

The Times of India, 1 August 2007

US says no double standard on non proliferation policy

The US on Wednesday denied any double standard in the non-proliferation policy in the wake of its civilian nuclear deal with India saying the whole accord only contributed to the policy with New Delhi making a number of commitments to that effect. "India made a number of commitments it would not have otherwise made in terms of adhering to international standards in the nuclear suppliers group, in the missile technology control regime, and others," Andrew Semmel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Nuclear Non Proliferation Policy and Negotiations, said before the Senate...

The Times of India, 1 August 2007

US not expecting Pak to allow entry of its forces

The United States has said it does not expect Pakistan to allow its forces enter that country to take on Al-Qaida militants hiding in the tribal areas there. "I don't expect that to happen. The relationship we have at present is a good one. We have been able to collaborate closely together on a wide range of operations. We'll be able to continue doing that," Vice-President Cheney said when queried as to "when" the US has been "asked" to come in. "... we work closely with President Musharraf and his government in Pakistan. We've captured and killed a lot of Al-Qaida in Pakistan. But it's obviously a sovereign state. They've got reason to go after Al Qaida," he said. Meanwhile, White House Spokesman Tony Snow said the US continues to support Pakistan despite controversy involving the clandestine network of A Q Khan....

The Indian Express, 1 August 2007

US wants Pak to hand over Dawood: reports

The United States has asked Pakistan to hand over India's "most wanted" fugitive and international terrorist Dawood Ibrahim for his alleged links to al-Qaeda-related terrorists groups and involvement in the global heroin trade, a daily reported on Tuesday. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) have sought assistance from Pakistan's Interior Ministry, Anti-Narcotic Force (ANF) and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to hunt down Dawood in the Islamic nation, The News quoted sources as saying. In fact, Dawood has been described by US agencies as "an al-Qaeda facilitator now living in Pakistan who has already been placed in the same category as top al-Qaeda operatives with Interpol issuing a special notice against him"....

The Indian Express, 1 August 2007

Team India hits bull's eye (Harsh V. Pant)

After five rounds of intense, often contentious, negotiations, India and the US have finally agreed on the contours of the 123 pact, which has been described as "a touchstone of a transformed bilateral relationship between India and the US". Ever since the Bush administration declared in 2005 its ambition to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India, there has been such euphoria surrounding the deal that it was not often realised that whole process would be a long and tortuous one. Today, when both Right and Left are hard pressed to find faults with the deal and when even Anil Kakodkar has expressed his satisfaction with it, it is clear the Indian government has, for a change, conducted its diplomacy far more effectively than many had assumed would be the case...

The Hindu, 2 August 2007

U.S.: address 'next issue'

The United States has placed the onus on India to create the momentum for activating their latest civil nuclear energy accord. This was indicated by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, after his talks with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee in Manila on Wednesday. The two met on the sidelines of a series of multilateral meetings being organised by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Mr. Negroponte told The Hindu that the Bush Administration "will advocate strongly for the agreement" in the U.S. Congress...

The Times of India, 2 August 2007

US to work with Pakistan in hunting down Al-Qaeda militants

The US administration on Thursday said it would continue working with Pakistan to hunt down Al-Qaeda militants holed up in tribal areas though "all options including a military strike is open". "We keep all options open if there's actionable intelligence, which says that we keep the options open. It does not preclude working with the local government," the White House Spokesman Tony Snow in a briefing. On Wednesday, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama had said he would be ready to order military strikes against high-value terrorist targets in Pakistan if there are actionable intelligence, even without Islamabad's permission. Snow said White House's priority is to extend support to the Musharraf regime in fighting down militant groups...

The Times of India, 2 August 2007

US lawmakers introduce bills meant to boost cooperation with China

Four US lawmakers introduced legislation that would expand the US diplomatic presence in China, promote US exports to China and increase Chinese language training and energy cooperation between the countries. One bill authorizes a new consulate in Wuhan, with a population of about 9 million, and 10 smaller diplomatic posts in cities with more than a million people. Another would help US states establish export promotion offices in China, help small US businesses stage China trade missions and arrange grants for Chinese business education programs... Other bills introduced would authorize new grants to fund US-China energy and climate change education programs and increase Chinese cultural studies and programs for U.S. students eager to study Chinese...

Hindustan Times, 2 August 2007

Pak may not be acting fast enough to contain resurgent Qaeda'

Expressing concern at the speed with which Al-Qaeda is setting up a safe haven in Pakistan, a top Pentagon official feared the efforts of the Musharraf government may not be enough to address the threat posed by the resurgent militant group. At his nomination hearing to be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen told the US Senate Armed Services Committee that he is extremely concerned with Al-Qaeda's activity in the tribal areas along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan...

The Washington Post, 2 August 2007

Obama Says He Would Take Fight to Pakistan

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama issued a pointed warning yesterday to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, saying that as president he would be prepared to order U.S. troops into that country unilaterally if it failed to act on its own against Islamic extremists. In his most comprehensive statement on terrorism, the senator from Illinois said that the Iraq war has left the United States less safe than it was before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and that if elected he would seek to withdraw U.S. troops and shift the country's military focus to threats in Afghanistan and Pakistan...He added, "The first step must be to get off the wrong battlefield in Iraq and take the fight to the terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan."...

Deccan Herald, 3 August 2007

Democrat's Presidential aspirant takes tough stance against Pakistan

Washington: "If we have actionable intelligence about high value terrorist targets and President Musharraf will not act, we will." said Obama delivering a foreign policy speech...

The Indian Express, 4 August 2007

Pakistan criticises Obama for "irresponsible" statement

ISLAMABAD, August 3: Pakistan on Friday criticised US presidential hopeful Barack Obama for saying that, if elected, he might order unilateral military strikes inside this Islamic nation to root out terrorists.

Daily Times, 5 August 2007

"US concerned about terrorism in Pakistan"

LAHORE: The United States said on Friday it was concerned about terrorism in Pakistan's tribal areas and Afghanistan.

The Times of India, 6 August 2007

US asks India to 'diminish' economic relations with Iran

NEW DELHI: The US on Monday night asked India to "diminish" its economic relations with "nuclear outlaw" Iran and join the international community in dealing with "one of the most difficult security problems" facing the world.

The Times of India, 6 August 2007

India, US mull joint maritime patrol

NEW DELHI: After sealing the 123 Agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation, India and US are now exploring ways to "operationalise" the bilateral framework for maritime security cooperation (MSCF).

The Tribune, 6 August 2007

Qaida video threatens India, US missions

Dubai, August 5: The Al-Qaida warned in a new video today that India and US diplomatic missions were the terror network's "legitimate targets." In the footage compiled by Al-Qaida's production arm As-Sahab, an unnamed narrator said that "the targeting of Tel Aviv, Moscow and Delhi" is also "our legitimate right" and accused India of "killing more than 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir with US blessing."

The News, 7 August 2007

Musharraf expresses disappointment over Congress aid bill

KARACHI: Pakistan wouldn't allow use of its territory for any terrorist act, President Musharraf said here in a meeting with US Senator Richard Durban. He expressed disappointment over US Congress legislation on aid to Pakistan.

The Nation, 7 August 2007

US, Pakistan to take out Qaeda leaders

CAMP DAVID: Afghan President Hamid Karzai and US President George W Bush agreed Monday that Pakistan must help quell deadly violence inside Afghanistan, but broke sharply on Iran's regional influence.

The News, 7 August 2007

Bush hints at strikes inside Pakistan

Claims good intelligence will 'get the job done' US, Afghan presidents stress need to work with Islamabad CAMP DAVID: US President George W Bush on Monday carefully refused to rule out unilateral US strikes on the Pakistani soil if specific intelligence pinpointed top al-Qaeda leaders.

Daily Times, 7 August 2007

Cracks emerging in US-Pakistan alliance

LAHORE: As lawmakers began a long awaited debate on Monday on Pakistan's foreign relations policy, analysts warn that the discussion could expose growing disagreements between Pakistan and the US, CBS News reported.

Daily Times, 7 August 2007

US transgression would damage ties, says FO

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Monday that any transgression by the US of accepted parameters of cooperation on the war against terror would be unacceptable and could damage Pakistan-US relations.

Dawn, 8 August 2007

US legislation an irritant in bilateral ties: Musharraf

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday expressed disappointment at the recently adopted US legislation making aid to Pakistan conditional, and told the visiting American Senator Richard J. Durbin that it constituted an irritant in the bilateral relations just as the statements from Washington advocating unilateral strike in the country's tribal region were.

The Times of India, 9 August 2007

US and Pak constructive alliance needed to fight Al-Qaida: Obama

CALIFORNIA: Democratic presidential hopeful Barak Obama on Wednesday stressed the need for the US and Pakistan to be "constructive" allies in fighting al-Qaida, but softened earlier talk in which he pledged to unilaterally hunt down terrorists in the south Asian nation. Obama declined to criticize the Bush administration's policies on Pakistan,

and expressed sympathy for the challenges confronting Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who faces a growing militant backlash in his country. "President Musharraf has very difficult job, and it is important that we are a constructive ally with them in dealing with al-Qaida," Obama, an Illinois senator, said.

Dawn, 10 August 2007

US played role in decision reversal

WASHINGTON, Aug 9: The United States played a key role in steering President Pervez Musharraf away from declaring a state of emergency in Pakistan and the acknowledgement of this role came from no less a person than President George W. Bush himself who urged the Pakistani leader to focus on free and fair elections in his country. "My focus in terms of the domestic scene there is that they have a free and fair election, and that's what we've been talking to him about and hopeful they will," Mr Bush said at a White House news conference. Meanwhile, the US State Department confirmed that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had telephoned President Musharraf and discussed Pakistan's internal political situation. "They talked about the ongoing political developments in Pakistan. They had a good conversation," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

Daily Times, 11 August 2007

Boucher to visit Pakistan next week for "regular consultations"

WASHINGTON: A senior US diplomat will visit Pakistan next week on a previously scheduled trip that comes shortly after President General Pervez Musharraf rejected calls to declare a state of emergency, a US official said on Thursday. The visit by US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher, the top US diplomat for South Asia, was scheduled for after this week's meeting of Afghan and Pakistani political and tribal leaders, the official said. He said its timing was not related to President Musharraf's decision on Thursday against declaring a state of emergency, a step that if taken would probably have delayed Pakistani elections due by the turn of the year.

Daily Times, 12 August 2007

Pakistan, US working together for peace: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Saturday said Pakistan and the US are working together for global peace and progress. Pakistan welcomes the growing strategic partnership between the two countries, he told Pakistan American League President Dr Nisar A Chaudhary, when the latter called on him at Prime Minister's House. "We are committed to combating extremism and militancy in the world. Both countries need to work together to reflect on the root-causes of extremism and militancy so that we have a peaceful environment in the region and the world," the prime minister added. He said the US has assisted Pakistan in various fields, including financial assistance, supply of defence equipment, development projects and capacity building in areas of education, healthcare and social services.

Daily Times, 13 August 2007

Pak-US differences exist, says Durrani

WASHINGTON: Mahmud Ali Durrani, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, told

CNN on Sunday that while the intelligence services of the two countries are working together to hunt out Al Qaeda in the border areas, there do exist differences which he said need to be reconciled. Asked about the state of emergency in Pakistan that appeared imminent last week, Durrani replied that a state of emergency was not what people thought it was. Provided for in the Constitution, President Musharraf did at one point consider imposing it to deal with terrorist incidents but decided not to. An emergency would not have meant that the parliament was going away or rights were to be suspended. The government did consider it for a limited period, fundamentally to deal with a "spate of suicide bombings".

Daily Times, 14 August 2007

Pakistan fighting terror in its interest, not USA's: Musharraf

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf said on Monday that Pakistan's fight against terrorism and extremism was in its own national interest and not at the behest of any other country. "We are not fighting terrorism and extremism for the sake of America, but we are confronting this menace in our own interest," the president said in response to a question in a special television programme called "From Aiwan-e-Sadr". The president described terrorism and extremism as the country's biggest challenges as they were a serious threat to peace, security and development. He said Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups were hiding in the tribal areas and were involved in terrorist activities.

The Hindu, 15 August 2007

Bush greets Manmohan

NEW DELHI: United States President George Bush called up Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to greet him on the 60th anniversary of the country's Independence. The two leaders spoke on a variety of subjects including civil nuclear energy cooperation. "They expressed their satisfaction at the mutually beneficial and cordial nature of relations currently existing between the two countries," said an official news release. Mr. Bush conveyed his Government's sympathies on the recent floods. Queen Elizabeth II and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown also sent their greetings. In a message to Dr. Singh, Mr. Brown said, "I celebrate the strength of the U.K.-India relationship. Our history, values and hopes are, and will remain, permanently intertwined."

Daily Times, 15 August 2007

"US may not accept Musharraf's Afghan proposal"

WASHINGTON: President Musharraf's proposal to the Kabul jirga to separate diehard Taliban from others may not be acceptable to the United States, according to an editorial in the Boston Globe. The newspaper writes, "A deal of this kind will require compromises that the jirga participants may be ready to make but that the Bush administration - with its propensity to frame complex issues as stark conflicts of good and evil - may not be prepared to accept. Musharraf highlighted a key compromise when he spoke of isolating the diehard militants among the Taliban and trying to 'win the hearts and minds' of the Pashtun ethnic group from whom the Taliban draw their recruits...."

Daily Times, 16 August 2007

Boucher presses Musharraf for fair elections

RAWALPINDI: US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Richard Boucher in his meeting with President General Musharraf here on Wednesday reiterated US concern for democracy and fair and free elections in Pakistan. According to sources, Boucher said that the US would continue to support Pakistan's move towards more democracy, which was essential for peace and progress of Pakistan. Boucher also called for ensuring transparency in the next polls and hoped that Gen Musharraf would fulfil his promise to organise fair and free elections at the end of this year or early next. The two leaders also discussed cooperation in the war on terror and the president reiterated that Pakistan was fighting the war on terror in its own interest, the sources said.

Daily Times, 17 August 2007

Pakistan fighting terror in its interest, not USA's: Musharraf

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf said on Monday that Pakistan's fight against terrorism and extremism was in its own national interest and not at the behest of any other country. "We are not fighting terrorism and extremism for the sake of America, but we are confronting this menace in our own interest," the president said in response to a question in a special television programme called "From Aiwan-e-Sadr". The president described terrorism and extremism as the country's biggest challenges as they were a serious threat to peace, security and development. He said Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups were hiding in the tribal areas and were involved in terrorist activities. "It is time that the entire nation rises against them," he said, adding that poverty and lack of education were the root causes of militancy.

Daily News, 18 August 2007

US deal-brokering reports draw anger

ISLAMABAD: The US was accused on Friday of meddling in Pakistani affairs amid reports that Washington is trying to broker a power-sharing deal between President Pervez Musharraf and his archrival Benazir Bhutto. Sources in both government and opposition denounced reports that Washington was pressuring military ruler General Musharraf to come to an arrangement with two-time former prime minister Bhutto ahead of national elections. A government spokesman said the choice of national leader lay with the people of Pakistan and should depend on the vote. "Pre-judging the mandate of the people of Pakistan is an insult to the electorate," Deputy Information Minister Tariq Azeem said.

Dawn, 19 August 2007

Pakistan working hard to improve image: US report

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: Pakistan has launched a major effort to combat its image problem and promote the advantages of its highly skilled, English-speaking people to get a larger share of the outsourcing business, says a report. The report by the International Data Group notes that some multinational companies have centres in Pakistan while others are outsourcing work to IT and services companies in the region. The IDG is the world's largest technology media, research and event management company based in Boston. The report notes that salaries in Pakistan are lower by 30 per cent than in India. On the downside, the country has an image problem which scares away potential customers, but there are major multinationals that overcame their initial fear and are

doing business with Pakistan.

Dawn, 19 August 2007

US urged not to back any party

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: A leading US newspaper, Boston Globe, urged the Bush administration on Saturday to help evolve a democratic set-up in Pakistan instead of supporting a particular party or candidate and let the Supreme Court decide whether President Gen Pervez Musharraf can seek a third term. In a lead editorial, the newspaper observed that President Musharraf "faces daunting obstacles" in his quest for another five-year term. Because the Bush administration has backed Gen Musharraf as a pragmatic partner in a dangerous region, "the United States has a stake in the choices Mr Musharraf will make and may be tempted to weigh in on his side," the paper noted.

Hindustan Times, 20 August 2007

Pakistan is the world's most dangerous country: Biden

Washington: Terming Pakistan as "the most dangerous country in the world", the US' Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has slammed Bush administration for having a "Musharraf policy" instead of a policy for Pakistan. "The fact of the matter is, Pakistan is the most dangerous, potentially... The most dangerous country in the world. A significant minority of jihadists with nuclear weapons. We have no Pakistan policy; we have a Musharraf policy," Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Senator Joseph R Biden said at a debate featuring the Democratic candidates sponsored by ABC News at the Drake University in Iowa.

Dawn, 21 August 2007

US experts take negative view of Pakistan

WASHINGTON, Aug 20: A joint survey by the Foreign Policy magazine and the Centre for American Progress shows that 35 per cent US foreign policy experts believe Pakistan is most likely to become the next Al Qaeda stronghold while 22 per cent say Pakistan is an ally that least serves Americas national security interests. A majority of the 108 experts interviewed between May 23 and June 26 -- fear another September 11-scale attack in the US within the next decade. As many as 74 per cent experts believe that Pakistan is most likely to transfer nuclear technology to terrorists in the next three to five years. While there is a wide consensus among the experts like former secretary of state Madeleine Albright about the dangers that Pakistan poses, there is very little agreement on what to do about it.

Daily Times, 22 August 2007

Pakistani envoy to the US slams NYT editorial

NEW YORK: President Gen Pervez Musharraf will seek re-election in accordance with Pakistan's Constitution, by the elected national and provincial assemblies, Ambassador Munir Akram has said. "[The] president ... is neither clinging to power nor seeking more than he has already," he said while responding to last week's New York Times editorial "High-Maintenance Musharraf". In a letter published on Monday, Akram said the editorial reflected "continued misunderstanding of Pakistan's realities". He said President Musharraf's election would ensure the continuity and unity of policy required to counter

terrorism and extremism and maintain Pakistan's dynamic economic performance.

Daily Times, 22 August 2007

"US won't back another military govt in Pakistan"

WASHINGTON: Dennis Kux, author of two acclaimed books on US relations with Pakistan and India, said in a comment on the possibility of martial law in Pakistan that the US will not support a military government unless it quickly sets a date for new elections. Kux said it is his feeling that "Musharraf's compass has lost its bearing and is flying around in all directions." Kux, a retired US ambassador who began his career with a posting in Pakistan, told Daily Times, "On Monday he [Musharraf] says X, Tuesday the opposite and Wednesday something else. Given the legal constraints on what Musharraf's wants to do because of the Supreme Court fiasco and the shift in public attitudes, he has no good choices from his perspective."

Dawn, 23 August 2007

Pakistan can't afford to antagonise US: Kasuri

ISLAMABAD, Aug 22: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said in Senate that Pakistan could not afford to make the United States its enemy, but said that the country had never compromised on its national interests and would never do so in future. He said the country had its own "red lines" which had been categorically communicated to the countries concerned. Winding up a two-day debate on the country's foreign policy in the wake of US presidential candidates' statements and Washington's civil nuclear treaty with Delhi, Mr Kasuri enumerated a number of foreign policy successes of the past five years, brushing aside the criticism of opposition lawmakers. He warned against demands for change in the foreign policy, claiming that the policy had been framed in accordance with the "national requirements."

Daily Times, 23 August 2007

US to continue to work with Pakistan "as friend and ally"

WASHINGTON: US officials have offered no comment on the reported release by Pakistan of a man accused of aiding Al Qaeda, beyond saying that they would continue to work with Islamabad "as a friend and ally". "Well, we coordinate closely with the Pakistani government on a host of counter-terrorism and security issues. I don't have any more information specific to this case," State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos said Tuesday. "However, we're going to continue to work closely with them as a friend and ally under President (Pervez) Musharraf in our counter-terrorism efforts," he said, taking the question about the release of Muhammad Naeem Noor Khan, 28, in Islamabad.

The Hindu, 24 August 2007

Boost to India-U.S. defence cooperation

NEW DELHI: India and the United States have arrived at an understanding to resolve differing perceptions on military cooperation. While India has been assigned the U.S. Pacific Command (Pacom), it wants to be shifted to the U.S. Central Command whose area extends westwards from India and considered by its security planners as more crucial to national interests. On his first familiarisation visit here, Pacom Commander Admiral Timothy Keating said it would be difficult to reassign a command since the U.S.

Congress had drawn the boundaries for the military commands. However, in future, senior officers from the Centcom could be deputed to attend all inter-services (called Executive Steering Group) meetings to address India's concerns about greater awareness on its western flank, offered Admiral Keating.

The Times of India , 25 August 2007

US-based rights group urges Bangladesh to curb abuses

NEW YORK: US-based Human Rights Watch, on Friday, urged Bangladesh to respect the legal and human rights of protesters and curb abuses by law enforcement acting under emergency rule since January 11. "The Bangladesh government must respect international human rights standards as it enforces a curfew and seeks to police demonstrations," the international rights group said in a statement. It said that "anyone detained under the emergency regulations must be charged with a cognizable criminal offense or released." Bangladesh has been wracked by four days of demonstrations and violence sparked by an incident at Dhaka University. Curfew imposed in six cities will be eased on Saturday for 17 hours, the government announced on Friday.

The Times of India, 25 August 2007

India's fears of terror-via-sea real: US

NEW DELHI: The US feels India should ratify counter-terrorism measures like the Container Security Initiative (CSI), given its fears that terrorists might use sea-routes to spread mayhem. "Such (Indian) fears are realistic as terrorists are feeling hemmed in their present sanctuaries... The US has stressed in meetings with Indian officials that there can't be any let up in pressure mounted on terrorists," said US Pacific Command Chief Admiral Timothy J Keating. Towards this end, the top American general said his country was in dialogue with a number of like-minded nations, including India, on measures like CSI. "Ratification of this will lead to sharing of data base, which is essential to keep track of terrorist movements," he said.

The Indian Express, 26 August 2007

Why the Left is right on the N-deal

Is Prakash Karat, the CPM's cerebral general-secretary, opposing the Indo-US nuclear deal at China's behest? The insinuation is nonsensical. And dangerous too. True, dogmatic anti-Americanism has been the bane of the Left, just as its blind anti-BJPism is. But to suggest, as is being done through a systematic whisper campaign across the country, that the communists are working as "Chinese agents" in trying to scuttle the deal is itself to exhibit anti-communist dogma and prejudice. According to one commentator, "The main beneficiaries of the deal getting delayed, from a strategic point of view, are China and Pakistan - in that order. So whose interests are we protecting?"

The Hindu, 27 August 2007

Vicious acts of terror: U.S.

NEW DELHI: The United States on Sunday condemned the bomb blasts in Hyderabad as "vicious acts of terrorism." An American Embassy statement here conveyed the U.S. government's sympathies to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured.

Daily Times, 28 August 2007

US troops can't operate in Pakistan: FO

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam on Monday called a report that the Pakistani government had reached an understanding with the US about incursions inside Pakistan "speculative" and "fabricated". She said that no such understanding with the US existed. "The parameters of Pakistan's cooperation with the US and NATO are clear to everyone, including the NATO forces across the border and the US administration, and they are limited to intelligence sharing and coordination," Aslam said. She said any operation to be conducted inside Pakistan based on actionable intelligence was Pakistan's responsibility. Similarly, operations on the other side of the border were the responsibility of NATO and the Afghan forces, Aslam said.

Daily Times, 28 August 2007

US State Dept encourages Pak-Afghan cooperation

LAHORE: US State Department Deputy Spokesman Tom Casey told reporters in a regular briefing in Washington DC on Monday that it was important to the US that there is a cooperative relationship between Afghanistan, Pakistan and the US and other coalition forces. "Everything that we try and do, that our military tries to do there, is done with an effort at close coordination not only with the Afghan government but also with, as appropriate, the government of Pakistan. He said so while confirming action had taken place at the Pak-Afghan border region as a result of which some militants were killed inside Pakistani territory". He said that the Pakistan army spokesman had said that Pakistan did not give approval for this strike inside Pakistani territory, which contradicted the position expressed by the US-led coalition spokesman in Afghanistan.

Deccan Herald, 29 August 2007

'Al Qaeda attack on US inevitable'

Washington: Another attack on America is only "inevitable", Vice Admiral (Retd) John Scott Redd, the Head of the National Counter Terrorism Centre said. Al Qaeda has an active plot to hit the West and although the US is aware of this, it does not possess precise tactical detail to issue a warning or raise the existing threat level, a top American counter-terrorism official has said. Another attack on America is only "inevitable", Vice Admiral (Retd) John Scott Redd, the Head of the National Counter Terrorism Centre, told the Newsweek magazine. He maintained that there is still no definitive word on the fate of Osama bin Laden. "Quite frankly, we think that if he had died it would have become known. It would be very hard to keep that from leaking out," Redd said. "The short answer is, we don't know," he added.

China Daily, 29 August 2007

China appreciates US's opposition to Taiwan referendum

BEIJING: China appreciates the United States' opposition to the referendum scheme by Taiwan authorities to seek UN membership, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao Tuesday. Liu made the comment after media reports said US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte had expressed opposition to Taiwan authorities' attempt to push for a plan of referendum on the island's entry into the United Nations in the name of Taiwan. In an interview with Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV, John

Negroponte said the US sees the idea of referendum as "a mistake" and "a step towards a declaration of independence of Taiwan, towards an alteration of the status quo." Liu said China appreciates the US reiteration of its opposition to the referendum scheme of Taiwan authorities.

The Indian Express, 30 August 2007

US denies any role in Musharraf-Bhutto deal

Washington, August 30: Unwilling to take a position on the political development in Pakistan, the US has said it would rather be an "observer" than a "direct participant" in negotiations which could see a 'deal' between President Pervez Musharraf and former premier Benazir Bhutto. "There's a lot of discussions going on and there are a lot of statements being made about what the nature of those discussions are. These are issues that the Pakistani leadership is dealing with. And I think we'll let them actually reach agreements or come to conclusions before I try and step in the middle of it," US State Department Deputy spokesman Tom Casey said.

Dawn, 31 August 2007

US expects Musharraf to honour commitment

WASHINGTON, Aug 30: The White House urged President Pervez Musharraf on Thursday to honour past commitments, but said it would be up to Pakistanis to decide if he should step down as military chief. Musharraf has made commitments in the past, said spokesman Gordon Johndroe, adding that Pakistanis would have to decide whether Gen Musharraf should keep his military position. Washington, first and foremost, seeks free and fair elections in Pakistan, he said. The current political situation in Pakistan was also raised at the White House briefing where spokesman Tony Snow refused to speculate if the political marriage between President Musharraf and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto would work. There are a lot of stories coming out of Pakistan. We'll let the Pakistanis break their own news on this, Mr Snow said.