparation of the feasibility reports, designing and construction of industrial and other projects;

- certification and standardization of goods and services especially those that are actively traded between the two countries;

- protection of intellectual property rights, including Patents and Trademarks in conformity with National legislations;

- exchange of scientific and technological information between the R&D institutions and organisations of both countries;

- study of possibilities for joint cooperation in these areas in third countries.

VI. Conclusion

The Sides agreed to entrust the implementation, monitoring and review of the activities listed in the present Joint Document to the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.

The present Joint Document is without prejudice to the obligations of the Sides under their bilateral and multilateral agreements.

The present Joint Document comes in force from the date on its signing and shall be valid till 2010.

The validity period of the present Joint Document shall be automatically extended for subsequent five year periods, unless either Side gives a written notice to the other Side six months in advance of the date of expiry of the

respective period of validity of the Joint Document stating its intention to terminate it.

Done in New Delhi on Dec 21, 1998 in two originals in Hindi, Russian and English, all texts being equally authentic.

Sd\
(On behalf of the Government
of the Republic of India)

Sd\
(On behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation)

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USA RUSSIA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 21, 1998

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE IV

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Communications

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

guided by the desire to develop and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of communications in the interests of political, economic and social development of their respective countries,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Cooperation between the Parties in the framework of this Agreement is carried out in conformity with the legislation of the States of the Parties.

The matters relating to provision and operation of the postal and telecommunication services, not provided for by this Agreement, will be regulated by the provisions of the Constitution, Convention and Postal Parcels Agreement of the Universal Postal Union and their Detailed Regulations, as well as those of the Constitution, Convention, Administrative Regulations and Recommendations of the International Telecommunication Union.

Article 2

The specific lines and forms of cooperation in the field of postal and telecommunication services shall be identified by the Communications Administrations of the Parties by separate agreements concluded between them.

Article 3

The Parties shall endeavour, as may be necessary, to take measures agreed between them, to further develop all kinds of communications services.

Article 4

The Parties shall endeavour to promote the expansion of business contacts between Communications Administrations, companies and specialists to get acquainted with the operation of communication facilities and enterprises of the States of the Parties through exchange of experience and scientific and technical information in the fields of posts and telecommunications, provided no obligations of the Parties or their Communications Administrations are infringed.

Article 5

The Parties shall encourage the undertaking of Joint Interstate Projects in the fields of posts and telecommunications and shall take steps to further develop the technical and scientific cooperation with a view to ensure the improvement and development of new communications technologies.

Article 6

The Communications Administrations of the Parties shall communicate each other their liberalisation programs for the sector of communications and the investment programs in the fields of posts and telecommunications which may be of mutual interest.

Article 7

When establishing tariffs and charges as well as drawing up accounts for postal and telecommunication services, a "special drawing right" unit shall be used or, by

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agreement between the Communications Administrations of the Parties, a monetary unit shall be used in accordance with the Conventions of the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunication Union.

Article 8

Tariffs and charges for postal and telecommunication services shall be established in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and Postal Parcels Agreement of the Universal Postal Union and their Detailed Regulations, as well as the Convention, Administrative Regulations and, as appropriate,

Recommendations of the International Telecommunication Union.

These matters shall be the subject of separate agreements concluded between the international operators concerned of the States of the Parties.

Article 9

The Communications Administrations of the Parties shall endeavour to settle their accounts for postal and telecommunication services in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and Postal Parcels Agreement of the Universal Postal Union and their Detailed Regulations, as well as Convention, Administrative Regulations and, as appropriate, Recommendations of the International Telecommunication Union.

The balance payment shall be considered as a current banking operation and be effected in conformity with the existing agreements concluded between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on mutual settlements and banking operations.

Article 10

The Communications Administrations of the Parties shall take measures, in case of necessity, to simplify formalities and reduce tariffs while providing postal and telecommunication services between the States of the Parties.

Article 11

Service communication between the Communications Administrations of the Parties and their enterprises should be conducted in English.

Article 12

The Parties can introduce in written form amendments or additions to this Agreement. The amendments or additions shall come into force after coordination.

Article 13

Disputes regarding the interpretation and application of the provisions of this Agreement shall be settled through mutual consultations between the Parties.

In case the consent is not reached by the Parties the matter shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

Article 14

The Agreement shall be valid for an indefinite period of time and enter into force on the date of its signing.

The Agreement may be terminated by one of the Parties by giving a six months notice in writing to the other Party.

Article 15

With the entry into force of this Agreement, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications and Posts of 9 April 1987 is terminated in relations bet-

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ween the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.

Done at New-Delhi on 21 December 1998, in two copies, each in the Hindi, Russian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of occurrence of any divergence for the purposes of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Sd\
For the Government
of the Republic of India

Sd\
For the Government
of the Russian Federation

INDIA RUSSIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date : Dec 21, 1998