

The Nation, 1 February 2005

**Rice doesn't rule out military action against Iran** (Iftikhar Ali)

NEW YORK - US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed concern Sunday over the actions of Iran and Syria in neighbouring Iraq, saying the two countries have not been helpful. "We certainly are concerned by the role that Iran has tried to play in Iraq," Rice said in an interview with the ABC television programme "This Week. "The Iranians need to understand that the Iraqis are going to build their own future, that it is going to be a future that is very different than the Iranian regime. I do believe that the Iranians have not been particularly a force for stability and for good," said Rice, who was confirmed as Secretary of State last week, replacing Colin Powell.

Daily Times, 1 February 2005

**US says has serious proposal for North Korea**

TOKYO: The United States has a "serious proposal" for North Korea and is ready to discuss it at six-party talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programmes, a senior US official was quoted as saying on Monday. "We are ready to go. We have a serious proposal. And we are ready to discuss it without preconditions," Kyodo news agency quoted Michael Green, senior director for Asia on the National Security Council, as telling reporters in Tokyo. Green made the remarks after visiting officials at the Prime Minister's Office, Kyodo said. North Korea has joined the United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia for three rounds of nuclear talks since August 2003. China has played host to the negotiations. But Pyongyang boycotted a fourth round, originally set for last September, and has said it would watch how US policy towards it shapes up before deciding whether to return to the talks.

The Nation, 1 February 2005

**Reprehensible pressure** (Editorial)

If the US thinks that Pakistan could become a tool in its hands to pressurise Iran to wind up its nuclear programme, it is not only highly reprehensible, but also unlikely. Pakistan should be advocating the friendly Muslim country's legitimate stand of enriching uranium for peaceful purposes, a process clearly allowed under the NPT to which Tehran is a signatory. It has time and again assured that it has no intention of converting its programme into one oriented to weapons in violation of the treaty. For us to tell it "bluntly, bordering on rudeness (of Europeans' concerns)..not to make the mistake" of ignoring the three European countries negotiating with it on the subject, is not only not the way to persuade friends but also extremely undiplomatic. An AFP report has quoted Pakistani officials as informing it that "we have not minced our words."

China Daily, 2 February 2005

**CIA rectifying prewar estimates on Iraq WMD**

The CIA of the US is publishing a series of classified reports revising its prewar intelligence assessments of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, an intelligence official said on Tuesday. A Jan. 18 report, titled "Iraq: No Large-Scale Chemical Warfare Efforts Since Early 1990s," concludes that Saddam Hussein abandoned major chemical weapons programs after the first Gulf War in 1991. A Jan. 4 CIA report addressed Baghdad's Scud missile and delivery system, while forthcoming reports are expected to revise prewar estimates of Iraq's biological and nuclear capabilities. The intelligence official, who asked not to be named, said the latest report was not considered a high-level document for review by President Bush.

International Herald Tribune, 2 February 2005

**New push for North Korea talks**

SEOUL Ahead of the State of the Union address by President George W. Bush, diplomatic efforts gathered momentum Tuesday to bring North Korea back into dialogue over its nuclear weapons drive. North Korea has made it known that it wants to return to dialogue and says it is ready to scrap its nuclear weapons ambitions in return for concessions from Washington. Now it is awaiting a response to the offer from Bush, who will tell Congress his second-term foreign and domestic goals Wednesday in his State of the Union address. North Korea will most likely return to six-country talks on dismantling its nuclear programs sometime after Bush's speech, South Korea's foreign minister, Ban Ki Moon, said Tuesday.

Indian Express, 2 February 2005

**'Pak trying to defuse tension over Iran nuke'**

ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 1: Pakistan is trying to defuse tensions between the US, European countries and Iran over Tehran's suspected nuclear weapons programme, the foreign ministry said today. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masood Khan described Pakistan as a "close friend" of all the parties in the dispute and said it was trying to foster dialogue, but declined to give any details. Earlier this month US President George W. Bush said he would not exclude the possibility of using military force against Iran over its nuclear programme, an statement that was echoed by his Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Sunday.

Indian Express, 2 February 2005

**US Coast Guard invites India to share intelligence** (Shiv Aror)

New Delhi, Feb.1.The US Coast Guard has invited its Indian counterpart to take part in an intelligence-sharing programme that would involve real-time coastal surveillance, using remote-controlled spy planes to "improve the maritime domain awareness of aligned nations". An officer from the US Coast Guard's Deepwater programme will be outlining the details at "Aero India" in Bangalore on February 8, and Director-General Vice Admiral A.K. Singh has been called for the session. Speaking to the Indian Express, Vice Adm Singh said: "The Coast Guard is also considering use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for coastal patrolling...A lot of UAVs are currently on offer to us, so we will have to wait and see."

International Herald Tribune, 3 February 2005

**U.S. suspects North Korea sold Libya uranium** (David E. Sanger & William J. Broad)

WASHINGTON Scientific tests have led U.S. intelligence agencies and government scientists to conclude with near certainty that North Korea sold processed uranium to Libya, bolstering earlier indications that North Korea had exported sensitive fuel for atomic weapons, according to officials with access to the intelligence. The determination, which has circulated among senior government officials in recent weeks, has touched off a hunt to determine if North Korea has also sold uranium to other nations, including Iran and Syria. Nonetheless, the conclusion about the uranium transfer to Libya, which is contained in a classified briefing that has been described to The New York Times, could alter Washington's debate about the assessment of the North Korea nuclear threat.

People's Daily, 3 February 2005

**Bush demands Iran dismantle nuclear program**

US President George W. Bush on Wednesday demanded that Iran dismantle its nuclear program in his annual State of the Union address. "We are working with European allies to make clear to the Iranian regime that it must give up its uranium enrichment program and any plutonium reprocessing," Bush said. The Bush administration has accused Iran of developing a nuclear weapon program and Iran says its nuclear program is for civil purposes only. Bush said on Jan. 17 that he would not rule out military actions against Iran in his second term. Condoleezza Rice, then secretary of state-designate, threatened a day later to refer Iran's nuclear case to the UN Security Council. In response, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chairman of Iran's powerful Expediency Council and former president, said on Jan. 18 that Iran was "not a proper place for adventurism".

The News, 4 February 2005

**Rumsfeld seeks to revive burrowing nuclear bomb** (Walter Pincus)

Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld sent a memo last month to then-Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham saying next year's budget should include funds to resume study of building an earth-penetrating nuclear weapon designed to destroy hardened underground targets. An Energy Department official said yesterday that \$10.3 million to restart that study is expected to be included in the Bush administration's budget, which is to be released next week. The study, which had been undertaken at the Los Alamos, Sandia and Livermore national laboratories, was halted late last year after Congress deleted \$27.5 million for it from the fiscal 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

Washington Post, 4 February 2005

**Rice Says U.S. Won't Join Europe in Iran Nuclear Talks** (Robin Wright)

LONDON, Feb. 3. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday that the United States would rebuff European efforts to bring it into negotiations with Iran aimed at preventing the Islamic state from developing nuclear weapons. Flying to Europe for her first trip abroad as secretary, she told reporters that the United States was confronting the theocratic government in Tehran in "a variety of ways" with "a variety of different partners" to end its nuclear weapons ambitions, support for Islamic extremism, interference in Iraq and human rights violations. Her unusually strong words signaled that the Bush administration would take a more robust stand against Iran during the president's second term.

The Guardian, 4 February 2005

**Opting for diplomacy over North Korean nuclear threat** (Simon Tisdall)

The prospect of renewed conflict in the Korean peninsula receded yesterday after President George Bush eschewed further hostile rhetoric against North Korea in his State of the Union address. But the direction and methodology of Mr Bush's overall drive to halt proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remained unpredictable. Mr Bush's only reference to Pyongyang came in the context of a pledge to "work closely with governments in Asia to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions". Mr Bush did not repeat his 2002 characterisation of North Korea as part of an "axis of evil". By emphasising diplomacy, Mr Bush sent a signal of greater flexibility that diplomats say North Korea has been waiting for.

People's Daily, 5 February 2005

**S.Korean, US presidents talk on nuclear issue**

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Saturday held a telephone conversation with his US counterpart George W. Bush, reiterating the need to resume six-party talks aimed at peacefully resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula as soon as possible. In the 10-minute telephone conversation, Roh also stressed "South Korea, the United States and all other participants should double their efforts (to realize the talks)," according to Roh's deputy spokesman Kim Man-soo. Bush responded by saying that he will cooperate closely with Roh to achieve global peace, according to the spokesman.

China Daily, 5 February 2005

**Rice says diplomacy can succeed in Iran**

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice joined British and German allies pledging Friday to help Israel and the Palestinians seize an opening for peace in the Middle East. They also said diplomacy can neutralize a nuclear threat in Iran. Rice toned down the rhetoric Friday and sought to play down the possibility that the United States might invade or attack Iran. "Diplomacy can work in this case if there is unity of purpose and unity of message to the Iranians that the international community expects them to live up to their obligations," Rice said in Berlin. An attack "is simply not on the agenda at this point. We have diplomatic means to do this," Rice said in London, where she met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair before seeing Straw. Britain, Germany and France are leading a European diplomatic campaign to end Iranian nuclear weapons ambitions. The United States has not joined that effort.

The Hindu, 5 February 2005

**India, U.S. 'on the same side' against terror: Talbott**

Chennai, Feb.4. The war on terrorism and the campaign on behalf of freedom, liberty and democracy all over the world could "go a long way" to define "what might be a common agenda between the U.S. and India," according to the former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for South Asia, Strobe Talbott. "There is no question whatsoever that the U.S. and India are on the same side with regard to both the war on terror and a campaign on behalf of freedom," said Mr. Talbott, now president of a Washington D.C - based think tank, the Brookings Institution. He noted that the U.S. and India were on the "same side" now largely because of "a fundamental change in outlook" of both the countries. Mr. Talbott was speaking on U.S.-India relations in the age of globalisation. The talk was organised by the Observer Research Foundation.

Korea Times, 6 February 2005

**Roh, Bush Agree to Resume 6-Way Talks** (Shim Jae-yun)

President Roh Moo-hyun and U.S. President George Bush agreed on Saturday to resume the stalled six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue at the earliest date possible. The two heads of state had a 10-minute telephone conversation, vowing to closely cooperate to resolve the standoff over the North's nuclear drive. "President Roh urged all nations participating in the multilateral talks, including Seoul and Washington, to redouble their efforts to realize the six-way talks as soon as possible," Roh's deputy spokesman Kim Man-soo said. He added that President Bush responded by saying he will cooperate closely with Roh to ensure regional and global peace. The prospect for resuming the six-party talks has brightened recently since Bush showed a slight reconciliatory gesture toward the reclusive nation by refraining from using harsh remarks against the North in his State of the Union Speech Wednesday.

The Hindu, 7 February 2005

**Indians to gain from US immigration policy** (Indrani Bagchi)

New Delhi, Feb.6. Indians will be the biggest beneficiaries of any new immigration policy that US President George W Bush might unveil. Among the large variety of immigrants to the US, Indians constitute the best-educated group of foreign-born migrants, and therefore, most likely to be welcomed. According to a study by the Migration Policy Institute, a considerable number of Indian immigrants - 38 per cent according to 2001 US Census figures - have a master's professional or doctorate degree, 89 per cent are most likely to have a high school diploma, 70 per cent have a bachelor's degree. One of Bush's strongest election planks was immigration, where he scored over challenger John Kerry particularly on the outsourcing issue. Bush, according to analysts, will walk the tightrope. So while refusing amnesty for illegal immigrants, he is likely to bolster the foreigner guest-worker programmes.

Daily Times, 7 February 2005

**Howard mediating US-Iran N-stand off**

CANBERRA: Australia had become a mediator in a nuclear standoff between Iran and the United States, Prime Minister John Howard said on Sunday, in a move that mirrors Australia's role in the North Korea nuclear crisis. Howard said Australia had been able to use its close alliance with the United States and diplomatic ties with Iran to act as a go-between for the two nations - a role illustrated when US President George W Bush called him on Friday. "I was able to talk at some length with President Bush about the substance of my discussion with the Iranian Foreign Minister (at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland)," Howard told Australian television. "I think all of that helps ... There are a number of countries around the world that we talk to that the Americans don't talk to in the same way and we are able to pass on information," he said.

People's Daily, 7 February 2005

**US backs Europe's diplomacy on Iran nuclear issue**

The United States supports Europe's efforts to persuade Iran to abandon its nuclear program through diplomacy but stressed it has not "eliminated any alternative," US Vice President Dick Cheney said in an interview on Sunday. "I think there's a good-faith effort under way by our European allies to try to resolve this issue diplomatically. We support that effort," Cheney said in an interview with Fox News. "If this process breaks down, the next step probably is to go back to the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and ultimately refer to the United Nations Security Council for the imposition of international sanctions on Iran," Cheney said. "There are a number of steps here to be considered. We have not eliminated any alternative at this point, but we obviously are seriously pursuing diplomatic resolution of this problem," he added.

Dawn, 7 February 2005

**Rice says Iran N-plan must be stopped**

LONDON, Feb 6: Diplomacy and unity among the world's "great democracies" are key to ensuring Iran meets its international obligations, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in an interview broadcast on Sunday. Iran had become a major obstacle to peace and stability in the Middle East and must be prevented from developing nuclear weapons, she told BBC television. "We believe dealing with the Iranians diplomatically is the key and that is why I am here for discussions," Ms Rice told the BBC on Friday at the start of her first diplomatic mission to Europe and the Middle East since taking office. "We do need a strong message to Iran. We need a united front on the Iranian nuclear programme. We need us great democracies to tell the Iranian people that they deserve a better future than the present they currently have," she said.

Indian Express, 7 February 2005

### **US redesigning N-weapons: Report**

New York, February 7: American scientists, worried that the nation's ageing nuclear arsenal is becoming increasingly fragile, have begun designing a new generation of nuclear arms meant to be sturdier and more reliable and to have longer lives, a media report said on Monday. The programme could help shrink the arsenal and the high cost of its maintenance, it said quoting federal officials and private experts. But critics were quoted as saying it could needlessly resuscitate the complex of factories and laboratories that make nuclear weapons and could possibly ignite a new arms race. So far, the New York Times report said, the quiet effort involves only nine million dollars for warhead designers at the nation's three nuclear weapon laboratories, Los Alamos, Livermore and Sandia. Federal bomb experts at these heavily guarded facilities are now scrutinising secret arms data gathered over a half century for clues about how to achieve the new reliability goals.

Daily Times, 7 February 2005

### **Iran 'years away' from N-weapon: Rumsfeld**

WASHINGTON: Iran is believed to be years away from having a nuclear weapon and the United States has decided to use diplomacy, not military action, in dealing with the issue, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Sunday. "It's fairly clear from the public statements of the Iranians that, that they are on a path of seeking a nuclear weapon and don't have it at the present time," Rumsfeld said in a taped interview with CNN's "Late Edition." Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rohani said in an interview with Reuters on Sunday that Iran would retaliate and accelerate its nuclear program if attacked. The Bush administration has been severely criticized for going to war against Iraq in 2003 by using the justification that Baghdad had weapons of mass destruction, when none have been found since the invasion. Rumsfeld was cautious about the accuracy of intelligence estimates on Iran's nuclear program. "I don't make estimates, that's the business for the intelligence community. But they're (Iran) some years away according to the estimates, but I don't know if the estimates are correct or not," Rumsfeld told CNN.

Daily Times, 7 February 2005

### **Terrorists using nuclear weapons against US can't be ruled out**

Washington: The possibility of Al Qaeda or another such outfit using a nuclear device against the United States should not be ruled out, according to Steve Coll of the Washington Post. Spelling out what some would consider a "doomsday scenario," Coll, who last year published 'Ghost Wars', a book on Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region, argues, "In Pakistan today, some Islamist insurgents, such as those in the frontier territory where Bin Laden is presumed to be hiding, receive almost-state sponsorship or failed-state sponsorship. Individual officials or sections of a corrupt bureaucracy join with these radicals for a variety of reasons - cash payoffs, ideology, venality, or a blend of all three. "These fluid relationships threaten to render irrelevant the traditional postures of nuclear deterrence, in which governments frighten other governments into nuclear restraint, usually by credible threats of massive retaliation. President Bush's pledge after 9/11 to make 'no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them' does not seem likely to intimidate a future jihadi nuclear cell.

The News, 7 February 2005

### **Iran to accelerate nuclear plan if attacked**

TEHRAN: Iran would both retaliate and accelerate its drive to master nuclear technology if the United States or Israel attacked its atomic facilities, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator warned on Sunday. Secretary-General Iran's Supreme National Security Council Hassan Rohani also told Reuters that there was nothing the West could offer Tehran that would persuade it to scrap a nuclear programme, which Washington fears may be used to make bombs. Asked about a possible attack by the US or Israel, which have both said a nuclear-armed Iran would be unacceptable, Rohani said: "If such an attack (against Iran's atomic facilities) takes place then of course we will retaliate and we will definitely accelerate our activities to complete our (nuclear) fuel cycle." Speaking in a rare interview, Rohani said that Iran's ability to produce its own nuclear parts had made it "invulnerable" to attack since it could simply rebuild whatever was destroyed. "But I do not think the United States itself will take such a risk ... They know our capabilities for retaliating against such attacks," he added.

The News, 8 February 2005

### **Iran to resolve problems with US**

TEHRAN: Iran's top nuclear negotiator said on Tuesday that Tehran wants to resolve decades of differences with the United States but warned that a US military strike would not be able to destroy its nuclear facilities. "We are not seeking tension with the United States," Hasan Rowhani told the state-run television. "We are seeking to resolve our problems with America but it's the Americans who don't want problems be resolved." "There is no problem in today's world that can't be resolved," he insisted. Rowhani, who is the secretary of the powerful Supreme National Security Council, said a US military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities would fail. "Iran's nuclear technology is in the hands of its scientists and workshops throughout the country. All of them have the ability to produce centrifuges. Therefore, America will not be able to destroy our nuclear facilities and mines through a military strike," he warned.

Indian Express, 8 February 2005

### **US vows sanctions to stop spread of missile know-how to Iran**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8: The Bush administration lashed out at China before an international audience for not stopping its munitions companies from selling missile technology to Iran and other rogue states. Speaking to a conference in Tokyo sponsored by Japan on Monday, Undersecretary of State John R Bolton said the US would move aggressively to suspend business with companies that provide sensitive weapons technology to Iran and other countries trying to build weapons of

mass destruction. The speech by the administration's top arms control official appears to mark a shift in tactics. Sanctions normally have been applied quietly against offending firms. Bolton's forceful public talk about meting out punishment held the Chinese government directly accountable. In the speech, Bolton also renewed the administration's opposition to plans by European nations to resume arms sales to China by ending an embargo imposed after China's bloody attack on protesters in and near Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Hindustan Times, 8 February 2005

#### **India "graduates" out of US military assistance**

Washington, Feb.8. The United States has said India was "graduated" out of its military assistance programmes a couple of years ago and is being "graduated" out of economic assistance as well "with the understanding and agreement of the Indians". "We are graduating India. That is with the understanding and agreement of the Indians," a senior administration official, who was briefing media on President Bush's fiscal 2006 Budget beginning October 1, 2005, has revealed. In the last year-and-half, he said, US officials have visited India six times, "and when we sit down and talk to them about assistance levels, it is not one of the major things they focus on". He said that India was setting a good example. When the tsunami struck India, he said, "The Indians said, 'We don't need your assistance. We can do it ourselves on the economic side.'" the official said.

The News, 9 February 2005

#### **Iran tells US N-sites cannot be destroyed**

TEHRAN: Iran warned the United States on Tuesday that its nuclear sites cannot be destroyed by air or missile strikes, as Britain entered the fray by declaring that Tehran is a state sponsor of terrorism. Top national security official Hassan Rowhani said on state television that a military strike would only push Iran's nuclear activities underground, and told Washington that the stand-off should be settled by dialogue. "Our nuclear centres cannot be destroyed. Our nuclear technology comes from our scientists (and) we can transfer our nuclear workshops under mountains and carry out enrichment where no bomb or missile can be effective," said the cleric, adding he did not consider an attack as a "serious threat." Rowhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, insisted that Iran was "not looking for increased tensions with any country, even with the Americans." "We are seeking to resolve our issues with the US. But they are blocking any chance of resolving the issues."

Daily Times, 9 February 2005

#### **Nuclear experts discuss ways to punish 'NPT deserters'**

TOKYO: Nuclear experts and diplomats from 20 nations on Tuesday looked at ways to punish countries deserting the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), at the end of a two-day meeting here on strengthening the pact. The 40 delegates held closed-door talks ahead of a May conference in New York to review the non-proliferation treaty, which North Korea pulled out of in 2003 to world shock. Iran is also in a nuclear standoff. "Some participants argued we should increase the costs of withdrawal for a deserting country" by requiring them to return materials and equipment which they received for peaceful use of atomic power upon joining the treaty, a Japanese government official said, adding that Tokyo backed the proposal.

Dawn, 9 February 2005

#### **N-centres can be moved underground, Iran tell US**

TEHRAN, Feb 8: Iran's top national security official has warned the United States that the country's controversial nuclear programme cannot be destroyed by air or missile strikes, state television reported on Tuesday. Hassan Rowhani said such an attack would only push Iran's nuclear activities underground, and added that he would prefer to see tensions with the United States resolved by dialogue. "Our nuclear centres cannot be destroyed. Our nuclear technology comes from our scientists (and) we can transfer our nuclear workshops under mountains and carry out enrichment where no bomb or missile can be effective," said the official. "The United States will not gain anything from a military attack. I do not see a military attack as a serious threat," added Mr Rowhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

The New York Times, 9 February 2005

#### **Up to 480 U.S. Nuclear Arms in Europe, Private Study Says** (Eric Schmitt)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8: The United States still keeps as many as 480 nuclear weapons at air bases across Europe, more than twice what independent military analysts previously estimated, according to a new study that says the weapons' presence is hurting efforts to curb nuclear proliferation worldwide. Military officials insisted that the size of the nuclear stockpile in Europe, while classified, was smaller than that. But they acknowledged that it still existed to deter terrorists or nations that could threaten America or its allies with unconventional weapons. The officials also say the stockpile's presence and its long-term fate have caused simmering tensions among senior NATO political and military officials.

The New York Times, 9 February 2005

#### **U.S. Asking China to Increase Pressure on North Korea to End Its Nuclear Program** (David E. Sanger and William J. Broad)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8: Driven by new evidence that North Korea may have begun selling nuclear materials around the world, President Bush sent an emissary last week to see President Hu Jintao of China and urge him to intensify diplomatic pressure on the North to give up its weapons program, according to senior American and Asian officials. The emissary, Michael Green, delivered a letter from Mr. Bush to Mr. Hu that, in the words of one American official, "was written to underscore the greatly heightened urgency" of the problem. According to Asian officials, the Chinese promised to send a delegation to Pyongyang later this month, but also advised Mr. Bush against making public pronouncements about the North Korean situation, the way he regularly talked about the threat posed by Iraq in the year leading up to the March 2003 invasion. Mr. Bush has never

publicly mentioned the new information about suspect North Korean nuclear sales, which was reported by The New York Times last week.

Daily Times, 9 February 2005

**'China plans revolutionary, pebble bed nuclear reactor'**

BEIJING: China plans to develop a revolutionary, "pebble-bed" nuclear reactor which would be both meltdown- and proliferation-proof, and come on stream in five years time, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. A Chinese energy consortium has chosen the city of Weihai in northeastern Shandong province to build the 195-megawatt gas-cooled power plant, the newspaper said, citing an unnamed official representing the consortium. The plant would be the first radically new reactor design for decades, putting China at the forefront in nuclear energy research that offers a "meltdown-proof" alternative to conventional nuclear power stations, it said. "Pebble bed" reactors are fuelled by thousands of small graphite balls with minute uranium cores which provide the fuel for the nuclear reaction.

The New York Times, 9 February 2005

**Bush Bites His Tongue** (Nicholas D. Kristof)

There are two words the Bush administration doesn't want you to think about: North Korea. That's because the most dangerous failure of U.S. policy these days is in North Korea. President Bush has been startlingly passive as North Korea has begun churning out nuclear weapons like hot cakes. The dangers were underscored with last week's reports that the uranium in Libya's former nuclear program may have come from North Korea. Indeed, Mr. Bush seems to recognize that his policy has failed - that's why he isn't talking much about North Korea now, at least publicly, and why (as reported in The Times today) he sent an emissary to talk last week with the Chinese leader, Hu Jintao, about how to tame North Korea.

China Daily, 10 February 2005

**US asks China to push for N. Korea talks**

US President Bush sent an envoy to China last week to urge a renewed push to get North Korea back to stalled negotiations over its nuclear weapons program, U.S. officials said on Wednesday. The envoy, Michael Green, an Asian expert on the National Security Council, carried with him a letter for Chinese President Hu Jintao, the officials said. Similar letters were given to South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. "We feel and believe that the Chinese government does understand the threat a nuclear-armed Korean Peninsula represents and thus understands the need for North Korea to return to the six-party talks," said a senior administration official. Another official said Green had delivered a message to the Chinese about information suggesting that Libya had obtained uranium hexafluoride from North Korea and made the case that this underscored the need to restart six-party talks.

Daily Times, 10 February 2005

**We can't do business with nuclear sanction threat, India tells US**

BANGALORE: India's defense minister on Wednesday expressed reluctance to sign deals with US arms suppliers because Washington could re-impose sanctions, such as those slapped on after 1998 nuclear tests, choking off vital spare parts and technology. Pranab Mukherjee said India needs to ensure uninterrupted support for any defense system it purchases. "With the possibility of sanctions, (America's) credibility as a supplier is in question," Mukherjee said on the sidelines of an international air show in the southern city of Bangalore where US defense contractors are displaying their wares. "Dependability as a source of supply and technology transfer are the two most important criteria for defense cooperation," he said. Washington banned the sale of military technology to India under sanctions imposed after the series of nuclear tests in 1998. The United States lifted all sanctions by the end of last year as relations between the two countries improved, and has not threatened to re-impose them since.

Daily Times, 10 February 2005

**Iran asks Japan to help smooth relations with US**

TOKYO: Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi has asked Japan to help ease tensions between Tehran and Washington over Iran's plans to make nuclear fuel that could be used for atomic weapons, a Japanese official said on Wednesday. US President George W Bush, who has refused to rule out military action, last week called Iran the world's primary state sponsor of terror and accused it of trying to build nuclear arms. Iran has said its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. "Kharrazi said ... Japan probably has abundant (positive) information about Iran and asked that it convey such information to the United States," a Foreign Ministry official told reporters after the Iranian minister met Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Iran is the third-largest energy supplier for Japan, which relies on the Middle East for almost all of its oil. Kharrazi reiterated that Iran was not seeking nuclear weapons and that its nuclear programme would be used for peaceful aims such as generating electricity, the official said.

Daily Times, 10 February 2005

**Rice tells Iran to take EU deal or face UNSC**

BRUSSELS: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged European allies on Wednesday to get tougher with Iran, highlighting continuing policy differences despite her call for a new chapter in transatlantic relations. Rice flew to Brussels for talks with NATO foreign ministers and the European Union after saying Iran should be warned it faces referral to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions unless it accepts an EU deal on its nuclear programme. "(The) Iranians need to hear that if they are unwilling to take the deal, really, that the Europeans are giving ... then the Security Council looms," she told Fox News. "I don't know that anyone has said that as clearly as they should to the Iranians," she said in a comment intended not

only to pressure Tehran but also to spur France, Britain and Germany to get tough in their negotiations with Iran on the EU's behalf. Policy divisions over Iran and China were likely to test the upbeat mood nurtured by Rice this week on her maiden journey as secretary of state.

Reuters, 10 February 2005

#### **Iran Says It Will Never Give Up Nuclear Technology**

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON: Iran, in a renewed challenge to U.S. and European efforts to prevent it from acquiring a nuclear bomb, vowed on Wednesday it would never give up its nuclear program. President Mohammad Khatami also warned of "massive" consequences if it was treated unfairly over its nuclear program which Iran says is for peaceful purposes only and Washington believes is a cover for producing a bomb. "We give our guarantee that we will not produce nuclear weapons because we're against them and do not believe they are a source of power," Khatami told foreign ambassadors in Tehran. "But we will not give up peaceful nuclear technology." In Washington, President Bush said a nuclear-armed Iran would be "a very destabilizing force in the world" and urged the West to work together to stop this happening. Britain, France and Germany are trying to persuade Iran to end permanently all nuclear activities which could be used to produce a bomb in return for economic and trade incentives. While the talks go on, Iran has suspended nuclear work, including uranium enrichment which can be used to make weapons-grade fuel.

Dawn, 10 February 2005

#### **European response pleases Bush: Iran nuclear programme**

WASHINGTON, Feb 9: US President George W. Bush said on Wednesday he was "very pleased" with European leaders' response to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's call for a harder line on Iran's nuclear programmes. "The Iranians just need to know that the free world is working together to send a very clear message: Don't develop a nuclear weapon," he said as he met with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski at the White House. "And the reason we're sending that message is because Iran with a nuclear weapon would be a very destabilizing force in the world," said Bush, who told reporters he would bring that message on his late February trip to Europe. Rice said during her first trip to Europe since taking her new post that Tehran must face possible UN sanctions if it rejects diplomatic overtures aimed at ending the dispute over its atomic programmes. "I don't know that anyone has said that as clearly as they should to the Iranians," she told Fox News in an apparent message to British, French and German leaders who have spearheaded talks with Tehran.

The New York Times, 10 February 2005

#### **Encouraging Nuclear Proliferation**

There are many things the United States military badly needs these days, like better armored vehicles for combat zones like Iraq and more unpiloted aircraft for reconnaissance and bombing. One thing it has no pressing use for is a new line of nuclear warheads being designed at America's three nuclear weapons laboratories to replace the roughly 10,000 still on hand from the overbuilding frenzies of the cold war. This is essentially a make-work project for weapons designers that risks triggering a new worldwide nuclear arms race. America's nuclear creativity should be focused on convincing nations like Iran and North Korea that nuclear weapons will not enhance their own security, not on setting a perverse contrary example. Nuclear weapons are extremely ill suited for most conceivable battlefield situations. They are unique in their power to destroy innocent civilian lives, and there are almost always cleaner, more efficient ways to destroy purely military targets. Since the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki almost 60 years ago, they have never again been used in combat.

The New York Times, 10 February 2005

#### **Uranium Enrichment Plant Is Proposed for New Mexico** (Matthew L. Wald)

HOBBS, N.M., Feb. 9: The uranium enrichment centrifuge plant that gets the most attention these days is in Iran, but a larger one, carefully watched by the civilian nuclear power industry and its opponents, is taking shape here, in the desert just west of the Texas border. If built, it would be the largest commercial nuclear project ordered in this country in more than three decades. To supporters, the proposed \$1.3 billion plant is a sign of faith in the nuclear power industry's perseverance and revival, and a way to make reactor fuel with far less energy, replacing an enrichment technology invented for the Manhattan Project. To opponents, it is a risky new industry that could release clouds of chemical poisons. Even if it operates accident-free, opponents say, it would produce radioactive waste that nobody knows what to do with. New Mexico's governor, Bill Richardson, said in an interview he would support the project if there were "an ironclad guarantee" that the waste would leave the state. But Mr. Richardson, who was energy secretary in the Clinton administration, has expressed skepticism that the Energy Department would take the waste away, as the law requires.

The Telegraph, 11 February 2005

#### **Gujarat Muslims on US radar** (K.P.Nayar)

Washington, Feb. 10: President George W. Bush's pledge last month to bring democracy to oppressed peoples throughout the world will soon reach Muslims in Gujarat if the US state department under its new secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, has its way. The department's bureau of democracy, human rights and labour yesterday announced its support for projects in Gujarat aimed at bringing legal redress to Muslims. Describing Indian Muslims as "marginalised", it announced support for building civil society for the minority community nationwide and for programmes aimed at promoting their inclusiveness. A total of \$15 million has been set apart for such projects worldwide during the financial year 2005.

The Tribune, 11 February 2005

#### **Pallone moves Bill backing India**

Washington, Feb.10.A Democrat Congressman today introduced a Bill supporting India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nation's Security Council in the US House of Representatives. Mr Frank Pallone, founder of the Congressional Caucus on India, introduced a 'Sense of Congress' legislation which would put the US House of Representatives officially on record in support of India's bid. "Sense of Congress" resolutions have no binding effect on the Administration but indicate the strong feelings of Congress on issues of importance. Observing that New Delhi was a growing economic power, Mr Pallone said: "Any reform of the Security Council must lead to permanent membership for India. It is in our national interest and, indeed, our responsibility to ensure that this happens."

The News, 11 February 2005

#### **N Korea to resume talks, says US**

WASHINGTON: The US has said it hopes to persuade North Korea to return to multi-party talks on its nuclear weapons programme, but it ruled out offering concessions. Washington also played down the significance of Pyongyang's public claim that it has nuclear weapons. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the US remained "committed to a peaceful diplomatic solution". Pyongyang has said it is quitting talks indefinitely, declaring them pointless because of "hostile" US policy. Deputy state department spokesman Adam Ereli said the US had long assumed that North Korea had a nuclear capability, and stressed the importance of the six-party talks. However, he ruled out offering North Korea new incentives to return to the negotiations.

Daily Times, 11 February 2005

#### **Rice says Iran is moving in wrong direction**

LUXEMBOURG: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Thursday that Iran's support of terrorism, nuclear ambitions and lack of democracy are out of step with trends in neighbouring nations, notably Pakistan. Rice, speaking to reporters after meeting with EU officials, said Pakistan - though a nuclear power - has moved toward internal reforms, better ties with archenemy India and has joined the fight against terrorism. "If one looks at where Pakistan was 3 1/2 years ago, (then) those trends are moving Pakistan away from extremism, toward a policy that recognises that extremism and modernisation in Pakistan cannot exist side by side," Rice said. She added that Saudi Arabia, another US ally, also is making cautious moves toward democracy. As she spoke, Saudi men were voting in city elections - the first time Saudi Arabia has staged elections largely conforming to international standards. Women, however, are banned from running for office and from voting.

Daily Times, 11 February 2005

#### **US N-strategy calls for outsourcing strikes**

WASHINGTON: US nuclear strategy calls for outsourcing nuclear strikes, in case of a major conflict in Europe, to NATO allies that do not have such weapons, in what experts view as an attempt to skirt international law, according to an authoritative report made public here. The study by the Natural Resources Defense Council, a national security and environmental think-tank, is based mainly on declassified official documents and provides a detailed analysis of the US nuclear arsenal in Europe as well as of doctrines justifying its presence there more than a decade after the end of the Cold War. But for the first time, the document revealed on Wednesday a specific number of nuclear warheads which, under US and NATO war plans, will be transferred to US non-nuclear allies to be delivered to targets by their warplanes. If war were to break out in Europe, as many as 180 nuclear bombs would be earmarked for delivery by the air forces of Belgium, the Netherlands, Turkey, Germany and Italy, the report said.

Daily Times, 12 February 2005

#### **North Korea demands direct dialogue with US**

SEOUL: North Korea has demanded bilateral talks with the United States to defuse the tension created by its announcement that it is a nuclear power, the communist state's UN envoy said in a South Korean newspaper interview published Friday. Han Sung Ryol, a senior diplomat at North Korea's UN delegation in New York, was the first North Korean official to speak to outside news media since Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry defied the United States and its allies by declaring Thursday that it has nuclear weapons as a deterrent against a US invasion and doesn't intend to join six-nation disarmament talks any time soon. "We will return to the six-nation talks when we see a reason to do so and the conditions are ripe," Han told Seoul's Hankyoreh newspaper in a Thursday interview in New York. "If the United States moves to have direct dialogue with us, we can take that as a signal that the United States is changing its hostile policy toward us." Han's suggestion came as the two-year-old standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes plummeted to a new chill with Pyongyang's statement Thursday.

People's Daily, 12 February 2005

#### **US rejects to hold direct talks with DPRK**

The United States on Friday rejected the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s demands for direct talks over its nuclear weapons program and insisted on six-party negotiations. "It's not an issue between North Korea and the United States; it's a regional issue," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "There's plenty of opportunities for North Korea to speak directly with us in the context of the six-party talks," he said. The DPRK has demanded bilateral talks with Washington to defuse the tension created by its announcement that it is a nuclear power, Pyongyang's UN envoy said in a South Korean newspaper Friday. "We will return to the six-nation talks when we see a reason to do so and the conditions are ripe," Han told Seoul's Hankyoreh newspaper in an interview published Friday.

Reuters, 12 February 2005

### **Iran greater threat than N. Korea: US**

PARIS: The United States believes that the threat posed by Iran's nuclear programme outstrips bellicose statements by North Korea that it possessed nuclear weapons, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in remarks published yesterday. We believe the North Korean problem still can be solved through diplomatic means," Rice told the French newspaper Le Figaro. "Iran poses a direct threat to the peace process in the Middle East through its support of terrorist groups." Persuading Iran to abide by terms agreed to internationally for its nuclear programme poses "a difficult and urgent problem," said Rice. Iran has been locked in negotiations with three European powers and the International Atomic Energy Agency with the aim of ensuring the Teheran government's nuclear programme only serves peaceful purposes.

The Korean Herald, 12 February 2005

### **Rice says Washington has long assumed Pyongyang had nukes**

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said North Korea should return to disarmament talks and avoid further international isolation, and world leaders echoed her call for the Stalinist state to abandon its nuclear weapons. "The world has given them a way out," and North Korea should take it, she told a news conference following talks with European Union leaders in Luxembourg hours after Pyongyang announced it had nuclear weapons and needed them as protection against an increasingly hostile United States. "The North Koreans have been told by the president of the United States that the United States has no intention of attacking or invading North Korea," Rice said. "There is a path for the North Koreans that would put them in a more reasonable relationship with the rest of the world." Asked to further analyze the thinking in Pyongyang, she said, "I'm not sure anyone ever gets very far by trying to second-guess the motivation of the North Korean regime.

Tehrantimes.com, 12 February 2005

### **EU, U.S. playing 'good cop/bad cop' in regard to Iran's nuclear program: Shamkhani**

YAZD: Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani on Thursday lumped the Europeans with the U.S. government as 'enemies' of Iran's nuclear program, saying they were playing the 'good cop' role in a game, in which the Bush regime was acting as the heavy. "The enemies are talking to us in both polite and threatening languages," he told demonstrators in this central desert city to mark the 26th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. "One side is playing a good cop role, while the other side is playing the bad cop in order to put Iran in the throes of the good cop from fear of the bad cop," Shamkhani added. His statements were the early signs of unease in Iran which is watching U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's ongoing tour of Europe with increased suspicion. Iran and the Europeans, represented by Germany, France and Britain, are in the midst of crucial talks aimed at finding a long-term solution to Tehran's nuclear program.

The Indian Express, 12 February 2005

### **US welcomes Indian N-experts (Pranab Dhal Samanta)**

NEW DELHI, Feb. 11: In a positive turn to the Indo-US dialogue on civilian nuclear issues, Washington has offered to accept an Indian representative from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) to spend six months with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). There is no strict bar on the number of representatives. The offer was made by Jeffrey S. Merrifield, a visiting Commissioner of the NRC, who has been in the country for the past week and has held discussions with AERB officials and even toured some of India's nuclear reactor sites. "We have proposed that a representative of the AERB come to the US for about six months. This will be a valuable tool in learning and exchanging information on how the reactors work and the care being taken to maintain these reactors," he told The Indian Express in an exclusive interaction.

Deccan Chronicle, 12 February 2005

### **India-baiter is chief of US Asia Bureau**

Washington, Feb.11. US Congressman Dan Burton, a long time critic of India, has been named vice chair of a Congress subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. Burton, Republican of Indiana, who picks on India on human rights issues, has been named vice chair of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific in the 109th Congress. Burton has been angling to become the chair of the Asia Pacific Subcommittee and if that were to happen, India would face some tough hearings on the Hill. However, this year again, Representative Jim Leach (Republican, Iowa) was reappointed to chair the subcommittee.

The News, 13 February 2004

### **UN blames US, N Korea for nuclear war of words**

UNITED NATIONS: A top UN envoy late Friday blamed both the United States and North Korea for what he called an unhelpful war of words over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme. The comments by Maurice Strong, special advisor to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, came after North Korea said publicly that it had nuclear weapons and that it would pull out of six-party talks about its programme. "It does elevate the climate of hostility and misunderstanding that has been the main impediment, a major impediment at least, to the continued discussions," Strong told a press briefing at UN headquarters in New York. "There's no question when the dialogue is conducted at the level of bellicose rhetoric, which we have heard from both sides," he said, referring to Pyongyang and Washington. "This kind of thing may satisfy their desire to make their positions respectively known as strongly as possible, but they really don't help in setting the stage for real good constructive negotiations," he said. Strong played down concern over Pyongyang's announcement, saying the secretive Stalinist state had already privately indicated it had developed nuclear weapons. "Very few people who are close to the situation are surprised at anything but the timing, perhaps," he said, indicating it may be related to the second term of the administration of US President George W Bush, which started last month.

The Hindu, 13 February 2004

**U.S. not for direct talks with North Korea** (Sridhar Krishnaswami)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12: The U.S. has ruled out one-on-one talks with North Korea but has assured Pyongyang that it has no intention to attack it because of its nuclear programme. "We've made it very clear that no one has an interest in attacking North Korea," said the White House spokesman, Scott McClellan. But Pyongyang must engage in talks with regional neighbours if it had the desire to communicate with Washington. "I think all parties in the region recognise that they have a stake in North Korea ending its nuclear weapons programme. We made very clear our view - it is a view shared by other parties to the talks - [that] the six-party talks are the way to resolve this matter in a peaceful and diplomatic way," he said. A State Department spokesman repeated Washington's stand on talks. "We do speak directly to the North Koreans in the context of the six-party discussions. We have a New York channel that we use occasionally to communicate with the North Koreans".

The Telegraph, 14 February 2005

**Outsource reaches US aerospace** (B.R.Srikanth)

Bangalore, Feb. 13: Several US aerospace companies have offered to outsource projects to Indian defence equipment manufacturers, adding a new dimension to the emerging strategic partnership between the two nations. The honchos of a dozen US aerospace and consulting companies, part of the US-India Business Council's Executive Defence Mission, vowed to build a long-term strategic relationship with India. "We view the Indian defence sector not only as a market, but also a potential supplier and partner. And we will be seeking through our discussions to identify additional opportunities in all these areas," General Joseph W. Ralston, a retired joint chief of staff of the US Air Force and vice-chairman of The Cohen Group, told reporters at Aero India 2005, an international airshow here.

The New York Times, 14 February 2005

**U.S. Is Shaping Plan to Pressure North Koreans** (David E. Sanger)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13: In the months before North Korea announced that it possessed nuclear weapons, the Bush administration began developing new strategies to choke off its few remaining sources of income, based on techniques in use against Al Qaeda, intelligence officials and policy makers involved in the planning say. The initial steps are contained in a classified "tool kit" of techniques to pressure North Korea that has been refined in recent weeks by the National Security Council. The new strategies would intensify and coordinate efforts to track and freeze financial transactions that officials say enable the government of Kim Jong Il to profit from counterfeiting, drug trafficking and the sale of missile and other weapons technology. Some officials describe the steps as building blocks for what could turn into a broader quarantine if American allies in Asia - particularly China and South Korea - can be convinced that Mr. Kim's declaration on nuclear weapons last week means he must finally be forced to choose between disarmament and even deeper isolation. China and South Korea have been reluctant to impose penalties on the North.

Dawn, 14 February 2005

**US flying secret missions over Iran: Report**

WASHINGTON, Feb 13: The US has been flying surveillance drones over Iran for nearly a year to seek evidence of nuclear weapons programs, The Washington Post reported on Sunday. Besides looking for nuclear sites, the US spy planes are also trying to detect weaknesses in Iran's air defence, the report added. The small, pilot less planes enter Iranian airspace from US military facilities in Iraq. They use radar, video, still photography and air filters designed to pick up traces of nuclear activity to gather information that is not accessible by satellites, the report said. US, European and Iranian officials told the Post that the Iranian government is aware of this surveillance and has formally protested the incursions as illegal. Since Iran does not have diplomatic relations with the US, the Iranian government used Swiss channels for conveying their protest.

The Guardian, 14 February 2005

**Iran row clouds defence summit** (Richard Norton-Taylor)

MUNICH: Tensions between the US and Europe over the conduct of the "war on terror" - in particular, how to stop Iran building nuclear weapons - spilled over yesterday at a high-level security conference. Sharp differences were exposed and even the usefulness of Nato, the US-dominated institution at the heart of the transatlantic relationship, was questioned. Joschka Fischer, the German foreign minister, urged America yesterday to embrace the EU's diplomatic efforts to ensure Iran did not develop nuclear weapons. "If the United States were to engage positively, and I'm aware of how difficult that is, it would substantially strengthen the European drive," he told the annual Munich security conference. "If the whole process collapsed then we would have to go to the [UN] security council," he said. But Mr Fischer suggested that sanctions could strengthen hardline elements in the Iranian government and weaken democrats.

The New York Times, 15 February 2005

**Rice Assures South Korean of U.S. Pressure on North** (Joel Brinkley and James Brooke)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in a meeting with the South Korean foreign minister on Monday, pledged to continue using diplomatic means to pressure North Korea to end its nuclear program and give up the nuclear weapons it claimed last week that it possesses. For his part, the foreign minister, Ban Ki Moon, told Ms. Rice that his country believed that North Korea might be bluffing, an administration official said. That contention was amplified in Seoul on Monday by Chung Dong Young, South Korea's minister of unification, in a speech to the National Assembly in which he noted that the North had made similar claims at least 10 times since 2003. "We see it as a claim to own nuclear weapons, not an official statement of being a nuclear weapons state," Mr. Chung said. Along with the nuclear weapons announcement last

week, North Korea also said it was pulling out of the six-party talks on ending its nuclear weapons program in exchange for security and economic considerations. No talks have been held since last June. North Korea wants direct negotiations with Washington, an idea the Bush administration rejects.

The Asahi Shimbun, 15 February 2005

#### **Mohamed ElBaradei: 7 steps for preventing nuclear proliferation**

Four months from now, in New York, the world will have a rare opportunity to make significant improvements in international security. The question is whether we will be smart enough to use it. In recent years, three phenomena have radically altered the security landscape. They are the emergence of a nuclear black market, the determined efforts by more countries to acquire technology to produce the fissile material useable in nuclear weapons and the clear desire of terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction. We have been trying to solve these new problems with existing tools. But for every step forward, we have exposed vulnerabilities in the system. The system itself-the regime that implements the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT)-needs reinforcement. Some of the necessary remedies can be taken in May, but only if governments are ready to act.

Tehrantimes.com, 15 February 2005

#### **Slightest mistake by U.S. would spark conflagration in Middle East: analyst**

TEHRAN: Political analyst Alireza Davari said here on Monday that the U.S. is trying to pursue its plans against Iran's nuclear program by politicizing the atmosphere around the Iran-European Union nuclear talks and suggesting that the talks are futile. Davari told the Mehr News Agency that Iran should resist the U.S. diplomacy of pressure through extensive cooperation with internationally respected countries and stressed the necessity of continuing the current process of talks with the EU. Iran should emphasize the significance of Europe's independent role and present reports exposing the deception of the U.S. allegations in order to obtain Europe's support, he added. Referring to the remarks of EU foreign policy and security chief Javier Solana, who had asked Iran to halt some of its nuclear activities, Davari said that Solana had also recognized Iran's right to make use of nuclear technology meant for peaceful purposes in statements he made at a recent security conference in Munich, Germany.

The News, 15 February 2005

#### **US prepares strategy against N Korea as Rice consults allies**

WASHINGTON: The United States is reportedly preparing strategies to choke off North Korea's few remaining sources of income as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice launched talks on Monday with allies to step up pressure against the nuclear-armed Stalinist state. As Washington pondered the next month after North Korea's public declaration last week that it possessed nuclear weapons and was staying away from multilateral talks to end a two-year standoff with the United States, Rice met her South Korean counterpart Ban Ki-Moon in Washington on Monday. She told reporters before the talks at the State Department that South Korea was a "very, very strong alliance" partner and that she looked forward to discussions with him on a broad range of issues. North Korea's nuclear threat and US military presence in South Korea are expected to top the agenda of talks between the two leaders, diplomats said.

Dawn, 15 February 2005

#### **US working on new assessments of Iran's nuclear programme (Dafna Linzer and Walter Pincus)**

WASHINGTON: The intelligence community is conducting a broad review of its Iran assessments, including a new look at the country's nuclear programme, the future of its ruling clerics and the impact of the Iraqi war on Tehran's powerful position in the region, according to administration officials and congressional sources. Two separate reports - a wide-ranging National Intelligence Estimate and a second memo focusing exclusively on Tehran's chemical, biological and nuclear capabilities - will reflect an updated consensus within the intelligence community. The documents are meant to guide the Bush administration as it continues to deliberate on a policy for dealing with Iran and its nuclear ambitions. The review, which began last month, comes after several weeks in which President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have challenged Iran to halt an alleged nuclear weapons programme. The pattern and tone of the administration's comments have struck some as similar to claims made in 2002 about then-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction programmes.

Reuters, 15 February 2005

#### **U.N. Nuclear Watchdog Chides Egypt**

VIENNA, Feb. 14: The United Nations' nuclear monitoring agency chided Egypt in a confidential report on Monday for failing to declare nuclear sites and materials but said its inspections had so far found no evidence that Egypt was seeking nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency said in the report that Egypt had not understood that it had to declare some nuclear sites and materials, including a plant for separating plutonium, which can be used in an atomic weapon. "The repeated failures by Egypt to report nuclear material and facilities to the agency in a timely manner are a matter of concern," the I.A.E.A. said in the report, which was circulated to diplomats ahead of its Feb. 28 board of governors meeting and was obtained by news agencies. The agency said it was still investigating, but added, "The nuclear material and facilities seen by the agency to date are consistent with the activities described by Egypt." Egypt says its nuclear work is for peaceful purposes only.

Dawn, 16 February 2005

#### **US-Iran nuclear stand off (Tayyab Siddiqui)**

Ominous developments threatening the peace and security of our region are following an inexorable course. The denouement

of these developments could be more sinister than the US invasion of Iraq. The main protagonist in the evolving drama is again the US. The script is also a familiar one, except that this time the villain of the piece is Iran. US-Iran relations, or rather their absence, since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran has always had the potential of reaching a flash point, with both countries seen as the arch villain to the other. While Iran regards the US as the "Great Satan", Washington has declared Iran as part of the 'axis of evil'. President Bush's policies in the wake of 9/11 have been reminiscent of gunboat diplomacy with little regard for international law conventions or legality. In pursuit of its national interest, the Bush administration has launched military adventures in brazen defiance of international opinion and protests.

Dawn, 16 February 2005

**N-assets in safe hands, says FO** (Hasan Akhtar)

ISLAMABAD, Feb 15: Pakistan on Tuesday described as total fabrication a recent American news report citing a CIA document which alleged that Pakistani nuclear assets were not in safe hands and they were liable to be stolen. Referring to the report at his weekly news briefing, foreign office spokesman Masood Khan asserted that Pakistan's nuclear assets and programme were completely secured by an elaborate, viable, dependable and infallible command and control system. In addition, the custodial controls were stringent. He said the security system comprised four areas - command, control and communication system; credible information, reliable intelligence and finally, reconnaissance installations. A national command authority was in place and "we have a strategic plans commission and strategic forces command". The spokesman elaborated that Pakistan had constituted a National Command Authority, the apex body ensuring the safety and security of nuclear weapons, which was headed by the president and the prime minister was its vice-chairman. Any speculation as reported in the report quoting the CIA was irresponsible, he said.

The News, 16 February 2005

**India, Pakistan 'potential threats': US committee**

WASHINGTON: The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in one of its rare open hearings, identified Asia and specifically India and Pakistan as well as China as potential threats and sources of instability. Hearing testimony from experts, Peter Hoedstra, chair of the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee, said Washington spends a significant amount of money on understanding threats from all sources, not just from nuclear capable states. Kurt M Campbell, senior Vice-President and Director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies' International Security Programme, discussed the challenges posed by Asia and in particular the rapid increase in the power and influence of China. "Indeed, every major traditional challenge to peace and stability is currently found in Asia, from the continuing dangerous stalemate on the Korean peninsula, the increasingly dangerous undertones in the China-Taiwan relationship and the tinderbox quality of the nuclear competition between India and Pakistan," Campbell said in written remarks submitted to the committee.

The New York Times, 16 February 2005

**U.S. Official Says North Korea Could Be Bluffing on Nuclear Arms** (Joel Brinkley)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15: Robert B. Zoellick, a senior government official nominated to be deputy secretary of state, suggested Tuesday that North Korea's recent announcement that it now possesses nuclear weapons might have been a bluff. "I would be careful about reading too much into the North Koreans' most recent statement," Mr. Zoellick, the United States trade representative, said during his Senate confirmation hearing for the second-ranking position in the State Department. He then listed several possible political motivations for the statement, including "pounding one's chest" for the benefit of North Korean citizens. His remark represented a subtle shift in tone on Tuesday by Bush administration officials, who had previously focused their response on urging the North Koreans to return to the regional negotiations intended to persuade them to dismantle their nuclear program. The White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, echoed Mr. Zoellick's assessment, saying at a news briefing on Tuesday that "North Korea has frequently used that rhetoric in the past."

The News, 17 February 2005

**Iran top security risk to US: CIA director**

WASHINGTON: Iran remains a potent US security threat, the director of the CIA told US a Senate panel, as he outlined potential dangers to US interests around the globe. In his first public comments since assuming the post of CIA director in September, Porter Goss depicted a world fraught with peril for US citizens and interests, particularly from radical Islamist groups in the Middle East and Asia. "Al-Qaeda besides Iran is intent on finding ways to circumvent US security enhancements to strike Americans and the homeland," Goss told the Senate Intelligence Committee at a hearing on threats to US security worldwide. While the radical Islamist group has succeeded in the past delivering severe blows to the United States via conventional weapons, "it may only be a matter of time before Al-Qaeda or another group attempts to use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons," Goss said.

The News, 17 February 2005

**US to support EU efforts on Iran: Schroeder**

BERLIN: German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will urge US President George W Bush to work more closely with the European nations who are trying to persuade Iran to abandon efforts to develop nuclear fuel, he said in an interview on Wednesday. Schroeder told the Wall Street Journal Europe he will use his meeting with Bush in Germany next Wednesday to ask Bush to narrow the gap between the Europeans' approach to the Iranian issue and the hardline position of the United States "We share the same goals here and in the United States," Schroeder told the paper. "The discussion is only about the means we are using to achieve the goal." France, Britain and Germany are currently trying to persuade Iran to permanently give up its nuclear enrichment program to produce weapons-grade uranium in return for a package of political and economic

benefits. The United States meanwhile suspects Iran is secretly developing an atomic bomb and is refusing to negotiate with the Iranian authorities. Schroeder added: "The European powers rely on negotiations, which I believe is right. "In order to negotiate successfully one has to offer something on the other side. "In this case, what's specifically on offer is economic cooperation and security. "Naturally both can be guaranteed best by Europe and US together. "As a result, I hope the European approach is emphatically supported by everyone."

The New York Times, 17 February 2005

**U.S. Envoy to Japan Assails North Korea's Arms Program** (James Brooke)

TOKYO, Feb. 16: The United States ambassador to Japan criticized North Korea on Wednesday for proliferating nuclear weapons materials and called its nuclear program "a deadly threat." "The thing I worry most about with the North Koreans, to tell you the truth, is not that they're going to bomb Tokyo, but rather that they have a demonstrated record of selling any military device they own," Howard H. Baker Jr. said in a press briefing as he prepared to leave Japan. "A regime such as the North Koreans, with that record, selling nuclear material to all comers, is a very serious issue." Mr. Baker said the world should not have any doubts that North Korea had nuclear weapons. "They have said now, more than once, that they have nuclear weapons, and I accept that at face value," Mr. Baker, a former Republican senator from Tennessee, told American reporters. "What is the upside of not believing them?" As Mr. Baker spoke, North Korea was celebrating Wednesday the 63rd birthday of Kim Jong Il, the nation's hereditary leader.

The New York Times, 17 February 2005

**Iran Says Pilotless U.S. Jets Are Spying on Nuclear Sites** (Nazila Fathi)

TEHRAN, Feb. 16: Iran said Wednesday that American pilotless spy planes had been seen over its nuclear sites and threatened to shoot them down if they came within range. Information Minister Ali Yunessi, speaking after a meeting with members of Parliament, said the American spying over Iran had been going on for "a long time." "Most of the shining objects that our people see in Iran's airspace are American spying equipment used to spy on Iran's nuclear and military facilities," Mr. Yunessi said on state television. "If any of the bright objects come close, they will definitely meet our fire and will be shot down," he said. "We possess the necessary equipment to confront them." Iran's Foreign Ministry would not comment on Sunday on a Washington Post report that American pilotless planes had been flying over Iran for nearly a year, looking for evidence of a nuclear weapons program. "I cannot make comments about it," said the spokesman for the ministry, Hamid Reza Assefi. "The subject is related to the security and information apparatus." The White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, asked about the reports on Monday, said he could not confirm or deny "matters related to intelligence." Questioned again by reporters on Wednesday, Mr. McClellan said he had nothing to add.

Deccan Chronicle, 17 February 2005

**US brain drain may be India's gain**

Silicon Valley, Feb.16. The highly-skilled, Indian-born talent that once flocked to the US is now returning home, "turning America's brain drain into India's brain gain", a report released by a high-tech lobbying group here said. Titled Losing the Competitive Advantage? The Challenge for Science and Technology in the United States, the report also says that countries like India and China, through the restructuring of their economies, were dramatically increasing the skill sets of their work force, thereby posing a challenge to the US leadership in the technology domain. "Public-private partnerships (in India) have invested in technical universities and communications infrastructure to create cutting-edge technology parks in places like Bangalore. This will only make India more competitive and alluring to investors and multinational companies," the report by AEA, formerly known as the American Electronic Association, says. India is embarking on further reform to provide labour flexibility, freer flows of capital, and desperately needed infrastructure improvement, it says adding that the country, along with China, was catching up in critical areas and has restructured their economy to benefit from the free market system they once resisted.

The Korean Herald, 18 February 2005

**N. Korea, U.S. swing diplomacy to China** (Choi Sung-ah)

Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon and U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill made separate diplomatic swings into Beijing yesterday to try to revive the stalled six-nation disarmament talks but some officials cautioned against pinning high hopes on any immediate breakthrough. "This is a procedural trip for both the envoys to individually discuss ideas that can become a cornerstone to coerce North Korea back to the discussion table without preconditions," a Foreign Ministry official here said. "The trip should not be looked upon to immediately bring about tangible progress, but more in the sense that all nations are serious to get North Korea to change its stance." Song left for the Chinese capital yesterday morning on a previously scheduled two-day visit to meet China's Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, his counterpart in the disarmament talks. Hill, who is to take over as head of Washington's team to the six-party talks, traveled to Beijing on a last-minute day-trip unrelated to Song's visit.

Reuters, 18 February 2005

**U.S. Diplomat Says N.Korea Nuclear Path 'Dead End'** (Jon Herskovitz)

SEOUL: The newly appointed lead U.S. negotiator to North Korean nuclear disarmament talks on Friday called Pyongyang's pursuit of atomic weapons a dead end and urged the reclusive state to return to the bargaining table. U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Christopher Hill told a breakfast meeting it was in the best interest of North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions and return to six-party nuclear disarmament talks, or risk even deeper isolation. Hill was in Beijing on Thursday for meetings with his Chinese counterparts on the North Korean nuclear issue. In his first substantive comments since those talks, he said

North Korea made a huge mistake in pursuing nuclear weapons because its economy had suffered and relations with leading powers had worsened. "Holding nuclear weapons is a dead end for North Korea. They cannot make progress if they continue on this road," Hill said. Pyongyang last week said explicitly for the first time it had nuclear weapons, arguing it needed them to deter what it saw as an increasingly hostile policy from the United States.

Khaleej Times, 18 February 2005

#### **US to support Israel against Iranian threat**

WASHINGTON: President George W. Bush said yesterday that the US would support Israel if its security came under threat from Iran. "Iran has made it clear they don't like Israel, to put it bluntly. And the Israelis are concerned about whether or not Iran develops a nuclear weapon, as are we, as should everybody," Bush told a Press conference after naming a new national intelligence director. The US leader said the main aim was to support diplomatic attempts to solve the crisis over Iran's nuclear programme. But he added: "Clearly, if I was the leader of Israel and I'd listened to some of the statements by the Iranian ayatollahs that regarded the security of my country, I'd be concerned about Iran having a nuclear weapon as well. "And in that Israel is our ally and in that we've made a very strong commitment to support Israel, we will support Israel if her security is threatened," Bush said. Britain, France and Germany have led attempts to persuade Iran against nuclear weapons development and Bush said this would figure strongly in his talks during a visit to Europe next week.

The News, 18 February 2005

#### **US pressed Pakistan for access to Khan: CIA (Anwar Iqbal)**

WASHINGTON, Feb 17: The director of the Central Intelligence Agency on Wednesday told the US Senate that the Bush administration had 'pressed' Pakistan to allow an American representative direct access to Dr A.Q. Khan but he would not say if the access was given or denied. Director Porter Goss, who was testifying before the Senate select committee on intelligence along with the heads of other US intelligence agencies, said he would be careful not to use the word 'pressed' in a general term. "I want to be very careful how I answer your question," Mr Goss told Olympia Snowe, a Republican senator from Maine who wanted to know if the US administration had 'pressed' Pakistan to allow a US representative to directly question Dr Khan for determining the extent of his network's activities. "I can tell you that there is continuous attention to this matter, and I believe that it is being done with the necessary urgency and fortitude to make sure our interests are completely understood," Mr Goss replied.

The Hindu, 19 February 2005

#### **Putin backs Iran in nuclear row with U.S.**

MOSCOW, Feb. 18: The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, vowed to continue all-round cooperation with Iran, including the nuclear and defence spheres, in a demonstrative show of support for Teheran in its row with the United States over Iran's nuclear programme. "Recent moves by Iran have convinced us that it has no intention to build nuclear weapons," Mr. Putin told the visiting head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Hassan Rowhani, in the Kremlin today. "This means that we will continue our cooperation in all spheres, including nuclear power generation and defence." Russia's Atomic Energy Agency chief, Alexander Rumyantsev, said on Thursday he will travel to Iran next week to sign a protocol on returning spent nuclear fuel to Russia, which will pave the way to the launch of a Russian-built nuclear reactor in Iran at the end of the current year. The U.S. says the 1,000-MW reactor could help Teheran build nuclear weapons, the charge Russia has brushed away. The Russian President confirmed plans to visit Iran, saying the two sides are "actively discussing the dates" for his visit. In another snub to Washington two days ago Moscow announced plans to sell air-defence missiles to Syria even as Syria and Iran this week vowed to form a "common front to face threats" from the U.S. and Israel.

The News, 19 February 2005

#### **Bush doesn't rule out military action against Iran**

BRUSSELS: US President George W Bush does not rule out military action against Iran but prefers a diplomatic solution, he said on Friday in an interview with Belgian television. "You never want a president to say never. But military action is... never the president's first choice," he said, adding: "Diplomacy is always the president's first choice, at least my first choice." Britain, France and Germany have been spearheading diplomatic efforts to get Iran to abandon processes, which could be used to make nuclear weapons, while top US officials have brandished the threat of force if diplomacy fails. Bush insisted that the United States and its European partners had a "common mission". "We have a common goal Iran should not have a nuclear weapon, that's what we have said, America's said, the Brits have said, the French have said, the Germans have said when they send their foreign ministers in to talk with the Iranians," he said. In an interview with German public television station ARD on Friday, President Bush warned Iran not to try to divide Europe and the United States over its suspected nuclear programme.

The New York Times, 19 February 2005

#### **Doubting U.S., China Is Wary of Korea Role (Howard W. French)**

SHANGHAI, Feb. 18: The dispatch by China of a high-level envoy this weekend to persuade the North Koreans to return to talks on their nuclear weapons would seem to present it with an ideal opportunity. China's economy is growing enormously, casting shadows in every direction. Its fast-modernizing military has the attention of every power, regional or global. No other country, meanwhile, enjoys the kind of long, unbroken friendship that China has nurtured for over five decades with North Korea. In short, all the pieces would seem to be in place for Beijing to score its first big coup in global diplomacy, brokering an end to the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula. The only problem with this optimistic scenario is that it is shared by almost no one in China. For now, the Chinese remain reluctant to take major diplomatic risks on North Korea, convinced that this

longtime ally, a country that Chinese soldiers shed blood in large numbers to defend, will never turn against them. Analysts say that Beijing's top priority is to maintain quiet on its frontier, and that it would take a more aggressive tack only if tensions between Washington and North Korea were to increase seriously.

The Associated Press, 19 February 2005

#### **Bush: U.S. Not Planning to Attack Iran**

WASHINGTON: President Bush says speculation that the United States might attack Iraq to end its nuclear program is "just not the truth," although he refuses to rule out the possibility entirely. "Listen, first of all, you never want a president to say 'never.' But military action is certainly not -- it's never the president's first choice," Bush said Friday. "Diplomacy is always the president's first -- at least my first choice." Bush sat down for a series of broadcast and newspaper interviews with correspondents from Russia, France, Belgium, Slovakia and Germany in connection with his five-day trip to Europe next week to repair relations damaged by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. "We have a tendency in Europe and in America to talk past each other," Bush said. He said he wanted to "invigorate a relationship that is a vital relationship for our own security ...." Asked what it would take to mend relations with French President Jacques Chirac, one of his toughest critics, Bush said: "Obviously nice words are nice, but deeds are more important than words. I personally don't feel bitter." He said the United States and France had big differences over Iraq, "but now is the time for us to set aside that difference and to move forward in areas where we can work together." Bush said he would talk with Russian President Vladimir Putin about actions widely viewed as a retreat from democracy. "I mean, he's done some things that (have) concerned people," he said.

The Korean Herald, 19 February 2005

#### **U.S. envoy says nukes 'a dead end'** (Choi Soung-ah)

Ambassador Christopher Hill, newly-named U.S. chief negotiator to the nuclear six-party talks, cautioned North Korea yesterday that holding nuclear weapons is a "dead end" and called for a coordinated approach by concerned parties to get Pyongyang back to the negotiating table. Amid mounting pressure on North Korea that includes a trip by senior Chinese official Wang Jiarui to Pyongyang, Hill also underscored the need for South Korea to coordinate its policy on inter-Korean economic cooperation with the United States. In Washington, President George W. Bush said the United States will work with other countries to the six-party talks to discuss measures to counter the North's declaration Feb. 10 that it possesses nuclear weapons and intends to boycott the six-party talks indefinitely. Ambassador Christopher Hill, chief U.S. delegate to the six-party disarmament talks on North Korea, gestures during a meeting with a group of senior journalists in Seoul yesterday.

The Asahi Shimbun, 19 February 2005

#### **Japan, U.S. to mull strategy on N. Korea** (Taro Karasaki)

Tokyo and Washington over the weekend will discuss how to bring Pyongyang back to talks on its nuclear program, but possible plans for tougher measures might put the allies at odds with another key player-South Korea. Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and Defense Agency Director-General Yoshinori Ono departed Friday evening for Washington. They will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in "two-plus-two" talks on Saturday. Ministerial talks will also be held on the sidelines. The key topics in the original agenda were the planned realignment of U.S. forces in Japan and the roles of the two partners in East Asia. But that agenda quickly changed after Pyongyang on Feb. 10 declared that it possesses nuclear weapons and has withdrawn indefinitely from the six-nation talks on its nuclear program. "North Korea has been a topic of concern for the two-plus-two talks in the broad context of regional security, but owing to the Feb. 10 statement, it will be a topic of discussion" at the weekend talks, Machimura told a news conference Friday.

The News, 20 February 2005

#### **US warns 'other measures' if N Korea doesn't return to talks**

WASHINGTON: The United States has threatened North Korea with "other measures" if North Korea does not return to the six-party talks on its nuclear weapons. After a meeting in which US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and their Japanese counterparts participated, Rice made it clear to North Korea that it must return to the talks. "The North Koreans do have a better path to a better relationship with the international community and I would hope they would take it," Rice said. "We will, of course, have to look beyond if that day comes, but at this point, we believe the international community is united in saying to the North Koreans that they should return to the talks." Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura joined in the warning. He said, "But should we let time slip by, then I think it will only worsen the situation".

The News, 20 February 2005

#### **EI Baradei asks US to join nuclear talks with Iran**

BERLIN: The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, called on the United States to join European countries attempting to ensure Iran does not build atomic weapons. In an interview to Germany's weekly Der Spiegel, ElBaradei said the efforts of Britain, France and Germany to persuade Tehran to stop enriching uranium in exchange for technical, commercial and political advantages from Europe can only succeed if the United States joins in. He said, "Progress is difficult to conceive without Washington. We need a common front." He warned that if Iran was determined to have nuclear weapons they could be available within two to three years, as Tehran had the know-how and the industrial capability. The IAEA chief also voiced alarm at the prospect of a US military attack on Iran, which President Bush has not ruled out. "After such an attack, the Iranians would certainly set themselves in earnest to making a bomb in secret," he said.

The News, 20 February 2005

### **Pak-India nuclear weapons pose no threat: US official**

WASHINGTON: India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons and the capability to deliver them to targets in the region, but both nations are "friends of the United States and don't threaten" its territory, according to a senior US official. This was stated by US Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research Thomas Fingar to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Fingar said there was a broad consensus in the international community that concurred with the judgement that terrorism was the single greatest threat to Americans, both at home and abroad, and that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missiles and certain types of advanced conventional weapons was a close and dangerous second. Diplomacy, he said, was critical to US efforts to contain, counter and diminish the threats the country faces. The normalisation of relations with China and demise of the Soviet Union, he said, dramatically reduced the danger of nuclear war and eliminated or transformed fundamentally a wide variety of associated threats.

The News, 20 February 2005

### **North Korea rules out bilateral nuclear talks with US**

BEIJING: North Korea reiterated that it had pulled out of six-nation talks on its nuclear drive indefinitely and ruled out a bilateral meeting with the United States, Chinese state media said on Saturday. An unnamed North Korean foreign ministry spokesman, in comments to Xinhua news agency, said that because Washington had "insisted on a hostile policy" toward Pyongyang and persisted in trying to change the North Korean regime, there was "no justification" for undertaking "bilateral one-to-one talks on the nuclear issue with the United States." However, the spokesman repeated Pyongyang's commitment to solving the impasse through negotiation and dialogue. The comments follow Pyongyang's announcement last week that it was pulling out of the six-nation talks and that it had developed nuclear weapons. The statement prompted widespread concern and a flurry of diplomacy between South Korea, China, the United States. Senior Chinese envoy Wang Jiarui arrived in Pyongyang late on Saturday for talks expected to focus on the nuclear row.

The News, 20 February 2005

### **Pakistani-US relations and non-proliferation (Farrukh Saleem)**

First, a short personal note that may actually have national law and order implications. On February 8, at around 1 p.m. my 11-year-old Mitsubishi Pajero was stolen in broad daylight. My old road companion was parked alongside Islamabad's principal thoroughfare in Blue Area hardly a couple of miles from the President House, the Prime Minister Secretariat and the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Now, the topic of the week. The 9/11 Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States has recommended President Bush to formulate a "clear, strong, and long-term commitment to support the military dominated government of Pakistan despite serious concerns about the country's nuclear proliferation activities". The Commission Report specifically "identified the government of President Musharraf as the best hope for stability in Pakistan and Afghanistan..." Democracy can wait. The Bush White House needs a stable Pakistan -- a military dominated stability in order to first, extract maximum cooperation on the nuclear front and, second, unbridled collaboration against terrorism.

The New York Times, 20 February 2005

### **U.S. and Japan Declare Concern Over North Korea (Joel Brinkley)**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19: Senior American and Japanese officials issued a joint declaration on Saturday expressing "deep concern" over North Korea's withdrawal from multilateral negotiations on its nuclear weapons program, while the North declared itself unwilling to participate in talks of any kind. The tough talk in Washington and Pyongyang stiffened even further their tense standoff over how to resolve the weapons dispute. The joint Japanese-American statement followed security talks on North Korea and other issues between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and their two Japanese counterparts. The annual talks carried unusual urgency, they said, following North Korea's statement on Feb. 10 that it would not participate in six-party disarmament talks and that it already possessed nuclear weapons. North Korea said Saturday that it would not even talk directly with the United States alone, something it has sought in the past and the Bush administration has refused.

The Associated Press, 20 February 2005

### **New Nuclear Sub Is Said to Have Special Eavesdropping Ability**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19: The submarine Jimmy Carter, which joined the Navy's fleet on Saturday, has a special capability, intelligence experts say: it is able to tap undersea cables and eavesdrop on the communications passing through them. The Navy does not acknowledge that the submarine has this capability. "That's going to be classified in nature," said Kevin Sykes, a Navy spokesman. "You're not going to get anybody to talk to you about that." But intelligence community watchdogs have little doubt. The previous spy submarine, the Parche, was retired last fall. That would only happen if a new one was on the way, they say. The \$3.2 billion Carter was extensively modified from its basic design, given a hull extension that allows it to house technicians and gear to perform the cable-tapping and other secret missions, experts say. The Carter's hull, at 453 feet, is 100 feet longer than the other two submarines in the Seawolf class. "The submarine is basically going to have as its major function intelligence gathering," said James Bamford, author of two books on the National Security Agency.

The New York Times, 20 February 2005

### **Nuclear Reality: America Loses Bite (David E. Sanger)**

WASHINGTON: Not so long ago, the terrifying rules of nuclear chicken were clear. When only superpowers and their allies held nuclear arsenals, deterrence worked, because all sides understood the horrific consequences of a misstep. Even during the most unnerving confrontations, like the Cuban missile crisis, there were clear "red lines" beyond which no sane leader

would intentionally step. And as nuclear technology spread, new red lines emerged. Israel enforced one 24 years ago, when it destroyed Saddam Hussein's nuclear reactor rather than let him get near a bomb. But the lesson of the past few years is that red lines have blurred, to the point where they are now little more than pink smudges. And now, no one seems to know the rules. Not the Bush administration, as it sends conflicting signals about what it and its allies will do if diplomacy fails to disarm Iran and North Korea. Not Kim Jong Il, or the Iranian mullahs, as they test new and undefined limits. And why not test them?

Daily Times, 21 February 2005

#### **N Korea sets conditions for nuclear talks**

SEOUL: North Korea will return to talks on ending its nuclear programmes "in any form" if the United States pledges "coexistence and non-interference," the North's envoy to the United Nations told a South Korean newspaper. Deputy Ambassador Han Song-ryol also told the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper that the North wanted an assurance by the United States that there would be substantive results from negotiations in order to return to stalled nuclear talks. North Korea dealt a blow to an already complicated diplomatic process on its nuclear programmes by declaring on Feb. 10 that it had nuclear arms and was pulling out indefinitely from six-country talks set up to negotiate an end to the standoff. "We need some kind of justification if we were to return to the talks," Han said in the article published on Saturday. He said recent statements by US President George W Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice undermined the position of those in Pyongyang who advocated dialogue because they indicated a plan to overturn the North's government by force. Chinese diplomat: A senior Chinese Communist Party official flew to North Korea on Saturday, joining a flurry of jet-setting diplomats seeking to salvage talks aimed at ending the nuclear crisis surrounding the isolated state.

Daily Times, 21 February 2005

#### **Senate examining US intelligence on nuclear threats**

WASHINGTON: The Senate has begun taking a harder look at US intelligence on nuclear threats facing the United States, including revelations of missing nuclear materials in Russia, congressional officials said on Friday. The Republican-led Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which held a closed-door hearing on nuclear issues earlier this month, has come to view nuclear proliferation as a threat that overshadows other dangers posed by terrorist groups. "We're going to be following it very, very closely," said Sen. John Rockefeller of West Virginia, ranking Democrat on the Senate oversight panel. He said the nuclear threat against the United States was posed "not just from North Korea, but most dangerously from unaccounted for weapons that could be black-marketed to terrorists." Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, who chairs the Senate panel, first referred to the committee's deepened focus on nuclear terrorism this week when CIA Director Porter Goss presented his agency's annual report on world threats to the committee.

The Hindu, 21 February 2005

#### **'Nuclear threat'**

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20. Pakistan could use nuclear weapons to counter India's larger conventional forces if a war breaks out, a threat assessment report of the CIA has said. The report was brought out by the National Intelligence Council and the CIA.

The Japan Times, 21 February 2005

#### **Pyongyang toeing 'red line' (Keizo Nabeshima)**

North Korea shocked the world with its announcement Feb. 10 that it will "indefinitely" stay away from the six-party talks on its nuclear arms program and that it already has nuclear weapons. Resorting to its notorious brinkmanship for raising the stakes when negotiations are stalled, North Korea has strengthened its "nuclear card" in an effort to force concessions from the United States. But the move is likely to cause further isolation for the reclusive state. Japan, the U.S., South Korea, China and Russia must cooperate closely to get North Korea to return to negotiations. Otherwise, North Korea will progress further in its nuclear arms program and stockpile more nuclear weapons and materials, increasing the risk of nuclear proliferation to other countries and terrorist groups. North Korea has played its nuclear card often. In 1993, it announced its intention to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. After it signed, with the United States, the 1994 Agreed Framework for freezing its nuclear arms development, it continued clandestine efforts to build nuclear weapons. In March 2003, Pyongyang officially withdrew from the NPT.

Khaleej Times, 22 February 2005

#### **Iran must not develop N-arms, warns Bush**

BRUSSELS: US President George W. Bush said yesterday that Iran must not develop nuclear weapons and halt support for terrorism in a major policy speech kicking off a four-day European trip. Bush said he was "working closely" with Britain, France and Germany which are seeking a diplomatic deal offering Teheran trade and aid in exchange for giving up its alleged bid to build a nuclear bomb. But as expected, Bush did not announce any plans for the US formally to join the European diplomatic bid. Meanwhile, Bush said Russia must renew its commitment to democracy and urged that Washington and the European Union put reform at the heart of their dialogue with Moscow.

The Indian Express, 22 February 2005

#### **Next Steps in missile defence (C. Raja Mohan)**

With India committed to nuclear no-first-use, it needs a viable system

As India enters talks with the United States today on acquiring Patriot missiles, it needs clarity on the elements that form an effective strategy to develop missile defence capabilities within the nation. Even as India enters these very important negotiations, there are residual doubts in New Delhi on whether India needs missile defence in the first place. Although India

had intuitively decided on the need for missile defence a few years ago, there are many voices of caution raising questions on relevance and effectiveness. For some time now, missile defence has been one of the four items in the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership initiative with the US. Well before missile defence came onto the agenda of Indo-US dialogue, New Delhi had been exploring a variety of options on acquiring related technologies and systems from Israel. India has already purchased advanced radars, which form an important component of any missile defence system, from Israel. It has also been interested in the Arrow missile system developed by Tel Aviv in collaboration with the US. While Washington is yet to clear the Arrow sale to India, it has offered to discuss the sale of Patriot II system.

Dawn, 22 February 2005

**The nuclear domino effect** (Katherine Stapp)

NEW YORK: Even as the United States leans on North Korea and Iran to renounce any nuclear objectives, peace activists say it has stepped up spending on its own arsenal, including investments in a new generation of longer lasting and sturdier "bunker buster" weapons. The "quiet effort", first reported by the New York Times last week, involves a relatively modest budget of nine million dollars for engineers at the nation's three nuclear weapons laboratories, Los Alamos, Livermore and Sandia. Its goal is to produce new warhead prototypes in the next decade. According to the Western States Legal Foundation, an anti-proliferation group, US nuclear weapons spending has swelled by 84 percent since 1995, now amounting to 40 billion dollars annually. This budget supports the maintenance of some 10,000 nuclear warheads - 2,000 on hair-trigger alert. Some experts say the "Reliable Replacement Warhead Programme", approved by Congress in November, marks a disturbing evolution of the former policy introduced under President Bill Clinton of "stockpile stewardship", in which the labs concentrated on maintaining the safety and reliability of the nation's existing nuclear arsenal.

Dawn, 22 February 2005

**Pakistan likely to take up Patriot issue with US** (Anwar Iqbal)

WASHINGTON, Feb 21: Pakistan is expected to take up with the US administration the expected sale of Patriot missile defence system to India, diplomatic sources told Dawn on Monday. A US defence team began briefing Indian officials in New Delhi on Monday on the Patriot missiles. In Washington's diplomatic circles the visit is seen as a prelude to the sale of the advanced anti-ballistic missiles to India. "It's a serious development and comes into conflict with the existing nuclear deterrence in the Subcontinent," said a South Asian defence expert familiar with the system. Since the May 1998, when both India and Pakistan tested their nuclear devices, there existed an undeclared balance of power in the Subcontinent based on the fear that a clash between the two nuclear-armed neighbours could lead to the destruction of both. But the Patriots, which could bring down an incoming missile, could seriously tip the balance in India's favour, making Pakistan vulnerable. "If the Patriots are delivered to India, it will seriously imbalance Pakistan's strategic capabilities and can trigger an arms race in the Subcontinent," said the South Asian defence expert.

The News, 22 February 2005

**N-export control tie-up with US under way** (Nadeem Malik)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan started technical nuclear export control cooperation with the United States in 2003, says a report of the US State Department that also outlines need for an accountable political government. The report is part of the budget performance for the US Fiscal Year 2006 (beginning October 2005). It contains several Pakistan-specific references. "Pakistan is committed to work with the US-aided international efforts to shut down the network (of AQ Khan), and vowed never again to be a source of nuclear proliferation. It says that Pakistan adopted an export control law and vowed to bring its controls and regulations in line with international standards. The export controls programme of the US provides assistance to the governments to raise their laws and regulations to international standards, improve licensing, border control and investigative capabilities. The report mentions that by 2006 seven countries would have developed and instituted export control system and practices that meet international standards. It also stated that India prosecuted the owner of an Indian company engaged in WMD-related transfers to Iraq.

The Washington Post, 23 February 2005

**Bush Tries To Allay E.U. Worry Over Iran** (Michael A. Fletcher and Keith B. Richburg)

BRUSSELS, Feb. 22: President Bush said Tuesday that concern about possible U.S. military action against Iran "is simply ridiculous," but he added at a news conference that "all options are on the table" in dealing with suspected Iranian attempts to acquire nuclear weapons. After meeting with NATO and European Union officials, Bush welcomed modest pledges from opponents of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq to help train and equip security forces there. While U.S. and European officials said there was an improved tone in their discussions, serious divisions remained over U.S. policy toward Iran and the Bush administration's objection to European plans to lift an arms embargo against China. U.S. charges that Iran wants to build nuclear weapons have raised concern in Europe about U.S. military planning. Bush has repeatedly said he wants diplomacy with Tehran's theocratic government to work.

BBC, 23 February 2005

**US cautious at N Korea talks hint**

The United States has reacted cautiously to hints that North Korea may reconsider its withdrawal from six-nation talks on its nuclear plans. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said only Pyongyang had thought current conditions were "unfavourable". He said US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had spoken to her Chinese counterpart on the issue. Kim Jong-il reportedly told a Chinese envoy Pyongyang was ready to negotiate "if there are mature conditions". The envoy, Wang Jiarui, had been sent to persuade Pyongyang to rejoin the stalled talks. North Korea abruptly withdrew from the six-nation talks earlier this month, claiming it possessed nuclear weapons.

Korea Times, 23 February 2005

**Kim Jong-il Conditional on 6-Way Talks** (Ryu Jin)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il said his country would return to the six-party talks on its nuclear weapons program if certain "conditions" are met, urging the United States to show "sincerity," the North Korean and Chinese media reported on Tuesday. Officials of South Korea and the U.S. dismissed the news report as "nothing new," calling on the reclusive country once again to come back to the negotiation table "immediately and unconditionally." Kim's remarks, made in a meeting with a high-ranking Chinese official on Monday, appear to be in line with North Korea's basic stance in its announcement of Feb. 10 in which it said it has developed nuclear weapons and decided to delay the talks indefinitely. "We will return to the negotiating table as soon as conditions for the six-party talks are met," Kim was quoted as telling Wang Jiarui, the Chinese envoy, by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Pyongyang's official news agency.

Tehran Times, 23 February 2005

**Solana calls on U.S. to adopt a transparent position on Iran nuclear issue**

PARIS: European Union High representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana called on the U.S. here on Monday to adopt a more transparent policy in support of EU's efforts in nuclear talks with Iran. In an interview with the French Television Network LCI, he added "We should strive to move ahead with the diplomacy marked by the European countries vis-à-vis Iran." He referred to the U.S. president George Bush's statements in Belgium saying that "I hope that Bush will tackle the issue from a more open-minded position." "Iran has the right to use nuclear energy for production of electricity," he said. He further said "We should increase pressure on Syria to leave Lebanon." While, international probes into the killing of the former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Harriri should be carried out, "but recalling of ambassador from Syria on the part of certain countries is a rash move." He also expressed hope that the Middle East peace negotiations will proceed "constructively." Leaders of the 25-member European Union (EU) are expected to urge U.S. President George W. Bush when they meet him in Brussels on Tuesday to actively support the EU's policy of engagement and dialogue with Iran.

The News, 23 February 2005

**N-threat to the US** (Burhanuddin Hasan)

Two countries that the US President Mr. Bush declared as partners in the "axis of evil" besides Iraq, are now posing a serious threat to America's security. North Korea has announced for the first time that it possesses nuclear weapons, while Iran is on the threshold of acquiring them. Mr. Bush, in his state of the union address to Congress issued a strong warning both to North Korea and Iran against acquiring atomic weapons, to which North Korea has already replied; Iran is likely to do so in the near future. North Korea has pulled out from protracted six party talks and has declared that it has manufactured nukes to cope with the Bush administration's undisguised policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK, but these weapons will remain deterrents for self-defence. The theory of "nuclear deterrence" has been the theme song of all nuclear nations during the second half of the 20th century. The argument was that if two enemies had the bomb, neither of them could use it against the other because they would both be destroyed. This may have saved the world from atomic holocausts on several occasions, but smaller countries like North Korea and Iran, which are threatened not only by the US, but also by its protégé South Korea and the mini atomic powers like Israel, India, Pakistan and China, have a justifiable right to join the nuclear club for their own protection.

The News, 23 February 2005

**No mediation in Iran-US nuclear row: Shaukat**

TEHRAN: Visiting Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Tuesday held talks with Iran's President Syed Muhammad Khatami on regional and international issues of common interest including Kashmir, Iraq and Afghanistan. Matters relating to boosting economic and trade cooperation between the two brotherly countries also came under discussion. The two leaders who met at Saadabad Palace in Tehran exchanged views on composite dialogue process between Pakistan and India to resolve their outstanding issues and emphasised that resolution of lingering disputes between the two countries will usher in an era of prosperity and development in the region. They expressed the resolve to increase cooperation in political, economic and trade avenues for mutual benefit. Later talking to newsmen, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said the talks covered a whole gamut of bilateral relations, exploring new vistas of cooperation. He said they also discussed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project and emphasised that it would improve atmosphere in the region and generate economic activities. Shaukat said the "pipeline diplomacy" would improve the atmosphere in the region and contribute to peace. Prime Minister Shaukat came to Tehran with high expectations of "substantial progress" on the scheme, while Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi was in New Delhi, expecting to sign a memorandum of understanding with India.

Daily Times, 23 February 2005

**US should think outside the box on Iran**

Mohammed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, says that if Iran is determined to press ahead with its nuclear programme, it could have nuclear weapons in the next two to three years. Mr ElBaradei, who was speaking to the German weekly newspaper Der Spiegel, also called upon the United States to join the diplomatic effort by Euro-3 (France, England and Germany) to dissuade Tehran from going further down the nuclear route. Iran is in contact with the Euro-3 that are trying to prevail upon it to stop enriching uranium as quid pro quo for technical, commercial (trade) and other political advantages. ElBaradei told Der Spiegel: "Progress is difficult to conceive without Washington. We need a common front." He rejected talk of a military option to take out Iran's nuclear assets saying: "After such an attack, the Iranians would certainly set themselves in earnest to making a bomb in secret." For its part the United States has recently signalled that it is not planning a military option against Iran, President George Bush calling it "just not the truth".

Dawn, 23 February 2005

### **France seeks US incentives for Iran**

BRUSSELS, Feb 22: French President Jacques Chirac said on Tuesday he had urged US President George Bush to help European negotiations to curb Iran's nuclear programme by offering incentives on trade and aviation. "It seems to me legitimate to make a gesture in the area of Iran's bid for WTO membership and wish to buy civil aircraft engines," Mr Chirac told a news conference after talks with Mr Bush. "I don't see why that shouldn't be done and I said so to the president of the United States," he added. France, Britain and Germany are trying to coax Iran to end uranium enrichment activities, which the United States says are part of a covert drive to build a bomb. Mr Chirac said they had achieved a positive first step by persuading Iran to suspend those activities while they negotiate a long-term agreement on trade and nuclear cooperation. He said Europe and the United States stood united against the spread of nuclear weapons, and the EU3 diplomatic initiative with Tehran was being carried out in "perfect transparency" with Washington and Moscow.

Times of India, 24 February 2005

### **US, Mexico social security move has India's attention (Indrani Bagchi)**

New Delhi. As the US and Mexico work towards sealing a pact on social security-totalisation between themselves, halfway across the world, India is watching with interest, not just the precedent, but the obstacles this pact may run into. The agreement would entail that Mexicans in the US contributing to the social security system can get the benefits repatriated to their home country after return. Adding voice to this argument is a new study that says legal immigrants add substantially to the US' social security coffers. While this is a welcome sign for Indians who form the largest group of legal migrants into the US apart from the Mexicans, it also means that it will be many summers before the US agrees to a totalisation agreement with India, which will basically refund money to India. Conservative estimates in India put the figure just from H1-B visa holders at \$500 million a year.

The News, 24 February 2005

### **Bush, Schroeder step up pressure on Iran, Syria**

MAINZ: US President George W Bush and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder put aside their dispute over Iraq on Wednesday and united in warning Iran against developing a nuclear weapon. "It's vital that the Iranians hear the world speak with one voice that they shouldn't have a nuclear weapon," Bush said on the second leg of a visit aimed at definitively repairing transatlantic ties damaged by the Iraq war. "We absolutely agree that Iran must say no to any kind of nuclear weapon, full stop," Schroeder said during a joint news conference. "They must waive any right to the production of them." At the same time, Bush sought to soothe European worries that he plans to use military force against Iran, saying that "all options are on the table," but stressing that "diplomacy is just beginning" and that "Iran is not Iraq". "We'll continue to talk tactics." On Syria, Bush said Damascus must withdraw its "secret services" and roughly 14,000 troops from Lebanon and keep out of upcoming Lebanese parliamentary elections. "We will see how they respond before there's any further discussions about going back to the United Nations," the US president said.

Daily Times, 24 February 2005

### **US, South Korea, Japan envoys to meet on North Korea**

SEOUL: South Korean, Japanese and US negotiators will meet on Saturday in Seoul to coax North Korea back to talks on its nuclear programmes but ruled out meeting new conditions, South Korea's foreign minister said on Wednesday. The meeting comes after North Korean leader Kim Jong-il told a visiting Chinese envoy this week that Pyongyang would return to six-party nuclear talks if conditions were right and Washington showed sincerity, the North's official media reported. It was the first statement by the reclusive Kim since North Korea explicitly declared on Feb. 10 that it had atomic weapons and was also pulling out of the talks with South Korea, China, Russia, the United States and Japan. "The government agreed to hold a three-way meeting between South Korea, the United States and China in Seoul on February 26 to discuss the result of the visit by China's Wang Jiarui to the North and the early resumption of the six-party talks," South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon told reporters. "There should be no conditions for returning to the talks because we are already in the process of negotiations," he said.

The Washington Post, 24 February 2005

### **U.S.-Russia Pact Aimed At Nuclear Terrorism (Peter Baker and Walter Pincus)**

President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin plan to announce a package of measures today to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism, a threat highlighted in a new U.S. intelligence report warning that Russian nuclear material could still fall into terrorist hands, according to U.S. officials familiar with the accord. Under the planned agreement, U.S. and Russian officials would accelerate long-delayed security upgrades at Russia's many poorly protected nuclear facilities, jointly develop emergency responses to a nuclear or radiological terrorist attack, and establish a program to replace highly enriched uranium in research reactors around the world to prevent it from being used for weapons, the U.S. officials said. Although details were still being negotiated last night, the joint statement to be released at the presidential summit in Bratislava, Slovakia, could be used as a counterpoint to the rising tension in U.S.-Russian relations over Putin's crackdown on domestic dissent. Bush has promised to challenge Putin on Russia's retreat from democracy during their meeting but has also stressed his continuing friendship for the Russian president and their ability to work together on mutual security issues.

The Hindu, 24 February 2005

### **Japan, U.S. to develop missile defence system (P. S. Suryanarayana)**

SINGAPORE, Feb. 23: Japan and the U.S. have agreed to intensify research on ballistic missile defence (BMD) for

"cooperative development" of deployable systems in this sensitive sphere. While the joint statement issued after a meeting of the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee in Washington has not set a timeline, Japan is understood to have favoured the fiscal year 2006 for this purpose. Tokyo's sense of urgency is related to the CIA's take that North Korea could be ready at any time to test-fire a long-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. The Japanese Defence Agency Director-General, Yoshinori Ono, and the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, met ahead of the committee's sessions that were also attended by the Japanese Foreign Minister, Nobutaka Machimura, and the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. Reacting to the Japan-U.S. move of identifying the resolution of the Taiwan issue as one of their "common strategic objectives," the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Kong Quan, has said in Beijing that "their action is not right."

The Indian Express, 24 February 2005

#### **Diplomacy on Iran just starting: Bush**

MAINZ, Feb 23: US President George W. Bush said on Wednesday that European diplomatic efforts to rein in Iran's nuclear programme were only just beginning and that comparisons with Iraq were wrong. "Iran is not Iraq. We just started the diplomatic efforts and I want to thank our friends for taking the lead. We will work with them to convince the mullahs that they need to give up their nuclear ambitions," Bush told a news conference. Bush has repeatedly said the US launched its war on Iraq only after then leader Saddam Hussein had failed to comply with a series of UN resolutions over a number of years. Mindful of past divisions in the lead-up to the Iraq war, Bush said after talks with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder it was vital for Iran to hear the world speak with one voice. Bush repeated on Wednesday his verbal support to efforts by Britain, France and Germany to negotiate a deal under which Iran would abandon uranium enrichment that could be used to make a bomb in return for trade benefits and security guarantees. "You know yesterday I was asked about a US decision and I said all options are on the table. That's part of our position. But I also reminded people that diplomacy is just beginning." Bush said on Tuesday the idea that he was preparing to bomb Iran was "ridiculous" but also added that "all options are on the table", a clear reference to possible military action.

Reuters, 24 February 2005

#### **US, Russia Plan Pact Aimed at Nuclear Terrorism**

WASHINGTON: President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin plan to announce a joint security agreement to address the threat of nuclear terrorism amid concern over Russia's poorly protected nuclear facilities, The Washington Post reported on Thursday. Citing U.S. officials familiar with the agreement, the report said the pact would commit both countries to speeding up long-delayed security upgrades at Russian nuclear facilities and to work together on developing an emergency response to a nuclear or radiological terrorist attack. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the pact also calls for the United States and Russia to develop a plan to replace highly enriched uranium at research reactors in other countries to prevent it from being processed into weapons grade fuel, the newspaper reported. According to the report, details of the pact were still being negotiated late on Wednesday, but Bush and Putin were expected to release a joint statement at their summit in Bratislava, Slovakia on Thursday.

Dawn, 24 February 2005

#### **Patriot sale to India will fuel arms race: FO - Concern conveyed to US** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23: Pakistan on Wednesday expressed concern over reports of Indian bid to purchase the Patriot anti-missile system from the US and warned the move would trigger an arms race in the region and threaten the ongoing peace process. Speaking at his weekly press briefing here, Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said any plans to sell Patriots to India would be counter-productive. "This would erode deterrence...this would send the entire region into a crisis mode." "You will have an arms race, an unintended arms race here which nobody wants and finally it would induce higher risk-taking. This we think is not in sync with goals of peace and security that we have in this region." Mr Khan said Islamabad had conveyed its concern to Washington over New Delhi's interest in the anti-ballistic missile system and added that Pakistan had been talking to the Americans about it at all levels and on all occasions.

The Korean Herald, 24 February 2005

#### **S. Korea, U.S., Japan envoys to discuss N.K. nuke issues** (Choi Soung-ah)

South Korean, U.S. and Japanese envoys will meet on Saturday in Seoul to try to coax North Korea back to talks on its nuclear weapons after leader Kim Jong-il signaled his isolationist country is ready to return to the negotiating table under certain conditions. South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said the envoys will discuss the recent visit of top Chinese official Wang Jiarui to the North and how to arrange an early resumption of the six-party talks to curb North Korean nuclear ambitions. "They will also hold in-depth discussions on ways to tackle the current nuclear crisis," he told reporters. Participants in Saturday's meeting will be South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State-designate Christopher Hill and Kenichiro Sasae, chief of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania bureau. The three men are the top negotiators from their countries to the six-party talks, which also involve North Korea, China and Russia. Pyongyang's official media reported on Tuesday that Kim Jong-il had told Wang his country would return to the talks if conditions were right and the United States showed sincerity.

The Nation, 24 February 2005

#### **A welcome change**

From earlier reports in the US press that Pakistan was willing to act as the USA's catspaw in trying to persuade Iran to close down its uranium enrichment programme even though it was designed to serve peaceful purposes, to Mr Aziz's categorical statement at Tehran that Islamabad has no intention of mediating in its stand-off with Washington, is a welcome change. Mr

Aziz assured the media that he was not carrying any message to that effect either. There would hardly be anything more that Iran would like Pakistan to do on its behalf in this respect, than Mr Aziz has promised, should it wish to seek Pakistan's help. His view that our friendly neighbour was fully capable of handling the situation is appropriate. Iran has adopted an unambiguous position rejecting the US accusation that it is secretly working on nuclear weapons or has any intention of doing so, while refusing, under any circumstances, to surrender its right to enrich uranium for peaceful uses. That means Iran has no plan to violate the NPT to which it is a signatory.

The News, 25 February 2005

#### **US, Russia to boost nuke security cooperation**

BRATISLAVA: The United States and Russia agreed on Thursday to enhance nuclear security cooperation and to try to complete negotiations on Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) this year. In a joint statement issued by US President George W Bush and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, the two leaders said that the goal of the agreement was to "counter the evolving terrorist threats". They vowed to work together on international measures to protect nuclear material and to share information on how to best improve security at nuclear facilities. "Building on our earlier work, we announce today our intention to expand and deepen cooperation on nuclear security with the goal of enhancing the security of nuclear facilities in our two countries and, together with our friends and allies, around the globe," they added. They said they would convene this year a senior-level nuclear security workshop to foster disciplined, well-trained and responsible custodians and security personnel and well-maintained security systems.

Daily Times, 25 February 2005

#### **Iran, Korea, should not have N-arms, say Putin and Bush**

BRATISLAVA: US President George W Bush said on Thursday that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed at a summit here that Iran and North Korea should not develop nuclear weapons. "We agreed that Iran should not have a nuclear weapon and I appreciate Vladimir's understanding on that issue. We had a very constructive dialogue about how to achieve that common goal," Bush said at a joint press conference after a summit in a castle overlooking the Danube River. "We agree that North Korea should not have a nuclear weapon," said the US president, who said Washington and Moscow were "working closely together" on the issue. Meanwhile, Putin gave little ground to his US counterpart's stated concerns about a series of decisions widely seen in the West as undermining Russian democracy. Putin said there could be "no return" to Soviet-style government but that Moscow would develop democracy at its own pace and in its own image. "We are not going to make up, to invent any kind of special Russian democracy. We're going to remain committed to the fundamental principles of democracy that have been established in the world," Putin said. "But, of course, all the modern institutions of democracy, the principles of democracy, should be adequate to the current status of the development of Russia, to our history and our traditions," he said through an interpreter. Putin said, "Any kind of turn to totalitarianism would be impossible due to the condition of Russian society."

Dawn, 25 February 2005

#### **Bush & Putin oppose Iran going nuclear**

BRATISLAVA, Feb 24: US President George Bush said on Thursday he had agreed with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at a brief summit that Iran and North Korea should not have nuclear weapons. "We agreed that Iran should not have a nuclear weapon," Mr Bush said at a joint news conference with Mr Putin. The United States believes Iran is trying to acquire a nuclear bomb under the cover of developing nuclear energy capability with Russian help. Mr Bush also said he frankly told Mr Putin about Western concerns over the course of Russian democracy, but that the United States and Russia had more in common than what they disagreed on. "It is in my country's interest that Russia be a strong and viable partner with the United States," Mr Bush said. Asked what response he got from Mr Putin about democracy, Mr Bush said: "All I can tell you is he said 'yes meant yes' when we talked about values that we share." Mr Putin responded by saying Russia made a decision to become a democratic state 14 years ago and would never return from that path. "Russia has made its choice in favour of democracy," he said. "This is our final choice and we have no way back. There can be no return to what we used to have before." Western and Russian civil rights campaigners accuse Mr Putin of restricting democracy by abolishing the election of provincial governors, pursuing a legal vendetta against the Yukos oil company and tightening the Kremlin's grip on the media.

International Herald Tribune, 25 February 2005

#### **The real threat to Kim** (Young Howard)

SEOUL North Korea's announcement that it possesses nuclear weapons is actually a sign of the regime's internal weakness and Kim Jong Il's need to maintain the military's support in the face of eroding loyalty. New information coming from inside North Korea shows how nuclear weapons may relate to the regime's internal politics. The iron curtain on North Korea has been lifted little by little in recent years by hundreds of thousands of refugees who have fled across the border to China. With their increasing use of Chinese cell phones, they are providing near-instantaneous news to the outside. Based on the accounts of these refugees and other defectors, significant changes in North Korea are visible that may weaken Kim's horrific regime. Most important is the freer flow of people. Before the food shortages of the mid-1990s, people could not move from city to city without travel permits, which were issued only for events such as marriages or funerals. Now, due to the collapse of the food distribution system and rampant corruption, people can easily bribe police officers to procure travel permits. Last winter, \$2 was enough for passage from one province to another, and \$5 got you to Pyongyang and the Chinese border district. For \$30, you could cross the Tumen and Yalu rivers into China, and for \$70, you could get an official passport.

Khaleej Times, 24 February 2005

### **Iran rejects US role in N-dialogue**

TEHERAN: Iran said yesterday it opposed a US role in nuclear talks alongside the European Union, just two days after a government-linked think-tank floated the idea of talking to an administration that still refuses to rule out military action. "The Islamic republic sees no reason for US participation in the discussions between Iran and Europe," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told the official Irna news agency. "If the Americans joined the talks, the best that could happen is that they would bring nothing to the negotiations and in the worst case scenario they would sabotage everything." "We hope that the Europeans will continue to act independently," he said, charging that it was Washington's aim to convince them that they could not hope to deal alone with Iran on an issue as sensitive as nuclear technology. On Tuesday, the deputy director of a foreign ministry-affiliated think-tank had suggested that, despite the absence of diplomatic relations, Teheran was ready to talk with Washington in a bid to disprove US-led accusations that its nuclear programme was a cover for efforts to develop the bomb.

Khaleej Times, 25 February 2005

### **Diplomacy and Iran's nukes** (Henry A. Kissinger)

If the first term of President George W. Bush was dominated by the war against terrorism, the second will be preoccupied with the effort to stem the spread of nuclear weapons. This challenge is more ambiguous and complex than the first. Do we oppose proliferation of nuclear weapons because of the rogue quality of the two regimes furthest advanced on the road towards acquiring nuclear weapons - Iran and North Korea? Or is our opposition generic - does it extend even to fully democratic countries? How far are we prepared to go in resisting proliferation? And is it possible for one country alone, no matter how powerful, to become the sole custodian of the task of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons? And, if not alone, with what combination of powers should the United States act? Iran brings home the complexity of these issues with particular urgency. North Korea is an isolated country that makes no significant contribution to the economy of any other; it is, if anything, a drain on any associate seeking to sustain its fragile and oppressive economy. North Korea's neighbours - with the possible exception of South Korea - agree that a nuclear North Korea presents a major, and perhaps unacceptable, security risk. By contrast, Iran is a large oil producer, with a growing, diverse and capable population and a serious industrial potential. By 2050, its population is projected to exceed that of Russia.

People's Daily, 26 February 2005

### **S.Korea, Japan, US meet on nuclear talks**

Chief negotiators of South Korea, the United States and Japan to the six-party talks aimed to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula kicked off a one-day meeting Saturday for discussion to find a breakthrough in the stalled diplomatic process. "The three countries will analyze the outcome of Pyongyang visit by the Chinese senior official Wang Jiarui and discuss how to persuade North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) to return to the six-way talks as early as possible," South Korean Yonhap News Agency quoted a source at the South Korean Foreign Ministry as saying. The three countries have usually met for such a strategy session to coordinate their standings during the diplomatic process aimed to find solution for the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. The trilateral talks were held by South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, US Ambassador to South Korea Christopher Hill and Kenichiro Sasae, chief of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania bureau.

Daily Times, 26 February 2005

### **Iran will welcome US help in nuclear talks**

BERLIN: Talks between Iran and Europe on Iran's nuclear programme should yield positive results in March and US help in those negotiations would be welcome, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rohani said on Friday. "We are confident that with effective measures from all four sides, we can see a positive result in March," Rohani said, referring to the talks with Britain, France and Germany. "Our negotiating partners are the three European countries. We would welcome it, see it as positive, if the Americans offered help here," he added, following talks with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. The remarks come after US President George W. Bush welcomed, during his three-nation European tour this week, diplomatic efforts by Europe to curb Iran's nuclear programme, but refused requests to join the talks. Britain, France and Germany are leading European diplomatic efforts to persuade Iran to scrap uranium enrichment, a process which can be used to make fuel for nuclear power plants or bomb-grade material. Rohani said both sides in the talks were convinced that more dynamism was needed. "The results of these talks don't just affect the Iranian nuclear programme, but also the strengthening of relations between Iran and Europe and the removal of many problems in the region," he said, according to comments translated into German.

Dawn, 26 February 2005

### **Bush ready to consider EU idea of incentives : Tehran's N-programme**

BRATISLAVA, Feb 25: US President George Bush said on Thursday he and European leaders were "on the same page" when it came to keeping Iran from developing nuclear weapons and he would consider their suggestions for economic incentives. This could mark a change of course for his administration, which accuses Tehran of aiming to build such weapons and which, instead of incentives for Iran, has been pushing to bring the dispute to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions. "The most effective way to achieve that goal is to have our partners - Great Britain and France and Germany - represent not only the EU, not only NATO, but the United States," he said after talks with Slovak leaders in Bratislava, rebuffing suggestions Washington join directly in the nuclear talks. Wrapping up a fence-mending trip to Europe and eager to stress transatlantic cooperation after bitter differences over the Iraq invasion, Mr Bush said that for the first time he would consider European proposals to offer incentives to Iran in return for scrapping some atomic work.

The News, 27 February 2005

**Hillary for system to allow India, Pakistan help stop N-proliferation**

NEW DELHI: The United States and India must work together to keep nuclear materials away from terrorists and rogue states despite New Delhi's refusal to sign an international treaty, aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton said on Saturday. India says that it won't sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) because New Delhi believes it would distort the global power balance by allowing just a few countries to possess nuclear weapons. It also fears a possible attack by Pakistan. Hillary said Washington must find ways to reconcile its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation with India's stance on the issue, but added that New Delhi must take on more responsibilities as it aims for a greater say in global affairs. "In the post-9/11 world we have a shared interest in working together to prevent the transfer of nuclear material and know-how to states with terrorists and irresponsible states," Hillary said at a meeting of business and political leaders here. She said a system must be created that allows countries like India and Pakistan to help stop nuclear proliferation while remaining nuclear powers.

The News, 27 February 2005

**US, S Korea, Japan reject N Korea's conditions**

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was snubbed on Saturday when the United States, Japan and South Korea told the communist state they would discuss its concerns only if it returns to the negotiating table. Kim told a visiting Chinese envoy on Monday that his government would rejoin six-nation nuclear disarmament talks if certain conditions are met and the United States shows sincerity and take concrete actions. Top negotiators from the United States and its two Asian allies met in Seoul on Saturday to discuss Kim's comments and North Korea's Feb. 10 announcement that it has nuclear weapons and was boycotting any further talks aimed at ending its nuclear ambitions. "We agreed that it is important for North Korea to return to six-nation talks without any conditions in order to realize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula," said Kenichiro Sasae, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania bureau. Saturday's meeting, the first of its kind since the North's Feb. 10 announcement, was also attended by South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon; and Christopher Hill, the US ambassador to Seoul who has been named Washington's top negotiator in the North Korean nuclear dispute.

The Associated Press, 27 February 2005

**Diplomats: Iran Got Nuke Know - How in '80s**

VIENNA: By the late 1980s, members of a black market network had handed Iran all the basic knowledge the Middle Eastern country needed to set up technology that can be used to make atomic weapons, diplomats familiar with an investigation of Iran's nuclear ambitions said Sunday. The officials, who are familiar with the work of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, spoke to The Associated Press on the eve of a board meeting of the U.N. nuclear watchdog that will discuss Iran and other potential world nuclear concerns. An agency probe over the past two years had earlier established that Iran ran a clandestine nuclear program for nearly two decades, including working on uranium enrichment -- which can be used to make weapons. Diplomats, who requested anonymity, said Saturday that the new revelations were significant because they indicated Iran had full possession of enrichment know-how from the black market network run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, earlier than previously believed.

Reuters, 27 February 2005

**Report: Khan Network Offered Iran Nuclear Kit**

WASHINGTON: Investigators have found evidence of a meeting 18 years ago between Iranian officials and associates of the scientist dubbed the father of Pakistan's nuclear program that resulted in a written offer to supply Tehran with the makings of a nuclear weapons program, The Washington Post reported in its Sunday edition. Citing unnamed foreign diplomats and U.S. officials, The Post said the secret 1987 meeting in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, between Iranian officials and Abdul Qadeer Khan's associates started both Iran's nuclear efforts and Khan's black market. Iran, according to the newspaper, bought centrifuge designs and a starter kit for uranium enrichment. While Iran recently told the International Atomic Energy Agency it turned down the chance to buy the more sensitive equipment required for building the core of a bomb, there is evidence the country used Khan's offer as a guide to acquire some of the pricier items elsewhere, the newspaper said.

Asahi Shimbun, 28 February 2005

**Clinton: N. Korea able to make 2 nukes a year** (Taro Karasaki)

North Korea may be capable of building one or two nuclear warheads a year, says former U.S. President Bill Clinton. Even so, he said frank negotiations with Washington within six-party talks and fool-proof inspections are key to prodding Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear program. Clinton said over the weekend that the North's clandestine uranium-enrichment program, begun in 1998, could provide "enough fuel, at most, to make two weapons a year-probably, more likely one." Clinton was in Japan to promote the Japanese edition of his memoirs "My Life" at a forum sponsored by The Asahi Shimbun. He responded to questions from Asahi Shimbun columnist Yoichi Funabashi before an audience of about 1,000 people at a Tokyo hotel. The former president blasted the North's nuclear program saying it "violated the spirit" of the 1994 Agreed Framework with the United States to stop Pyongyang from producing plutonium for weapons. Clinton expressed support for the six-nation process to bring North Korea to task over its nuclear ambitions, but acknowledged Washington may have to do more to win Pyongyang's trust.

The Asahi Shimbun, 28 February 2005

**China now in sync with U.S. on N. Korea** (Nobuyoshi Sakajiri)

WASHINGTON: China, initially skeptical, now agrees with U.S. assessments that North Korea has a uranium enrichment

program to develop nuclear weapons, according to well-placed sources. Chinese delegates to the third round of six-nation talks in June first hinted at the change in attitude. Until then, Beijing had accepted Pyongyang's denials and had questioned U.S. view on the matter. Just prior to the third round of six-nation talks in Beijing last June, Zhou Wenzhong, China's vice foreign minister, was quoted by a U.S. newspaper as saying that China was unaware of North Korea having a uranium enrichment program and that Washington failed to offer any evidence to support its allegation. In June, Chinese delegates unofficially told their U.S. counterparts during a working dinner at the third six-nation talks, and in August at a seminar in New York, that Beijing knew of Pyongyang's uranium enrichment program but did not consider it a matter of concern. Later, Chinese officials informed Washington through official channels that Beijing shared Washington's view of North Korea's uranium enrichment program.

Reuters, 28 February 2005

**Iran, Russia Sign Nuclear Fuel Deal Opposed by U.S.**

TEHRAN: Russia and Iran signed a nuclear fuel supply deal long opposed by Washington Sunday, paving the way for Iran to start up its first atomic reactor next year. The agreement, inked by the two countries' nuclear energy chiefs at the Bushehr atomic plant in southern Iran, came as Tehran faced heightened pressure from the United States, which accuses it of secretly developing nuclear weapons. Iran, OPEC's second largest oil producer, denies the charge and has received strong backing from Moscow, which is keen to play a major role in expanding Iran's nuclear energy program. "This is a very important incident in the ties between the two countries and in the near future a number of Russian experts will be sent to Bushehr to equip the power station," Iranian state television quoted Alexander Romyantsev, head of Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency, as saying. A key part of the agreement obliges Tehran to repatriate all spent nuclear fuel to Russia. Moscow hopes this will allay U.S. worries that Iran may use the spent fuel, which could be reprocessed into bomb-grade plutonium, to develop arms.

Daily Times, 28 February 2005

**Pakistan rejects US press report Khan offered Iran nuclear material in 1987**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday dismissed a report in the Washington Post that international investigators have produced evidence about a secret meeting between Iranian officials and associates of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, founder of the country's nuclear programme. "The report is unfounded and no evidence has been produced to Pakistan about any meeting," the Foreign Office spokesman said in a statement, state-run television reported. He said there is no new evidence in the report. The spokesman said that Pakistan's investigations into the alleged transfer of nuclear technology were satisfactory and that the world community accepted this. According to the Post report, the secret meeting in Dubai in 1987 resulted in a written offer to supply Tehran with the makings of a nuclear weapons programme. The meeting resulted in a five-point phased plan to furnish Iran with nuclear materials including 2,000 centrifuges and equipment for building the core of a bomb, according to the newspaper. While Iran recently told the International Atomic Energy Agency it turned down the chance to buy the more sensitive equipment required for building the core of a bomb, there is evidence the country used Khan's offer as a guide to acquire some of the pricier items elsewhere, the newspaper said.

The New York Times, 28 February 2005

**Pressed, Iran Admits It Discussed Acquiring Nuclear Technology** (Elaine Sciolino and David E. Sanger)

As the International Atomic Energy Agency prepares to open a meeting today to review Tehran's nuclear program, Iranian officials have reluctantly turned over new evidence strongly suggesting that Iran discussed acquiring technologies central to making nuclear arms and hid that fact for 18 years, according to American and European officials. The officials said the evidence, a document dated 1987, was handed over after I.A.E.A. investigators confronted Iranian officials with evidence gathered in interviews with members of the network run by Pakistan's top nuclear expert, A. Q. Khan. The document, according to officials who have seen it, includes an offer by Mr. Khan's representatives to provide a package of technologies - for a price that ran from tens of millions to hundreds of millions of dollars, according to a European diplomat - including the difficult-to-master process of casting uranium metal. That is a critical step toward making the core of a nuclear warhead, though investigators note that Iran could come up with other explanations for why it wanted to fabricate uranium in a metal form.

International Herald Tribune, 28 February 2005

**U.S. backs bid to build 4 reactors in China** (Matthew L. Wald)

WASHINGTON: Westinghouse Electric will present a bid to China for building four huge nuclear reactors, backed by a pledge of nearly \$5 billion in financial assistance from the U.S. government that Washington hopes will give the company an edge over competitors from France, Germany and other countries. Approved on a preliminary basis by the Export-Import Bank on Feb. 18, the deal is almost three times larger than anything the bank has offered before. And while it would stimulate employment in the United States, the price would amount to about \$1 million per job, raising objections from some critics. The package also appears to benefit the British government, which owns Westinghouse through BNFL, the company formerly known as British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. The bid was scheduled to be presented Monday. "If the risk were not falling on the Ex-Im bank, it would be falling on the British government," said Peter Bradford, a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission from 1977 to 1982. Bradford said he opposed what he called a subsidy to a foreign company and what he said was support by the commission for Westinghouse's sales efforts.

The Guardian, 28 February 2005

**It's time for us to give up the nukes** (Roy Hattersley)

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament enjoys a special place in modern history. No other recent protest movement has been proved so conclusively - diametrically, demonstrably - wrong. Not so long ago, its members made regular predictions that Armageddon would soon follow the Soviet early-warning system mistaking a flock of geese for a cruise missile, or a crazy American general pressing the doomsday button just to see if it worked. Their righteousness was beyond dispute but their judgment was hopeless. The deterrent deterred. It kept Europe at peace - or at least free from a major war - for half a century. What the marchers on the road to Aldermaston called "the balance of terror" held the power blocs apart. It meant that the west could not go to the assistance of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, but it also ensured that west Berlin and Austria remained free from Soviet imperialism.

The Telegraph, 28 February 2005

**Security push to US centre shift** (Ayswaria Venugopal)

New Delhi, Feb. 27. A famous New Delhi landmark, the American Information Center, is gearing up to move from the heart of the city - Kasturba Gandhi Marg - in view of the heightened security threat perception following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Of the four American Centers, the New Delhi chapter is among the most frequented institutions of the US government despite the increased security following terrorist threats. However, according to Delhi police sources, the institution is planning to move to a "better secured location" in the next one year. Prior to 9/11, Abdel Raouf Hawash, a Sudanese, and his Indian accomplice were arrested in Delhi on June 16, 2001, for an unsuccessful bid to blow up the embassy. The US embassy is working out a relocation strategy. "The US embassy is re-evaluating its long-term facilities and plans for India but no decisions have been taken," a spokesperson said.