

Reuters, 1 July 2005

### **US Senate Defeats Move to Stop Nuclear Bomb Study**

WASHINGTON: Senate Democrats on Friday failed to stop the Energy Department from studying the feasibility of a "bunker buster" nuclear bomb the Bush administration is considering. The funds to study the experimental weapon that would penetrate the earth and explode to demolish buried enemy targets. The funds were included in a bill that would fund Energy Department activities in the fiscal year starting on Oct. 1. A House of Representatives version of the bill does not contain funds to study the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator. "We're talking about a study. What's the harm in getting the study?" asked Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner, a Virginia Republican. Democrats said it would send a dangerous signal to other countries that the United States was headed toward development of a new class of nuclear weapons, thus encouraging them to develop their own arsenal. "What moral authority do we have to ask others to give up their nukes if we're determined to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons of our own?" asked Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, a Democrat.

China Daily, 1 July 2005

### **US, North Korea discuss nuclear row**

U.S. and North Korean officials discussed competing ideas about Pyongyang's nuclear program on Thursday as part of an informal conference that is trying to help break a logjam in six-party talks. The contacts -- at an invitation-only New York academic conference of about four dozen people -- appeared to be heavily circumscribed by Washington and there were only modest expectations about an outcome. "If it's useful, you'll soon hear of a date" for resuming six-party talks aimed at persuading Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions, one U.S. official said. The conference provided a rare opportunity for U.S. and North Korean officials to communicate directly during a critical period in efforts to end Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programs. North Korea for over a year has boycotted talks seeking a diplomatic solution and U.S. officials say they increasingly believe Pyongyang is determined to keep its nuclear programs. Analysts say continuing administration divisions undermine President Bush's commitment to a diplomatic solution and some increasingly fear Bush will never agree to any deal that props up Pyongyang. "I've reached the conclusion that the administration is no longer willing and capable of signing up to any solution that perpetuates Pyongyang," said Charles Pritchard, a former North Korea negotiator under President Bill Clinton who is now with the Brookings Institution.

The Korean Herald, 1 July 2005

### **Roh raises hopes of six-party talks** (Lee Joo-hee)

President Roh Moo-hyun further raised hopes yesterday of an early resumption of the six-party talks by promising closer inter-Korean exchanges once the North Korean nuclear standoff is resolved. "When North Korea's nuclear problem is solved in the future, there are many ways opened for both Koreas to cooperate for the benefits of all of us on the fields of IT, SOC and tourism among others," Roh said in a speech at a meeting of the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification which he heads. "The government will resolutely push ahead with such policies," he told participants at the conference at Cheong Wa Dae. Roh added that the nuclear problem is slowly unraveling and active communication not only between the two Koreas but among the members of the six-party talks has been taking place recently. Urging closer trust between the two Koreas, he said, "Most importantly, the South and the North must overcome its division, and trust will be the first stage to accomplishing that." U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is set to visit South Korea around July 11-13, government sources said, hinting at an impending development in the nuclear standoff.

Dawn, 1 July 2005

### **Fire at Japan's nuclear plant**

TOKYO, June 30: Firefighters put out a fire late Thursday at a low-level nuclear waste processing facility at a plant in central Japan, a trade ministry official said, adding there were no injuries. The government's monitoring post near the Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant along the Pacific Coast in Shizuoka province, some 180 kilometres west of Tokyo, detected no leak of radioactivity, he said.

Daily Times, 1 July 2005

### **IAEA experts to inspect Russian nuclear power station**

MOSCOW: Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will inspect Russia's Volgodonsky nuclear power station in October to determine its safety levels, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. During a three-week visit, "the station will be inspected in nine areas, including exploitation quality and that of repairs, personnel efficiency, and readiness in case of incident," the agency quoted the station's press service as saying late Tuesday. The IAEA experts have already inspected similar sites in France, Germany, Japan and India.

The Hindu, 2 July 2005

### **Experimental fusion reactor in France**

The troubled negotiations over where to site the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), came to an end in Moscow on June 28 with the international consortium agreeing to build it at Cadarache in France. The rival contender was Rokkasho-mura of Japan. The talks had been stalled since December 2003 and the EU had even threatened to withdraw and go it alone if Cadarache was not chosen. Interestingly, the French site had the backing of Russia and China while the other participants - Japan, South Korea, and the United States - favoured Japan. It is nuclear fusion that keeps the Sun and other stars burning. If that process can be successfully mimicked, controlled, and sustained on earth, an inexhaustible source of energy becomes available. In fission, energy is released by the splitting of heavy nuclei such as uranium; in fusion it is the combining of lighter nuclei such as hydrogen that liberates energy. However, since the reaction can proceed only at temperatures above 100 million degrees Celsius, confining and sustaining the high temperature plasma of charged particles for sufficiently long duration has been a major technological hurdle.

The Nation, 2 July 2005

### **China - a rising superpower** (Col (Retd) Ghulam Sarwar)

For quite some time, relations between North Korea and the US have remained strained - at times, even bordering active hostility. Of late, however, they seem to have undergone a change for the better and China's efforts have certainly shown positive signs of improvement. Presently, North Korea has relaxed its erstwhile rigid policy of pursuing its nuclear programme. It has now shown its willingness to even freeze its nuclear programme, provided, in turn, US, South Korea and other western countries made an open commitment to provide proper economic aid to North Korea, especially in terms of food and fuel supplies. Responding to this demand, the United States has held out an assurance that North Korea's needs would be adequately met, once it firmly commits itself to freeze its nuclear programme. This change of heart, on both sides of the fence, indicates that both America and North Korea are now keen to see peaceful resolution of nuclear crisis in the Korean Peninsula. Viewed in this, it becomes abundantly clear that if North Korea opted to abandon its nuclear programme and America offered to provide economic assistance, chances of settlement of crisis in the Korean Peninsula would become really very bright.

Dawn, 2 July 2005

### **US, N. Korea hold talks**

WASHINGTON, July 1: US and North Korean officials had discussions on Thursday on efforts to resolve the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, the State Department said on Friday. Spokesman Sean McCormack said Joseph DeTrani, the US envoy to six-party talks on the nuclear issue, met senior North Korean diplomat Ri Gun at a conference in New York. "Yesterday, in the context of the seminar, there was contact between Mr DeTrani and Mr Ri Gun," Mr McCormack said. But he added: "This was not a negotiation."

Daily Times, 2 July 2005

### **North Korea resumes building nuclear reactors**

TOKYO: North Korea has restarted work on two nuclear reactors that was suspended under a 1994 landmark deal with the United States, a Japanese newspaper reported on Thursday. Quoting unidentified US government and other sources in Washington, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said North Korea had resumed building a 50-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon and a 200-megawatt reactor in Thaechon, north of Pyongyang. But an official in Seoul familiar with intelligence on North Korea's nuclear activities said there was no specific proof to conclude work had restarted. North Korea recently told the United States "indirectly" it was resuming the building work, the newspaper quoted sources in Washington as saying. Under the 1994 deal, North Korea suspended work on the plutonium-producing, graphite-based reactors in exchange for a multi-billion dollar deal involving energy aid and the construction of two light-water reactors, which are more difficult to use in nuclear arms development.

The Associated Press, 2 July 2005

### **North Korea Wants U.S. to Withdraw Remark**

NEW YORK: North Korea told the United States that it must withdraw its description of the communist nation as an "outpost of tyranny" and treat Pyongyang as a friend if it wants nuclear talks to resume, a senior North Korean official said Friday. North Korea's director general of North American affairs, Li Gun, told reporters after a two-day conference on northeast Asian security that the next step is up to the Americans. Speaking in English, Li said, "We told them (the U.S.) to just withdraw the words 'outpost of tyranny.' We demand it." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called North Korea one of the world's "outposts of tyranny" during her confirmation hearings in January. She defended the characterization last month, telling Pyongyang if it wants economic help it must give up its nuclear weapons and return to the six-party talks. The State Department confirmed that Joseph De Trani,

the top U.S. official to the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program, and James Foster, who is in charge of the department's office of Korean affairs, resumed contact with the North Koreans at the conference. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said there were no negotiations between the two sides at the closed meeting.

Khaleej Times, 2 July 2005

### **Now fusion power**

An international consortium has taken the first step in the quest for cheap inexhaustible source of energy by unveiling a \$12 billion plan to build the world's first large-scale sustainable nuclear fusion reactor in southern France. The project, known as International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, was first conceived in 1988, but wrangling over where to base its design teams and the reactor had delayed the project for almost two decades. Theoretically and experimentally, it's possible to harness fusion power. In fact, scientists have been able to generate power in laboratory fusion experiments. But it has never been tried out on a scale as envisaged by ITER group. Nuclear power can be produced in two ways: By splitting the atoms (fission) and fusing them together (fusion). The existing nuclear power stations use fission reactors to generate electricity. But there is no fusion reactor anywhere in the world. Scientists involved in the fusion thinking draw their inspiration from the Sun and stars where atoms in gaseous state fuse together at extremely high temperatures and produce enormous energy in the form of heat and light. Researchers believe that they can replicate this on our planet and reap the benefits for thousands of years.

Aljazeera, 1 July 2005

### **U.S. Senate approves nuclear bomb study**

The U.S. Senate approved a Defense Department research into the feasibility of a "bunker buster" nuclear bomb, officially called the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator. By a vote of 53-43, the Senate refused to block the \$4 million in funds to study the "bunker buster", which could penetrate underground targets. It is now up to the House and Senate negotiators to decide on the fate of the funding bill for the Energy Department's bunker-buster research. The Pentagon believes that 70 countries are trying to protect their key military assets from aerial strikes by burying them underground. Supporters of the weapon say that its funding was only for a feasibility research to see whether a new, sufficiently-hardened casing can be developed for existing warheads to determine whether it could penetrate deep into earth and destroy reinforced underground bunkers. But scientists say that the weapon is not efficient and dangerous. "A bunker buster cannot penetrate into the Earth deeply enough to avoid massive casualties and the spewing of millions of cubic feet of radioactive materials into the atmosphere," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

The Tribune, 3 July 2005

### **PM favours no-first-use N-doctrine (Rajeev Sharma)**

NEW DELHI, July 2: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today gave clear signals of the bipartisan character of the Indian nuclear doctrine, released by the previous NDA government, and said India was a responsible nuclear power which had declared no-first-use policy. It was the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government which had unveiled India's nuclear doctrine. The UPA government has so far not given any indications of drafting a fresh nuclear doctrine of India and the Prime Minister's remarks today show the UPA government is at one with the previous government on this sensitive issue. The Prime Minister made this remark in his informal address to the 2004 batch of IFS probationers at his residence this morning. There were a total of 16 probationers. Dr Manmohan Singh said India had been a victim of unauthorised proliferation. "We have to create a situation where this unauthorised proliferation is brought to the minimum. For that India is ready to cooperate with like-minded countries."

The Hindu, 3 July 2005

### **Manmohan for curbing N-proliferation**

NEW DELHI: India is willing to work with other nations to combat the menace of nuclear proliferation, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in an address to the 2004 batch of Indian Foreign Service probationers on Saturday. "Dr. Singh also highlighted India's role as [a] responsible nuclear power and underlined the need for blocking any further unauthorised proliferation of nuclear weapons. India was ready to cooperate with like-minded nations in this regard," an official release on the Prime Minister's remarks said. In an apparent reference to the denial of technology to develop India's nuclear power industry, the Prime Minister said that New Delhi should "fight against any efforts" being made to deprive nations of access to high technology. On Pakistan, he hoped that a "new relationship" could be developed between Islamabad and New Delhi through which a sustained effort would be made to resolve outstanding problems. Stressing that these problems should not be allowed to block possibilities of regional economic cooperation, Dr. Singh admitted that, so far, India-Pakistan relations had proved

to be a stumbling block in carrying forward the process of economic integration in the neighbourhood.

The New York Times, 3 July 2005

**Editorial: Fusion Power, Elusive and Alluring**

A standing joke among scientists is that fusion power - the holy grail of those seeking a boundless supply of energy to supplant fossil fuels - is always decades away. That has been the guesstimate for half a century, and it remained the guesstimate last week when an international consortium announced that it had finally resolved an internal struggle over where to site an experimental nuclear fusion reactor. It will be in southern France, with Japan receiving some consolation-prize benefits. According to a timeline issued by the consortium, this new reactor could put the world on a path toward a commercial fusion reactor by 2050. Or maybe not. The task is so daunting that fusion power may never prove practical. Even so, it is a dream worth pursuing in a world that may be desperate for new energy sources as fossil fuel supplies dwindle and global warming rises. Fusion reactors, which smash atomic nuclei together instead of splitting them, as a conventional nuclear reactor does, are undeniably alluring. They would produce no greenhouse gases, would rely on abundant sources of fuel and would be safer than current nuclear reactors, and their radioactive waste would be easier to handle. But fusion - the nuclear reaction that powers the sun and the awesome blast of the hydrogen bomb - has proved devilishly difficult to harness for peaceful purposes.

Dawn, 3 July 2005

**US Senate votes to revive controversial nuclear weapons programme (Maxim Kniazkov)**

WASHINGTON: The US Senate has moved to revive a controversial weapons research programme aimed at enabling the US military to conduct precision nuclear strikes against hardened underground facilities, including those suspected of storing weapons of mass destruction. By a vote of 53-43, senators defeated on Friday an amendment sponsored by California Democrat Dianne Feinstein that would have prohibited use of government funds to study the feasibility of the so-called Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, also known as the "bunker-buster" bomb. The failure of the measure means leading US nuclear research laboratories will in all likelihood receive in fiscal 2006 four million dollars for continued work on the bomb that was interrupted last year under intense international and domestic criticism. The action came ahead of a Group of Eight industrial nations summit in Scotland, where nuclear proliferation issues are expected to dominate the security agenda. Senator Feinstein insisted expert data available to her indicated that there could be no such thing as a "clean" nuclear strike and any use of a "bunker buster" would result in massive radioactive contamination and substantial loss of life.

Khaleej Times, 3 July 2005

**Ahmadinejad aide says Iran's nuclear policies will change**

TEHERAN: A close aide to Iranian president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday that nuclear policies will change under the new government. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, the head of the parliamentary foreign policy and security commission, told the news service Mehr that adopting a "new approach" towards the nuclear issue and talks with the European Union was one of the priorities of Ahmadinejad's government. He gave no details on how the new approach would specifically look like. Boroujerdi, a fierce supporter of the president-elect, criticized the government of President Mohammad Khatami for having failed to gain suitable results from the talks with the European Union in the last two years. He added that with the appointment of the new foreign minister, the framework of cooperation between government and parliament on the nuclear issue would become clear. The Iranian parliament, dominated by members of the ultra-conservative Abadgaran party to which also Ahmadinejad belongs, has several times urged Khatami's government to set an ultimatum to the E.U. and resume uranium enrichment even without European consensus.

Dawn, 4 July 2005

**Pact with US allows India to search for WMDs**

WASHINGTON, July 3: The Delhi-Washington defence pact signed this week would allow India to join a multilateral task force formed to monitor the movement of weapons of mass destruction across international borders. The 10-year agreement provides India a backdoor entry into the US-led 11-nation Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). The provisions of the initiative allow the member nations to stop and search air, sea and land cargo based on mere suspicion that these could be linked to WMDs. Such searches can be conducted in sovereign waters and airspace. A posting on the US State Department's official Website says that the PSI member states would have the right to stop and search ships not only inside their coastal borders, but also in international waters merely on the suspicion that a vessel could be carrying missile shipments. The PSI includes the US, Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Australia, Japan, Poland and the Netherlands. Asian and African countries have kept out of the initiative so far.

International Herald Tribune, 4 July 2005

**U.S. to join Seoul in new bid to N. Korea** (Choe Sang-Hun)

SEOUL: The United States and South Korea have agreed to present a sweetened package of economic and security benefits for North Korea if the Communist state returns to talks on ending its nuclear weapons program, a senior South Korean official said Sunday. The new package, which will incorporate an "important proposal" by South Korea, will prove so attractive that the North will find it hard to ignore, South Korean officials assert. The package follows a lengthy period of dispute between Washington and Seoul over how much inducement they should offer to the recalcitrant regime in Pyongyang. This amounts to a question of how much carrot versus how much stick. In this respect, the new package of incentives also would represent a breakthrough in trans-Pacific relations, suggesting that ties between Seoul and Washington are on the mend. South Korea believes that its "important proposal," the details of which have yet to be revealed, will be crucial not only to luring North Korea back to the negotiating table but also to increasing the chances for a peaceful settlement of the nuclear crisis.

The Associated Press, 4 July 2005

**Iran: U.S., Israel Waging Smear Campaign**

TEHRAN: Iran accused the U.S. and Israel on Sunday of a smear campaign against its president-elect and warned Europe, which is in tricky nuclear negotiations with Tehran, not to join in the mudslinging. The ultraconservative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who won a landslide presidential election victory, has been accused of taking American hostages in 1979 when radical students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Iranian exiles and an Austrian politician are alleging he was involved in the 1989 slaying of a Kurdish leader and two associates in Vienna. Iranian officials have denied both allegations. "The charges are so evidently false that they don't deserve an answer. It's clear that it's mere lies," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said Sunday at a news conference in Tehran. "Europeans should show their political maturity and not intertwine their interests with those of the Americans. They are advised to seriously avoid interference in this issue," Asefi warned. "We advise the Europeans not to fall into the trap of the Zionist media." The Iranian warning came as France, Germany and Britain lead European Union efforts to persuade Tehran to permanently halt nuclear enrichment activities, which the United States claims are part of Iran's plan to develop a nuclear arsenal.

The Asahi Shimbun, 4 July 2005

**Ministry to establish system for disposal of waste from nuclear plants**

The Environmental Ministry plans to establish a national management system to ensure safety when very low-level radioactive material from scrapped nuclear plants is disposed of like ordinary industrial waste. A bill to revise nuclear power plant regulations was passed in the current Diet session, enabling companies to legally dispose of extremely low-level nuclear waste as ordinary industrial waste by the end of next March. The ministry will gather information of such waste and create a database so that authorities will be able to take countermeasures if the waste sites become too contaminated with radiation. The database will be used to prepare for on-site inspections. "If this method succeeds, it could become a model case for industrial waste management in the future," said a section chief of the ministry's industrial waste division. More than 90 percent of waste created during the dismantling of a nuclear power plant is considered "ordinary," and does not qualify as nuclear waste. Low-level radioactive waste makes up about 2 percent of the overall waste, while 5 percent contains extremely low levels of radioactive materials. The "extremely low-level waste" is also called "clearance waste," which contains 0.01 sievert or less of radiation, only a tiny fraction of the annual amount an average person is exposed to in the natural environment.

The News, 4 July 2005

**Chirac, Putin, Schroeder discuss Iran N-issue, UNSC**

SVETLOGORSK: French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday held meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. They discussed the situation in Iran, Germany's bid for a UN Security Council seat and recent developments in Central Asia. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Chirac welcomed the role of Russia in backing the European Union-led diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. "We approve of Russia's Iran policy," he told a press conference. Chirac also underlined the role played by Britain, France and Germany, who are representing the EU in the talks with Iran, saying that they were determined to find a solution that conforms to the demands of non-proliferation. Regarding Germany's bid for a UN Security Council seat, Chirac said: "All the major countries that have emerged in the modern world and those which are major contributors should have a place according to their status in the UN." Chirac hailed a possible breakthrough on climate change at this week's G8 summit talks in Scotland. "I sincerely hope that we are heading for an agreement. We are waiting to know the American position. Given the current state of affairs and discussions, we will manage to reach an agreement."

The Asian Age, 5 July 2005

### **US visited Indian nuclear sites**

NEW DELHI: The Americans were given a conducted tour of India's nuclear installations under the guise of mutual concern over nuclear security and expanded "civilian nuclear activities". In February this year the Manmohan Singh government facilitated the visit of a five-member delegation from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) to Indian nuclear installations for a first-hand assessment of India's nuclear safeguards. The USNRC delegation was led by commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield and visited the Dhruva reactor, some of the engineering research and development facilities at Barc in Trombay, the Tarapur site where two US-designed boiling water reactor units are operational and two units of 540 MW each of pressurised heavy water reactors are under construction, as well as the Kota site where four PHWR units are operating and two are under construction. Informed sources said a visit by commissioner Merrifield to the military nuclear installations was also organised, although this could not be independently confirmed.

The Washington Post, 5 July 2005

### **North Korea criticizes Bush over nuclear stance**

SEOUL: North Korea criticized President Bush on Tuesday for expressing deep concern about Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program but said it was still neither against nor shunning six-party talks on the plan. The remarks North Korea referred to actually appeared in a joint declaration after a summit between Bush and European Union leaders on June 20 in Washington. In it, they said the North should dismantle its nuclear weapons and programs. "The U.S. chief executive was reported to have expressed deep concern about the DPRK's declaration of its access to nuclear weapons at a recent U.S.-EU annual summit in the White House," the North Korean daily newspaper Rodong Sinmun said. DPRK is short for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name. It said in February it had nuclear weapons.

Dawn, 5 July 2005

### **A new generation of N-weapons?**

LONDON: Just three days before the last general election, Tony Blair was reported to have secretly decided that Britain would build a new generation of nuclear weapons to replace Trident. The story was denied, which is why so many believed it to be true. Since then it has been very difficult to get a straight answer out of either the prime minister or his new defence secretary, John Reid. In the debate that is happening without them, there have been some surprises. Among them is the assertion by Michael Portillo, the former Tory defence secretary, that "the case for Britain having an independent nuclear deterrent depended on the existence of the Soviet Union". With the downfall of communism, he says, the capability became redundant.

Dawn, 5 July 2005

### **Einstein was in agony over atomic bombings** (Shingo Ito)

TOKYO: Previously unpublished letters by Albert Einstein to a Japanese pen pal show the physicist to be defensive over the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which became possible through his genius. The widow of Seiei Shinohara, a philosopher and German-Japanese translator who corresponded with Einstein in the last years of the scientist's life, has chosen to go public with the letters on the 60th anniversary of the world's only nuclear attacks. Einstein's opposition to nuclear warfare has already been documented, but his letters to Shinohara also show him defending himself on a personal level and trying to reconcile his pacifism. The correspondence began in 1953 when Shinohara sent a letter to Einstein criticizing the physicist over his role in developing nuclear weapons. Einstein responded by hand on the back of the typed letter, beginning his rebuttal without bothering to offer greetings.

The Washington Post, 5 July 2005

### **North Korea's Rising Urgency** (Carl Levin and Hillary Clinton)

It's been a year since the United States and its negotiating partners sat down with North Korea to discuss the elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program. In the meantime Porter Goss, the director of central intelligence, has reported to the Senate Armed Services Committee (on March 17) that the number of nuclear weapons North Korea possesses has increased and that there is now "a range" of estimates above the one or two weapons that may have been produced in the early 1990s. His testimony implies that the intelligence community believes North Korea reprocessed the 8,000 fuel rods that had been kept under strict surveillance from 1994 to 2003 in accordance with the Agreed Framework between North Korea and the United States. If so, this could mean that North Korea has many times the number of nuclear weapons it did before the Bush administration took office.

The Japan Times, 5 July 2005

### **Editorial: Japan wins by withdrawing ITER bid**

France has won the competition to host the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), the world's first nuclear-fusion reactor. Japan fought hard to win the project, but in the end the projected cost and the promise of playing a significant role in subsequent research gave Tokyo ample reason to withdraw its bid. That may not have been a bad thing: It is still unclear if one of the most costly projects in history will be worth the price tag. Nevertheless, Japan must now work exceptionally hard to ensure that the program is a success. Thermonuclear fusion utilizes the same process that powers the sun -- nuclear-fusion reactions -- to produce energy. Scientists at the ITER plant will create nuclear-fusion reactions in a tokamak -- a doughnut-shaped chamber -- by filling it with a plasma of deuterium and lithium and heating it to temperatures of more than 100 million degrees to force the nuclei to fuse.

The Korean Herald, 5 July 2005

#### **South Korean diplomat optimistic about nuke talks resuming in July**

A South Korean diplomat said yesterday after returning from a trip to the United States that he is "cautiously" optimistic that six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program will resume this month. Kim Sook, director general for North American affairs at the Foreign Ministry, returned home Sunday after accompanying Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on a visit to Washington. During the five-day trip, Chung met Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other senior officials to brief them on his June 17 meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. "Considering the overall atmosphere, including the outcome of this visit to the U.S., we can cautiously anticipate the possibility of the six-party talks resuming in July," Kim Sook said.

The News, 5 July 2005

#### **Russia, US warn of massive deaths if WMDs fall into wrong hands**

MOSCOW: Russia and the United States warned of apocalyptic consequences on Monday if weapons of mass destruction (WMD) fall into the wrong hands and encouraged more countries to join an anti-proliferation initiative in a joint article published in the Russian daily Izvestia. "Terrorists obtaining nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons would mean only one thing: mass death and destruction far exceeding what happened in the US on September 11," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in the article. Lavrov and Rice welcomed their two countries' cooperation in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), aims to clamp down on the smuggling of materials used in WMD and encouraged more countries to join.

China Daily, 6 July 2005

#### **Seoul sees North Korea nuclear talks resuming in July**

Seoul expects talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programs to resume this month, South Korea's foreign minister said on Wednesday, and he called on Pyongyang to set a firm date to return to the table. Diplomatic hopes were raised for the stalled six-party talks to resume after North Korean leader Kim Jong-il told a South Korean envoy last month Pyongyang could return in July if the United States met certain conditions, such as showing respect. "A lot of effort has been made to create favorable conditions for the North's participation in the six-party talks. We believe North Korea knows that, and we expect the resumption of the talks in July," Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon told reporters. "I believe it is desirable for North Korea to pick a date now and return to the talks at an early time," Ban said. He said US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's trip to East Asia, which is scheduled to start on Friday, would help add momentum to resuming the talks. Rice will discuss the talks with Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo, a State Department official said.

The Korean Herald, 6 July 2005

#### **Rice visit may help kickstart N.K. talks (Lee Joo-hee)**

Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said yesterday the resumption of six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear standoff should take shape this month and attached significant meaning to an Asian visit next week by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. "Members (of the talks) have put extensive efforts into creating an advantageous environment for the North to participate... Secretary Rice's visit to South Korea, China and Japan is a part of such diplomatic efforts and it will hopefully create a good turning point (in the standoff)," Ban said at a weekly news briefing at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul. North Korea has recently been seeking an opportunity or justification for it to announce the return to the six-party talks, which have been stalled for over a year by its boycott, according to reports and sources. Rice will visit Seoul Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss ways to bring North Korea back to the disarmament talks as soon as possible, the Foreign Ministry confirmed. "Rice and I will be sharing an in-depth discussion on reviving the nuclear talks in the near future and seeing substantial results when resumed," Ban said.

BBC News, 6 July 2005

#### **Puzzle over Iran nuclear official (Hassan Rohani)**

The position of Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rohani is uncertain after officials denied an official news agency report that he had resigned. Citing an "informed source", Irna said Mr Rohani had sent a resignation letter to President Mohammad Khatami. But officials from the Supreme National Security Council which Mr Rohani leads are quoted saying the report is false. Mr Rohani has led the Islamic state's often combative discussions with the European Union since October 2003. "It's a sheer lie. He has not resigned. Resigning at this time would be meaningless," SNSC spokesman Ali Agha Mohammadi is quoted as saying by Reuters news agency. The confusion comes nearly two weeks after the election in Iran of hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Correspondents say there has been intense speculation in recent days about the future of Mr Rohani, who is believed to share the reformist agenda of the outgoing president. Unconfirmed reports in Iran say the new cabinet, which is expected to be announced soon, excludes all former ministers in the previous administration.

The Washington Post, 6 July 2005

#### **Nuclear Dinosaur** (Peter Asmus)

The recent call by President Bush to restart a major nuclear power program in this country in response to concerns about our dependence on foreign energy sources and global climate change would have Adam Smith rolling in his grave. There is no power source less compatible with the GOP's love of free markets and disdain for regulation and subsidy than nuclear fission. Without government intervention, there simply would be no nuclear industry. Now, it is true that nuclear energy does not contribute to global climate change. And the new pebble bed modular reactor may well leak less, greatly reduce the risks of catastrophic meltdown and use less uranium fuel. But nuclear power is far from being clean or green.

Dawn, 6 July 2005

#### **EU's warning to Iran over N-arms plan**

WASHINGTON: The European Union will not accept a resumption of any nuclear arms activity by Iran, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douse-Blazy said on Tuesday after talks with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. "The Europeans will never accept a resumption of the Iranian military nuclear activity," he told reporters with Rice by his side after their meeting at the State Department. Rice stressed the need for a complete halt to Iran's nuclear activities, saying she saw no immediate need for a civilian nuclear program for the Islamic state. She said that based on a Paris agreement between France, Britain and Germany or the EU-3, and Iran in November 2004, Iran should suspend its uranium enrichment activity ahead of a full stop to its nuclear programs.

The News, 6 July 2005

#### **PM accuses NZ opposition of planning to axe anti-nuclear law**

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's prime minister on Tuesday accused the opposition National Party of planning to scrap the country's anti-nuclear policy, which has been a source of tension with the United States for 20 years. National Party leader Don Brash sparked the row when he said if his party wins in Sept. 24 general elections, it could change the nation's law banning nuclear arms and barring nuclear-propelled vessels from the nation's waters. He said a change to the law could follow either a nationwide referendum or be based on an explicit manifesto promise. Earlier in the year, foreign ministry officials said Brash told visiting US congressmen that the anti-nuclear policy would "be gone by lunchtime" if his party took power. Brash said later he could not recall making the comment. Prime Minister Helen Clark Tuesday used the nuclear comments to attack Brash, whose party recently has eclipsed her government in opinion polls. "I would say New Zealand's unique, nuclear-free foreign policy would be greatly at risk from a National (Party) government," she said.

The News, 6 July 2005

#### **North Korea refuses to scrap nuclear weapons first**

SEOUL: North Korea restated on Tuesday its rejection of US demands that it first scrap its nuclear weapons to gain US rewards, casting a shadow over prospects for a return to six-way talks on halting Pyongyang's nuclear arms programme. There would be no progress at the talks if the United States did not change its "high-handed" stance, the North's ruling communist party newspaper and official mouthpiece, Rodong Sinmun, said. "It is nonsensical for the US to unilaterally demand the DPRK (North Korea) disarm itself though both have been in the hostile relationship and technically at war for more than a half century," Rodong said. The newspaper said North Korea "has neither opposed nor shunned the six-party talks," which have been stalled for more than one year. "If the US persists in demanding the DPRK dismantle its nuclear program first without honouring its commitments, this will get it nowhere," it said. North Korea has demanded security guarantees, an end to economic sanctions, its removal from the State Department list of terrorism-sponsoring nations and significant energy assistance.

The News, 6 July 2005

#### **Iran not optimistic about 'difficult' N-talks**

TEHRAN: The head of Iran's atomic programme said on Tuesday he was "not very optimistic" ahead of key nuclear talks with the European Union later this month and predicted they would be "difficult" in the months ahead. Gholamreza Aghazadeh told the student news agency ISNA that Britain, France and Germany had yet to come to terms with the election of hardliner Mahmood Ahmadinejad as president and may have calculated on having easier negotiations. "The Europeans were waiting for the election of the new president to present their proposals. Taking into account the personality of the new president, I think the negotiations will be more difficult," he was quoted as saying. The three countries are trying to convince Iran to completely abandon its enrichment programme, which could be diverted to military purposes, and have promised to come up with the outlines of a long-term accord by the end of July. Moderate conservative cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, seen as being more open to such an agreement in return for a package of incentives, had been expected to win the election but was thrashed by Ahmadinejad.

Aljazeera, 6 July 2005

#### **Irans chief nuclear negotiator resigns: Report**

Hassan Rohani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator has handed in his resignation. Confusion surrounds the future of Iran's top nuclear negotiator Hassan Rohani with conflicting accounts emerging over whether he had resigned. The official IRNA news agency said Wednesday that Rohani, who led the Islamic state's talks with the European Union since October 2003, had resigned. Citing an "informed source," IRNA reported Rohani had sent his resignation letter to President Mohammad Khatami. No reason was given for Rohani's sudden decision to quit his post as secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC). It was not clear whether his resignation had been accepted. An official at Rohani's office said he could neither confirm nor deny the IRNA report. But an SNSC spokesman, Ali Aghamohammadi, immediately denied the report, telling a media source that it was "a sheer lie ... Resigning at this time would be meaningless." He added that Rohani had held a meeting with Ahmadinejad on Wednesday to discuss security policy, including nuclear talks with the European Union which are due to resume in August. But a source close to Rohani said that while he had not resigned, he probably would do soon.

Aljazeera, 6 July 2005

#### **Pakistan, India to hold N-talks in Delhi**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India have decided to hold nuclear talks on Aug. 2 and 3 in New Delhi with official quarters here saying that a vital agreement on advance warning of missile tests is on the cards. Earlier, the South Asian nuclear rivals were to hold these talks in the middle of last month but in order to give a chance to the back-channel diplomacy for success on prenotification of missile tests, the crucial negotiations were put off. Now it has been decided that the formal talks on nuclear issues would be held in the first week of August, most likely on Aug. 2 and 3 and these would be followed by a dialogue on conventional confidence-building measures (CBMs). The talks on nuclear and conventional CBMs would be held in the Indian capital, said diplomatic sources. They said owing to intense informal talks between the two sides during the last couple of months, the much sought after pact on advance warning of missile tests was most likely to be inked at the end of nuclear talks on CBMs. Sources said that concrete progress on proposed foreign secretaries' hotline was also expected. This dedicated line was meant to prevent misunderstanding and avert an accidental use of nuclear weapons that could bring catastrophic results for the peace and stability of the region.

The Nation, 7 July 2005

#### **Pak seeks N-power plants from US (Shaiq Hussain)**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is engaged in intense negotiations with the United States for the acquisition of nuclear power plants to meet its energy requirements but hitherto, no positive indication has been received from Washington which shows the Bush administration's inclination in this regard. For the last couple of months, Islamabad has been discussing with the United States, its energy requirements and it has been demanding at least two nuclear power plants for the civilian purposes, said the diplomatic sources here on Wednesday. These nuclear power plants, the Pakistani authorities believe, could be of great help to meet the country's energy requirements through the power generation up till 2010, the sources said. The response from the United States so far was not positive but it has been decided by the two sides to continue with the discussions in this regard, they added. A source said the provision of nuclear power plants was discussed in detail during the recent visit of US Secretary of State, Dr Condoleezza Rice to Pakistan.

The News, 7 July 2005

#### **Iran wants to break UN seals to test atomic parts**

VIENNA: Iran has asked the UN nuclear watchdog to let it break UN seals and test atomic equipment that has been mothballed under an agreement with the EU's three biggest powers, a senior Iranian official said on Wednesday. A US official said it appeared Tehran wanted to violate its pledge to suspend all activities linked to

the production of enriched-uranium fuel, a technology that can be used in either atomic power plants or weapons. But the deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, Mohammad Saeedi, said the move had nothing to do with the suspension of nuclear activities it agreed with France, Britain and Germany, representing the European Union. "Iran's request to temporarily remove seals at some parts of the Isfahan (uranium conversion) facility is not related to the suspension," Saeedi told Reuters by telephone. "We have asked the (International Atomic Energy Agency) to let us remove the seal at some parts of the facility in the presence of the visiting IAEA inspectors. We want to test equipment there to check whether those are functional. It does not mean lifting the suspension," he said. A diplomat from one of the EU trio said it was unclear how they would react to the Iranian request. "The odds are that we will see this as a maintenance operation that does not amount to a significant breach of the Paris Agreement," the diplomat said.

The News, 7 July 2005

### **Nuclear time-bomb ticks on Central Asian valley's edge**

MAILI-SUU, Kyrgyzstan: While the rest of Kyrgyzstan worries about instability ahead of a presidential poll on Sunday, officials in the remote town of Maili-Suu evoke a doomsday scenario involving two million cubic metres of radioactive nuclear waste. A stone's throw from this village in southwest Kyrgyzstan, 23 storage pits containing radioactive uranium and chemicals risk being swept into the Maili-Suu River at any moment, the officials say. The pits, remnants of 20 years of nuclear processing in the Soviet era, threaten a vast swathe of Central Asia's populous Fergana valley, including neighbouring countries. "The day when the water sweeps away one of the pits, the history of Maili-Suu will end. We will all be dead and entire regions of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan will follow," said Zakhambek Yunussapiyev, a town official organising work to secure the uranium pits. Local officials from the emergency situations ministry acknowledge help provided by organisations such as the World Bank, which has given 10 million dollars to secure the site, but say a reconstruction project set to start at the end of this year may be too late. "Pits number five and seven contain half of the nuclear waste stocked here. The mountain in front could slide into the river tomorrow, forming a natural dam that would flood the pits.

Daily Times, 7 July 2005

### **North Korea provided nuclear aid to Iran: intelligence reports**

VIENNA: Recent intelligence reports accuse North Korea of secretly helping Iran develop its nuclear programme, raising fresh concerns about Pyongyang's nuclear proliferation and Tehran's atomic intentions. The United States and the European Union fear Iran is using its nuclear energy programme as a front to develop nuclear weapons and have called on Iran to cease all sensitive atomic work. Tehran says its programme is peaceful and refuses to give up its sovereign right to a full atomic programme. "In the late 1990s, cooperation began between the two countries, which focused on nuclear (research and development)," said an intelligence report obtained from a non-US diplomat. "There has been a significant improvement in relations between Iran and North Korea over the past few months," the report said. A recent example is what the three-page report described as a "special secret course to provide technological and practical information to outstanding students." Among the lecturers are senior North Korean scientists and atomic technicians, it said.

Dawn, 7 July 2005

### **DPRK accused of helping Iran**

VIENNA, July 6: Recent intelligence reports accuse North Korea of secretly helping Iran develop its nuclear programme, raising fresh concerns about Pyongyang's nuclear proliferation and Tehran's atomic intentions. The United States and the European Union fear Iran is using its nuclear energy programme as a front to develop nuclear weapons and have called on Iran to cease all sensitive atomic work. Tehran says its programme is peaceful and refuses to give up its sovereign right to a full atomic programme. "In the late 1990s, cooperation began between the two countries, which focused on nuclear (research and development)," said an intelligence report obtained from a non-US diplomat. "There has been a significant improvement in relations between Iran and North Korea over the past few months," the report said.

International Herald Tribune, 7 July 2005

### **Seoul calls Rice tour crucial to North talks** (Choe Sang-hun)

SEOUL: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is scheduled to visit China, Thailand, Japan and South Korea on a tour of Asia set to start this weekend. The South Korean government said on Wednesday that the tour by Rice would be crucial to determining whether talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons development could resume this month. Bringing the North back to the negotiating table within this month - or at least getting an agreement - gains urgency because as of August, North Korea may start reprocessing its spent nuclear fuel to harvest a new batch of bomb materials, a step that would further complicate the stalled nuclear diplomacy. Such a move could snap the patience of hard-liners within the Bush administration, who already question the usefulness of the six-party talks. And it would undermine months of efforts by South Korea, which has used shuttle diplomacy

to Pyongyang and Washington to build a modicum of understanding between the United States and North Korea. Seoul is currently voicing growing optimism that six-party nuclear disarmament talks will resume soon. Rice's trip is scheduled to begin on Saturday in Beijing.

China Daily, 7 July 2005

### **Rice may discuss possible options against North Korea with Asian nations**

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice leaves on a key mission to northeast Asia this week and will likely discuss possible options if North Korea fails to return to multilateral talks aimed to end its nuclear weapons program. The fact that Rice's July 8-13 trip would be the second to China, South Korea and Japan in some three months underlines how serious the mission is, analysts said. "It is recognizing that we are down to a critical period, a crossroads in the diplomatic process," said Derek Mitchell of the US Center for Strategic and International Studies. "On the one hand, patience is running out, so there will be discussions on what point is being patient, too patient, and on the other hand, if North Korea does decide and come back with a date for the six-party talks, how we should organize ourselves and what to put on the table," he said. The six-party talks among the United States, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Russia and China aimed at wooing Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons program in exchange for aid have been stalled since June 2004.

Reuters, 8 July 2005

### **China's Hu Sending Envoy to North Korea**

BEIJING: Chinese President Hu Jintao is sending a former foreign minister to North Korea next week, Xinhua news agency said on Friday, as speculation mounts about a resumption of six-party talks to solve North Korea's nuclear crisis. Tang Jiaxuan, who is a state councillor, which ranks him below vice premier but above a cabinet minister, will travel to North Korea on July 12, two days after he meets Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Beijing. He returns from the "goodwill visit" on July 14, Xinhua said. The visit comes at a time when momentum appears to be gathering for a new round of multilateral talks on North Korea's nuclear program that involve the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

Khaleej Times, 8 July 2005

### **Paradigm shift in Iran (Dr Christian Koch)**

Following Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's victory in the Iranian presidential elections, the focus is on the impact it would have on the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme. This emphasis underlines the fact that the nuclear issue has become the background against which any discussion about Iran must take place. It has also almost grown to the point where movement on the nuclear question has become the litmus test for the future direction of the Islamic republic under its new president. Surely the debate over the nuclear issue is one that contains grave consequences not only for the Gulf region, but also for the international community regardless of whether Iran is pursuing a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes or pursuing a clandestine military option. The nuclear programme is first and foremost an issue of regional concern. It is certainly not an issue that can simply and solely be treated within the context of the strained US-Iran relationship. Hence, the outcome of the current negotiations should not hinge only on this factor; it is indeed an issue for Gulf security as a whole.

Reuters, 7 July 2005

### **US Will Never Be Able to Use Arms on N.Korea - Roh**

SEOUL: The United States will never be able to resort to military means to end the North Korean nuclear crisis, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said on Thursday. The standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions pits the world's most stubborn country, North Korea, against the country with the strongest voice in the world, the United States, and therefore a resolution is inherently complicated, Roh said. "But neither side has the freedom to take the situation to a breakdown," Roh told senior South Korean journalists at the presidential Blue House. "Under no circumstances can the North choose nuclear weapons, and under no circumstances can the United States choose military means," Roh said. Foreign media were not invited to the event, but a transcript of the discussions was later provided by the Blue House. Six-country talks on ending the North's nuclear programs in return for aid and security guarantees have been on hold for a year because Pyongyang refuses to talk until Washington ditches what the North says is a hostile policy.

Kyodo News, 7 July 2005

### **Total elimination of nuclear weapons possible: U.S. ambassador**

KYODO: U.S. Ambassador to Japan Thomas Schieffer said Thursday in Hiroshima that the United States believes it is possible to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Schieffer said the United States is making steady efforts to that end. He made the remarks as he visited the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima's Naka Ward with Hiroshima Gov. Tadatoshi Akiba. It is the first time Schieffer has visited Hiroshima since

assuming the post as ambassador in April. Schieffer said it is impossible for U.S. President George W. Bush or himself to attend the Aug. 6 peace memorial event to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing, declining an invitation by the Hiroshima municipal government.

The News, 9 July 2005

### **IAEA expands treaty to fight threats posed by terrorism**

VIENNA: An 89-nation conference on Friday approved a beefed-up treaty on protecting enriched uranium and other dangerous nuclear substances a move that the head of the UN's atomic watchdog agency said would help tie the hands of terrorists. The Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material originally obligated the 112 countries that have accepted it to protect nuclear material during international transport. The amended version, which still has to be ratified by those countries, expands such protection to materials at nuclear facilities, in domestic storage and during domestic transport or use. The International Atomic Energy Agency said that under the toughened treaty, countries would work more closely together to track down and recover stolen or smuggled nuclear material and "mitigate any radiological consequences of sabotage." Conference approval is only the first step. The amended treaty enters into force only after ratification by at least two-thirds of the 112 nations that have signed up to it \_ a process expected to take years.

The Washington Post, 9 July 2005

### **Chinese to Press N. Korea on Talks** (Edward Cody and Glenn Kessler)

BEIJING, July 8: A senior Chinese official will travel to North Korea after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice holds talks in Beijing this weekend, as China seeks the resumption of negotiations on North Korea's nuclear weapons program, the government announced Friday. The trip, by Tang Jiaxuan, state councilor and a former foreign minister, is part of Chinese efforts to narrow differences between the North Korean government and the Bush administration over the possible return of North Korea to six-nation talks it has boycotted for the last 13 months. In a weekend visit to China, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will lay out U.S. plans for six-party talks with North Korea, stalled since June 2004. Rice said that North Korea must be prepared to do more than talk. In a weekend visit to China, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will lay out U.S. plans for six-party talks with North Korea, stalled since June 2004. Rice said that North Korea must be prepared to do more than talk.

The Associated Press, 9 July 2005

### **Rice Sets Off on Visit to East Asia**

ANCHORAGE: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday she is confident that China is fully committed to a denuclearized North Korea despite contentions by some U.S. officials that China should be putting more pressure on its longtime ally. China is the first stop for Rice on a four-nation East Asia swing that is aimed primarily at finding ways to encourage North Korea to end a yearlong boycott of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. "When it comes to making sure that over time we get a non-nuclear Korean Peninsula, that's just a very high priority for the Chinese," Rice said, speaking to reporters before her plane landed in Alaska to refuel. As the principle source for food and energy assistance to North Korea, China has more leverage over its neighbor than other parties to the six-nation negotiating process. Rice declined to pass judgment on whether China has been doing enough. "We want China to do as much as it can," she said. She added that she will ask the Chinese for an update on recent discussions they have had with the North Koreans. She made clear that she is not prepared to hand the Chinese a list of things they should do to pressure the North. Rather, she said, "I'm going to ask them how to get the talks resumed."

The New York Times, 9 July 2005

### **Rice Has No Plans to Improve Offer to North Korea in Arms Talks** (Joel Brinkley)

ANCHORAGE, July 8: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday that she intended to rebuff a South Korean request to enhance an offer that five nations made to North Korea in exchange for dismantling its nuclear weapons program. The South Korean government has urged Washington to add a rich package of incentives to a proposal given to North Korea a year ago, during the last session of six-nation nuclear disarmament negotiations. Chung Dong Young, South Korea's unification minister, presented new offers to Kim Jong Il, North Korea's leader, during a meeting last month in the North Korean capital. After a visit to Washington last week, Mr. Chung seemed to believe the administration had agreed to his government's plan to combine the two proposals. "Both sides agreed that the next six-party talks, when they reopen, will gain momentum if they combine the proposals from the previous talks and South Korea's important proposal," he told Korean reporters.

International Herald Tribune, 9 July 2005

### **Loopholes closed on nuclear pact**

VIENNA: A conference of 89 countries, including the world's largest nuclear powers, agreed Friday to close

loopholes in an international pact on the protection of atomic materials against terrorists and saboteurs. The UN nuclear monitoring agency said all of the countries at a conference in Vienna adopted changes to a 1979 treaty that will require states to increase security at nuclear sites and cooperate more to track down stolen or smuggled atomic materials. A key change extends the convention's existing rules for securing international shipments to cover nuclear materials being shipped or stored within a country, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement. The changes to the 1979 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material were proposed by the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and 20 European states and backed by Russia and China. According to the agency's Web site, among the countries not party to the convention are Iran, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

BBC News, 9 July 2005

**Rice seeks N Korea breakthrough** (Jonathan Beale)

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's four-nation trip to East Asia is her second visit to the region in the space of six months. There is frustration in Washington over the North Korean nuclear impasse. That is not just a recognition of the growing importance of China - but also a sign of frustration in Washington that there has been no progress in persuading North Korea back to the negotiating table over its nuclear weapons programme. Three of the countries Condoleezza Rice visits - China, Japan and South Korea - have been involved in the six-party talks aimed at persuading North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. It is over a year since those talks broke down. Since then Pyongyang has confirmed it possesses nuclear warheads - hence the sense of urgency to restart the talks. Washington believes Beijing should be using more of its influence - economic as well as political.

The Indian Express, 10 July 2005

**N.Korea agrees to return to N-talks by month-end**

LONDON, July 9: North Korea has agreed to return to stalled six-way talks on its nuclear weapons programmes in the week starting July 25, the state North Korean news agency KCNA reported on Saturday. In a report monitored in London, KCNA said Pyongyang decided to reopen the talks after North Korea's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Kye Gwan held talks with US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill in Beijing on Saturday. "Both sides agreed to open the fourth round of the six-party talks in the week which begins on July 25, 2005," it said. On Friday, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he had got the impression from talks at the G8 summit in Scotland that North Korea may soon return to the talks. Hopes were raised for a resumption of the talks - last held in June 2004 - when North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il told a South Korean envoy last month that Pyongyang could return in July if the United States met certain conditions, such as treating it with respect.

Reuters, 10 July 2005

**Six - Country Talks Aimed at Nuclear - Free N.Korea**

SEOUL: North Korea has agreed to return to stalled six-country talks on its nuclear weapons programs this month, the official KCNA news agency said on Saturday. Following are key points surrounding the six-country talks. China hosted three rounds of talks beginning in August 2003 with North and South Korea, the United States, Japan and Russia. It was not until the third and last round in June last year that substantive proposals were made on ending the North's nuclear plans. No discussions on the proposals have followed so far. The basic premise of the talks is for North Korea to dismantle all its nuclear weapons programs in a verifiable manner in exchange for much-needed aid for its moribund economy and security guarantees. Seoul has recently said it has a substantial incentive package that goes beyond any other made. Media reports said the plan involved a huge injection of aid and technical assistance akin to the U.S. Marshall Plan that was instrumental in putting Western Europe back on its feet after World War II.

Reuters, 10 July 2005

**N.Korea May Divert Focus of Talks - S.Korea Media**

SEOUL: North Korea may try to steer six-country talks away from its nuclear arms programs by focusing negotiations instead on general disarmament, South Korean newspapers said on Monday. North Korea said on Saturday it had agreed to return to six-way talks that include South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States on its nuclear arms programs in the week of July 25 after a break of more than a year. In editorials on Monday, South Korean newspapers said North Korea must follow up on its decision by making real progress at the negotiating table. Some analysts have said immediate progress was unlikely at the talks, especially after North Korea said in March the talks should be turned into disarmament discussions where it is treated like a member of the nuclear weapons club, on par with Washington. There has been little progress to show after three rounds of the talks. The last round was held in June 2004 in Beijing.

Aljazeera, 10 July 2005

### **Israel must sign NPT "immediately"- G8**

Leaders of the G8 group have indirectly urged Israel to "immediately" sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and respect other conventions on the weapons of mass destruction. "We call on all states not party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, an IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the Hague Code of Conduct Against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles, to accede without delay," leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Canada and the U.S., said in a statement issued on the final day of their annual summit in Gleneagles, Scotland. "Multilaterally agreed norms provide an essential basis for our non-proliferation efforts. We strongly support universal adherence to and compliance with these norms," the 6-page statement added.

Aljazeera, 10 July 2005

### **Israel to build new nuclear reactors**

Palestinian sources revealed on Sunday that Israel is planning to install water cooled nuclear reactors in the 1948 occupied Negev desert parallel to the borders with Egypt. "The Israeli scheme came as part of other plans, including activating the implementation of the two seas canal that will connect the Dead Sea with the Red Sea on stages, after its success to recruit the PA and Jordan into supporting it, with the aim of providing the water needed for the hydraulic cooling system", the sources said. And while Israel, which claims it doesn't have a nuclear arsenal, is widely believed to have around 200 nuclear warheads, the Israeli finance minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, tried on Sunday to fuel the world's concerns about Iran's nuclear program. During his visit to London to address a conference, Netanyahu repeated Israel's and U.S. claims that Iran's nuclear ambitions pose real threat to the world. He also stated that he wants the shipment of Russian nuclear equipment and nuclear fuel to a plant under construction at Bushehr to be immediately stopped.

The Washington Post, 11 July 2005

### **U.S. Open to New Terms in N. Korea Talks** (Glenn Kessler)

PHUKET, July 10: The United States is willing to alter the terms and conditions of its proposal to resolve the impasse over North Korea's nuclear programs, if the government in Pyongyang constructively outlines its concerns when talks resume at the end of this month, U.S. officials traveling with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Sunday. The U.S. proposal, offered in June 2004, had been denounced by North Korea as unbalanced because the government would have been required to disclose all of its nuclear programs, and have its claims verified, before the United States took any steps in return. The officials, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said they wanted to hear from North Korea whether new incentives needed to be added to a final deal and how the sequencing of reciprocal steps could be rearranged to suit North Korea's interests.

The Korean Herald, 11 July 2005

### **Editorial: Talks rekindle hopes**

North Korea has agreed to return to the six-party talks, ending more than a yearlong boycott of the international negotiations on resolving its nuclear standoff. We welcome the decision and wish smooth sailing in the new round of talks, slated to begin during the week of July 25, possibly July 27. Hopes of progress are running high as Pyongyang's decision to attend the negotiations follows a recent normalization of inter-Korean relations. The Seoul-Pyongyang ties improved in the wake of the meeting in June between Unification Minister Chung Dong-young and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. At the meeting, Chung explained Seoul's "important proposal," an offer to provide massive aid to the North if it abandons its nuclear programs. Kim's response to the offer is not known, but the North's willingness to resume the six-nation talks indicates he thinks the idea is at least worth giving a try. Seoul has made its proposal more convincing by obtaining endorsement from Washington. Discussion at the fourth round of talks is likely to focus on it, along with the proposal presented by the United States during the previous round which fell short of arousing interest from North Korea.

People's Daily, 11 July 2005

### **President Hu says China welcomes resumption of six-party talks**

Chinese President Hu Jintao said Sunday that China welcomes the resumption of the six-party talks and appreciates the efforts made by relevant parties for this end. Hu told visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that China also hopes that the good momentum, in which all the parties concerned are seeking common grounds, would be enhanced and further boosted. He said peacefully settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through dialogue concerns the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula as well as northeast Asia. China is ready to keep close contact and cooperation with all the parties concerned, including the United States, and will continue to play a constructive role in seeking progress in the new round of six-party talks, Hu said. Vice Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Kye-gwan and US Assistant Secretary of

State Christopher Hill, who are heads of their countries' delegations to the six-party talks, agreed Saturday to open the fourth round of the six-party talks in late July, 2005.

People's Daily, 11 July 2005

### **Rice speaks highly of China's role in relaunching six-party talks**

United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on July 10 that China has been playing a "very active" role in relaunching the six-party talks, which she considered "an important first step" to settle the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and realize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. Rice made the remarks at a press conference held by the US embassy in Beijing after her separate talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and her Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing Sunday morning. "There have been tremendous flurry of diplomatic activities from all the parties of the six-party talks," Rice said, adding that there were efforts of the United States, Russia, the Republic of Korea and especially China. "I think Chinese have played a very active role to show North Korea what path ahead might look like," Rice said. While considering it "a very good thing" to come back to the talks in the week of July 25, Rice noted that it is only a start.

International Herald Tribune, 11 July 2005

### **Rice praises decision by North Korea to talk** (Joel Brinkley and David E. Sanger)

BEIJING Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Sunday welcomed North Korea's agreement to resume disarmament talks late this month but warned of difficult negotiations. "It's only a start," Rice told journalists in Beijing after meetings with senior Chinese leaders on the talks. After more than a year of stalemate, North Korea agreed Saturday evening to return to disarmament talks this month. Rice and the Chinese foreign minister, Li Zhaoxing, announced the talks on Sunday morning. North Korea has pledged to discuss eliminating its nuclear weapons program, senior Bush administration officials said. Rice indicated that the United States would consider diplomatic relations with North Korea only after its nuclear weapons program was shut down. "The issue now for North Korea is to make the strategic choice to give up its nuclear weapons program," she said. "Let's do that, and we will see what else comes, but the nuclear program has to be dealt with."

International Herald Tribune, 11 July 2005

### **South Korea sees progress as key to new arms talks** (Choe Sang-Hun)

SEOUL South Korea and other countries in the region said Sunday that they welcomed North Korea's agreement to return to disarmament talks, a move that breaks a 13-month deadlock and restarts negotiations that are as difficult to predict as the North's ambiguous strategies. North Korea said over the weekend that it would not only return to the negotiating table in the week of July 25, but it also would do its utmost to reach an agreement to get rid of its nuclear weapons facilities. "The resumption of six-way talks is important itself, but a key is to make substantial progress by holding in-depth discussions in realizing" the removal of nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula, a spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry told the country's official news agency. "We will do our best to this end." Such a comment could reflect a North Korean willingness to negotiate away its nuclear weapons in return for economic aid and security guarantees that it hopes would help rebuild its moribund economy and ensure the survival of its totalitarian regime.

The New York Times, 11 July 2005

### **Setting the Table for North Korea's Return**

PHUKET, July 10: Just hours before North Korea agreed to return to the six-nation talks on its nuclear program, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice reiterated that the United States would not sweeten the offer laid on the table more than a year ago. "We are not talking about enhancement of the current proposal," she said Saturday. But it was the promise of a better deal that appears to have persuaded North Korea to return to the talks, several administration officials acknowledged privately. The offer - details of which have not been disclosed - came last month from South Korea, allowing the Bush administration to appear to remain faithful to the hard line that some senior officials have insisted on. Yet at the same time, they can accede to the demands of allies for some kind of softening. "South Korea, they are the ones who made this work," a senior Asian diplomat said. On Sunday, after North Korea ended the yearlong stalemate and agreed to return to the talks, the other five parties - the United States, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia - began urging North Korea to take the negotiations seriously.

Daily Times, 11 July 2005

### **Netanyahu warns West it must halt Iran nuclear plans**

LONDON: The Israeli finance minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has warned that the West must do more to counter Iran's potential nuclear threat following the election last month of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad reported a British newspaper on Sunday. Netanyahu, in London to address a conference, said concerted action was required to rein in Iran, not least because of its links with Islamic terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas, the Sunday

Times reported. "The Iranian regime supports terror, both ideologically and operationally," the newspaper reported. "I think the regime will go as fast as it can to develop nuclear weapons, regardless of who leads it." Sunday Times asked whether there would ultimately have to be a military solution to the problem - perhaps involving a repetition of Israel's pre-emptive strike on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981 - Netanyahu replied: "I don't know." He added: "I am not aware of any plans, but that doesn't mean they don't exist, for example in America," it reported.

The Indian Express, 11 July 2005

**Rice wants progress in North Korea nuclear talks** (Carol Giacomo & Jack Kim)

BEIJING/SEOUL, July 10: The United States and Japan insisted on Sunday that six-party talks on reclusive North Korea's nuclear weapons program show progress this time round, with a hopeful South Korea saying it expected results. North Korea said it agreed to return to the talks after "the US clarified its official stand to recognise the DPRK as a sovereign state, not to invade it and hold bilateral talks within the framework of the six-party talks". But US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, meeting Chinese leaders in Beijing, said sitting down to talks after a break of more than a year was just a first step. "The real issue now is to make progress," she said. She told Fox Television News in an interview that Pyongyang had a "bar" to pass when the talks resume in the week of July 25 and the US and its partners "should not spend too much time celebrating" because there was much hard work ahead.

The Indian Express, 11 July 2005

**N-cooperation: Will Bush go ahead?** (C Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI, July 10: As the Left parties chip away at the efforts to improve relations with the United States, they have a powerful ally in Washington - the American bureaucracy committed to old think on non-proliferation and nuclear cooperation with India. With the nuclear question once again becoming the touchstone for measuring the transformation of Indo-US relations on the eve of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington this weekend, the resistance to change appears as strong in the American capital as it is here. The Left in India and the non-proliferation bureaucracy in Washington share a deep aversion to India's acquisition of nuclear weapons. But unlike the non-proliferation champions in Washington, President George Bush has been putting out a different political message. In his frequent encounters with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in recent months, including at the Gleneagles summit last week, Bush has reportedly conveyed his empathy for India's attempts to acquire civilian reactors from the international market to boost its nuclear electric power programme.

Khaleej Times, 11 July 2005

**Iran MP wants govt to focus on N-plan**

TEHERAN: A senior Iranian MP said yesterday that all efforts by the new Iranian government should focus on stopping the suspension of the country's nuclear enrichment programme. "Iran should now crystallise all its efforts on putting an end to the suspension of nuclear enrichment," Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of the parliamentary foreign and security commission, told ISNA news agency. In order to win international trust, Iran had agreed in October 2003 with the European Union trio Britain, France and Germany to voluntarily suspend uranium enrichment. "Iran has shown since then its full commitment to the NPT and transparently proven the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities to member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," said Boroujerdi, reportedly one of the main foreign policy architects of new President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Dawn, 12 July 2005

**PAEC allowed to upgrade labs**

ISLAMABAD, July 11: The government has allowed the Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) to upgrade its laboratories at a cost of Rs2.5 billion. Sources told Dawn on Monday that the upgrading of laboratories of the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (Pinstech) would be completed in five years and the Planning Commission had approved the projects. The government would provide the funding but the annual recurring expenditures would be met from the non-development budget of Pinstech. Under the programme, laboratories and facilities of Pinstech will be established and upgraded for economical study of irradiated assemblies of the Pakistan Atomic Research Reactors I and II, the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant and the Karachi Nuclear Power Project to determine their performances at different burn-ups. The fuel testing laboratories will be effectively utilized for failure and radiation damage studies of reactor materials for reactors in operation or planned for installation.

Dawn, 12 July 2005

**North Korea agrees to consider US plan: End to nuclear row**

PHUKET (Thailand), July 11: North Korea has agreed to give a detailed response to a US-led aid-for-

disarmament proposal when it returns to nuclear talks later this month, senior US administration officials said. The one-year-old proposal, which Washington says is comprehensive but Pyongyang sees as too stringent, is key to the success of the six-party talks comprising the United States, the two Koreas, Japan, Russia and China. North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan agreed in a surprise move on Saturday that Pyongyang would return to the negotiations on July 25, after the talks were stalled for more than a year. At a dinner meeting, Mr Kim also told US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs Christopher Hill that Pyongyang would respond to the US plan at the talks in Beijing, said the officials accompanying Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on her four-nation Asian trip. Mr Hill had asked Mr Kim whether North Korea was prepared to give a detailed response to the US proposal 'and he said they would', one of the officials told reporters on the plane taking Ms Rice to Thailand from her first stop, China.

Dawn, 12 July 2005

### **India hopeful of acquiring US nuclear reactors**

WASHINGTON, July 11: India hopes that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's first state visit to Washington, which begins this weekend, will lead to the acquisition of civilian nuclear reactors from the US. Although the anti-proliferation lobby within the US administration is still opposed to selling reactors to a country which admits possessing nuclear weapons, insiders say President George W. Bush is sympathetic to India's quest for the reactors. Yet, the latest issue of 'South Asia Monitor', a Washington think-tank, includes New Delhi's effort to acquire civilian nuclear technology from the US among the 'sticky issues that will involve difficult negotiations' during the visit. The other two issues on the Centre for Strategic and International Studies' list are the expected sale of sensitive US defence technologies to India and New Delhi's increasing ties with Iran to secure energy resources. But the CSIS also notes that Mr Singh is visiting the US at a time of unprecedented cooperation between the two countries when bilateral economic ties continue to grow at a moderate pace, despite US domestic concern about outsourcing jobs to India.

The News, 12 July 2005

### **Rice in Japan to lay groundwork for N-talks**

TOKYO: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived on Monday in key ally Japan to lay the groundwork for talks on ending neighbouring North Korea's nuclear programme after a diplomatic standoff of more than a year. Senior US administration officials travelling with Rice, who arrived in Tokyo from Thailand, said North Korea would respond at the nuclear talks to a year-old US proposal to end the crisis. But at the time the North Koreans rejected the proposal, saying the up front obligations would be excessive and the inspections intrusive. "Five countries put a proposal on the table one year ago. We want to see North Korea come back to the talks with a serious response to that proposal," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters in Washington. Meanwhile North Korea has agreed to give a detailed response to a US-led aid-for-disarmament proposal when it returns to nuclear talks later this month, senior US administration officials said. The one-year-old proposal, which Washington says is comprehensive but Pyongyang sees as too stringent, is key to the success of the six-party talks comprising the United States, the two Koreas, Japan, Russia and China.

The Washington Post, 12 July 2005

### **North Korea Talks**

North Korea's promise to return to negotiations about the possible dismantling of its nuclear weapons program has the ring of good news. The difficulty is that there is no way for outsiders to know why this enigmatic and brutal dictatorship reversed its previous insistence that it had chosen to become a nuclear power and would no longer bargain over it. Is it because ruler Kim Jong Il finally is prepared to renounce weapons of mass destruction in exchange for economic aid and security guarantees from the West? Or does he merely hope to cash in on South Korea's promise of a massive new aid program, the offer of which seems to have broken the long impasse over the "six-party" talks? Does North Korea intend to set out the terms by which it would give up all of its weapons and nuclear infrastructure -- something it has never done -- or does it want only to avoid being blamed for the absence of negotiations, which might endanger the economic lifeline provided by the South and China?

Reuters, 12 July 2005

### **Iran says new president won't change nuclear policy**

TEHRAN: Iran insisted on Tuesday its nuclear policy would not change when hardline President-Elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad takes office next month. European diplomats have expressed concern that the former Revolutionary Guardsman will adopt a tougher line than outgoing reformist President Mohammad Khatami, whose government has sought to ease Western fears that Tehran is pursuing nuclear weapons. "Our macro policies are outlined by the Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) and the government is obliged to implement them," Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told ambassadors in Tehran. "Therefore, some worries about changing those policies are baseless. The new government, like Khatami's government, will follow the same route. "One of those macro

policies is our policy regarding the nuclear issue. Khatami's government has always insisted that the use of peaceful nuclear technology is Iran's obvious right," Kharrazi said. During the presidential election campaign Ahmadinejad criticized Iranian diplomats for taking a timid stance in nuclear negotiations with the European Union.

The Associated press, 12 July 2005

**Rice arrives today to discuss N.K.** (Lee Joo-hee)

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrives in Seoul this afternoon on the last leg of her current Asian tour, invigorated with a new purpose and a new mission: to coordinate steps with South Korea to re-energize the rusty six-party talks now that the North has ended its year-long boycott. Rice's trip to China, Thailand, Japan and South Korea was planned ahead of North Korea's pledge on Saturday to return to the talks, and her revised aim consequently is to discuss how to approach the negotiations to end the North Korean nuclear standoff, government officials said. South Korea itself launched its own preparatory groundwork for the talks, stalemated for just over a year as North Korea demanded a change to what it labeled U.S. "hostility." Unification Minister Chung Dong-young, as head of the presidential National Security Council, presided over a high-level meeting on the nuclear issue. Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and presidential national security adviser Kwon Jin-ho joined the discussion, held at the headquarters of the inter-Korean economic talks in western Seoul.

The Associated Press, 12 July 2005

**Rice Warns North Korea Talks May Fail**

TOKYO: The upcoming six-party talks on North Korean disarmament will fail unless the communist state makes a commitment to abandon its nuclear arms development, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday. "What we really need is a strategic decision on the part of the North that they are indeed ready to give up their nuclear weapons program," Rice told reporters after meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura. "Without that, these talks cannot be successful," she said. "We agreed that there must be an actual progress in the next round of talks, and we expect North Korea's serious and constructive handling," Machimura said. "We also confirmed the importance of close cooperation among Japan, the United States and South Korea on the issue." On a related matter, Rice expressed no objections to a South Korean donation of 500,000 tons of rice to North Korea, saying the gesture will not undercut the U.S. negotiating position in the talks. She said South Korea was responding to "miserable conditions" in the North and noted that the United States itself in recent days offered 50,000 tons of food aid to Pyongyang.

Daily Yomiuri, 12 July 2005

**N-free Korea 'to take time' / Top Chinese diplomat says several rounds oftalks needed** (Masahiko Takekoshi)

Wu Dawei, China's vice foreign minister, who will head a Chinese delegation to six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear development program, said Monday that Beijing expects it will take some time to realize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. Speaking in an interview in Beijing with Kiichiro Harano, international editor of The Yomiuri Shimbun, Wu said, "It would be impossible to have just one round of talks resolve every matter," indicating the China-hosted framework should be kept intact beyond the next round to deal with the North Korean nuclear issue. His remarks followed North Korea's agreement with the United States on Saturday to return to the six-party talks--last held in June last year--in the week beginning July 25. Wu said China, which chairs the talks, had begun approaching the other participating countries--Japan, South Korea and Russia--to set an exact date for their delegations to sit down together in Beijing. The Chinese vice minister praised both Pyongyang and Washington for their efforts in reaching an agreement. He added that the two sides appeared to have had a substantial exchange of views.

Daily Yomiuri, 12 July 2005

**N. Korea must dispose of nuclear weapons**

Can a new round of six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear arms program settle the dispute peacefully? The six-party talks aimed at making the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free will resume later this month. During unofficial bilateral talks held to set the stage for resuming six-country negotiations, the United States acknowledged North Korea to be a sovereign state, reiterating its intention not to invade or attack the reclusive state. Washington also pledged to carry out bilateral talks within the framework of the six-party negotiations. These U.S. assurances did much to ensure North Korea would return to the bargaining table. Since their third round in June 2004, the six-nation talks have been stalled, with Pyongyang refusing to reopen the negotiations. The communist state's decision to attend the new round of talks marks a step toward halting its nuclear weapons development. Participants in the resumed talks must ensure North Korea agrees to scrap its nuclear arms program. In June last year, the United States told North Korea that the nations involved in the stalled talks would extend energy assistance and improve relations with that country if Pyongyang worked to dismantle its nuclear weapons

development program in a verifiable manner.

China Daily, 12 July 2005

#### **North Korea links nukes to US threats**

North Korea said Monday it does not need nuclear weapons if it is not threatened by the United States, another sign of progress following Pyongyang's agreement over the weekend to return to disarmament talks. South Korea said Monday its proposal on boosting aid for the North, to be unveiled when the international nuclear talks resume later this month, will be a cornerstone of efforts to persuade North Korea to disarm. Negotiators from both sides of the divided peninsula met Monday in Seoul for talks on economic cooperation and aid for the North. North Korea agreed Saturday to return to six-nation nuclear talks the week of July 25 after refusing to attend for more than a year, citing "hostile" U.S. policies. American officials have repeatedly denied any intention to attack the North, and recently said they recognized it as a sovereign nation. "We do not intend to possess nuclear weapons forever," the North's Rodong Sinmun daily wrote in a commentary. "If the U.S. nuclear threat to (North Korea) is removed and its hostile policy to 'bring down the system' of the latter is withdrawn, not a single nuclear weapon will be needed."

People's Daily, 12 July 2005

#### **US wants "serious response" from DPRK on proposal**

The United States said on Monday that it hopes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will make a "serious response" to the proposal it made at the last round of six-party talks aimed at solving the DPRK nuclear issue. "Five countries put a proposal on the table a year ago. We want to see North Korea come back to the talks with a serious response to that proposal," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "We look forward to talking about how we can make progress toward our shared goal of a denuclearized peninsula. North Korea has expressed that they are committed to a denuclearized peninsula, and they want to make progress toward that goal. and it's important that we do make progress in this next round of talks that begin later this month," McClellan said. The US proposal, offered in June 2004, has been denounced by the DPRK as unbalanced because the DPRK would have been required to disclose all of its nuclear programs and have its claims verified, before the United States took any steps in return.

The Indian Express, 13 July 2005

#### **South offers N. Korea energy-for-nuclear deal**

SEOUL: South Korea has announced that it had offered to supply North Korea a vast supply of electrical power, should the north agree to dismantle its nuclear-weapons program. The US, which had been cool to the South Korean proposal until now, plans to examine it with the intention of incorporating the idea into the broader offer that the US made to North Korea last year as part of the six-nation nuclear disarmament negotiations, a senior administration official said. The South Korean announcement came on a day of developments that appeared to complicate the North Korean government's agreement last Saturday to rejoin the six-nation disarmament talks later this month. The Japanese government insisted that the long-festering issue of North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens decades ago be a part of the nuclear talks-an idea that both China and South Korea oppose.

The Hindu, 13 July 2005

#### **Japan, U.S. for progress in nuclear talks (P. S. Suryanarayana)**

SINGAPORE: Japan and the U.S. on Tuesday called for "concrete results" during the next round of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear-weapons programme. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who met Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura in Tokyo, said North Korea should make a "strategic decision" to give up the programme and dismantle the facilities. Japan and the U.S. are participants in the six-party parleys, the others being host China, the two Koreas and Russia. The last round took place in Beijing over a year ago. The next round is expected later this month following Pyongyang's decision to resume participation.

Dawn, 13 July 2005

#### **First N-bomb test cast shadow over humanity (Stephen Collinson)**

WASHINGTON: The world changed forever, at just before dawn, 60 years ago this Saturday, July 16. Deep in the northern New Mexico desert, the United States test-fired its new atomic weapon, and in a flash, mankind had the means of its own potential destruction. The blast's terrible beauty, which bathed nearby mountains in blinding light, sent military and political consequences coursing down the decades, spawning a Cold War arms race and fears of nuclear extinction. "The whole human species has been living with the threat of annihilation ever since," said Peter Kuznick, a history professor specializing in nuclear issues at American University in Washington. Nuclear headaches still dominate US foreign policy - as Japan prepares to mark the 60th anniversary of the US

bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a few weeks after the test at Trinity Site, New Mexico. The United States is mired in the aftermath of an invasion of Iraq it justified by saying that in a new age of terror, it could not wait for a 'mushroom cloud' to establish whether Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction program.

Dawn, 13 July 2005

#### **Tehran threatens to resume N-work**

TEHRAN, July 12: Iran warned the European Union on Tuesday it would resume sensitive nuclear activities shortly if the EU failed to recognize its right to carry out such work. The warning, delivered by Iran's top nuclear negotiator, set up another tense showdown between the Islamic state and the EU ahead of key talks expected to take place next month. At that meeting EU negotiators are due to present a proposal on the long-term future of Iran's atomic programme. Iran, which denies seeking nuclear arms, has frozen sensitive nuclear work, like uranium enrichment, while the talks go on. "If Iran's rights are not observed in the new European proposal ... we will resume activities at the Uranium Conversion Facility," said Hassan Rohani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Iran threatened to resume work at the Uranium Conversion Facility in Isfahan - where raw uranium is processed - earlier this year. But crisis talks in Geneva in May secured a two-month breathing space for the EU.

Dawn, 13 July 2005

#### **US, Japan urge N.Korea to end nuclear plans**

SEOUL/TOKYO, July 12: Japan and the United States urged Pyongyang on Tuesday to abandon nuclear weapons or risk failure in six-nation talks, while South Korea offered to supply its reclusive neighbour with electricity in return for a deal. North Korea has agreed to return to negotiations on its nuclear ambitions with the United States, host China, Japan, South Korea and Russia. The meeting - the first since June 2004 - will be held in the week of July 25. Japan's Kyodo news agency, quoting Japanese government sources, reported late on Tuesday that the talks would open on July 27 and run for around three days. "What we really need is a strategic decision on the part of the North that they are indeed ready to give up nuclear weapons because, without that, these talks cannot be successful," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told a news conference in Tokyo. "Just having a meeting is meaningless. If you don't make any progress, there is no point," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters at his residence after his meeting with Rice.

The Asahi Shimbun, 13 July 2005

#### **Editorial: 6-way talks: Tangible results must be achieved this time around**

Stalled six-way talks on North Korea's nuclear development programs are to resume in late July. The last round in Beijing was held more than one year ago. The decision to restart the talks was reached by representatives of the United States and North Korea at a dinner hosted by the Chinese government in Beijing. Besides the United States and North Korea, the other partners in the six-way process are Japan, South Korea, Russia and China. The talks are aimed at peacefully resolving the nuclear standoff. Only three rounds have been held since the first session got under way two years ago. Frankly, nothing has been achieved that is worth crowing about. But without this framework, there is no way of accomplishing a meaningful result. We welcome the resumption of talks.

The Korean Herald, 13 July 2005

#### **South Korea offers power aid in return for nuclear cleanout (Lee Joo-hee)**

South Korea said yesterday it will provide the North extensive electricity aid in return for the complete dismantlement of its nuclear weapons program - a proposal which Seoul hopes will break the negotiations impasse once the six-party talks resume later this month. Seoul will set off to send 2 million kilowatts of electricity annually to the North upon Pyongyang's implementation of the nuclear program dismantlement, Unification Minister and head of the National Security Council Chung Dong-young said in a news conference in Seoul. The power aid will also call for a termination of the light-water reactor project in the North suspended since 2003 over the second nuclear crisis, Chung said. Kim Sook (right), director-general of the Foreign Ministry's North American affairs bureau, and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill exchange yesterday in Seoul a memorandum of understanding on relocating the U.S. Embassy. Looking on is Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon (right) and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. /The Korea Herald

Daily Yomiuri, 13 July 2005

#### **Japan, U.S. ready for N-talks**

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Tuesday at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo. Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura met with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Tuesday morning to strengthen the two governments' resolve on the upcoming six-way

talks over North Korea's nuclear ambitions, also taking the opportunity to set a date for talks to bring Seoul into the fold ahead of the meeting. Rice and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi met later Tuesday and agreed that the planned six-country talks should produce specific results on North Korea's nuclear programs, government officials said. Machimura and Rice, who is on a four-nation Asian tour, met for about 1-1/2 hours at the Foreign Ministry, where the two reaffirmed their countries' commitment to the six-party format to persuade Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear program in a complete, irreversible and verifiable manner.

China Daily, 13 July 2005

#### **Rice optimistic North Korea talks can bear fruit**

The United States and South Korea are optimistic North Korea, enticed by energy aid, might agree to scrap its nuclear plans and so defuse one of the world's most dangerous crises, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Wednesday. Her comments, the most upbeat by a U.S. official on North Korea in months, came two weeks before stalled six-way nuclear talks resume and after South Korea offered to supply electricity to the North if it dismantled its nuclear programs. "We are very optimistic that our joint efforts to improve the security situation on the Korean peninsula could indeed bear fruit, although, of course, there is still much work to be done," she said after meeting South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (L), answers a reporter's question as South Korea's Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon looks on during a news conference at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul July 13, 2005. The U.S. and South Korea are very optimistic resumed six-country talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes could bear fruit, Rice said on Wednesday.

The New York Times, 13 July 2005

#### **Nuclear Weapons Expert Backs Reliability of Disputed Warhead** (William J. Broad)

Joining a debate over the reliability of the W-76, a top American warhead, a nuclear arms expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has concluded that at worst, 70 percent of those in the nuclear arsenal would explode as designed. "No matter how cautious the assessment, the W-76 remains a reliable component of the U.S. nuclear deterrent," the scientist, Geoffrey E. Forden, wrote in the July issue of Jane's Intelligence Review. Dr. Forden based his estimate on an investigation of the likely number of classified nuclear tests the warhead underwent during its development and on a statistical analysis of that experimental series. He has submitted a similar but more detailed study to Science and Global Security, a journal edited at Princeton. The W-76, a centerpiece of the nation's nuclear arsenal, was designed by the Los Alamos weapons laboratory in the early 1970's and is now carried aboard submarines that prowl the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Federal officials have strongly denied that it has any problems that would cause it to explode with less force than intended.

International Herald Tribune, 13 July 2005

#### **Nicholas D. Kristof: Nuclear consequences**

PYONGYANG: North Korea President George W. Bush and his top officials are studiously pretending not to notice, but here in the most bizarre country in the world, the Dear Leader, Kim Jong Il, is throwing down a nuclear gauntlet at Bush's feet. Senior North Korean officials here say the country has just resumed the construction of two major nuclear reactors that it stopped working on back in 1994. Before construction resumed, the CIA estimated that it would take "several years" to complete the two reactors, but that they would then produce enough plutonium to make about 50 nuclear weapons each year. This is the most regimented, militarized and oppressive country in the world, but the government seems very firmly in control. And this new reactor construction, if it is sustained, is both scary and another sign that U.S. policy toward North Korea has utterly failed.

International Herald Tribune, 13 July 2005

#### **Korean advance**

North Korea's announcement Sunday that it will return to six-party talks on its nuclear weapons program should be greeted by the Bush administration as an opportunity to engage in genuine give-and-take negotiations. There is no other realistic way to test Pyongyang's professions of a willingness to give up - or, more accurately, barter - all its nuclear weapons. China, South Korea, Japan, and Russia will join in the talks, but the focus will be on the United States and North Korea. Until they start bargaining on July 25 in Beijing, it will not be clear whether the North is prepared to dismantle its nuclear program and whether President George W. Bush will make the accommodations needed to strike a deal. But at least the two sides have taken steps recently to renew the Beijing talks after a hiatus of 13 months.

The Washington Post, 13 July 2005

#### **North Korea Talks**

North Korea's promise to return to negotiations about the possible dismantling of its nuclear weapons program

has the ring of good news. The difficulty is that there is no way for outsiders to know why this enigmatic and brutal dictatorship reversed its previous insistence that it had chosen to become a nuclear power and would no longer bargain over it. Is it because ruler Kim Jong Il finally is prepared to renounce weapons of mass destruction in exchange for economic aid and security guarantees from the West? Or does he merely hope to cash in on South Korea's promise of a massive new aid program, the offer of which seems to have broken the long impasse over the "six-party" talks? Does North Korea intend to set out the terms by which it would give up all of its weapons and nuclear infrastructure -- something it has never done -- or does it want only to avoid being blamed for the absence of negotiations, which might endanger the economic lifeline provided by the South and China?

International Herald Tribune, 13 July 2005

#### **North must renounce atom arms, Rice says**

TOKYO: Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, said on Tuesday that North Korea must renounce nuclear weapons permanently when six-party talks on the Communist country's nuclear weapons program resume later this month. North Korea agreed over the weekend to end its yearlong boycott of the talks, which also include the United States, South Korea, Japan, China, and Russia. South Korea has been especially optimistic about the outcome of the coming round of talks. On Tuesday it announced that it had agreed in negotiations with the North to supply it with 500,000 tons of rice. Rice said that she had no objection to Seoul's decision to aid its impoverished neighbor. "It responds to the really miserable humanitarian situation of the North Korean people," she said, adding that it "does not in any way undercut the talks." But Rice, in Tokyo, said that the talks would fail unless the Communist state made a commitment to abandon its development of atomic weapons.

Asian Age, 13 July 2005

#### **Pressure on PM to get nuclear fuel**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who will leave for Washington this weekend with the promise of "big, big things" from US President George W. Bush, is under pressure from the energy and security establishment here to ensure the withdrawal of US sanctions on allowing India to shop for nuclear fuel and nuclear power reactors in the international market. This, experts here pointed out, would be a visible symbol of a successful bilateral visit. India has been working hard to persuade the US to drop its sanctions and restrictions on the Nuclear Suppliers Group so that the member nations are able to sell not just nuclear fuel, but at least six nuclear power reactors required by India to answer its burgeoning energy needs. The Tarapur plant is currently down to its last stock of fuel from Russia, which has expressed its inability to continue the supply because of the restrictions imposed by the US on India. It is imperative that the Americans now withdraw the sanctions, according to informed sources here, to give teeth to their promise of civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

The News, 13 July 2005

#### **Pakistan, China coordinate position on arms control**

BEIJING: Senior officials from Pakistan and China met here on Tuesday and held consultation on matters relating to arms control, disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. During the talks, the two sides discussed their respective position on the issues. Officials of the two foreign ministries also considered various new initiatives taken at regional and international levels for arms control. Diplomatic sources told APP the two countries enjoyed close cooperation and shared identical views on wide-ranging issues of nuclear non-proliferation. China always appreciated Pakistan's efforts and support for peaceful use of nuclear energy. "Such consultation is aimed at coordinating the position with regard to matters that regularly come under discussion at conferences on Disarmament in Geneva, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Vienna and the United Nations in New York," the sources added.

Asian Age, 14 July 2005

#### **Manmohan in quest of nuclear fuel (Seema Mustafa)**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who will leave for Washington this weekend with the promise of "big, big things" from US President George W. Bush, is under pressure from the energy and security establishment here to ensure the withdrawal of US sanctions on allowing India to shop for nuclear fuel and nuclear power reactors in the international market. This, experts here pointed out, would be a visible symbol of a successful bilateral visit. India has been working hard to persuade the US to drop its sanctions and restrictions on the Nuclear Suppliers Group so that the member nations are able to sell not just nuclear fuel, but at least six nuclear power reactors required by India to answer its burgeoning energy needs. The Tarapur plant is currently down to its last stock of fuel from Russia, which has expressed its inability to continue the supply because of the restrictions imposed by the US on India. It is imperative that the Americans now withdraw the sanctions, according to informed sources here, to give teeth to their promise of civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

Daily Times, 14 July 2005

### **Iran could see change in nuclear policy: Rowhani**

TEHRAN: Iran could change its nuclear policy, particularly its commitment to a freeze of ultra-sensitive uranium enrichment activities, top negotiator Hassan Rowhani was quoted as saying Wednesday. "I think that nobody is hostile to the continuation of negotiations but differences are possible on the question of the suspension, and it is possible that these differences are implemented," Rowhani told the Shargh newspaper. Rowhani's comments were published the day after hardline president-elect Mahmood Ahmadinejad vowed "new measures" in the Islamic republic's approach to the nuclear crisis as well as its foreign policy. Ahmadinejad takes over from reformist President Mohammad Khatami on August 3, a sensitive juncture for Iran in its negotiations with Britain, France and Germany. The three European powers have promised to come up with an outline for a long-term accord by the end of this month, and their proposal could make or break a lengthy diplomatic process aimed at easing widespread fears Iran is seeking nuclear weapons technology.

Daily Times, 14 July 2005

### **US close to testing massive 'bunker-busting' missile**

WASHINGTON: The United States is close to testing a new missile aimed at destroying deep bunkers where suspected weapons of mass destruction are stored, the British weekly New Scientist says. Four prototypes of the new "bunker-buster" will be tested later this year by Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control of Dallas, Texas, which are working with US Navy scientists on behalf of the Pentagon's Threat Reduction Agency, it says. Traditional bunker bombs are streamlined bombs whose sheer weight enables them to force through soil, rock or concrete before they detonate. The new design is different, the report, in next Saturday's issue of New Scientist, says. The missile has a blunt nose that, combined with high velocity, creates a bubble of air in front of the weapon. The idea is that the bubble forces earth out to the sides as the missile descends, creating a cavity that the weapon can slide through. The warhead could thus reach much deeper buried structures than conventional bunker-busters, the inventors hope.

The News, 14 July 2005

### **Mediawatch: Nuclear consequences** (Nicholas D. Kristof)

President George W. Bush and his top officials are studiously pretending not to notice, but here in the most bizarre country in the world, the Dear Leader, Kim Jong Il, is throwing down a nuclear gauntlet at Bush's feet. Senior North Korean officials here say the country has just resumed the construction of two major nuclear reactors that it stopped working on back in 1994. Before construction resumed, the CIA estimated that it would take "several years" to complete the two reactors, but that they would then produce enough plutonium to make about 50 nuclear weapons each year. This is the most regimented, militarised and oppressive country in the world, but the government seems very firmly in control. And this new reactor construction, if it is sustained, is both scary and another sign that U.S. policy toward North Korea has utterly failed.

The New York Times, 14 July 2005

### **Rice Claims U.S. Role in Korean About-Face** (Joel Brinkley)

ANCHORAGE, July 13 - Returning from a six-day trip to Asia, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her aides said Wednesday that North Korea's decision to return to nuclear disarmament talks was a vindication of the Bush administration's strategy and not solely the result of a South Korean offer to provide the North with electricity. While some Asian officials, and even some administration officials, say they believe that South Korea's surprise offer last month to wipe away the North's energy problems broke the stalemate, Ms. Rice played down its significance. She portrayed it as an elaboration of the offer that the United States made during the last negotiating session, in June 2004. "It was really a part of the June proposal that somehow North Korea's energy needs would have to be dealt with," she said, speaking to reporters on her plane. "And, of course, the South Korean proposal addresses it in a major way." It is far from clear that the North Koreans are going to accept the offer. That will be determined in the talks, which open on July 25.

Reuters, 14 July 2005

### **S.Korea, Japan, U.S. Meet to Discuss Nuclear Talks**

SEOUL: Negotiators from South Korea, Japan and the United States will meet on Thursday to hammer out a strategy for coaxing North Korea into ending its nuclear arms programs at six-country talks this month. The meeting comes a day after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Washington and Seoul were optimistic that North Korea, enticed by a new offer of energy aid, might agree to scrap its nuclear plans. South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon is hosting Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and Japanese Foreign Ministry Director General Kenichiro Sasae at Thursday's talks in Seoul. The three will head their respective delegations at the long-stalled six-way negotiations, which also include Russia and China. Pyongyang agreed at the weekend to return to the talks, which the communist state had boycotted since June, 2003. South Korea has

promised massive energy aid if the North dismantles its nuclear programs and hopes the supply of 2,000 megawatts of electricity -- doubling the North's current power production -- will address a key concern of the impoverished state.

Daily Yomiuri, 14 July 2005

#### **5-way cooperation at 6-way talks up in air**

Despite views shared by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that practical progress must be made during the fourth round of six-way talks over North Korea's nuclear ambitions, diplomats predicted it would not be easy for the five countries negotiating with North Korea to keep in step with one another. During her meetings Tuesday with Koizumi, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura, Rice laid out the U.S. stance for the six-nation talks set to resume later this month. China and South Korea, however, have grown more conciliatory toward Pyongyang during the year since the last round of talks, raising concerns the five nations may not be able to take concerted action. Rice and the Japanese officials agreed to strongly urge Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons program during the talks. Koizumi also requested the U. S. support for a U.N. reform proposal submitted by the Group of Four nations--Japan, Brazil, Germany and India--seeking permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council. But Rice merely responded by telling the prime minister that overall reforms of the United Nations were needed, and the expansion of the Security Council was only part of the issue.

China Daily, 14 July 2005

#### **DPRK: Nuke-free peninsula our goal**

PYONGYANG: The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the goal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), its top leader Kim Jong-Il said yesterday. He expressed hope that the mechanism of the Six-Party Talks could become an important platform to realize this objective. Kim made the remark when meeting with visiting Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, also an envoy for President Hu Jintao, on issues related to the Six-Party Talks. Tang conveyed a message from Hu to Kim. The message from Hu said the Chinese Communist Party and government highly respect the long-standing friendship between China and the DPRK, and that China is ready to make joint efforts with the DPRK to further boost relations. On the forthcoming fourth round of the Six-Party Talks planned for late this month, Hu expressed the hope the talks could achieve substantial progress through exchanges and co-operation between China and the DPRK.

People's Daily, 14 July 2005

#### **Nuclear issues feature in Rice's trip to Asia**

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice concluded on Wednesday her five-day visit to China, Thailand, Japan and South Korea. Except for Thailand, all the other three countries that Rice visited happened to be participants of the six-party talks which were presided over by China to solve nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula. Rice's visit to Asia also coincided with an announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) upon her arrival in Beijing, China, to end its 13-month boycott and to return to nuclear disarmament talks during the week of July 25. Looking back on Rice's rhetoric in the tour, it is not difficult to judge that the top US diplomat was trying to make a final preparation for the upcoming new round of six-party talks. China, the first stop of Rice's Asian tour, is apparently the most important country that Rice visited. In addition to focusing on bilateral relations, Rice talked a lot in her meetings with the Chinese leaders and the mass media about nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula. She spoke highly of China's constructive efforts in the promotion of the resumption of the six-party talks, saying China has played a "very positive" role in the field.

The Korean Herald, 14 July 2005

#### **Editorial: Power supply to North**

The government has unveiled its "important proposal" aimed at resolving the international standoff over North Korea's nuclear program. The proposal is rather simple: to supply 2 million kilowatts of electricity annually to the energy-starved North if it completely scraps its nuclear weapons program. Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said if Pyongyang accepts the offer, Seoul will begin to build power transmission facilities immediately for the cross-border power supply to start in 2008. Until then, Seoul intends to ask other participating nations of the six-party talks - the United States, China, Japan and Russia - to collectively provide fuel oil to the North. Will North Korea accept the proposal? It has not yet made an official response. Direct power supply from the South obviously is not as attractive as having power plants built in the North because it leaves energy security in the hands of Seoul. But the offer must be attractive to Pyongyang, given its dire energy shortage. Currently the communist state is suffering three serious shortages - food, energy and hard currency. Among them, energy shortage is most acute. Without securing energy supply, it cannot make any serious attempt to jumpstart the moribund economy.

The Korean Herald, 14 July 2005

**U.S. backs Seoul's energy aid** (Lee Joo-hee)

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice yesterday threw her support behind South Korea's proposal for massive energy aid to North Korea if it dismantles its nuclear weapons program, calling it "a creative idea" to tackle the North's needs without proliferation risks. Rice also called on North Korea to scrap its entire nuclear weapons program, encompassing plutonium and high-enrichment uranium. "Nuclear weapons program means nuclear weapons program, period," she said forcefully during a joint news conference here with Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon, explaining that the aim of the soon-to-be-resumed six-party talks is toward a complete nuclear dismantlement, whether it involves plutonium or highly-enriched uranium. Rice left for home in the afternoon after meeting President Roh Moo-hyun and holding a working dinner Tuesday night with Ban. Her latest visit to Asia, which also took in China, Thailand and Japan, coincided with North Korea's announcement last Saturday that it will end its year-long boycott of the six-party talks and return to the negotiating table in the week of July 25.

Khaleej Times, 14 July 2005

**Comment: For Kim, weapons or welfare?** (Mohammed A. R. Galadari)

Dear readers, the "leader" who spends millions and millions to amass weapons, and even weapons of mass destruction, stands exposed again. It is that he has no food to feed his people, and is taking grains from wherever he could to minimize the hunger of the millions and millions of North Koreans. That's how the brotherly South has now come up with an offer of donation of 500,000 kilos of rice, along with an agreement to provide energy aid to the North. Hope is that such good gestures will make Kim Jong-Il see reason and desist from the destructive course he is putting himself, his country and its people in for a long time now. There clearly are some positive signs in recent days. One good news is that the North has finally agreed to return to the six-party negotiation table, and carry forward the talks for abandonment of his nuclear weapons project. A round of talks between top US and North Korean officials in Beijing has apparently led to the breakthrough, and the six-party talks are set for revival in 10 days' time.

International Herald Tribune, 14 July 2005

**Tehran pressures EU as nukes talks near**

TEHRAN: Iran will resume uranium enrichment if the European Union does not recognize Iran's right to do so, two Iranian nuclear negotiators said in an interview with a newspaper. The warning from the negotiators, Hossein Moussavian and Cyrus Nasser, in the interview published Tuesday suggested a possible hardening of Iran's position before a meeting with Britain, Germany and France later this month. Iran had agreed to suspend its nuclear enrichment program in return for a proposal from the European countries on the long-term cooperation of the two sides over Iran's nuclear program. Iran has said that the proposal must include a plan for Iran to pursue nuclear enrichment. "I think the end of the suspension is very close and the Europeans should keep to their commitments," Moussavian said in the interview with Keyhan, a conservative daily. Nasser was quoted as saying that the Europeans "know that if their proposal does not include uranium enrichment, Iran will reject it."

The New York Times, 15 July 2005

**Chinese General Threatens Use of A-Bombs if U.S. Intrudes** (Joseph Kahn)

BEIJING, July 15: China should use nuclear weapons against the United States if the American military intervenes in any conflict over Taiwan, a senior Chinese military official said Thursday. "If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition on to the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," the official, Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu, said at an official briefing. General Zhu, considered a hawk, stressed that his comments reflected his personal views and not official policy. Beijing has long insisted that it will not initiate the use of nuclear weapons in any conflict. But in extensive comments to a visiting delegation of correspondents based in Hong Kong, General Zhu said he believed that the Chinese government was under internal pressure to change its "no first use" policy and to make clear that it would employ the most powerful weapons at its disposal to defend its claim over Taiwan.

Dawn, 15 July 2005

**'US views India as part of solution to N-problem'** (Anwar Iqbal)

WASHINGTON, July 14: The Bush administration views India as part of the solution to nuclear proliferation rather than as part of the problem, says a new study by Carnegie Endowment. The Washington think-tank describes an agreement the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership agreement that the US and India signed last year as heralding "a breakthrough in US-Indian strategic collaboration because it committed both countries to working together in four difficult arenas - civilian nuclear energy, civilian space programmes, high-technology trade, and missile defence." "What made NSSP an event of such significance in this context was that the Bush administration chose to turn Washington's long-standing approach to New Delhi on its head," says Ashley J. Tellis, author of the study titled "India as a New Global Power: An Action Agenda for the United States." "Viewing India as part of the

solution to nuclear proliferation rather than as part of the problem, President Bush embarked on a course of action that would permit India more -- not less -- access to controlled technologies even though New Delhi would not surrender its nuclear weapons programme and subsisted in its position formally outside the global non-proliferation regime."

Dawn, 15 July 2005

**PAEC told to set up 13 N-power plants** (Ihtasham ul Haque)

ISLAMABAD, July 14: The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has been assigned a special task by the government to set up 13 new nuclear power plants to generate 8800 MW of power in the next 25 years with a view to meet growing requirements of the industrial sector. Informed sources told Dawn here on Thursday that when work on the 300-MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant-2 had started in May last, the PAEC authorities were directed to accelerate their efforts to install 13 more nuclear power plants both with local and foreign financial and technical support. Each plant would roughly have a capacity of 600-700 MW. Chashma-2 will be completed in 2011 at a revised cost of \$850 million for which Chinese were mainly providing financial and technical support. Chashma-1 was also built with Chinese assistance and was currently producing about 1400 MW of electricity at 95 per cent plus capacity, which sources claimed, was one of the highest in the world.

Asia Times, 15 July 2005

**Seoul's warning to the US on Pyongyang** (Todd Crowell)

The South Korean government has withdrawn its financial support for an influential Washington DC-based policy institute to show its displeasure over a series of articles about the North Korean nuclear weapons situation that the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) published in the summer issue of its magazine, The American Enterprise. "Nip it Now," reads the cover line of the July-August issue, with a picture of a huge nuclear explosion. The sub-heading reads, "Averting a Nightmare in North Korea." Inside, the authors lay out the case for dissolving the alliance with South Korea, stifling China if it doesn't pressure the North into giving up its nuclear weapons program, and waging a preemptive war. The American Enterprise is a publication of the AEI, which has provided many of the senior figures of the current Republican administration. Part of its US\$30 million annual budget has been underwritten for years by the Korea Foundation, a government institution under the Foreign Ministry in Seoul.

The Statesman, 15 July 2005

**Biological Terrorism-II**

Bio-terrorism using microbes and viruses poses a new threat to national security that is not apparent. The relative ease with which they can be manufactured and dispersed makes biological agents an ideal weapon for terrorists. It is for this reason that al Qaeda operatives have tried to acquire them and it is probably a matter of time before they develop and use these weapons of mass terror. As developing, stockpiling and using bio-weapons is relatively inexpensive compared with the cost of defending against them, the offence-defence balance strongly favours the terrorist. The security and public health challenges presented by a single terrorist carrying a vial with a biological agent, whether smallpox, Ebola or something even more lethal engineered in a laboratory, are enormous. It is a sad commentary on the management of human affairs by national governments and their proclivity to procrastinate regarding international cooperation in the face of grave trans-national threats that various nations are seeking to counter virtually single-handedly.

Timesonline, 15 July 2005

**Alarm over radioactive waste site** (Julian Evans)

MOSCOW: Russia is seeking approval to build the first international storage facility for nuclear waste. The plan has aroused strong opposition from Russian environmentalists. Aleksandr Rumyantsev, head of the Russian Federal Nuclear Power Agency (Rosatom), says that it makes sense to store waste in one large site rather than many small ones, which are more vulnerable to terrorist attack. He presented the plan at a conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which the Russian Government is hosting in Moscow this week. "It is a good idea to have the facility in Russia, partly because of our space, and partly because we are the only country whose law allows it to import nuclear waste," he said. Since 2001 the import and storage of nuclear waste from other countries has been permitted, though only temporarily. Russia imports small amounts of waste from former Eastern bloc countries such as Hungary.

International Herald Tribune, 15 July 2005

**Rice gives U.S. credit in Korea talks** (Joel Brinkley)

ANCHORAGE: Returning from a six-day trip to Asia, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her aides said that North Korea's decision to return to nuclear disarmament talks was a vindication of the Bush administration's

strategy and not solely the result of a South Korean offer to provide the North with electricity. While some Asian officials, and even some administration officials, say they believe that South Korea's surprise offer last month to wipe away the North's energy problems broke the stalemate, Rice played down its significance. She portrayed it as an elaboration of the offer that the United States made during the last negotiating session, in June 2004. "It was really a part of the June proposal that somehow North Korea's energy needs would have to be dealt with," she said on Wednesday, speaking to reporters on her plane. "And, of course, the South Korean proposal addresses it in a major way." It is far from clear that the North Koreans are going to accept the offer. That will be determined in the talks, which open on July 25.

The Japan Times, 15 July 2005

#### **Japan could sell new missiles: Ono**

Interceptor missiles that will be jointly developed by Japan and the United States could be offered to third countries, Defense Agency Director General Yoshinori Ono said Thursday. The issue is sensitive as Japan limits its export of arms due to its Constitution. "If there is a request from the United States, it could be possible for those missiles to be provided to third countries under certain circumstances," Ono told a Diet panel. He was referring to a bilateral research project on sea-based interceptor missiles to counter a possible ballistic missile threat from North Korea. The project is scheduled to move to the development stage in fiscal 2006, according to government sources. Japan hopes to ensure in advance that Washington will obtain Japan's written agreement on any transfer to third countries of these weapons, Ono stressed during a morning session of the House of Councilors Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Should the United States consult Japan about a transfer of this kind, Japan would study the offer in light of the government's policy to basically ban weapons exports, he said in response to questions from Democratic Party of Japan lawmaker Shinkun Haku.

The Korean Herald, 15 July 2005

#### **Nuke negotiators discuss game plan** (Lee Joo-hee)

Top nuclear negotiators of South Korea, the United States and Japan yesterday discussed here how to run the six-party talks and what other proposals to offer North Korea when the negotiations reopen later this month after a stalemate lasting over a year. "We have shared the understanding that these six-party talks after the 13-month hiatus will be a meaningful one by creating a momentum to solve to nuclear problem," said South Korea's representative and Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon in a news briefing. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and Japan's Director-general of the Foreign Ministry Kenichiro Sasae called on Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon before sitting down with Song for a tripartite preparatory meeting between the three countries' top delegates to the six-party negotiations. "The purpose of the fourth round of talks will be to review the situation that has changed during the long stalemate and to prove that it is a ground on which we can solve the nuclear issue and also deal with North Korea's interests," Song said.

The Statesman, 14 July 2005

#### **Biological Terrorism-I**

In the prevailing era of strategic uncertainty, ironically, even as the threat of major wars has receded since the end of the Cold War, new threats have emerged that make Armageddon more, not less, likely. Rapidly growing international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction make a potent cocktail. Only a deep survival instinct has stayed the finger on the nuclear trigger and allowed mankind to escape large-scale death and devastation over the last half-century since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, the finger on the triggering mechanisms of biological and chemical weapons is unlikely to be that of a rational state. In all probability such weapons will be used by irrational non-state actors. This reality makes their threat more difficult to discern accurately and more complex to counter. The nature of the threat and its likely ramifications must be understood. Between biological and chemical weapons, bio-weapons are more potent as small quantities can cause large casualties.

The Associated Press, 14 July 2005

#### **Feith Says Pentagon Overdid WMD Rationale**

WASHINGTON: The top policy adviser to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld says the Bush administration erred by building its public case for war against Saddam Hussein mainly on the claim that he possessed banned weapons. The comment by Douglas J. Feith, in an interview with The Associated Press, is a rare admission of error about Iraq by a senior administration official. Feith, who is leaving after four years as the undersecretary of defense for policy, said he remains convinced that President Bush was correct in deciding that war against Iraq was necessary. "I don't think there is any question that we as an administration, instead of giving proper emphasis to all major elements of the rationale for war, overemphasized the WMD aspect," he said, using the abbreviation for weapons of mass destruction. The administration claimed the now-deposed Iraqi president possessed mass-killing chemical and biological weapons at the time of the March 2003 invasion and cited them most prominently as justification for attacking.

The Associated Press, 14 July 2005

### **U.S. Urged to Consolidate Nuclear Weapons**

WASHINGTON: The country's nuclear weapons plants and sensitive material such as plutonium should be consolidated at a single site to increase security and reduce targets for terrorists, a federal advisory task force says. A report made public Thursday also urged the Energy Department to speed development of sturdier, more reliable nuclear warheads that can be maintained more easily and last longer. Such a program is in the early design stages. The report by a special task force of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board has yet to be approved by the full board. But it is expected to weigh heavily in the future configuration of the governments nuclear weapons complex, including activities at three weapons design laboratories in New Mexico and California. While such labs have been modernized, production facilities are "World War II era ... lacking in modern-day production technology and striving to optimize performance with antiquated equipment and facilities," the report said.

Reuters, 14 July 2005

### **Nuclear Energy Tops Indian PM's Agenda in the U.S.**

NEW DELHI: India's prime minister visits the United States next week hoping to seal a growing friendship with Washington with a landmark deal over sharing nuclear technology and backing for a U.N. Security Council seat. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's three-day state visit starting July 18 is being seen by New Delhi as a touchstone of President Bush's intention to take the relationship between the world's two largest democracies to new heights. Singh will hold talks on issues ranging from defense to trade, aviation to agriculture. But the success of his visit may be measured by whether the Bush administration agrees to help boost India's civilian nuclear energy program and back its candidature for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. "What this visit would be doing is reaffirming at the highest level the transformation that is taking place in India-U.S. relations," Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said. "What we are really looking at is a genuine partnership between India and the U.S."

Reuters, 14 July 2005

### **China to Build 10 Nuclear Reactors in East - Paper**

BEIJING: China Power Investment Corp., one of the country's major electricity firms, plans to build 10 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactors in the provinces of Shandong and Liaoning to ease reliance on coal, a newspaper said on Friday. It did not say which nuclear technology would be used or when the project's construction was scheduled to begin and end. "We will build six 1,000-megawatt reactors at Haiyang in East China's Shandong province, as well as four similar ones at Hongyanhe, Dalian in Liaoning province," the China Daily quoted a senior director of the firm as saying. China relies on coal for 70 percent of its booming energy demand. It has the biggest coal mining industry in the world, but also the most dangerous: last year, more than 6,000 people were killed in mining accidents nationwide. Coal burning has also contributed to China's environmental woes, and the country is the world's second-largest producer of greenhouse gasses.

South Asia Tribune, 15 July 2005

### **Will Nuclear Commerce With India Result in More Proliferation** (Michael Krepon and Ziad Haider)

WASHINGTON, July 16: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets with President Bush on July 18 to demonstrate and accelerate the new strategic partnership between New Delhi and Washington. High on the Prime Minister's agenda is breaking through the barriers on nuclear export controls that previous US administrations have spent decades erecting. One of the cardinal rules of nuclear non-proliferation has been an agreement among supplier nations not to engage in nuclear commerce with states that have not been granted the International Atomic Energy Agency's seal of approval by accepting "full scope safeguards" on all of their nuclear facilities. Because India is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has not signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, New Delhi has no constraints on testing nuclear weapons and is free to pursue the production of fissile material for its nuclear stockpile. Eleven of India's fifteen nuclear reactors are not safeguarded.

The Hindu, 16 July 2005

### **The India-America nuclear dialogue** (R. Ramachandran)

While nothing substantive is likely to result from the Indo-U.S. nuclear dialogue, the climate is opportune to resolve the contentious issue of spent Tarapur fuel. If one were to believe recent media reports in general, the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the United States, beginning July 18, is likely to result in a major Indo-U.S. announcement on the nuclear front. Nuclear matters came to focus soon after the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in April when Washington sought to broaden the strategic partnership beyond the ongoing Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative to include nuclear energy as well. A realistic analysis would, however, suggest that little can be expected out of this India-U.S. nuclear dialogue,

unless the latter can prevail on the 44-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to relax its guidelines and also change its own domestic laws. In fact, even under the NSSP, the U.S. has been inflexible in relaxing controls on the export of a class of nuclear-related dual-use goods - the so-called NP2 controlled items - which could have been easily done without violating its domestic laws or NSG Guidelines.

The Hindu, 16 July 2005

**The way ahead for a safer world** (L. Ramdas)

Whilst the ultimate goal must remain to eliminate nuclear weapons, even partial success like achieving a consensus on 'de-alerting' will be a great step forward. Towards the end of July 1945, Japan was on the verge of surrendering to the Allies. Despite military advice to the contrary, United States President Harry S. Truman authorised the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and on Nagasaki on August 9. The President was fully aware of the deadly consequences of deploying this weapon, from the results of the Nevada test conducted just a month earlier. Analysts believe this decision was primarily taken to convey a message to the rest of the world community and especially to the Soviet Union: the emergence of the U.S. as the sole leader of the post-war world. Predictably, other nations followed suit to produce the atomic bomb: the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, and lastly, China in 1964. Ten years later, India demonstrated its technical capability and conducted its first "Peaceful Nuclear Explosion" in 1974. Twenty-four years later, in May 1998, India and Pakistan conducted further tests and declared themselves nuclear weapon capable states.

The Indian Express, 16 July 2005

**A nuclear deal is in the works** (C. Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI, July 15: As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh heads to the United States tomorrow, senior Indian officials are in Washington finalising the contours of a broad nuclear understanding between the two sides to be announced on Monday. This could include a potential American facilitation of the supply of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur reactors and likely Indo-US cooperation on the development of the so-called Generation IV reactors and in nuclear fusion research. Officials on either side are unwilling to discuss likely nuclear outcomes in Washington, but are confident that there will be some positive results to be shared with the public on Monday after Singh meets the US President George W. Bush. Before Singh lands in Washington on Sunday, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran is holding intensive consultations in Washington with the Bush Administration, that are expected to go into the weekend. Underlining Delhi's emphasis on civilian nuclear energy cooperation in the talks with Bush, Anil Kakodkar, Secretary Department of Atomic Energy, has been included in Singh's delegation to Washington.

Dawn, 16 July 2005

**US advised to be cautious: N-technology for India**

WASHINGTON, July 15: As Washington prepares for the visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a prominent Washington think-tank has urged the Bush administration not to rush into supplying civilian nuclear technology to New Delhi. Stimson Center's study, 'Changing the Rules of Nuclear Commerce', points out that when PM Singh meets President Bush on July 18, high on his agenda will be his desire to 'breaking through the barriers on nuclear export controls that previous US administrations have spent decades erecting'. Authors Michael Krepon and Ziad Haider argue that a relaxation of the international rules for nuclear commerce 'could do more harm than good unless President Bush and Prime Minister Singh can implement good ideas to strengthen global norms against proliferation'. They urge the two leaders to declare how they intend to 'prevent a bad situation from becoming worse' if the US resumes supplying nuclear technology to nations such as India who have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The News, 16 July 2005

**Taiwan: China warns US of N-response**

BEIJING: A Chinese general said that if the United States attacked China in a conflict over Taiwan, he believed Beijing might respond with nuclear weapons, a newspaper reported on Friday. Maj Gen Zhu Chenghu, a dean at China's National Defence University, stressed that he was expressing a personal view, not official policy, The Asian Wall Street Journal reported. Zhu added he was confident that China and the United States would not go to war. "If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition into the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," the general was quoted as saying. He said China's territory includes its warships and aircraft. The Journal said Zhu made his comments to a visiting group of Hong Kong-based journalists. While Zhu is a serving officer, he isn't involved in policymaking or in directing military strategy. China claims Taiwan, separated from the mainland since 1949, is part of its territory and has threatened repeatedly to invade should the self-governing island declare formal independence.

The News, 16 July 2005

**'Political impasse impedes progress of CD'** (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says that the Conference of Disarmament (CD), based in Geneva has not been able to make any progress in the last eight years due to a serious deadlock. "The impasse is political, not procedural," said Ambassador Masood Khan, who assumed the presidency of the 65-member Conference of Disarmament (CD) that will last till the last week of August 2005. The ambassador added that the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation were linked to each other and both required leadership by the international community. Masood Khan told The News from Geneva that the CD could only move forward if it had an agreement on the programme of work. He emphasised that in order to strengthen multilateralism in the realms of international security, disarmament and non-proliferation, the CD should be activated and allowed to play its rightful role. The Conference of Disarmament, established in 1979, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has 65 members, including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the two new nuclear weapon states - Pakistan and India - and non-nuclear weapon states.

Daily Times, 16 July 2005

**Tough North Korea verification needed**

WASHINGTON: Stiff verification demands must be part of nuclear negotiations with North Korea from the start, an atomic expert told Congress on Thursday as countries prepared for six-party talks with the communist state. The United States, China, Japan, Russia and the two Koreas will meet in Beijing during the week of July 25 to resume negotiations aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programs after a year's stalemate. David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, said negotiators should make clear to North Korea that "only denuclearisation is acceptable", while spelling out how disarmament steps would be met with rewards such as energy aid, diplomatic recognition and economic help. "Verification must be integrated right from the beginning in the negotiation process," he told the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. "Robust verification needs to start immediately when the agreement is implemented," Albright said, describing a lack of intrusive verification as a major reason for the collapse of a 1994 agreement to halt North Korea's nuclear arms ambitions.

International Herald Tribune, 16 July 2005

**Chinese general sees U.S. as nuclear target** (Joseph Kahn)

BEIJING China should use nuclear weapons against the United States if the American military intervenes in any conflict over Taiwan, a senior Chinese military official has said. "If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition on to the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," the official, Major General Zhu Chenghu, said at an official briefing Thursday. Zhu, considered a hawk, stressed that his comments reflected his personal views and not official policy. Beijing has long insisted that it will not initiate the use of nuclear weapons in any conflict. But in extensive comments to visiting correspondents based in Hong Kong, Zhu said he believed that the Chinese government was under internal pressure to change its "no first use" policy and to make clear that it would employ the most powerful weapons at its disposal to defend its claim over Taiwan. "War logic" dictates that a weaker power needs to use maximum efforts to defeat a stronger rival, he said, speaking in fluent English. "We have no capability to fight a conventional war against the United States," Zhu said. "We can't win this kind of war."

The Associated press, 16 July 2005

**Chinese General Threatens U.S. Over Taiwan** (Joe McDonald)

BEIJING: A Chinese general said Beijing might respond with nuclear weapons if the United States attacked China in a conflict over Taiwan, news reports said Friday. The State Department rejected the warning as "highly irresponsible." The exchange could add to tensions with Washington at a time of U.S. worries about China's military buildup and the proposed takeover of the oil company Unocal Corp. by a Chinese state-run company. "If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition into the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu, a dean at China's National Defense University, told visiting Hong Kong-based reporters. His remarks were reported by The Asian Wall Street Journal and The Financial Times. Zhu stressed he was expressing a personal view, not official policy, and was confident that China and the United States would not go to war, the reports said. While Zhu is a serving officer, he isn't involved in policymaking.

The New York Times, 16 July 2005

**U.S. Rebukes Chinese General for His Threat of Nuclear Arms Use** (Joel Brinkley)

WASHINGTON, July 15: A Chinese general who said his country would use nuclear weapons against the United States if the American military intervened in any conflict with Taiwan drew a sharp rebuke from the Bush administration on Friday. Sean McCormack, the State Department spokesman, called the remarks "highly irresponsible" - unusually strong language for Mr. McCormack, who was in Beijing with Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice just four days ago. He added, "We hope that these are not the views of the Chinese government." During an official briefing for a visiting delegation of Hong Kong-based reporters on Thursday, the officer, Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu, said China would "respond with nuclear weapons" if the United States attacked China because "we have no capability to fight a conventional war against the United States." The general, considered a hawk, insisted that his comments reflected his personal views, not official policy. China's Foreign Ministry also said late Friday that the general's remarks reflected his own views, but that China would never support independence for Taiwan.

The New York Times, 16 July 2005

**Editorial: Going Nowhere on North Korea**

It's mildly encouraging that after a year of cooling its heels, North Korea will be returning to the stalemated six-nation talks on its nuclear weapons programs later this month. But since neither Washington nor Pyongyang seems to have changed its underlying attitudes, there is little reason to expect the next round to produce any more progress than previous sessions. The more months that go by without a deal, the more nuclear weapons material North Korea can produce, sell and make into bombs. What is desperately needed is a serious American policy. Unfortunately, there is no indication that the Bush administration has yet come up with one. Facing up to the underlying, unforgiving realities of the situation would help. Here are three, to start: North Korea's regime may be cruel, perfidious and economically incompetent, but there are no realistic reasons to think that it is going to implode and disappear. Washington must base its policies on the assumption that the Kim Jong Il dictatorship will remain in power for some time and that it will press ahead with its nuclear weapons program until it is convinced it would be better off stopping. Publicly insulting Mr. Kim may win cheers from the Republican right, but it is not a promising way of convincing him he does not need a nuclear deterrent.

The Japan Times, 16 July 2005

**Editorial: Priorities in the six-party talks**

The next round of six-party talks, the multilateral negotiations over North Korea's nuclear-weapons programs, are scheduled to resume the week of July 25 in Beijing. While it is unclear what motivated North Korea to return to the talks, success will depend on whether the other five parties -- Japan, the United States, South Korea, China and Russia -- can convince Pyongyang that nuclear weapons do not enhance its security but rather detract from it. To do so, the five governments must work out a strategy that enables them to speak with one voice. Much has transpired since the last round of talks, which was held over a year ago. At that meeting, the U.S. finally put a detailed proposal on the table: It reportedly provided the long awaited road map that spelled out what Pyongyang could expect in return for agreeing to the dismantlement of its nuclear-weapons programs. Instead of responding, though, the North suspended participation in the talks, citing hostile comments by the government in Washington. Pyongyang was most likely waiting for the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections, hoping for a "regime change" in Washington that would soften the U.S. position. Those hopes were frustrated by the re-election of President George W. Bush, but North Korea continued to hold out, awaiting clarification of U.S. policy.

Daily Yomiuri, 16 July 2005

**Powell urges N. Korea to abandon N-program**

Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Friday urged North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program. "The solution to this [nuclear weapons] problem [of North Korea] is quite simple. North Korea should give up its nuclear ambitions. The United States and other nations in the region are prepared to assist North Korea to deal with the fundamental economic problems," he said. Powell was speaking at a lecture meeting held at Kwansei Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, and sponsored by the university and The Yomiuri Shimbun, Osaka. In his speech, titled "Where the U.S.A. is Going," he claimed nuclear weapons would provide no security to Pyongyang, saying, "It's time for North Korea to face reality, move forward, get rid of its nuclear weapons programs and join the international community that is standing by and ready to help." Concerning reform of the U.N. Security Council, Powell supported Japan's move to gain a permanent seat on the council.

International Herald Tribune, 18 July 2005

**Singh seeks 'engaged' relation in Bush visit (Somini Sengupta)**

NEW DELHI: Before departing for the United States on Sunday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that persuading Americans to share more of their nuclear technology would be a priority in his meeting with President George W. Bush on Monday and that he hoped the two countries would move from being "estranged" to "engaged" on issues of mutual interest. "It's much too presumptuous on my part to say that I can predict the outcome, but I am looking forward, with hope, that out of this visit we will have a stronger, more durable, more productive relationship with the United States," Singh said in an interview. "People have described in the past our two countries' relations as two estranged democracies," he said. "I would like to work towards a new era where

our two democracies are engaged." After India's independence from Britain in 1947, the politics of the Cold War infused India-U.S. relations with mutual distrust. Change came slowly, with the opening up of India's economy in 1991 under the guidance of Singh, an Oxford-educated economist who was finance minister at the time.

The Korean Herald, 17 July 2005

**Are N. Korea, U.S. really willing to talk now?** (Lee Joo-hee)

South Korea is marking time so as not to tilt the delicate balance between the United States and North Korea as the two protagonists, with unusual unison, insist they want progress when the six-party talks resume next week after a 13-month stalemate. Superficially, during the three previous inconclusive rounds of talks, both Washington and Pyongyang aimed for the same objectives -bargaining aids and security for the North in return for dismantling of its nuclear weapons programs. But negotiations ended in an impasse. The United States, with hard-liners pulling the strings, demanded that all concessions be withheld until nuclear dismantling by the North was verified. The North was equally adamant it required prior assurances of aid and regime security before the dismantling process. Observers cautiously suggest there are now signs of different approaches by both sides. Washington, in a rare move, has praised South Korea's pre-assurance of extensive energy aid if the North gives up its nuclear weapons program, while Pyongyang has vowed it is devoted to denuclearizing the peninsula.

Hindustan Times, 17 July 2005

**Nuke tech instead of high table** (S Rajagopalan)

WASHINGTON, July 17: US officials point to the possibility of a forward push on civilian nuclear and space cooperation with India when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets with President George W Bush at the Oval Office on Monday. But on the key issue of support for India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, it seems Washington will wait until other UN reforms go through first. "We are not yet ready to announce American support for India (over UNSC)," a senior administration official said on Friday during a special briefing on the Prime Minister's visit. "I won't anticipate any change (in the US position) or any dramatic announcement on Monday." A host of bilateral communiques are expected after the Bush-Singh meeting. Washington is making it known that it is giving the visit an extraordinary high profile. As he put it, there is no higher priority for the US now than to expand and deepen ties with India.

The New York Times, 17 July 2005

**India to Seek Expanded Access to U.S. Nuclear Technology** (Somini Sengupta)

NEW DELHI, July 16: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Friday that persuading the United States to share more of its nuclear technology would be a priority in his meeting next week with President Bush, and said he hoped the two countries would move from being "estranged" to "engaged" on issues of mutual interest. "It's much too presumptuous on my part to say that I can predict the outcome, but I am looking forward, with hope, that out of this visit we will have a stronger, more durable, more productive relationship with the United States," he said in an interview. "People have described in the past our two countries' relations as two estranged democracies," Dr. Singh said. "I would like to work towards a new era where our two democracies are engaged." After India's independence from Britain in 1947, the politics of the cold war era infused India-United States relations with mutual distrust. Change came slowly, with the opening up of India's economy in 1991 - Dr. Singh, an Oxford-educated economist and the finance minister at the time, was its chief architect - and relations fell to a new low in 1998, when India conducted nuclear tests.

Reuters, 17 July 2005

**Iran Says US and Israel Snaring Its Atomic Experts**

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday accused U.S. and Israeli agents of tricking Iranian nuclear scientists abroad into giving away crucial information, newspapers reported. The comments by Intelligence Minister Ali Yunesi came days after an Iranian defector identified as Alireza Assar told the Iran Focus Web site Tehran was close to getting an atom bomb. Tehran insists such assertions are lies and that it is making atomic fuel only for nuclear power stations. Washington argues the fuel is for warheads. "America and Israel are trying to get close to (our scientists) by establishing emotional ties, then they put them into a situation where they are forced to give information," Yunesi was quoted as saying in the Sharq daily and on agencies. Yunesi advised Iranian scientists abroad to be suspicious and vigilant, and not to be distracted from the purpose of their visit.

The News, 17 July 2005

**China refuses to back down on nuclear threat**

BEIJING: China refused on Saturday to retract statements made by a leading general that it would use nuclear weapons to repulse US military intervention over Taiwan despite Washington's criticism of the remarks. But Beijing insisted that it would resolutely seek to resolve the Taiwan issue in a peaceful manner. "We will never

tolerate 'Taiwan Independence', neither will we allow anybody with any means to separate Taiwan from the motherland," a foreign ministry spokesman told AFP. "We hope the United States will fulfil its commitments (on Taiwan) with concrete actions and join efforts with China to maintain the peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits." The spokesman was commenting on statements made this week by General Zhu Chenghu, dean of China's National Defense University, who said China, could launch a nuclear attack on "hundreds" of US cities if Washington interfered militarily in the Taiwan issue. "If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition on to the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," Zhu.

Daily Times, 17 July 2005

#### **Indo-Pak nuclear CBM talks on Aug 5 (Iftikhar Gilani)**

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan will hold the third round of expert-level talks on nuclear confidence-building measures (CBMs) in New Delhi on August 5 and 6, official sources said on Saturday. They said the talks would follow a meeting on the issue of conventional weapons on August 8. Tariq Osman Hyder, the Foreign Office additional secretary, will lead the Pakistani delegation. The two sides will review the progress of the previous two rounds and discuss steps to continue the dialogue. Sources said considerable progress was made in the last round in Islamabad in December last year. Both sides have expressed their desire to implement the agreed nuclear CBMs. The increase in differences between the director general of military operations of the two countries and their foreign secretaries was an issue, which was expected to come up during the meeting. These measures are intended to prevent misunderstandings and reduce risks relevant to the nuclear issue. The two sides at the last meeting had, however, failed to make any progress on the issue of conventional weapons.

Daily Times, 17 July 2005

#### **Iran tells EU it will hold firm on nuclear fuel**

TEHRAN: Iran warned the European Union on Saturday it would never surrender its right to nuclear fuel, talking tough only two weeks before EU diplomats are due to present final proposals to break Iran's atomic impasse. Tehran says it has every right to enrich the uranium it mines in its central deserts into fuel for nuclear power stations but Washington argues this fuel is destined for atomic warheads. Diplomats from an EU troika of Britain, France and Germany have been seeking a compromise, asking that Iran surrender its fuel-making programme in return for economic incentives. They have until late July or early August to present Iran with a final set of proposals to resolve the deadlock. But Ali Aghamohammadi, spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council, reiterated there could be no backtracking on the right to atomic fuel.

Khaleej Times, 17 July 2005

#### **EU may be ready to help Iran build nuclear reactors: negotiator**

TEHRAN: European nations negotiating with Iran over its controversial nuclear programme may be ready to help build nuclear reactors and supply them with fuel, Iranian negotiator Hossein Moussavian said on Sunday. He told the official IRNA agency that a proposal promised by Britain, France and Germany by August and aimed at resolving the crisis could include such an offer, as well as a several-month delay before Iran's nuclear ambitions are referred to the UN Security Council. The EU proposal could make or break the lengthy diplomatic process aimed at easing widespread fears Iran is seeking nuclear weapons technology. In contrast to the United States which suspects Tehran of wanting to build nuclear bombs, the EU-3 is seeking to engage the Islamic state, using a carrot of possible trade and other benefits to persuade it to curb its nuclear plans. However, the official IRNA agency quoted Moussavian as saying that Iran could resume sensitive uranium enrichment activities if the EU-3 insisted on prolonging a voluntary enrichment suspension currently in effect.

Aljazeera, 17 July 2005

#### **"No incentive to drop nuclear fuel programme" - Iran**

No incentive would make Iran drop its nuclear fuel programme, the spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said on Saturday. "Even if the West provided us with all economic, political and security incentives, Iran would not drop its nuclear fuel programme," Ali Aqamohammadi told the ISNA news agency. The spokesman was referring to a proposal by the European Union trio of Britain, France and Germany, which reportedly offered Teheran cooperation in providing nuclear power besides a package of economic and political incentives. "Maintaining nuclear fuel technology is our red line which will also determine whether to continue the talks or not," the spokesman warned. He further added that Iran's right to produce its own nuclear fuel was the main basis in the talks with the EU trio since October 2003 and that Teheran would never ever make any concessions on this issue.

China Daily, 16 July 2005

#### **Russia, S. Africa to sign atomic energy agreement**

Russia and South Africa are expected to sign an agreement on the peaceful use of atomic energy in Moscow in October, a visiting Russian minister said on Friday. Russian Natural Resources Minister Yury Trutnev made the statement after meeting with South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma in Pretoria. He said that the two countries would fulfill the agreement in practical terms at the fifth South Africa-Russia Intergovernmental Trade and Economic Committee (ITEC) meeting to be held in Moscow in October. The two sides hoped for further agreements in the field of minerals and energy, health, agriculture, science and technology, and education, among others, to be signed at the upcoming ITEC meeting. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said that business relations between South Africa and Russia are to be strengthened.

The Hindu, 18 July 2005

#### **Nuclear cooperation with U.S.: experts urge caution** (Siddharth Varadarajan)

When Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets U.S. President George Bush in Washington on July 18, his attempt to push cooperation in the civilian nuclear field will face one big hurdle: Washington's desire to tighten the already restrictive global regime governing the transfer of nuclear-related material for civilian purposes. No matter how important a position India has come to occupy in U.S. strategic thinking, Washington will be careful not to do anything that will weaken the non-proliferation initiatives announced by President Bush in February 2003. If anything, the ongoing crisis over North Korea and Iran has increased the salience of these initiatives and reduced the Bush administration's appetite for making exceptions.

Dawn, 18 July 2005

#### **Nuclear talks with India next month**

NEW DELHI, July 17: Indian and Pakistani experts will meet next month for a third round of talks aimed at building trust on military issues and avoiding the possibility of an accidental nuclear war, Indian officials said at the weekend. The experts are scheduled to meet August 5-6 in New Delhi to discuss nuclear weapons and then again two days later to consider conventional arms, the Press Trust of India news agency said quoting Indian officials. "The two sides will review the progress made so far in the last two rounds held on nuclear CBMs and steps to carry them forward," the PTI said. Experts from the two sides agreed in December 2004 to push forward plans for a nuclear hotline but failed to reach a deal on advanced warning of ballistic missile tests.

Reuters, 18 July 2005

#### **N.Korea Seeks U.S. Trust at Nuclear Talks**

SEOUL: North Korea said it wants to build trust and respect with its greatest foe, the United States, at six-country talks next week aimed at ending Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear weapons, its media reported on Monday. The negotiations, which the reclusive North has boycotted for over a year, will begin on July 26 in Beijing but no date has been set for the discussions to end, a South Korean daily said. North Korea said earlier this month it would return to the talks with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States in the week of July 25, but it did not give an exact date. "What is most essential for making progress in the six-party talks, and substantial contribution of the Korean peninsula, is for the DPRK and the U.S. to build the relationship of trust and a will for mutual respect and co-existence," the North's Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary reported by Pyongyang's official KCNA news agency in English.

The Washington Post, 18 July 2005

#### **North Korea May Demand More Concessions** (Bo-Mi Lim)

SEOUL: It could be called electro-diplomacy — an offer by South Korea to double North Korea's electricity supply if it gives up its nuclear weapons program. The United States likes the idea, but analysts here are warning that North Korea may be leery of having to depend on its neighbor's power. It would run counter to North Korea's national ideology of *juche*, or self-reliance, promulgated by Kim Il Sung, the founder of the communist state and father of its current leader Kim Jong Il. The proposal, made directly to Kim Jong Il last month in Pyongyang and announced by South Korea last week, is believed to have been instrumental in luring North Korea back to six-nation negotiations starting the week of July 25, ending a 13-month boycott. Seoul said it offered to provide 2 million kilowatts of electricity northward if Pyongyang agreed at the disarmament talks to give up its nuclear program. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised the idea, saying: "It can be clear to anyone who looks at photographs of what North Korea looks like at night that they have energy needs."

The Asahi Shimbun, 18 July 2005

#### **Japan must press for a nuclear-free world**

In the 60 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki demonstrated in horrific detail the ultimate tragedy of nuclear weapons, the world has drastically changed its views about nuclear brinkmanship. More countries now possess nuclear weapons. And research on developing smaller nuclear weapons and more

destructive ones continues apace. This is happening despite the fact that the number of people exposed to radiation from nuclear tests and depleted uranium shells has drastically increased. Nuclear black marketNow we are faced with the threat of nuclear weapons spreading around the world through the black market. These facts show that contrary to our most confident hopes, nuclear weapons are not going away. Instead, their danger to humanity is increasing. When the Cold War ended, the world believed the threat of another world war had diminished. As a result, the major powers lost their incentive to work together to create a better world by ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

China Daily, 18 July 2005

#### **North Korea nuclear talks to start July 26**

Stalled six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes will begin on July 26 in Beijing, but no date has been set for when the discussions will end, a South Korean daily reported on Monday. North Korea said on July 9 it would return to the talks with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States, but the did not given an exact date. Host China has asked the parties to gather in Beijing for talks to start on July 26, the Dong-A Ilbo newspaper quoted an unnamed government source as saying, and South Korea and other countries had agreed. The parties are aiming for specific results at the meeting, which will be the fourth round of the six-party talks, so they have yet to decide on a closing date, the official reportedly said. The three previous rounds of talks on North Korea's nuclear ambitions lasted only four days and went little beyond each country presenting its position. Last week the top negotiators from Japan, South Korea and the United States met in Seoul and said they would like to see the fourth round of talks extended beyond four-days.

The News, 19 July 2005

#### **Pak proposals to India on N-CBMs**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to put up a number of serious proposals to India when both the countries enter the next round of talks on nuclear CBMs in New Delhi in the first week of August under the composite dialogue process. On top is the proposal to resort to non-aggressive doctrines and pre-notification of missile tests by eliminating differences about the provisions of agreement that is already on the table for deliberations. Highly placed diplomatic sources told The News here on Monday that August would be an eventful month for senior level contacts and talks between Pakistan and India after 10 weeks of slow-paced diplomatic activity. Talks on nuclear CBMs will be held on 5-6 August while conventional CBMs will be discussed on the 8th. Additional Secretary Foreign Affairs Tariq Osman Hyder will lead Pakistan's team at the talks while nuclear expert Mrs Mira Shankar will be heading the Indian side.

The Telegraph, 19 July 2005

#### **US stamp on nuclear might** (Bharat Bhushan)

WASHINGTON, July 18: In a step that puts India in an exclusive international league, the US has agreed to recognise the country as a nuclear weapons power. It said India was "a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology" and that the country "should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such states". This clears the way for Indo-US cooperation in civilian nuclear energy, including fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant. To enable this process, President George W. Bush has committed to seek agreement with the US Congress to change the requisite laws and policies. In a joint statement issued here today, the US also committed itself to "work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including, but not limited to, expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur".

The Indian Express, 19 July 2005

#### **Singh, Bush press civilian nuclear button** (C. Raja Mohan)

WASHINGTON, July 18: In an unprecedented grand bargain that promises to end India's longstanding nuclear isolation, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush hammered out today an arrangement to resume civilian nuclear energy cooperation that could include the supply of nuclear fuel to the Tarapur reactors. The breakthrough, which India has sought for so long, lays down a road map for India's integration with the global nuclear order as a full fledged nuclear weapon state. When completed in a phased manner, the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal, negotiated over the last few weeks, will amount to the first formal restructuring of the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the last thirty years to accommodate a new nuclear weapon power. While the US has agreed to recognise the reality of India's nuclear weapons, Delhi in turn has agreed to undertake the obligations and best practices that go with being a "responsible nuclear weapon power".

The Times of India, 19 July 2005

#### **End of N-apartheid for India?**

WASHINGTON: Three decades of nuclear apartheid against India were swept aside in two paragraphs of a landmark joint statement on Monday as President Bush sought out New Delhi as an overarching ally for the 21st century. By granting India a de facto nuclear power status, Bush overturned a generation of sanctions and hostility from Washington's nuclear non-proliferation ayatollahs towards New Delhi, ever since its first nuclear test in 1974, and aggravating follow-ups in 1998. The full extent of the American leap of trust and its import is best understood by citing verbatim the relevant paragraph in the lengthy joint statement. "President Bush conveyed his appreciation to the Prime Minister over India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation and stated that as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology," it begins, before lowering the boom on the non-pro crowd - "India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such states."

The Times of India, 19 July 2005

**'N-deal is not a compromise for India** (Chidanand Rajghatta)

WASHINGTON: India's foreign secretary Shyam Saran maintained India will not be railroaded into doing anything against its national interest. "We are taking on responsibility or obligations that all other nuclear powers are taking," he said. "We will not be discriminated against." Saran called the developments a "major breakthrough for India." Few disagreed with him. It was bad news only for those who believe nuclear power is cost inefficient and toxic. The joint statement also came as a bombshell to Washington's nuclear non-proliferation gurus who made a career out of branding India a renegade for going overtly nuclear, while rarely uttering a peep about others' transgressions. They came out of the woodworks. Some of them called up wire services to voice their objections. Others hunkered down to rework their sophistry which has kept India in the doghouse for so long. There was no immediate reaction from the Chinese and the Pakistanis, both of whom must be chafing at the bit. It now appears that the Pakistanis had an inkling of the upcoming deal, which is why the visit to Washington of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was called off.

Hindustan Times, 19 July 2005

**Commitments not too onerous: India**

WASHINGTON, July 19: Highly satisfied with the US decision to lift sanctions imposed on it 31 years ago in the wake of Pokhran nuclear tests, India has asserted that commitments given by it in return were not "too onerous" and were exactly what other nuclear weapon states had accepted. Recognition of India as a "responsible state with advanced nuclear technology" by President George Bush and his decision to supply fuel for nuclear reactors at Tarapur as outlined in the joint statement issued after his talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here yesterday is seen by the Indian side as an implicit acceptance of New Delhi's nuclear weapons status. "What has been achieved is recognition by the US that, for all practical purposes, India should have the same benefits and rights as a nuclear weapons state." Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said at a media briefing on the outcome of Manmohan-Bush discussions on Tuesday.

Hindustan times, 19 July 2005

**US walks the nuclear talk, India pleased** (S Rajagopalan)

WASHINGTON, July 18: Following US President George W Bush's intervention, India and the US have succeeded in making a forward push on the vexed issue of civilian nuclear cooperation. While details were still awaited, agency reports quoted highly placed sources as saying that Washington has agreed to provide fuel for the Tarapur atomic power plant. But no confirmation was immediately forthcoming. A joint statement, slated to be issued immediately after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's meeting with Bush, got delayed as the two sides were busy sorting out a few glitches. Singh himself expressed satisfaction over the manner the nuclear curbs issue had been sorted out. "The issue has been addressed in a manner which gives me great satisfaction," he said at a joint media appearance after the meeting with Bush at the Oval Office. "We have had a very constructive and productive meeting. I thank the president on his personal role and interest in facilitating resolution of this complex problem."

Hindustan Times, 19 July 2005

**India can hope to acquire N-reactors from international market**

In the wake of the breakthrough achieved over the highly contentious issue of US cooperation in nuclear energy, India can now hope to acquire nuclear power reactors and fuel from the international market to meet its ever growing energy needs. New Delhi is said to have been keen to purchase at least six nuclear power reactors but was unable to do so in the face of sanctions and restrictions imposed by Washington following the 1974 Pokhran nuclear test. These restrictions were also implemented by the Nuclear Suppliers Group which includes Russia. Under the agreement arrived during talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W Bush on Monday, US had agreed to recognise India as a nuclear weapon state and supply fuel for Tarapore reactors.

Hindustan Times, 19 July 2005

**India to get fuel not only for Tarapore but for any reactor** (TV Parasuram)

India will, under the agreement reached between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George Bush, be able to get fuel not only for Tarapore but for any other nuclear reactor on the same basis as any nuclear weapon power, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said. Bush has made a commitment to cooperate with India on nuclear energy, and New Delhi, on its part is making a reciprocal commitment to place civilian nuclear reactors and not military nuclear reactors under IAEA safeguards, he told reporters in Washington on Monday. That, in fact, is what the US and other nuclear weapon powers have done, Saran said. The principle of reciprocity, which has been agreed upon, he said, is very important. "There is very good balance in the joint statement. We have committed ourselves to do exactly what other nuclear states with advanced technology are prepared to do. The principle of reciprocity is very important."

Deccan Herald, 19 July 2005

**India's relations with US based on shared values: PM**

Lauding Bush administration's efforts in transforming bilateral ties, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said India's vision of relations with the United States was a long-term and strategic one based on shared values and commitments. "We in India have greatly welcomed the extent to which the present US administration has taken forward efforts to effect a major transformation in relations between the two countries," he said at a luncheon hosted in his honour yesterday. "The refashioning of this bilateral relationship is not merely a matter of diplomatic process. Our vision of relations with the US is a long-term and strategic one, based on shared values and commitments. "What we have embarked upon is, therefore, not for tomorrow but I sincerely hope and believe that is for generation to come," Singh said at the luncheon attended by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Deccan Herald, 19 July 2005

**India & US: the quantum leap after the 'next steps'** (L K Sharma)

The last of the moves under the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership was a giant leap over nuclear energy relations. India and the US have started to grapple with the complex nuclear supplies issue, paving the way for an easier access to high technology items and nuclear fuel. The Manmohan-Bush summit managed to make progress on this vital issue even as a new working group was formed to deal with the entire civilian nuclear energy area. The joint statement by Manmohan Singh and President George Bush was still being finalised at the time of going to the press but the Indian Prime Minister earlier said the way the issue had been addressed gave him "great satisfaction". He was asked about India's demand for the removal of restrictions on nuclear and high technology supplies.

The Hindu, 19 July 2005

**Nuclear dialogue a test of the new strategic partnership** (N. Ravi)

The India-U.S. dialogue on civil nuclear energy is emerging as a vital area of focus for India's energy security and will test how far the United States is willing to go in this sensitive area in the context of the new strategic partnership. Indian officials have been emphasising that this would be the start of a new process of engagement in this area that both the Governments would have to get used to, moving away from their old mindsets. Such an engagement through a working group or some such mechanism may not result in the signing of immediate agreements but would open the way for specific steps for the supply of nuclear fuel and nuclear technology. For India, nuclear energy has become critical in meeting its needs in the medium term. Right now, the country is heavily dependent on oil imported from West Asia and the increased use of coal would run up against the issue of greenhouse gases and global warming. It would need to expand its nuclear energy programme from 2400 MW to 40,000 MW in the medium term.

International Herald Tribune, 19 July 2005

**Going nowhere fast on North Korea's nukes**

It's mildly encouraging that after a year of cooling its heels, North Korea will be returning to the stalemated six-nation talks on its nuclear weapons programs later this month. But since neither Washington nor Pyongyang seems to have changed its underlying attitudes, there is little reason to expect the next round to produce any more progress than previous sessions. The more months that go by without a deal, the more nuclear weapons material North Korea can produce, sell and make into bombs. What is desperately needed is a serious American policy. Unfortunately, there is no indication that the Bush administration has yet come up with one. Facing up to the underlying, unforgiving realities of the situation would help. Here are three, to start:

Reuters, 19 July 2005

**N.Korea 6 - Party Talks to Start July 26 - Seoul**

SEOUL: Six-country talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear programs will start on July 26 in Beijing, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. The end date for the talks, involving the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and China, had not been set, a ministry official said by telephone. South Korea and the United States have sought to extend the talks beyond the four days in previous rounds, hoping to improve the chance of substantive progress.

Daily Yomiuri, 19 July 2005

**Govt to seek complete ban on N. Korean N-development**

The government will ask the United States, China, Russia and South Korea to adopt a five-nation policy that will bar North Korea not only from developing atomic arms but also from using nuclear development for peaceful purposes during a new round of six-way talks with Pyongyang at the end of this month, government sources said Monday. As North Korea has shown a desire to become a nuclear power, as evidenced by its February announcement that it possessed nuclear weapons, the government determined it would be dangerous to leave open the possibility of Pyongyang turning its nuclear development to military purposes in the future, the sources said. As well as asking North Korea to scrap its nuclear development, including for peaceful uses, the government will demand that Pyongyang disclose all details of its nuclear program—including uranium enrichment—and allow the other countries to confirm in a verifiable manner that it has frozen its nuclear development program, which would be the first step toward scrapping the program, the sources said.

The Asahi Shimbun, 19 July 2005

**U.S. ready to ditch talks on North Korea**

The Bush administration is ready to scrap six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear programs if no progress is achieved at the next round in Beijing in late July. Washington conveyed its position to Japan and South Korea during talks in Seoul last Thursday, government sources said. U.S. officials said continuing the process "will not be acceptable" if Pyongyang continues its tactics of brinkmanship. They made clear that if Washington pulls out of the process, its future strategy will be to exert pressure on North Korea directly. Tokyo and Seoul agreed it is essential to make major progress in the next round of talks, which have been stalled for more than a year. South Korean government sources revealed that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, during her recent swing through Asia, indicated that the U.S. government is losing patience and intends to resolve the nuclear issue by the end of this year.

Deccan Herald, 20 July 2005

**PM flaunts impeccable N-credentials** (L K Sharma)

US Congressmen heard from Dr Singh why they should help their President in adjusting the US laws to help India's civilian nuclear power sector. Amid an applause by US Congressmen, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared that India has never been and will never be a source of proliferation of sensitive technologies. He told a joint session of Congress that as a responsible nuclear power, India's record in nuclear non-proliferation was "impeccable". India maintained this record "even though we have witnessed unchecked nuclear proliferation in our own neighbourhood which has directly affected our security interests". Singh used his formal address to plead for nuclear co-operation with the US and to reiterate India's strong case for becoming a permanent member of the Security Council. On the nuclear co-operation issue, President George Bush could not have found a better interlocutor for him at Capitol Hill. Singh was a star witness for him. The persuasive powers of Singh might make the President's task easy when he approaches the lawmakers to pave the way for nuclear co-operation with India through legal reforms. President Bush needs Congressional support for implementing his India policy.

Deccan Herald, 20 July 2005

**Indo-US summit makes nuke breakthrough** (L K Sharma)

Welcoming India as a nuke nation, Bush assured 'full civil nuclear energy cooperation'. The Indo-US diplomacy achieved criticality with the Bush administration making a strategic choice in favour of a nuclear India. The US promised to free India's nuclear power programme and high technology sectors from restrictive regimes in exchange for certain assurances from India. The bold initiative taken by President George Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh crowned the success of the summit that may transform the nature of the Indo-US relationship. However, as all things nuclear, the reversal of the US policy shocked the non-proliferation ayatollahs in the Democrat and Republican camps and the think tanks in anti-nuclear organisations. Mr Bush will have to invest considerable political capital if he has to keep his promise of modifying domestic laws and international understanding to accommodate the nuclear India in the order established by the nuclear haves. Similarly, some in India may suspect that the prime minister has made too many concessions to strike the deal with the US.

Deccan Herald, 20 July 2005

## **Nuclear cooperation**

The United States, in a dramatic policy shift on Monday, has expressed its intent to co-operate with India in the sphere of civilian nuclear energy, which is the high point of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington. This move should help India increase its power generation capacity and can supplement the country's efforts to meet its burgeoning energy needs. The US may take steps to remove certain restrictions that exist in forging nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes, as Washington is willing to concede that India is a responsible nuclear power. The US offer has to be seen in the context of Washington's eagerness to improve ties with India, which has a high level of technological expertise, a growing commercial market and strategic importance as a counterweight to China.

The Hindu, 20 July 2005

### **Civilian nuclear pact; US gets positive response from allies**

WASHINGTON, July. 20: The Bush administration has got a "fairly positive" response from its allies overseas and Congressional leaders on a new agreement to help India's civilian nuclear programme, a senior official has said. "I don't expect a lot of opposition in Europe," US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns, said. He said European leaders had been told in recent weeks that a deal might be in the works. However, as the status on the agreement was not clear till the last minute, there was no time to brief foreign and Congressional officials in advance, he told The New York Times. Burns said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, also spoke yesterday to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, and that his reaction was "constructive" and "not overly problematic." The paper quoted a spokesman at the Pakistani Embassy as saying there had been no reaction in Islamabad to the deal announced on Monday, between President George W Bush, and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Burns, who has been a point man in the India negotiations, said Rice and Stephen J. Hadley, the National Security Adviser, had hammered out final details of the pact.

The Hindu, 20 July 2005

### **India will have same obligations as nuclear weapons states: Saran (N. Ravi)**

WASHINGTON DC: The commitments India has made, in the joint statement issued here on Monday, include identifying and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities, filing a declaration on its civilian facilities with the IAEA, "taking a decision to place voluntarily its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards," continuing its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, working with the U.S. on a fissile material cut off treaty, supporting international non-proliferation efforts through a comprehensive export control legislation and adhering to the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Asked if the decision to place the nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards was not a departure from the current policy, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, in a briefing said India would take on exactly the same obligations as the nuclear weapons states including the U.S. did. There would be no discriminatory safeguards that India would have to follow. The Indian objection had all along been to obligations that discriminated between nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states and not to any obligations at all that would be taken on by the nuclear weapons states as well.

The Hindu, 20 July 2005

### **Nuclear bargain may prove costly in long run (Siddharth Varadarajan)**

IAEA inspections at civilian plants will hamper nuclear programme, say experts. The joint statement released in Washington after Monday's meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush is 'historic' in many different ways but none more so than on the nuclear front. Both India and the United States have abandoned positions that were, until yesterday, virtual articles of faith for their respective establishments. The U.S. says it is now in favour of "full civil nuclear energy cooperation" with India, which it describes as "a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology". In return, India has agreed to "separate its civilian and military nuclear facilities and programs in a phased manner" and place its "civilian nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards."

The Tribune, 20 July 2005

### **US recognises India as nuclear state (H.K. Dua)**

WASHINGTON, July 19: The joint statement India and the United States have issued at the end of the talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush is of far-reaching importance. It virtually recognises India as a nuclear state, if not declare it as a nuclear weapon state. In effect, this means that India will get nuclear fuel for its Tarapur Atomic Power Plant and other nuclear power reactors and also gain access to dual technologies that had been barred to India by the US, which imposed sanctions following the 1998-Pokharan nuclear test. The statement means that the United States recognises that, for all practical purposes, India will have the same benefits as any nuclear state. India has also undertaken responsibilities and obligations as any other nuclear state, a senior Indian official said explaining the implications of the joint statement. "We will accept only those conditionalities as any other nuclear state", he added, to emphasise that the

rights and obligations of India are the same as of any other nuclear power.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

### **US-India N-agreement inks doubt**

George W. Bush Washington, July 20: President George W. Bush, aiming to boost India as a counterbalance against China's rise, has moved closer to accepting the world's largest democracy as a nuclear weapons state and fueled fears he is weakening decades-old prohibitions against atomic arms. Bush accelerated the US embrace of India, after years of estrangement, during his first term. Monday's decision to permit expansive civilian nuclear cooperation is a further dramatic development. Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns called the agreement "the high-water mark of US-India relations since 1947." The approach was developed by former US ambassador to India Robert Blackwill and a close ally, Ashley Tellis, a South Asia specialist at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. It could, however, provoke a fight with the US Congress, which must amend US laws, and with America's other nuclear partners, who must tailor international policies to accommodate Bush's initiative. But Bush's Republican Party controls Congress and US concerns over China's growing military and economic might could make support for India irresistible.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

### **Crossing the milestone**

The nuclear agreement affirms the depth and maturity of the India-US engagement. The new arrangement worked out between President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the nuclear issue is a major landmark in several respects. The agreement promises to end India's nuclear isolation. The United States has committed itself to adjusting its domestic laws and international treaties to facilitate nuclear fuel supply to India. India will, as it always has, behave like a responsible power and put in all possible safeguards against proliferation. If the Bush Administration follows through on its commitments, this agreement could pave the way for a massive expansion of India's civilian nuclear energy programme. In the short run, this agreement will pave the way for expeditious consideration of fuel supplies to Tarapur, which is facing a critical shortage of fuel enriched uranium.

The Tribune, 20 July 2005

### **Step by step**

THE new Indo-US joint statement by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush reflects the breadth and depth of the transformation that has taken place in the relationship between the two countries. Cooperation in civilian nuclear energy, high technology and space was first announced in January 2004. The new statement has the US President committing himself to working for "full" cooperation in civilian nuclear energy, which would not only need US Congress approval to "adjust" current US laws, but other countries to agree to changes in international regimes governing export of nuclear technology. So, while cooperation in the civil nuclear realm is yet to materialise, progress in other sectors has been visible over the last couple of years, auguring well for the future. A couple of billion dollars worth of high-tech goods have already come in, indicating a steady dismantling of the earlier 'presumption of denial' regime.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

### **From Non-Proliferation to Civilian Energy Cooperation (K Ramanathan & Veena Agarwal)**

This is the right time for India to look again at nuclear power as an important source of energy in the future. Energy security is a hot topic today, and so is sustainable development. Environmental concerns relating to carbon emissions are also increasingly centre-stage. The role of nuclear power has to be appraised in this context. The US has already begun promoting nuclear power as a clean fuel. Recently, George Bush stated that nuclear power is "the one energy source that is completely domestic, plentiful in quantity, environmentally-friendly, and able to generate massive amounts of electricity". He further added, "In the 21st century, our nation will need more electricity, more safe, clean, reliable electricity. It is time for this country to start building nuclear power plants again." The US has also recently offered India cooperation in civilian nuclear and other energy sectors.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

### **India must in N-energy club: Russia (Vinay Shukla)**

MOSCOW, July 19: Russia today sought exception for India in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime in view of its "impeccable and unblemished" record and welcomed its engagement with US in the field of civilian nuclear energy. "There is a need for making exception for India in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime including the rules of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) as New Delhi has impeccable and unblemished non-proliferation record," chief of Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency Alexander Rumyantsev said. "Unlike some countries, Indian

nuclear programme is purely indigenous. The adoption of domestic law on weapons of mass destruction and their delivery system in March by Indian Parliament virtually replicates the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)," he added. He also hailed the Indo-US engagement in the field of civilian nuclear technology and termed it a "positive development." He said Russia considers India as the most prospective market for atomic power generation and is keen to build some more atomic reactors under the ongoing Kudankulam Atomic Power Project in Tamil Nadu.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**PM tells US Congress why India fit for new N-deal** (C Raja Mohan)

WASHINGTON, JULY 19: Even as he savours the historic nuclear reconciliation with the Bush Administration, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today reached out to the US Congress which must change American non-proliferation laws to allow civilian nuclear commerce with India. Informing the Congress of his nuclear pact with President Bush, Singh declared that India is "fully conscious of the immense responsibilities that come with the possession of advanced technologies, both civilian and strategic". Aware of the potential opposition in the Congress to the Indo-US nuclear pact from the vociferous arms control lobby, Singh underlined India's "impeccable" track record on nuclear non-proliferation. The non-proliferation fundamentalists in Washington have been shell-shocked by the sweeping nature of the deal between Singh and Bush, which promises comprehensive Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation. As Bush seeks to convince the US Congress that India's nukes are "good" while demanding tough action against the "bad nukes" of North Korea, Iran and other wannabe atomic powers in the Middle East, there will be hoarse cries against a nuclear exemption for India.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**This means a cap on our n-arsenal, says Brajesh Mishra, facts show otherwise** (Shishir Gupta & C Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, July 19: Brajesh Mishra, who was National Security Advisor during the Pokharan nuclear tests in 1998, today questioned Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assurance to US President George Bush on segregation of Indian civilian and military nuclear facilities, saying it amounts to acceptance of a "cap" on the size of New Delhi's minimum credible nuclear deterrent. Speaking to The Indian Express in New Delhi, Mishra said: "The promise made yesterday in Washington means that we are accepting a cap on the size of our nuclear deterrent with a small number of nuclear weapons." According to Mishra, the NDA government had offered to put a "couple of existing nuclear facilities under full scope guards but the offer was never accepted" by the US. "The idea was that there would be enough fissile material from the reactors not under safeguards for India's minimum credible deterrent...But by effecting a separation between civilian and nuclear facilities, India would in fact be agreeing to the basic provision of a future fissile material cut-off treaty even before an international treaty on that crucial subject is negotiated and put into effect by other nuclear weapon states," he said.

The Times of India, 20 July 2005

**Strong protests over US-India nuclear deal** (Chidanand Rajghatta)

WASHINGTON: A firestorm of protest has erupted from Washington's nuclear non-proliferation pundits over the Bush administration's nuclear deal with India, indicating just how difficult it will be for the agreement to bear results. Congressional opposition for the deal came even before the ink was dry on the joint statement by President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "Now that Russia and China have agreed to adhere to the Nuclear Supplier Groups requirements, the United States is going to ignore the rules? What will Russia say when they want to supply more nuclear materials or technology to Iran?" asked Congressman Ed Markey of Massachusetts. "You can be sure that Pakistan will demand equal treatment. Will the Bush administration soon be announcing equal treatment with them?" Markey, a senior Democrat on the House Energy Committee, said in a statement. The lawmaker threatened to introduce legislation in Congress "to make sure we don't jeopardize the delicate balance of our existing non-proliferation policy."

The Times of India 20 July 2005

**N-pact has come with footnotes** (Percy Fernandez)

NEW DELHI: India has come a long way from the days of Henry Kissinger's flippant remark that the country didn't figure in the American scheme of things. After decades, both Kissinger and the US have come of age. On Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the US, George Bush feels that both countries will have to be on the same page, speak the same language and display the same resolve which has marked the end of an era of estrangement and the beginning of a new engagement. In what seemed to be a first round victory for New Delhi, a roadmap has been signed for India's membership in the global nuclear order. That Bush has agreed to an arrangement to resume civilian nuclear energy is a significant pointer towards India's growing importance in geopolitics. Also, importantly, his willingness to bury the Pokhran hatchet is manifestation of his political maturity during his second term in office. But the initial bonhomie that has enveloped the establishments in Washington and New Delhi over this nuclear deal, experts say, may not last.

The Times of India, 20 July 2005

**Editorial: Washington Summer**

Since India's 1974 nuclear tests, it had been seen by the US principally through the grid of nuclear non-proliferation concerns. That had begun to change recently, and the seal was set on the process by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's current agreement with president Bush, which allows New Delhi to take some giant strides out of the nuclear doghouse. Washington's formally welcoming New Delhi as the sixth member of the nuclear club would wreck the current non-proliferation order, and ought not to be expected. But the next best has happened, with Washington recognising India "as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology", who should get the same advantages as other such states. Bush has committed to working with the US Congress and with other countries to ease supply of nuclear fuel to Tarapur and other power plants. If he throws his weight behind an amendment of current US non-proliferation laws, it stands a good chance of meeting the approval of the Congress, where the Republicans have majorities in both chambers. But even if such a move is blocked in the Congress, other countries can still supply to India now that Washington has removed its objections.

Asia Times, 20 July 2005

**US accepts India as a nuclear buddy** (Siddharth Srivastava)

NEW DELHI: It is one more step towards achieving the next level of India-US relations, as well as the US promise to help cement India as a future global power. In a radical shift in nuclear relations between the two countries, the US has decided to treat India on a par with recognized nuclear-weapon states, extending all "benefits and advantages", including nuclear fuel for civilian nuclear reactors. These significant decisions are contained in a joint statement issued after a summit meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W Bush in the White House on Monday. India, in turn, has promised to be a responsible nuclear state, including placing its civilian nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, continuing its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests and adherence, among other things, to the Missile Technology Control Regime and Nuclear Suppliers' Group guidelines.

The News, 20 July 2005

**US seeks to justify extended detention of 'dirty bomb' suspect**

RICHMOND: The US government on Tuesday sought to justify to a federal appeals court the detention of "dirty bomb" suspect Jose Padilla, an American linked to Al-Qaeda who has been held for three years without being charged. The government is appealing against a court order to release Padilla. But the US administration faced tough questioning from Blane Michael, one of three judges on panel. "What in the laws of war authorizes you to detain someone who was not captured on a battlefield?" he asked. "The United States would have to be arguing that in the war on terror, the battlefield includes the American battleground," added Judge Michael Luttig. "Our concern is they would go back to a battlefield," government lawyer Paul Clement said, frequently referring to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and official efforts to defend the country. Padilla's lawyer, Andrew Patel, meanwhile, asked that his client be charged, so he can defend himself in court. "It is the birthright of every US citizen to be punished according to law, even for the worst crimes," Patel said. "Charge him, try him - it has always worked for terrorism cases. "I am probably the first lawyer to say this, but I am asking that my client be indicted by a federal grand jury," he said. In February, a federal judge ordered Padilla's release within 45 days, arguing that the government had no right to suspend due process of law. But the judge later agreed to suspend his decision while the government appealed. Padilla, a former gang member, was arrested in May 2002 in Chicago as he stepped off a plane from Pakistan.

The Washington Post, 20 July 2005

**Chinese Buildup Seen as Threat to Region** (Ann Scott Tyson)

China's military buildup is broadening the reach of its forces in Asia and poses a long-term threat not only to Taiwan but to the U.S. military in the Pacific and to regional powers such as India and Japan, according to an assessment released yesterday by the Pentagon. The Beijing government is also improving and expanding its nuclear arsenal, fielding more advanced nuclear missiles capable of striking India, Russia and "virtually all of the United States," said the annual China military power report, based on U.S. intelligence and mandated by Congress. The report, however, said China's ability to project its conventional military power remains limited. China's defense spending could grow to \$90 billion in 2005 -- three times the Chinese government's official figure -- making the country's military budget the world's third-largest, after the United States and Russia, and the biggest in Asia.

The Washington Post, 20 July 2005

**Editorial: A New Nuclear Era**

The Bush administration is known for gambles, and Monday's about-face on nuclear cooperation with India qualifies as such. By declaring that it would help India build nuclear power plants and import advanced weapons,

the administration has made good on its statement that it wants India to become "a major world power in the 21st century." But it has simultaneously set aside the principle that countries refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should be denied civilian nuclear assistance and, in many cases, face a weapons embargo. The gains from this shift could be considerable, but so too could the risks. Much will depend on the administration's skill in assembling support for its new stance, in Congress and internationally. Start with the potential benefits. India, with a population of just over 1 billion, is already the biggest democracy in the world and will eventually overtake China as the most populous of all nations. Its economy has grown rapidly in the past decade, and it has become a global player in software, computer services and pharmaceuticals.

The Washington Post, 20 July 2005

#### **Bush Officials Defend India Nuclear Deal** (Dafna Linzer)

Bush administration officials yesterday lobbied Congress and tried to assure allies that a new deal to supply India with civilian nuclear technology and conventional military equipment was not meant to betray decades of nuclear-control policies or upset the regional balance of power. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, addressing Congress, said his country, which developed its nuclear program in secret in the 1970s, was a responsible nuclear state that would closely guard any future acquisitions of sensitive U.S. technology. He appealed for U.S. investment that could spur India's economic growth and bring in \$150 billion in the next decade for nuclear power plants and to modernize the country's transportation system. The details of the nuclear deal had been tightly held until they were announced late Monday during Singh's visit to the White House. Under the agreement, India would place its civilian nuclear facilities, but not its nuclear weapons program, under international monitoring and would continue a ban on nuclear testing. The United States would give India access to U.S. nuclear technology and conventional weapons systems.

The Associated Press, 20 July 2005

#### **U.S.: India Pact Not Directed at Rivals**

WASHINGTON: The global partnership being established between the United States and India "stands on its own" and is not directed at any potential U.S. rival, including China, says a senior State Department official. "This is a significant point of departure for our foreign policy, not just in South Asia but worldwide," Nicholas Burns, undersecretary of state for political affairs, said Tuesday. U.S.-Indian strategic cooperation agreements in 11 specific areas were announced during the official visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who met Monday with President Bush. He spoke Tuesday to a joint meeting of Congress, in which he promised that India never would violate international rules against nuclear proliferation. "Our interests are intersecting," Burns said. He did not accept a questioner's premise that the shoring up of relations with India may have been related to the uncertainties that administration officials have stated repeatedly about China's future intentions in the broader Asia region. As for Pakistan, India's neighbor and traditional rival, Burns said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice telephoned Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday to explain the agreements with India. He did not characterize Musharraf's response.

International Herald Tribune, 20 July 2005

#### **North Korea says it won't deal with Japan at nuclear talks**

SEOUL North Korea said Wednesday it won't deal with Japan at revived nuclear disarmament talks next week, criticizing Tokyo's plan to bring up the kidnapping of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents decades ago. The comment came after South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said negotiating partners should focus on resolving the international standoff over the North's nuclear program and refrain from adding other issues to the nuclear talks set to resume Tuesday in Beijing after a 13-month hiatus. The goal of the negotiations is "denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and dismantling the North's nuclear weapons program," Chung said in an interview in Wednesday's Hankyoreh newspaper. "Issues of North Korea's human rights and Japanese abductions ... should not be on the agenda." The U.S. ambassador to Japan also said Wednesday that North Korea must agree to give up its nuclear weapons programs before negotiators can address other disputes. "If that issue is not resolved, then it seems that nothing else is achievable," Thomas Schieffer told reporters in Tokyo. "Nuclear weapons is not the end of the process, but it certainly is the beginning."

People's Daily, 20 July 2005

#### **Opinion: Indian PM's US visit a qualified success**

Visiting Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh on July 18 held a bilateral meeting, which lasted more than two hours, with US President George W. Bush at the White House. The two sides conducted broad and in-depth discussions on topics such as defense, economy and trade, energy, anti-terrorism, high-tech transfer and the United Nations reform etc. Singh said after the meeting that his meeting with president Bush was fruitful and constructive. Indian media also generally believed the summit "brought the two countries closer to each other", which is most obviously seen in the US' agreement to enhance cooperation with India in civilian nuclear

technology. Singh is the first Indian government leader to visit the United States in the past five years and both sides expect the summit can bring the bilateral relations onto the right track. The United States showed rare enthusiasm for the visit with high-profile receptions "rarely seen except for traditional allies".

The Korean Herald, 20 July 2005

**Two-way talks crucial in six-party framework** (Lee Joo-hee)

With only days left to the revival of the six-party talks next Tuesday, South Korean government officials are careful not to pin hopes on scoring a substantial agreement in the talks. North Korea, which ended its boycott just a couple of weeks ago, is returning to the multilateral table with an ulterior motive - to sit one-on-one with the United States. North Korea has demanded openly on repeated occasions it wanted bilateral discussion with Washington, which responded that would only happen within the framework of the six-party talks. Most of the hurdles blocking a smooth procession of the talks are left to the decisions at two-way negotiations, rather than by the multilateral interest. During the six-party talks process involving the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia, each country representative meets with one or two other counterparts separately throughout the period aside from the main six-seated table.

The Guardian, 20 July 2005

**America to aid India's nuclear power project** (Randeep Ramesh)

The US president, George Bush, has agreed to aid India's civilian nuclear power programme, an unexpected decision that reverses three decades of American policies designed to deter nations from developing nuclear weapons. The agreement between Mr Bush and the Indian prime minister, Manmohan Singh, is the first exception to the international bar on nuclear assistance to any country that does not accept monitoring of all of its nuclear facilities. India has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which requires oversight of nuclear installations, and conducted its first nuclear detonation in 1974 and more in 1998. Mr Bush will have to convince Congress to amend domestic legislation that forbids cooperation between the US and non-nuclear states that conduct nuclear tests. India has agreed not to explode fresh devices and will place its civilian reactors, but not its military programme, under the international inspection regime.

The Telegraph, 21 July 2005

**How nuke freedom was won** (K.P. Nayar)

WASHINGTON, July 20: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will return home tonight, having unleashed a worldwide storm that threatens to bury a discriminatory global nuclear non-proliferation regime his predecessors have unsuccessfully tried to change for at least four decades. The full force of the nuclear storm, which the Prime Minister has set in motion, is not yet being felt: its early gusts are between the lines of a joint statement issued after Singh and President George W. Bush ended their talks. Singh is taking home an endorsement of India's unfettered right to not only continue the nuclear weapons programme, but also expand it. India will not stop producing fissile material needed for nuclear weapons. Nor is it required to initial any Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, which discriminates between countries that have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and those, like India, that have refused to do so.

The Telegraph, 21 July 2005

**Singh douses security fears, blames N-haze** (Bharat Bhushan)

WASHINGTON, July 20: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today claimed that criticism of his US visit was based on "misconception" and said nothing would be done to compromise India's strategic interests. He announced that he would make a statement in Parliament explaining the understanding reached with the US. "We can move forward only on the basis of a broad national consensus," he said. Singh said he had not seen the statement made by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee charging that the separation of India's civil and military nuclear programme would compromise national security. However, the Prime Minister said: "If that statement has been made, I think it has been made on the basis of wrong information or misconception." "The separation between civilian and strategic nuclear facilities will be a national decision. It will be taken on the basis of our security concerns being fully taken into account. The decision will be phased in a manner that will protect our autonomy in matters relating to (our) strategic concerns," he clarified.

The Statesman, 21 July 2005

**Pervez okay with nuke pact, says USA**

WASHINGTON, July 20: Seeking to allay apprehensions of its allies about the Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation, the USA told them that the deal was not meant to betray decades of nuclear-control policies or upset the regional balance of power. The deal has also got a "constructive and not overly problematic" response from Pakistan, a top Bush Administration official said. Besides Pakistan, the Bush administration got a "fairly positive"

response from its allies overseas and Congressional leaders on the agreement, the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr Nicholas Burns, who has been a pointsman in the negotiations for the accord, said, adding he did not expect "a lot of opposition in Europe". The US Secretary of State, Ms Condoleezza Rice, had telephoned the Pakistan President, General Pervez Musharraf, yesterday to apprise him of the pact and his "reaction was constructive and not overly problematic," Mr Burns said.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**Islamists may seize Pak nukes: PM**

WASHINGTON, July 21: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has warned of "serious" consequences if Islamic militants grabbed power in Pakistan and took control of its nuclear weapons arsenal. Singh, wrapping up a four-day visit to the United States, said the al-Qaeda terror network led by Osama bin Laden had a key base in Pakistan and that there was always the risk of Islamic militants seizing power in Pakistan. In an interview with the CNN Broadcasting Network yesterday, the 72-year-old Singh said that he was worried about the security of Pakistan's nuclear assets should President Pervez Musharraf be replaced. "Well, the security of (nuclear) assets which are under control of Pakistan, I think does worry us. And I hope that credible solutions can be found today with that problem," Singh said.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**N-deal a win-win for India, says Singh (C Raja Mohan)**

WASHINGTON, JULY 20: Despite the political criticism at home of the historic nuclear pact he concluded with the US this week, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said he was confident that a strong national consensus will emerge once the immense gains from it are fully understood. Asked about former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's reaction to the pact, Singh said "if such a statement had been made, it must have been based on a misconception and wrong information". Singh said the agreement will help India to "break out of its present isolation" and gain access to civilian nuclear technology without in any way "diminishing our strategic nuclear capabilities" in a reference to India's atomic arsenal. Insisting that the nuclear pact was agreed "only after taking into full account all national security interests", Singh promised to make a suo motu statement in the Parliament at the earliest on the nuclear pact.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**Not just Tarapur, other reactors too will get US fuel supply (C Raja Mohan)**

WASHINGTON, July 20: In an impressive gain for India, the Bush Administration has agreed to supply not only enriched uranium to fuel the Tarapur reactors, but also natural uranium for other reactors that are at the heart of the national nuclear energy programme. In one stroke, the US decision under the nuclear pact signed Monday, addresses a long-standing vulnerability of India's civilian nuclear programme—the lack of enough domestic reserves of natural uranium. Well placed sources in the Indian delegation say the Bush Administration's commitment came upon the insistence of Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Those familiar with the drama of Indo-US nuclear negotiations—that oscillated between success and failure throughout the last weekend—say it was a master stroke by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to include two top scientists in his delegation.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**Bush admn works on Congress, allies (Dafna Linzer)**

WASHINGTON, July 20: Bush administration officials on Tuesday lobbied Congress and tried to assure allies that a new deal to supply India with civilian nuclear technology and conventional military equipment was not meant to betray decades of nuclear-control policies or upset the regional balance of power. Under the deal, India would place its civilian nuclear facilities, but not its weapons programme, under international monitoring, while continuing the ban on nuclear testing. In return, the US would give India access to US nuclear technology and conventional weapons systems. On Tuesday, Pentagon officials said they expected India to start purchasing as much as \$5 billion worth of conventional military equipment as a result of the deal, if it is approved by Congress.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**Pokharan's PM slams deal: Not on**

NEW DELHI, JULY 20: With the Left still mulling its response and BJP president L K Advani embroiled in internal politics with the Sangh, former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee led the charge today against Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the understanding reached with the US on nuclear technology. The BJP, he said, shared the "concerns and fears" expressed by Indian nuclear scientists and defence analysts about the deal. India's reciprocal offer to identify and separate its civilian and military nuclear facilities and programme has "long-term national security implications," Vajpayee said. According to him, it will deny India "any flexibility" in determining

the "size of our nuclear deterrent". While acknowledging that India believes in possessing a minimum credible deterrent, he said, "the size of the deterrent must be determined from time to time on the basis of our own threat perception". This judgment, he stressed, "cannot be surrendered to anyone else"

The Times of India, 21 July 2005

**Will partisan politics nuke a good deal?** (K Subrahmanyam)

Unsurprisingly, the Indo-US joint statement on their future nuclear relationship has attracted flak from certain quarters. Many ask why India, a recognised nuclear-weapon state, should declare which facilities are military and which civilian, and implement IAEA safeguards on the latter? But the fact that we're asked to do that is a recognition of India as a military nuclear power. It's surprising that there are objections to separating civil and military nuclear facilities. The original suggestion for this came from Raja Ramanna, the designer of the first Pokhran bomb. Ramanna's logic can't be challenged. If civilian and military facilities are not separated, it would mean all reactors in India support our military programme. If that were true, other nations would be justified in denying India even a screw for the atomic energy department as that would constitute nuclear proliferation.

The Times of India, 21 July 2005

**Security of Pak nukes is a worry: PM**

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has warned of "serious" consequences if Islamic militants grabbed power in Pakistan and took control of its nuclear weapons arsenal. Manmohan, wrapping up a four-day visit to the United States, said the Al-Qaeda terror network led by Osama bin Laden had a key base in Pakistan and that there was always the risk of Islamic militants seizing power in Pakistan. In an interview with the CNN broadcasting network on Wednesday, Manmohan said that he was worried about the security of Pakistan's nuclear assets. "Well, the security of (nuclear) assets which are under control of Pakistan does worry us. And we hope that credible solutions can..... be found," Singh said. Asked what specifically worried him about the nuclear weapons, he said, "Well, if they get into the hands of the jihadi elements, that could pose a serious problem."

The Tribune, 21 July 2005

**PM allays fear of Pakistan, China** (H.K. Dua)

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh wound up his momentous visit to the US by assuring both Pakistan and China that what had been achieved in Washington was not directed against any other country. In remarks clearly aimed at Pakistan, he said he had not come to Washington to use it against any other country. The outcome of the visit would benefit the whole of South Asia. He also told newsmen that India would continue with its "constructive engagement" with China. The country had peace and tranquility along its border with China since 1963. India always wanted good relations with its eastern neighbour. The outcome of the visit would ensure balance in Asia and round the world, he added. The assurance to both Pakistan and China had become necessary in view of the reports that Pakistan was feeling concerned about the emerging relationship between India and the United States. Also, the US analysts and commentators were suggesting that the US had decided to co-opt India as a countervailing force against China.

The Tribune, 21 July 2005

**Cong clueless on Indo-US nuclear agreements**

NEW DELHI, July 20: Lack of synergy between the Congress and the UPA government was evident once again today when the ruling party was clueless on the details of the "historic" Indo-US agreements under which America has favoured "full civil nuclear energy cooperation" with India. Although the agreement has generally been received positively, there is disquiet among security experts and nuclear scientists that India has resiled from its earlier positions. In particular, there is concern about India's commitment to segregate its civilian and military installations and allow inspection of its civilian facilities by international experts. Some concern has already been voiced about India giving in to US conditionalities. However, this debate is bound to pick up in the coming days once details are made available. The Congress, however, appeared completely ill-prepared to pre-empt any criticism primarily because of any feedback from the government.

The Hindu, 21 July 2005

**``Breaking out of isolation to meet energy needs''** (N. Ravi)

WASHINGTON D.C.: At the conclusion of his four-day visit to the United States, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that the nuclear energy agreement with the U.S. was a way forward for India to break out of its present isolation and expand international cooperation to meet its energy needs. At the same time, it did not in any way lead to a diminution of the strategic nuclear capabilities that could affect the national security interests, he asserted in his remarks at a press conference. The two countries had agreed on reciprocal commitments, which would be addressed in a phased manner. A carefully selected working group would determine how best progress

can be made in the matters reflected in the joint statement.

The Hindu, 21 July 2005

**Nuclear deal will lead to a quantum jump: officials** (N. Ravi)

WASHINGTON DC: The nuclear deal with the United States by removing restrictions had opened up a huge opportunity and could lead to a quantum jump in the area of nuclear energy, according to official sources familiar with the negotiations. In contrast to the target of 10,000 MW or the likely achievement of 6,500 to 7,000 MW from nuclear energy with a restrictive regime, it would be possible under the new agreement to go to 40,000 MW or even beyond to meet the energy needs in the medium term. As regards India's obligations, they were clearly and unambiguously spelt out in the joint statement. Pointing to the wording that "India would reciprocally agree that it would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States," the officials asserted that India's obligations were no more and no less than those assumed by the United States, France or any of the nuclear powers.

Deccan Herald, 21 July 2005

**Nuke deal: PM deflects BJP criticism**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has deflected criticism from the BJP on the agreements he's reached with the US on nuclear energy cooperation. In Washington last night, he said he hoped national consensus would emerge when he explained the deals in Parliament. The Left is also expected to react publicly to the PM's visit. They had already criticised the defence agreement signed by Pranab Mukherjee. The Prime Minister did not mince his words as he clarified his government's stand on all the issues surrounding his state visit to the US. He started off defending the civilian nuclear deal with the US from criticism from the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had said that the deal compromised India's security interests.

Daily Times, 21 July 2005

**India will not sign NPT: Mukherjee**

NEW DELHI: India will not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) because it is "discriminatory and flawed," said Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday. Asked whether India would change its stance against the backdrop of its increasing defence ties with the US, he said there was no question of India signing the NPT as it was discriminatory and flawed. Mukherjee said the government had not violated the Common Minimum Programme while referring to Left parties' reservations that the government had deviated from its policy with regard to defence cooperation with the US. He said there was a basic foreign policy framework and the Congress had followed that policy.

Dawn, 21 July 2005

**US-India N-deal may affect CBM talks: Diplomats' apprehension**

NEW DELHI, July 20: A controversial nuclear cooperation deal for civilian projects between India and the United States may cast a shadow on the nuclear CBM talks between Islamabad and New Delhi scheduled here on August 5 and 6, diplomats and analysts said on Tuesday. The additional secretary-level India-Pakistan talks were originally expected to consider the usual agenda of advance notification of missile tests that the two countries have not yet resolved. Issues such as the corridor of the missile tests and the point of impact as well as differences over the type of nuclear-capable missiles to be brought under the purview of their discussions has so far been the staple fare of these meetings. Indications are growing though that Pakistan will now "study and react appropriately" to the outcome of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's meeting with President George W. Bush, mainly looking at the nuclear content, diplomatic sources said.

Daily Times, 21 July 2005

**China takes note of US-India defence pact**

BEIJING: The Chinese government has noted the media reports regarding '10-year United States and India pact on joint weapons production, cooperation on missile defence', said a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Office Kong Quan. Commenting on the reports, the spokesman pointed out that the international community has reached a consensus on relevant nuclear issues. "We hope United States and India cooperation on the matter will be helpful to safeguard peace and stability in Asia," he added. Meanwhile, a foreign media report published in China Daily says that United States President Bush, aiming to boost India as a counterbalance against China's rise, has moved closer to accepting India as a nuclear weapons state and fueled fears he is weakening decades-old prohibitions against atomic arms.

Daily Times, 21 July 2005

### **India has to prove its nonproliferation credentials: Cohen**

WASHINGTON: Leading South Asia expert Stephen Cohen said here Tuesday that India has to demonstrate transparently that it is an effective partner in nonproliferation; as it does this the US will change its laws and begin the process of sharing civilian nuclear technology, beginning with the very dangerous US-built reactor at Tarapur. He told Daily Times in answer to a question about US offer to assist India's non-military nuclear programme, Cohen, head of South Asian studies at the Brookings Institution, that it is the beginning of a long multi-sided negotiation - the Executive with Congress, and the US with India - and perhaps within India itself.

Daily Times, 21 July 2005

### **China takes note of US-India defence pact**

BEIJING: The Chinese government has noted the media reports regarding '10-year United States and India pact on joint weapons production, cooperation on missile defence', said a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Office Kong Quan. Commenting on the reports, the spokesman pointed out that the international community has reached a consensus on relevant nuclear issues. "We hope United States and India cooperation on the matter will be helpful to safeguard peace and stability in Asia," he added. Meanwhile, a foreign media report published in China Daily says that United States President Bush, aiming to boost India as a counterbalance against China's rise, has moved closer to accepting India as a nuclear weapons state and fueled fears he is weakening decades-old prohibitions against atomic arms.

The News, 21 July 2005

### **North Korea expects little progress at N-talks**

SEOUL: North Korea said on Wednesday it expected little progress at revived nuclear disarmament talks next week, criticizing moves in Japan and the United States to raise the issues of Pyongyang's abductions of Japanese citizens and alleged human rights abuses. "Such disturbing actions as slandering ... a dialogue partner cannot help the talks progress into a positive direction and will only bring conflict and a breakdown in the end," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said in a commentary. The moves "make it hard for us and other related countries to be optimistic about substantial progress" at the talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear ambitions, KCNA said. The comment comes a day after a Washington conference funded by the US Congress focused on human rights abuses in the communist North.

other issues at the table.

International Herald Tribune, 21 July 2005

### **India welcomed as new sort of superpower** (Anand Giridharadas)

MUMBAI, India The visit to Washington this week by India's prime minister, Manmohan Singh, symbolizes a change in the fraught but inextricable relationship between the world's two largest democracies: an unrivaled superpower and an aspiring one. For decades, it has been a dalliance of love and hate. Indians have craved American visas, denim, movies and music. But the two countries were "estranged democracies" in the past, as Singh said recently. Previously, the Cold War had led to chilled relations, with Washington backing Pakistan and the Soviet Union backing India. This week, in a joint statement issued by the two countries, President George W. Bush called India a "responsible" nuclear country. He also recommended a deal that would allow India to buy fuel and parts for civilian nuclear reactors if it opened its nuclear sites to inspection.

Asian Age, 21 July 2005

### **U.S. gets key to nuclear door** (Seema Mustafa)

New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in his quest for nuclear civilian energy, has committed Indian nuclear civilian facilities to international inspections by IAEA inspectors in what is perceived by nuclear experts here as a major shift in nuclear policy and approach. US President George W. Bush, in return, has only agreed to "seek agreement" and "consult" the US Congress and friends and allies to see if they would be willing to "adjust" US laws and international regimes to help India in securing nuclear civilian energy. The joint agreement presents a studied contrast in the positions taken by the two leaders. President Bush has said that as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology India "should" acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such states. This has been projected by spin doctors as a recognition of India's nuclear power status, a view that is strongly refuted here by nuclear experts such as Brahma Chellaney and Bharat Karnad who insist that there is no such US commitment only a viewpoint tempered with the word "should."

People's Daily, 21 July 2005

### **UN atomic chief says supports US-India nuke deal**

The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, said on Wednesday he supported a U.S. plan to help nuclear-armed India obtain atomic technology, despite fears the deal could damage global nuclear security.

In a statement, ElBaradei said he welcomed the agreement, under which President George W. Bush, in a dramatic policy shift, promised India full cooperation in developing its civilian nuclear programme. In exchange, India said it would allow snap International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of its civilian nuclear facilities. "Making advanced civil nuclear technology available to all countries will contribute to the enhancement of nuclear safety and security," ElBaradei said.

Deccan Herald, 21 July 2005

#### **Manmohan and Bush face domestic critics** (L K Sharma)

While both the Left and the Right are flaying the prime minister's move the Bush critics are saying he has been too kind to India. Having taken a bold step together, Dr Manmohan Singh and Mr George Bush are in the same boat. Both are facing domestic critics. They may have done something right since both are being attacked for finalising a blueprint for transforming the relations between their two countries. The critics of Mr Bush are saying that he has been too generous to India. The critics of Dr Manmohan Singh are saying that he has given too much to the United States. The negotiating teams of the two sides must be feeling that their relentless efforts to strike a fair and balanced deal are not being appreciated. Dr Manmohan Singh is being blamed in India by some who fear that the nuclear deal may cap India's development in this field. The Indian prime minister may find that he will have to conduct his America policy in the face of attacks both from the Right and the Left. Of course, that may only strengthen the Congress Party's claim to be a centrist party.

JoongAng Daily, 21 July 2005

#### **6-party talks scheduled to be open-ended**

Announcing officially that the six-party talks intended to end the North Korean nuclear crisis would resume July 26, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the negotiations in Beijing would be open-ended with the participants now focused on achieving results. A South Korean official said yesterday that the countries participating in the talks - the two Koreas, China, Russia, Japan and the United States - have agreed that the negotiations needed to bring tangible results. "Considering that the talks are resuming after more than a year, participants are very determined to get visual results rather than just hollow statements," said the official. "There is a sense of urgency here that we might not get another shot at resolving the issue through diplomatic means, if the talks fail this time." After a 13-month stalemate and almost no advance in the earlier talks, Pyongyang said last month that it would return to the negotiation table.

Dawn, 21 July 2005

#### **A new nuclear era**

The Bush administration is known for gambles, and Monday's about-face on nuclear cooperation with India qualifies as such. By declaring that it would help India build nuclear power plants and import advanced weapons, the administration has made good on its statement that it wants India to become "a major world power in the 21st century." But it has simultaneously set aside the principle that countries refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should be denied civilian nuclear assistance and, in many cases, face a weapons embargo. The gains from this shift could be considerable, but so too could the risks. Much will depend on the administration's skill in assembling support for its new stance, in Congress and internationally. Start with the potential benefits. India, with a population of just over 1 billion, is already the biggest democracy in the world and will eventually overtake China as the most populous of all nations. Its economy has grown rapidly in the past decade, and it has become a global player in software, computer services and pharmaceuticals.

The Hindu, 21 July 2005

#### **Selling the United States of America in India** (Harish Khare)

The Government needs to prepare itself to lead an open debate in which no issue is beyond democratic scrutiny. On his way to the United States, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made bold to say India was not for sale. For good measure he added that no Congress Prime Minister needed any lesson in nationalism or patriotism. This too was the precise refrain of his predecessor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when his Foreign Minister, Jaswant Singh, was widely perceived as keen on reducing India to the status of the 51st State of the United States. In fact, it needs to be recalled that during the Vajpayee regime, the pro-National Democratic Alliance sections in the media had criticised Natwar Singh, the Congress party's shadow Foreign Minister, for wanting to question too closely the NDA Government's pro-U.S. slant. Now the same voices are accusing Dr. Manmohan Singh of short-changing India out of its "nationalistic" nuclear autonomy, even as the Bush administration spin-masters choose to describe the nuclear "deal" as "the high-water mark of U.S.-India relations since 1947."

The Tribune, 21 July 2005

#### **Editorial: Momentous visit**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the United States was, by all means, a momentous one. His description of India and the US as "natural partners" while addressing the US Congress, which in itself was a rare honour, exemplified the bonhomie witnessed throughout his visit. The joint statement issued at the end of the summit meeting between Dr Manmohan Singh and US President George W. Bush is one of the most elaborate ones and it covers a whole gamut of bilateral issues. Primarily, it underscores a metamorphosis in India-US relations, which touched a nadir following Pokharan II. The US now recognises India as a nuclear state with all the attendant advantages. This implies that India can look forward to receiving full cooperation from the US in all its civilian nuclear programmes, particularly in power generation.

The Tribune, 21 July 2005

**Gains from new status** (Rajeev Sharma)

The India-US nuclear deal has vindicated Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's two statements: that India was not up for sale and that his government would do nothing which would surrender its sovereignty. The agreement between President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is a win-win exercise for both New Delhi and Washington. The give-and-take formulae, as per the terms of the deal, substantiate this. On the "give" part, India has agreed to place its civilian nuclear facilities under international monitoring. It has also pledged to continue to honour a ban on nuclear testing - a key policy suo motu announced by the previous Atal Bihari Vajpayee government which the UPA government has decided to carry on with. On the "take" part, India has not placed its nuclear weapons arsenal under the international scanner. A move to the contrary would have certainly been a red rag to the Left parties and the National Democratic Alliance alike.

The Tribune, 21 July 2005

**A relook at defence agreement** (N. Kunju)

This refers to "Mission to Washington" by Mr H.K. Dua (July 5). The 10-year agreement on defence and military affairs regarding future collaboration between India and the US signed by Defence Minister Pranab Mukherji has, ironically, been hailed by the opposition BJP and opposed by the alliance partner CPM. Both have not studied the agreement because there was no time for a study. Nor do they have the expertise to study the agreement, the details of which are couched in vague strategic phrase-mongering that can't be precisely interpreted for actual implementation. The BJP supports the agreement because it thinks that the induction of arms will make India a superpower projecting its might in this part of the world. Some American analysts too fuel this thought of India becoming the dominant power of the East in the near future. With its old anti-Soviet mindset, the BJP thinks America will help India to police the East to safeguard freedom and democracy and to fight Islamic terrorism.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**Editorial: Born in the future**

Bush and Singh remove past burdens and carve out new spaces in the Indo-US engagement. When Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met President George W. Bush in September 2004, the two leaders had declared that Indo-US relations had never been as good, but that the best was yet to come. As he concludes his visit to Washington, Singh has every reason to be satisfied at the first big steps he has taken with Bush to realise the full potential of Indo-US relations. Some of these steps related to the past and others to the future. For Singh, who faces cynical political classes at home on the prospect of Indo-US relations, removing the burden of the past was important. Bush promised from the very beginning of his second term this year that he is politically committed to the transformation of bilateral relations. But Singh needed one dramatic example of American resolve.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**Bush's bold new gamble**

The Bush administration is right to want close ties with India, but these will have limits. The Bush administration is known for gambles, and Monday's about-face on nuclear cooperation with India qualifies as such. By declaring that it would help India build nuclear power plants and import advanced weapons, the administration has made good on its statement that it wants India to become "a major world power in the 21st century." But it has simultaneously set aside the principle that countries refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should be denied civilian nuclear assistance and, in many cases, face a weapons embargo...Start with the potential benefits. India, with a population of just over 1 billion, is already the biggest democracy in the world and will eventually overtake China as the most populous of all nations. Its economy has grown rapidly in the past decade, and it has become a global player in software, computer services and pharmaceuticals.

The Times of India, 21 July 2005

**Empires Good And Evil** (Sanjay Subrahmanyam)

The PM has simplified the colonial encounter. On June 1, 2004 The Royal Geographical Society in London held a debate whose motion was "The British Empire was a Force for Good". The motion was supported, amongst

others, by historian Niall Ferguson, who had recently become a one-man industry on the question of empire, both British and American. In extremis, he made use of a shallow but ingenious counterfactual argument: If only Indian soldiers had not fought in the Second World War, he argued, Hitler would not have been defeated. Since these soldiers were recruited by the British empire, therefore the empire was a force for the good. QED! The motion was passed by a popular vote of the audience.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

**American idol** (Ashok Malik)

India will remain on Bush's radar only if it pushes on with reforms. It must be a good month for ironies. George W. Bush and Manmohan Singh both came into office dismissed as lightweights who paled before their predecessors. Bush succeeded Bill Clinton, among the most cerebral men to live in the White House. On his part, Singh had none of the charisma, aura and political authority of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Yet the two men reached agreements over the past week that could, potentially, shape the 21st century. It was both poignant and paradoxical that they did so building on the framework Clinton and Vajpayee left them. This is the way of great nations. Prime ministers come and presidents go, but the broader interest moves ahead - thanks to everybody and yet nobody in particular. Nevertheless, being more or less recognised as a nuclear power notwithstanding, there are cautionary tales for New Delhi. The battle has not ended, in many ways it has just begun.

Hindustan Times, 22 July 2005

**Britain to continue Nuke-restrictions on India**

London, July 22: Despite US government's decision to civilian nuclear technology with India, Britain on Friday said that its restrictions on transfer of such technology to New Delhi would continue till it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "The UK policy on the issue remains till India signs the NPT. We want all nuclear countries to adhere to the Treaty," an official spokesman said. As far as Britain and its universities are concerned, India remains on an eleven-year-old 'red-flag' list of countries which British government regard as proliferators or potential proliferators of WMD. India's place on the list, alongside Pakistan, Syria, Egypt, Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Israel means Indians were among 2,000 scientists security vetted in the last four years after they applied to British universities to do postgraduate or post-doctoral work in chemistry, microbiology and biotechnology. 238 of those applications were rejected, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said.

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

**Manmohan remarks unfortunate: Pakistan** (B. Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday dubbed remarks by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the security of Pakistan's nuclear programme and strategic assets as "unfortunate" and said they created a "misleading impression." "Pakistan's nuclear capability is defensive and based on minimum credible deterrence. Pakistan's nuclear programme and strategic assets are secure, under strict and multi-layered custodial controls," the Foreign Office spokesman said in a statement. An elaborate command and control mechanism, institutionalised in the shape of the National Command Authority had been in place since 2000. "We have studied the models of command and control systems elsewhere, and our multi-layered security structures are at par with the most stringent international systems and practices." The statement said the issue of terrorism, a global phenomenon, should not be used to malign Pakistan, which is in the forefront of the international fight against terrorism. "International terrorism has affected many countries and has historical background and root cause in disputes and deprivation."

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

**Will this commitment prove too costly?** (Amit Baruah)

New Delhi has bound itself to an institutional arrangement where saying "no" to American demands on a range of issues will not be so easy. "Mr. President, India and America are great nations and great democracies. We cherish the openness of our societies and economies. We value our pluralism, our diversity and our freedoms. These shared values that bring us together must be more visible, not only in how we deal with each other, but also in our approach to the world. We must strengthen democratic capacities jointly. We must oppose the evil of terrorism together. To meet such vital challenges, we must be together on the same page. We must speak the same language and display the same resolve." - Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his banquet speech at the White House on July 18. A Prime Minister and a party that promised to chart an independent approach on foreign affairs have promised to partner the United States in exporting "democracy" to the rest of the world. Much of the debate and discussion around Dr. Singh's July 18-21 visit to the U.S. has rightly focussed on the contours of the nuclear deal struck between the two sides but other elements of their joint statement and related documents are equally important.

The Tribune, 22 July 2005

**Left decries Indo-US N-pact, fears 'compromise' on national security** (R. Suryamurthy)

New Delhi, July 21: The much-hailed "breakthrough" in the civilian nuclear cooperation between India and US came in for a sharp criticism from the Left parties today. The Left apprehended that the pact would hamper New Delhi's pursuit of an independent nuclear technology policy for peaceful purposes. "India as a major developing country needs to have a balanced and equitable relationship with the United States," the CPM said. "The joint statement does not give much credence to this aspect. India continues to give more concessions compared to what the United States has to offer," the CPM, in its first reaction to the joint statement, stressed. The party said, "The joint statement and the various briefings of the visit are silent about what the US has got in return for offering civilian nuclear cooperation." "The government should clarify whether any understanding has been reached about buying US defence equipment to the tune of billions of dollars," it demanded.

The Indian Express, 22 July 2005

**India's five who made Mission Possible** (C Raja Mohan)

India Geneva, July 22: As he prepared to leave Washington on Thursday night after a visit that exceeded all expectations, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called in his delegation to commend all those who had worked behind the nuclear pact with the United States. That gesture from Singh, on the eve of his return via a brief halt in Switzerland, recognised at once the historic nature of the pact and the intensity of the negotiations with the Bush Administration and within the Indian system itself. Anil Kakodkar, the head of the Atomic Energy establishment, who brought in much-needed technical clarity to the Indian negotiating position, held the key to achieving the twin objectives-sustaining India's nuclear arsenal and acquiring civilian nuclear technology. But there were five other men, who had to handle the complex political and diplomatic dimensions of India's nuclear policy and contributed to the talks which went right down to the wire.

The Times of India, 22 July 2005

**A nuclear India is born**

WASHINGTON: The landmark U.S-India nuclear deal has got a crucial multilateral endorsement with Mohammed El Baradei, head of the U.N nuclear watchdog IAEA, welcoming it in a formal statement. El Baradei, who heads the Geneva-based International Atomic Energy Agency, responded quickly to a phone call from U.S Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice intimating him about the deal, saying, "making advanced civil nuclear technology available... will contribute to the enhancement of nuclear safety and security," "Out of the box thinking and active participation by all members of the international community are important if we are to advance nuclear arms control, non-proliferation, safety and security, and tackle new threats such as illicit trafficking in sensitive nuclear technology and the risks of nuclear terrorism," Dr. ElBaradei said. Experts say El Baradei's backing is crucial to win the support of the international community and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, some of whose members have been stunned by the speed with which Washington and New Delhi concluded an agreement aimed at allowing India access the world nuclear marketplace while prising open India's nuclear program - or what it chooses to reveal in the civilian sphere - to the IAEA.

The Times of India, 22 July 2005

**Navy's N-sub project gathers steam** (Rajat Pandit)

NEW DELHI: By the end of this decade, India should have a fully-operational nuclear submarine of its own. The Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project to build a nuclear-powered, guided-missile attack submarine is now on track after years of technical glitches and design problems. "The first functional ATV should be ready for trials by 2007-08. The technical problems, including fitting a miniaturised pressurised water reactor (PWR) and its containment vessel in the submarine's hull, have more or less been sorted out," say top sources. Sources say the two heavily guarded ATV project complexes at Visakhapatnam naval dockyard, where the basic submarine structure is being fabricated, and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam, where the PWRs are being tested, are witnessing a flurry of activity these days. The project has been shrouded in secrecy ever since it was formally launched in 1983, with successive governments either denying its very existence or being deliberately vague about it.

The Indian Express, 22 July 2005

**Left slams Indo-US joint statement**

NEW DELHI, July 21: After two days of assessment, Left parties have strongly criticised the Indo-US joint statement. The CPI has been strident in its criticism, taking pot shots at Manmohan Singh for yielding too much in return for too little. The CPI(M), a little guarded but nevertheless caustic, has said the Prime Minister agreed on nuclear cooperation without consulting supporting parties, especially the Left. The CPI wondered why the joint statement was being touted as a major achievement when the "US has neither supported India's claim to the UN Security Council membership nor recognised it as a nuclear weapons power". It is angry that "India has agreed to

concede its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing" in return "for these ambiguous and limited assurances". Referring to the nuclear cooperation deal, the CPI(M) has questioned "the manner in which such a vital issue has been decided with the US by the UPA government". It added: "It was incumbent on the Government to place their views and proposals for discussion with all the parties concerned before deciding on the course of action."

Daily Times, 22 July 2005

**'India now part of non-proliferation establishment'** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: India is now effectively a part of the "non-proliferation establishment," ambassador Jehangir Karamat told Daily Times on Thursday. Asked to comment on Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's Washington visit, the Pakistani envoy said, "Manmohan Singh's just-completed visit to Washington marks a new departure in the relations between the US and India - a relationship that has undergone major transformation in a decade." "Two items deserve particular comment. First: the nuclear bargain. President Bush undertook to work with the Congress to make full civilian nuclear cooperation with India possible. This included making the necessary changes in US domestic law, and to work with other countries to make corresponding adjustments in international regimes." Karamat said, "This is a significant change in 25 years of US non-proliferation policy. In return, India has undertaken to conform its nuclear facilities to a variety of international norms, most importantly separating its civilian from its military facilities and putting the civilian ones under international safeguards. This is likewise a significant change in India's long-standing policy, and one that puts India inside the "non-proliferation establishment."

Dawn, 22 July 2005

**1988 nuclear accord faces test** (Jawed Naqvi)

NEW DELHI, July 21: Nuances of the 1988 agreement between India and Pakistan to not attack each other's nuclear facilities could be tested by New Delhi's deal with Washington whereby India will clearly segregate its civilian nuclear facilities from the military-oriented units, analysts and diplomats said on Thursday. The December 31 India-Pakistan pact of 1988 came into force on January 1, 1991. It forbids aiding or abetting any action aimed at causing destruction or damage to any nuclear installation or facility in each country. The pact describes a nuclear installation or facility and requires each party to inform the other of the precise locations, latitude and longitude of installations and facilities by 1 January of each calendar year and whenever there is any change. Significantly, according to diplomats here, the agreement does not provide for detailed disclosures of nuclear-related activities and this is likely to be the rub in the India-US agreement. Starting in January 1992, India and Pakistan have exchanged lists of their respective civilian nuclear-related facilities. However, each side has questioned the completeness of the other's list.

The New York Times, 22 July 2005

**North Korea Ties New Issue to 50's War** (Jim Yardley and Joseph Kahn)

BEIJING, July 22: North Korea said Friday that the crisis over its nuclear weapons program could be resolved if the United States was willing to normalize relations, including replacing the cease-fire that has existed since the end of the Korean War with a permanent peace agreement. The announcement, made by the official Korean Central News Agency from Pyongyang and also reported in the official Chinese news media, comes as the six-nation talks to defuse the nuclear crisis are scheduled to resume Tuesday in Beijing. On Friday, an unidentified spokesman for the North's Foreign Ministry said a formal peace treaty would "give a strong impetus" to the new round of negotiations. The armistice signed in 1953 has been in place for decades as hundreds of thousands of troops remained massed at both sides of the border between North and South Korea. The North Korean news agency quoted the spokesman as saying, "To replace the fragile cease-fire mechanism by a lasting peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula with a view to doing away with the last leftover of the cold war era is essential not only for the peace and reunification of Korea but for the peace and security in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world."

The New York Times, 22 July 2005

**Editorial: Green Light for Bomb Builders**

The Bush administration is full of tough talk about opposing the spread of nuclear weapons. But it keeps undermining the world's most effective instrument for doing so: the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In May, top administration officials stood aside as a crucial review conference meant to strengthen the treaty ended in a stalemate. Now Washington wants to allow India an end run around the treaty's basic bargain - the one that rewards the countries that are willing to renounce nuclear weapons with the opportunity to import highly sensitive nuclear technology for power reactors. The strength of that bargain has dissuaded many countries that are capable of building or buying nuclear arms from doing so, including Brazil, South Africa, South Korea, Japan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. The bargain's credibility has depended on the willingness of the major nuclear exporters to uphold it. One of the most powerful examples of the price a nation would pay for ignoring the rules has been

the nuclear export restrictions the United States has imposed on India for decades, ever since India declined to sign the treaty and tested a nuclear device, using materials and technology diverted from a civilian nuclear power program.

Asian Age, 22 July 2005

**Experts say nuke division too costly** (Seema Mustafa)

New Delhi: The agreement reached between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W. Bush to segregate India's nuclear civilian and military facilities has drawn widespread criticism with the scientists here pointing to the "staggering costs" this exercise would entail. India will have to double, or even further hike funds, not for "productive" nuclear work "but for separating facilities through a complicated process that could leave the entire nuclear programme in a mess", the scientists pointed out. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre former director A.N. Prasad said the proposal might sound fine on paper, but in practice it was totally unfeasible. He told this newspaper that the costs would be far more than the country could afford as the segregation of civilian and military facilities, agreed to by the Prime Minister, would involve duplication of highly expensive equipment. He said the equipment used in the nuclear power plants was also very difficult to get now. Besides, as Dr Prasad pointed out, "If we were to segregate these facilities, which in itself will be almost impossible, we will have to ensure that each has the necessary work load, which might then not always be the case. We cannot afford to keep such costly equipment idle."

People's Daily, 22 July 2005

**China's stance on "no first use" of nuclear weapons remains unchanged, FM**

China will not first use nuclear weapons at any time and under any condition, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said in Beijing on July 21. China has consistently observed the commitment since its first nuclear test in 1964 and such a stance "will not be changed in the future," Li told scholars from China, the United States and Japan. On the recent remarks by a researcher from the Chinese military on China's nuclear weapon policy, Li said what the researcher said was only his personal view and not represented the stance of the Chinese government. Li also reaffirmed the Chinese government's stance on the Taiwan issue, stressing China adheres to the principle of "peaceful reunification, and one country, two systems" to resolve the Taiwan problem. China, however, will never allow anyone or any force to separate Taiwan from China by any means, he said. The Chinese, US and Japanese scholars are here to participate in an informal symposium on China-US-Japan relations sponsored by Beijing University and US-based Brookings Institution.

People's Daily, 22 July 2005

**DPRK delegation leaves for six-party talks**

A Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) delegation led by Kim Kye-gwan, vice-minister of Foreign Ministry, left Pyongyang Friday to participate in the six-party talks for settling the nuclear issue scheduled to open in Beijing on July 26. It was seen off at the airport by Kim Yong-il, vice-minister of Foreign Ministry, Wu Donghe, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, and Andrei Karlov, Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

The Associated Press, 22 July 2005

**Iran won't seek bomb, president-elect says**

TEHRAN: Iran's president-elect said Thursday that his country would not pursue atomic weapons but also would not submit to international pressure to abandon its nuclear program, state-run television reported. The comments by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad were similar to those over the past year by Iranian leaders amid negotiations with the Europeans, who aim to restrict Iran's nuclear activities. The United States accuses Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons, while Tehran says its program aims only to produce energy. Some Europeans have worried that Ahmadinejad - who won election last month with the backing of hard-line elements of Iran's Islamic regime - could take a tougher stance in negotiations than the reform administration he is replacing. Before his campaign, Ahmadinejad had criticized concessions by Iran, including the freezing of parts of the nuclear program, though since his election he has said he will continue talks with the Europeans.

The Japan Times, 22 July 2005

**Editorial: Breakthrough in U.S.-India ties**

Hyperbole is not unusual to describe meetings of heads of state. Yet the visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the United States marks a genuine departure in relations between those two countries. The U.S. agreement to help India secure international assistance with its civilian nuclear-energy program is proof that Washington and Delhi have reached a new understanding. Yet the willingness to aid India's nuclear program challenges the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), and both sides must be careful to avoid excessive expectations. The two countries have their own priorities and needs. Neither party can "use" the other for its own

purposes. When U.S. President George W. Bush took office in 2001, one of his goals was to transform U.S. relations with India, a nation that was laying the foundation as a future global power. The end of the Cold War and India's economic resurgence provided the opportunity for India to play a larger role on the international stage. Washington was happy to encourage that process as Indian democracy was aligned with U.S. interests and because the U.S. anticipated that India would serve as a strategic counterweight to China.

Dawn, 22 July 2005

#### **Editorial: US-India nuclear deal**

The recent Indo-American nuclear deal seems to go beyond the realm of Indo-Pakistan relations and has wider implications. Signed during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the US, the deal virtually amounts to America's recognition of India as a nuclear power. The significance of the treaty was spelled out by Dr Singh when he said that it should be seen against the backdrop of India's 1974 nuclear test and the international community's decision to deny nuclear technology to India. The agreement would now enable India to "break out of its present isolation", making it possible for it to get the same cooperation from America in nuclear technology as states which are members of the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty without New Delhi having signed it. America has, of course, been quick to reassure Pakistan - and China - that the deal was not aimed against them. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice rang up President Pervez Musharraf to say that there was no secret deal with New Delhi and that the cooperation basically concerned Indian nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes. But, as a State Department official pointed out, the deal constituted "a significant point of departure" from America's foreign policy "not just in South Asia but worldwide".

The Nation, 22 July 2005

#### **US-India accords**

During Dr Manmohan Singh's US visit, President Bush declared India a responsible state and agreed to provide it the same facilities available to the present members of the nuclear club. The accord calls for the first formal restructuring of the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the last 30 years, to fulfil one of India's long cherished dreams to be accepted as a nuclear state at par with the five major powers. The accord would enable India to secure international help for its civilian nuclear reactors while retaining its nuclear arms. New Delhi can now also obtain nuclear fuel for its Tarapur reactor. Another agreement called the "Next Steps in Strategic Partnership," enhances Indo-US cooperation in the areas of nuclear, space and high technology commerce. While India can now have nuclear power plants from the US, pending a green signal from the Congress, Pakistan's request for such plants has been turned down, despite the fact that it badly needs them for its energy needs. This leaves Islamabad, which prides itself on being the frontline state in the US-led War on Terror and a major non-Nato ally, high and dry.

The Times of India, 22 July 2005

#### **A Great Leap Forward (G Balachandran)**

Nuclear ties with US won't hit India's military programme. The Indo-US joint statement issued on July 18 has evoked a mixed response in India. That is understandable since it has initiated Indo-US cooperation in a range of areas. Of course, the one area that has drawn most attention is nuclear cooperation. That is also the most positive element of the joint statement. Before discussing specific elements of the statement one needs to understand the necessity of integrating India in the international nuclear trade regime. At the moment, because of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) restrictions India has been denied nuclear fuel and reactors. The current NSG rules require that India place all of its nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards before any NSG member can engage in nuclear trade with India.

The Times of India, 22 July 2005

#### **Editorial: Two Cheers**

The US has given a clean chit to India's nuclear programme. This paves the way for increased fuel assistance to India's atomic power generation. Nuclear power, which accounts for just 3% of our total power generation of nearly 100,000 MW, has the potential to become the energy of the future. Till yesterday seen as a costly and even unsafe means of producing power, it has shot into focus as a viable alternative with oil prices ruling at \$60 a barrel. With the Kyoto Protocol exerting pressure on carbon emissions, nuclear power can circumvent some of its provisions. The availability of enriched uranium with the implementation of disarmament treaties has also given a boost to nuclear power. What is the status of nuclear power worldwide? In the US, nuclear power accounts for 14% of total power consumption, as against 20-25% in Britain and Germany. In France, nuclear power meets almost all its energy needs. In India, nuclear power consumption quadrupled between 1981 and 2003, while thermal power consumption doubled and hydel power consumption actually fell over the period. India's power consumption, now about a sixth of the US, is projected to double by about 2015 in a high growth scenario. By 2020, the nuclear power programme is expected to create a capacity of 20,000 MW or just under 10% of India's

requirements. Is this a plausible assumption?

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

**Swallowing some pride to win the nuclear game** (K. Venugopal)

In bartering away the country's independence in nuclear policy-making, the trade-off Dr. Singh has attempted to secure is the prospect of a dramatic scaling up of nuclear power capacity. Belying his sedate and conservative visage, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has cut a deal with the United States on the nuclear issue that none of his predecessors dared, or perhaps wished to, do. Bartering away the country's independence in nuclear policy-making has invariably meant courting domestic political strife; and, as a Congress leader, he would have thought but a hundred times before overturning a policy that was crafted by none other than Indira Gandhi, that lady of steel, who in 1974 stunned the world with nuclear tests at Pokhran, and incurred sanctions from the western world led by the U.S. So why would Dr. Singh have committed himself to opening up for international inspection all the civilian nuclear facilities, and limiting the country's military options?

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

**Editorial: Some caveats on a constructive deal**

There is bound to be a contentious debate on the bargain struck by India and the United States on nuclear energy cooperation and trade that is the most substantive part of the Joint Statement issued from Washington D.C. Unfortunately, this deal, like so much else in the realm of strategic affairs and foreign policy in recent years, including the Indo-U.S. defence framework agreement, has been sprung on the people of India - forsaking the method of democratic discussion and consensus-building in advance rather than after the deal is done. But the substance of the Indo-U.S. nuclear bargain, which has constructive potential for the non-military, peaceful side of India's nuclear energy programme and offers the prospect of the country coming out of its post-1974 isolation in the international nuclear energy arena, must not be missed in the name of criticising the method.

Deccan Herald, 22 July 2005

**A major breakthrough** (Matin Zuberi)

Though the Bush-Singh summit was a breakthrough, there are certain ambiguities with regard to N-cooperation. The United States stopped "playing nagging nanny regarding India's nuclear programme," wrote a former US Ambassador to India in a recent article in the Wall Street Journal. Pointing out the extraordinary favourable circumstances for a new chapter in Indo-US relations, he added that apart from the personal commitment of President George W Bush, never in the history of the US State Department had three policy makers - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoelick and Counsellor Philip Zelikov - had a global perspective on India. Moreover, Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley also favoured closer relations with India.

People's Daily, 23 July 2005

**Head of ROK delegation arrives in Beijing for six-party talks**

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Song Min-soon, head of the ROK delegation, arrived in Beijing Saturday morning to attend the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue scheduled to open next Tuesday. "During the upcoming talks, we will make every effort to lay a foundation for solving the nuclear issue," Song Min-soon said at the Capital Airport in Beijing. Song came here in the accompany of some ROK delegation members. Other members of the delegation are expected to arrive in Beijing Sunday. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) arrived in Beijing Friday afternoon. The United States delegation is expected to arrive Sunday, and the delegations of Japan and Russia will come next Monday. It is reported that the ROK promised to play an active role in the new round of talks and closely cooperate with other participants to seek substantial progress.

The Telegraph, 23 July 2005

**Pak waves away PM's nuke fears** (Imtiaz Gul)

Islamabad, July 22: Pakistan has dismissed Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's fears that its nuclear arsenal may fall into the hands of jihadis. Islamabad's nuclear programme and strategic assets are fully secure as they are under "strict and multi-layered custodial controls", foreign ministry spokesman Naeem Khan said. and misleading," Khan told reporters here today. Hours earlier, Singh had told CNN that he believes Osama bin Laden's al Qaida still has a "significant base" in Pakistan. "I am worried about the security of Pakistan's nuclear assets should President Pervez Musharraf be replaced, since there is always the danger of Islamic militants seizing power and taking control of the country's nuclear assets," the Prime Minister had said. Khan said Pakistan's nuclear capability is under an elaborate command and control mechanism, institutionalised in the shape of the National Command Authority since 2000. "We have studied the models of command and control

systems elsewhere and our multi-layered security structures are on par with the most stringent international systems and practices," the spokesman said.

The Hindu, 23 July 2005

#### **No change in n-arms use, says China**

BEIJING: China will not first use nuclear weapons at any time and under any condition, said Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here. China has consistently observed the commitment since its first nuclear test in 1964 and such a stance "will not be changed in the future," Mr. Li told scholars from China, the U.S. and Japan. On the recent remarks by a researcher from the Chinese military on the nuclear weapon policy, Mr. Li said what the researcher said was his personal view and did not represent the stand of the Government. He also reaffirmed the Government's stance on Taiwan, stressing China adhered to the principle of "peaceful reunification, and one country, two systems" to resolve the problem. China, however, will never allow anyone or any force to separate Taiwan from it, he said. The scholars are here to participate in an informal symposium on China-U.S.-Japan relations.

The Indian Express, 23 July 2005

#### **N Korea says peace treaty key to nuke issue** (Jon Herskovitz)

SEOUL, July 22: Agreeing on a peace treaty to replace the armistice that ended the Korean War would resolve the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula, a spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Friday. The statement, carried by the official KCNA news agency, came before a meeting of regional powers in Beijing for talks aimed at dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programmes in exchange for security guarantees and economic assistance. "Replacing the ceasefire mechanism by a peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula would lead to putting an end to the hostile US policy toward the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), which spawned the nuclear issue and the former's nuclear threat," the spokesman said. He said this would "automatically result in the denuclearisation of the peninsula". The 1950-1953 Korean War ended inconclusively with a truce, leaving the belligerents still formally at war.

The Indian Express, 23 July 2005

#### **Left slams PM pipeline remark**

NEW DELHI, July 22: A day after criticising Manmohan Singh over the Indo-US nuclear pact, the Left today described as "very unfortunate" the Prime Minister's remarks to a US newspaper that the planned Iran gas pipeline was "fraught with difficulties". "It is very unfortunate that the Prime Minister has made such remarks (in an interview to The Washington Post) in Washington when it is well known that the US is opposed to the project," CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat said after a meeting of the four Left parties today. The meeting, called at CPI headquarters Ajay Bhavan to discuss various aspects of Singh's US visit, was attended by senior Left leaders, including Harkishen Singh Surjeet, Sitaram Yechury, A B Bardhan and D Raja. "The Prime Minister should immediately clarify whether the commitment to the pipeline project has been diluted as a result of his visit to the US," Karat said. The US is opposed to the India-Iran-Pakistan pipeline project. When the Left had brought up the US' reservations for discussion earlier, the Prime Minister had said its misgivings were largely unfounded.

The Washington Post, 23 July 2005

#### **N. Korea Links Nuclear Deal to Peace Treaty** (Anthony Faiola)

SEOUL, July 22: The North Korean government reiterated a call Friday for a peace treaty with the United States formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to resolve the current standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Perhaps hinting at its bargaining position before the start of six-nation talks in Beijing next week, North Korea suggested it would push for a broad accord replacing the armistice that ended the Korean War rather than an agreement narrowly addressing its nuclear programs. "Replacing the ceasefire mechanism by a peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula would lead to putting an end to the U.S. hostile policy toward [North Korea] which spawned the nuclear issue and the former's nuclear threat," said a government statement, carried by North Korea's official KCNA news agency. Diplomats hoped the new negotiations would result in a deal over North Korea's nuclear plans. But the North Korean statement indicated that the Pyongyang government might be seeking a sweeping agreement that would not be acceptable to the five other nations at the talks -- the United States, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea.

The Associated Press, 23 July 2005

#### **North Korea Won't Hold Japan Nuke Talks**

TOKYO: North Korea took another swipe at Tokyo on Saturday, saying it "feels no need" to sit down directly with Japan at upcoming nuclear talks because the country is insisting on discussing the North's past abduction of Japanese citizens. The North's state-run newspaper, Minju Joson, said in an editorial that it "feels no need to sit

face-to-face with Japan," and criticized Tokyo's intention to raise the abduction issue as a plan "to meet its own interests." It was not clear from the editorial, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, whether the North was refusing to attend the talks set to open Tuesday in Beijing if they include Japan -- or if it was saying it did not want to meet with Japanese officials on the sidelines of the talks, as Tokyo has suggested. China has hosted three rounds of inconclusive six-country talks on North Korea's nuclear program since 2003. The negotiations involve Japan, China, the two Koreas, the United States and Russia.

Reuters, 23 July 2005

#### **With Bush's Help, GE Courts Indian PM, Nuke Sector**

WASHINGTON: Just over an hour after the White House's surprise pledge to help India develop its civilian nuclear power sector, the head of General Electric, the American company that could benefit most from the policy change, sat down for a celebratory dinner. The host was President Bush; a few feet away was India's prime minister, Manmohan Singh, and his top aides. GE Chief Executive Jeff Immelt, a contributor to Bush's presidential campaigns, had a coveted seat at the president's table. Bush's announcement on nuclear trade with India -- followed by a formal dinner in the State dining room -- was not just a victory for Singh. For GE, the only U.S.-owned company still in the nuclear business, it marked a possible turning point in a years-long push to re-enter the Indian nuclear power market, which it was forced to leave in 1974 when India conducted its first nuclear test. "In the short term, it's really business as usual. ... But if things unfold the way it looks they may, then clearly it is a significant opportunity for us," said Peter Wells, general manager of marketing for GE Energy's nuclear business.

Reuters, 23 July 2005

#### **N. Korea Would Welcome Visit by Bush, Rice - Kyodo**

TOKYO: North Korea has told the United States it would welcome a visit by President Bush or Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to help normalize ties, Japan's Kyodo news agency said on Saturday. Kyodo, quoting diplomatic sources in Beijing, said the message had been conveyed through contacts between the negotiators of the two countries in talks in New York from late June to early July. Those meetings were attended by Joseph DeTrani, the U.S. special envoy for North Korean negotiations, and Ri Gun, chief of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's U.S. Affairs Department. The report comes ahead of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program next week. The North Korean officials also said that Pyongyang would be ready to receive former U.S. President Bush, Kyodo quoted the sources as saying. The U.S. representatives told the North Koreans that Pyongyang should also send senior officials to the United States, but the talks were inconclusive after North Korea expressed doubts about whether the U.S. would issue visas for a North Korean delegation, Kyodo said.

The Associated press, 23 July 2005

#### **Officials Attempt to End N.Korean Impasse**

WASHINGTON: North Korea is returning to nuclear weapons talks in China on Tuesday to tell its neighbors and the United States how far it's willing to go toward meeting their calls for disarmament -- and at what price. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called on the communist government to make the "strategic choice" to disarm, without saying what awaits if it says no. The North Koreans have boycotted the negotiating process for a year, and getting them back to bargaining has been an arduous task. Last winter it vowed never to return. It was coaxed into returning by a flurry of diplomatic activities, less belligerent U.S. rhetoric and South Korean pledges of large-scale food aid and future deliveries of energy supplies. The United States and South Korea are both conditioning energy assistance to a credible commitment by Pyongyang to becoming nuclear-free. The lineup for the Beijing talks remains the same as it was for three previous rounds held in 2003 and 2004: The United States, China, South Korea, Japan, Russia and North Korea itself.

The Washington Post, 23 July 2005

#### **N. Korea Links Nuclear Deal to Peace Treaty (Anthony Faiola)**

SEOUL, July 22: The North Korean government reiterated a call Friday for a peace treaty with the United States formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to resolve the current standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Perhaps hinting at its bargaining position before the start of six-nation talks in Beijing next week, North Korea suggested it would push for a broad accord replacing the armistice that ended the Korean War rather than an agreement narrowly addressing its nuclear programs. "Replacing the ceasefire mechanism by a peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula would lead to putting an end to the U.S. hostile policy toward [North Korea] which spawned the nuclear issue and the former's nuclear threat," said a government statement, carried by North Korea's official KCNA news agency. Diplomats hoped the new negotiations would result in a deal over North Korea's nuclear plans. But the North Korean statement indicated that the Pyongyang government might be seeking a sweeping agreement that would not be acceptable to the five other nations at the talks -- the United States, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea.

The News, 23 July 2005

### **Rafsanjani says nuclear work will go ahead**

TEHRAN: Giving up Iran's nuclear fuel programme would be a "shameful stain" on the country, a senior cleric said on Friday. Washington accuses Tehran of pursuing atomic weapons. Iran says it wants nuclear technology to generate electricity and not to make bombs. Former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told worshippers at Friday prayers at Tehran University: "We will never abandon our obvious right, otherwise it will be a stain of shame on our history." France, Britain and Germany, who share the US view Iran may be planning to build nuclear weapons, have been in talks to convince the Islamic state to drop making nuclear fuel in return for economic incentives. Rafsanjani, the head of the Expediency Council, which arbitrates on legislative disputes between parliament and a hardline watchdog body, also hinted at Iran's readiness to work out a diplomatic solution to settle the nuclear dispute with the European Union. "Prudently and by adopting proper measures, we should not let our legitimate right to be ignored," he added in the sermon broadcast live on state radio. Iran has agreed to freeze some nuclear work while it negotiates a long-term arrangement with the EU, talks on which are due to resume in August.

Dawn, 23 July 2005

### **Wait for new laws for N-fuel, US tells India**

NEW DELHI, July 22: The United States said on Friday India would have to wait for changes in the laws governing the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) before being allowed to buy N-fuel from any one of the members. "The US is prepared to work with the Congress and its allies in the NSG to change rules to allow India access to civil nuclear technology and fuel," Robert O. Blake, charged' affairs at the US embassy was quoted by agencies as saying. He stressed that NSG laws have to be changed before India approaches any of the nuclear fuel suppliers like France. A statement from the French embassy left the issue even more opaque. "France takes positive note of the important agreement between the United States and India on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy," the statement said. "This development is in line with the effort initiated by President Chirac several years ago, in particular in the G8, to allow major emerging industrial countries access to civilian nuclear energy," the statement said.

Dawn, 23 July 2005

### **Pakistan will maintain nuclear deterrence capability**

Musharraf Islamabad (dpa) - Pakistan's President General Pervez Musharraf Saturday said his government would take all necessary safeguards to maintain the country's nuclear deterrence capability. He said this while chairing a review meeting of the National Command Authority (NCA) at the Strategic Plans Division (SPD) in the garrison town of Rawalpindi. Attended by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, armed forces chiefs and a few federal ministers, the meeting also took note of the recent India-U.S. defence agreement on joint production of weapons and the possible transfer of sensitive military technologies to India. Pakistan believes the agreement will disturb the regional arms balance. The meeting took place against the backdrop of a recent statement by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who voiced concern over the danger of Islamic militants seizing Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

The News, 23 July 2005

### **Editorial: India sets a bad model** (Praful Bidwai)

There is something unwholesome, indeed distasteful, about the triumphalism in India over the nuclear cooperation agreement signed between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W Bush. This ends India's characterisation as a nuclear "pariah" after the first Pokharan test of 1974. Following this, Washington had walked out of its agreement to supply enriched uranium fuel for the US-built Tarapur reactors. There has always been a special feeling of wounded pride among Indian policy-makers over the "pariah" characterisation. Yet, the US wasn't the only country to stage a strong protest against Pokharan-I. Canada too protested. Their embarrassment and anger weren't contrived. Both had contributed substantially to designing, building, and providing critical materials to, the CIRUS "research" reactor commissioned in 1960. Its spent fuel was the source of the plutonium used in the 1974 test.

International Herald Tribune, 23 July 2005

### **A bad day for nonproliferation** (Strobe Talbott)

WASHINGTON Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India received a warm welcome at the White House this week, but the signal outcome of his visit was not good news for a cause to which both his government and the United States are sincerely committed: nuclear nonproliferation. President George W. Bush agreed to give India virtual membership in the club of recognized nuclear-weapons states created by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The treaty dates to 1968, when five states had tested nuclear weapons: Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States. The upshot was that all other countries would refrain from acquiring nukes in

exchange for financial and technical assistance in developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy. By conducting an underground test that caught the world by surprise in May 1998, India put itself unambiguously and irreversibly outside the bounds of the treaty.

The Tribune, 23 July 2005

### **Nuclear threats**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has raised a significant question vis-à-vis Pakistan's nuclear assets. How will the world handle a situation that may arise if Pakistan's weapons of mass destruction fall into the hands of jihadis in case General Musharraf loses power? This is not unthinkable in the case of Pakistan, where extremist religious leaders, the mentors of jihadis, have a vast following. The world knows that there are elements within the Pakistan Army who sympathise with the extremist "cause", and one should not be surprised if they seize power tomorrow. Religious extremists, who are already in a position to influence the government in Islamabad, can occupy commanding heights by winning an election. Dr Manmohan Singh has the reputation of making statements after giving considerable thought to a subject. Therefore, when he says, "I hope that this does not happen and I pray that this will not happen", his concern cannot be ignored by the world community.

The Indian Express, 23 July 2005

### **The bomb and the bombast** (Shekhar Gupta)

Just a couple of weeks after Pokharan II and Chagai, I got into an entirely avoidable argument with a junior, but high-profile BJP minister at a private dinner in Mumbai. The argument was not so much over whether India's nuke tests were a good thing or bad. It was more on the kind of illiterate jingoism the BJP was unleashing following the tests. The stupidest - and the scariest - of all was the plan of its younger cadres to carry the "holy", but probably radio-active, sands from the Pokharan site all over the country in a kind of victory parade. There was irresponsible talk on both sides of the border on whose bomb was bigger, more destructive or more indigenous. The discourse on both sides was scary. Only one as thick-skinned as my friend Jugnu Sethi of Pakistan's Friday Times could still find it funny: "What are we all getting so paranoid about?" she asked, "India and Pakistan are only arguing over whose 'bum' is bigger".

The Indian Express, 23 July 2005

### **A 'Sweet Deal' for India** (Walter Anderson)

The India-US Joint Statement, agreed to on the first day of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's successful July 18-20 visit to Washington D.C., pledges the Bush administration to push for a cooperative bilateral agreement that would provide India fuel and technology for its civilian nuclear energy, while allowing it to retain its nuclear weapons and delivery systems. "India got a sweet deal" is the way one State Department official working the non-proliferation issue described to me the Bush administration's support for a change in US nuclear non-proliferation policy on behalf of India. The administration's decision to alter our 30-year-old non-proliferation policy on behalf of India was the most dramatic development of the visit and was the issue receiving the heaviest press attention.

Xinhua, 24 July 2005

### **Will new round break deadlock of nuclear talks?**

BEIJING, July 24: As delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States arrived in Beijing, the new round of the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue slated to begin next Tuesday has again caught world wide attention. Although great uncertainties remain for the talks, analysts said, there is a glimpse of hope that the deadlock of the talks may be broken should all sides value the upcoming opportunity following a break of 13 months. Huge difficulties still remain ahead as the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue is one the most complicated, sensitive and tough issues in current world. No substantial progress was made in the previous three rounds of the talks in 2003 and 2004. The new round of the talks, to be held among China, the DPRK, the United States, Russia, the ROK and Japan, will begin next Tuesday but when the talks will conclude is undecided.

Xinhua, 24 July 2005

### **ROK, DPRK reach consensus on denuclearization**

BEIJING, July 24: The Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) here Sunday reached a consensus on setting up a framework for the denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula, according to a senior ROK diplomat. Following a 100-minute meeting with his DPRK counterpart Kim Kye-gwan Sunday morning, Song Min-soon, deputy foreign minister and head of the ROK delegation for the upcoming six-party talks, told a press conference that the ROK and DPRK reached consensus on many issues during the meeting, but declined to give more details. It was the first meeting between the ROK and the DPRK after their arrival in Beijing for the talks, which is scheduled to open on Tuesday. The ROK and DPRK decided to continue

such bilateral talks and cooperate for substantial results in the six-party talks, which involves China, DPRK, the United States, ROK, Russia and Japan, Song said.

People's Daily, 24 July 2005

#### **DPRK raps US, Japan for pressure before six-party talks**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Saturday condemned the United States for labeling Pyongyang as a "nuclear criminal." It also warned Japan not to unsettle the forthcoming six-party talks by raising the "human rights issue." In a recent statement, the US House of Representatives charged that "the DPRK threatens the stability in Northeast Asia as a 'nuclear criminal'," said the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in a commentary. "It is contrary to an atmosphere of dialogue for the US to point an accusing finger at its dialogue partner when the six-party talks are expected to be resumed soon," the KCNA said. If Washington really wants to settle the nuclear issue through talks, it must show a trustworthy, sincere attitude to make conditions mature for the resumption of the six-party talks, according to the commentary. Meanwhile, the KCNA countered the remarks by Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura that the six-party talks should take up the "human rights situation" in the DPRK.

People's Daily, 24 July 2005

#### **US delegation arrives in Beijing for six-party talks**

The US delegation arrived here Sunday afternoon for the fourth round of six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue scheduled to begin Tuesday. The US delegation, headed by Christopher Hill, assistant secretary of state for East Asia-Pacific Affairs, will work with the other five parties to discuss the settlement of the Korean peninsula nuclear issue. Hill declined to make any comments on the time table and expected results of the upcoming talks, responding to Xinhua reporter's question upon his arrival at the Beijing International Airport. On the nuclear issue, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Pyongyang's decision to return to the six-party talks is "a very good step," but it's only "the first step." The United States will repeat its proposal raised in the last round of talks, which "addresses the concerns of all parties and it's the way to move forward to resolve the nuclear issue," according to White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

People's Daily, 24 July 2005

#### **South Korean top negotiator reaches Beijing for nuclear talks**

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Song Min-soon, head of the ROK delegation, arrived in Beijing Saturday morning to attend the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue scheduled to open next Tuesday. Song Min-soon, accompanied by several other officials, left the Incheon International Airport for Beijing earlier Saturday, reported the South Korean Yonhap News Agency. While the US chief delegate to the talks and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia-Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill is to arrive in Beijing on Sunday, said Yonhap. The Japanese and Russian delegations will fly to Beijing on Sunday and Monday, respectively. The first round of the six-party talks was held in Beijing in August 2003. The multilateral meeting had been stalled when the fourth round of the talks failed to be convened as scheduled.

The Indian Express, 24 July 2005

#### **The hidden dragon**

Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu of the Chinese People's Liberation Army caused quite a stir last week when he threatened to nuke "hundreds" of American cities if the United States dared to interfere with a Chinese attempt to conquer Taiwan. This sabre-rattling comes while China is building a lot of sabres. Although its defence budget, estimated to be as much as \$90 billion, remains a fraction of the US defence budget, it is enough to make China the world's third-biggest weapons buyer (behind Russia) and the biggest in Asia. Moreover, China's spending has been increasing rapidly, and it is investing in the kind of systems - especially missiles and submarines - needed to challenge US naval power in the Pacific. The Pentagon has released a study of Chinese military capabilities. In a preview, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told a Singapore audience last month that China's arms build-up was an "area of concern." It should be. But we shouldn't get overly fixated on such traditional indices of military power as ships and bombs - not even atomic bombs. Chinese strategists, in the best tradition of Sun Tzu, are working on craftier schemes to topple the American hegemon.

The Washington Post, 24 July 2005

#### **Uncertainties Slow Push for Nuclear Plants** (Shankar Vedantam)

When the nuclear industry looks at the Bush administration's initiatives to promote a new generation of nuclear power plants, it sees a giant dollar sign. Critics see a giant mushroom cloud. For investors and taxpayers, who will have to pony up the cash, the sign may be a giant question mark. No one has placed an order for a nuclear plant since 1973, but a House-Senate conference committee is weighing an energy bill that includes a clutch of

proposals to revive the moribund industry. No matter what bill comes out, however, financial experts and the companies that would order such plants predict that regulatory hurdles and economic risks mean the launch of new plants is at least a decade away -- if ever. "Moody's would go bananas if we announced we were going to build a nuclear plant," said Thomas E. Capps, chief executive officer of the energy company Dominion Resources Inc., referring to the reaction of credit-rating institutions.

The New York Times, 24 July 2005

#### **Iran Warns Europeans to Respect Its Rights on Nuclear Program** (Nazila Fathi)

TEHRAN, July 23: Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday that Iran had delivered a message to Europe last week saying it would adopt a new nuclear policy if its basic rights were not observed in Europe's proposal expected to be announced in early August. Iran has been negotiating with three European countries - Germany, Britain and France - for nearly two years to find a solution to the crisis over its nuclear program. The United States has accused Iran of trying to make a nuclear bomb, but Iran contends that its program is peaceful and has reiterated its view in recent days that it should be allowed to develop nuclear energy. "We clarified to Europe that if the minimum requirements expected by the Islamic Republic are not taken into account, we will not accept their proposal," Hamid Reza Asefi, the spokesman, said during his weekly news conference, the ISNA news agency reported. Mr. Asefi did not elaborate on what the "minimum requirements" were.

The New York Times, 24 July 2005

#### **Why (Not) Sell Nukes to India?**

WASHINGTON: President Bush in effect legitimized India's nuclear arsenal last week, offering to sell it technology that has long been forbidden to anyone who played outside the world's nuclear rules. So what will senior officials say on Tuesday morning when North Korea opens its long-delayed negotiations with the West? "I can just see it now," said one of those officials, who spoke anonymously because of the sensitivity of the talks. "They come in, throw a newspaper from the other day on the table, and bellow: 'How can America demand that we give up all our nukes, while you just let the Indians keep all of theirs?' "It's not an unreasonable question. The long-term implications of Mr. Bush's decision may not be clear for years, and some short-term risks seem evident to critics now. The timing is particularly awkward, in a summer of extraordinary tension with North Korea and Iran.

Reuters, 24 July 2005

#### **Iran Tells Europeans It Insists on Right to Make Nuclear Fuel**

TEHRAN, July 23: Iran said Saturday that it had delivered a message to European foreign ministers in London last week, telling them not to try to solve a nuclear dispute by asking Tehran to surrender atomic technology. Three European Union countries - Britain, Germany and France have been negotiating with Tehran to try to end a crisis over Iran's nuclear program. The European Union has asked Iran to stop making nuclear fuel in return for economic incentives. Iran says that the nuclear fuel is destined for power stations rather than warheads, and argues that it has every right to make enriched uranium. The Europeans have until late July or early August to present Iran with a set of final proposals aimed at ending the dispute. The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid Reza Asefi, said a letter from Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rohani, had been presented to the foreign ministers of the European Union countries before the proposals were to be submitted.

Dawn, 24 July 2005

#### **Concern voiced over Indo-US defence accord** (Ihtasham ul Haque)

ISLAMABAD, July 23: The National Command Authority (NCA) on Saturday expressed 'serious concern' over the Indo-US nuclear and defence framework agreement and decided to take 'appropriate measures' to ensure the defence of the country. Sources told Dawn that a meeting of the authority presided over by President Gen Pervez Musharraf was of the view that Pakistan should take up the issue of the quantum jump in Indo-US defence cooperation with the Bush administration and at the same time ensure continued credible defence. The NCA took note of the Indo-US framework and decided on appropriate measures. The president told the meeting, held at the strategic plans division in Rawalpindi, that Pakistan was fully alive to developments taking place in its region and it would take all necessary safeguards to ensure that its deterrence capability was maintained.

Daily Times, 24 July 2005

#### **Mind your own command, Musharraf tells India** (Shakil Shaikh)

RAWALPINDI: President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday snubbed India for speculating about the effectiveness and reliability of Pakistan's command and control structure and said the country's nuclear deterrence was fully operational and continued to consolidate and strengthen with time. President Musharraf was speaking at a review meeting of the National Command Authority (NCA) at the Strategic Plans Division here. Though the meeting had already been planned, the latest Pakistan-bashing by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh came under

discussion in the meeting, which termed it an anti-peace move aimed at domestic consumption. Pakistan, Musharraf said, was fully alive to developments taking place in the region and would take all necessary safeguards to ensure that its deterrence capability was maintained. The Indian premier made speculative remarks about Pakistan, though numerous cases have been reported in which 18/19 kilograms of nuclear fuel was stolen in India and remained untraced.

Daily Times, 24 July 2005

### **Scientists call for nuclear abolition**

TOKYO: Scientists and academics from 40 countries Saturday called for the abolition of nuclear weapons to mark the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The appeal was made in Hiroshima at the annual convention of the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, an organisation dedicated to reducing and eliminating the threat posed by nuclear weapons and war. Opportunities for lasting peace after the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the Berlin Wall were frittered away, Pugwash council president MS Swaminathan said as he opened the meeting that lasts until Wednesday. "The prospect for nuclear terrorism and adventurism have become real. The voice of sanity of the survival of the 1945 nuclear annihilations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is yet to be heard," the Indian biologist said.

Daily Times, 24 July 24, 2005

### **Nobody can speculate on safety of Pakistan's nuclear assets**

RAWALPINDI: President General Pervez Musharraf on Saturday said that no one had a right to speculate on the safety of Pakistan's well-guarded nuclear assets. Musharraf's comments at a meeting of the National Command Authority, a body that controls Pakistan's nuclear programme, came days after Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed concern about the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. "No one had a right to speculate about the effectiveness and reliability of Pakistan's command and control structures, which are efficient, scientific and transparent," said the president, adding that Pakistan's nuclear deterrence was "fully operational and continues to consolidate and strengthen with time". He said that Pakistan didn't want an arms race in the region, but said Islamabad could not close its eyes to advanced weaponry being deployed elsewhere in the region. He added that Pakistan was aware of the developments taking place in the region and would take all necessary measures to maintain its deterrence capability.

Japan Today, 24 July 2005

### **Japan to aid N. Korea if talks progress**

TOKYO: Japan will provide energy aid to North Korea if substantial progress is made in getting Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme in talks next week, Kyodo news agency quoted Japanese government sources as saying on Saturday. The move would probably spark criticism from some Japanese politicians, who argue Tokyo should withhold aid until there is progress toward resolving a feud over Japanese citizens abducted by North Korean agents decades ago, Kyodo said. Senior delegates from the United States, South and North Korea, China, Japan and Russia will meet in Beijing from Tuesday for talks on a nuclear crisis that emerged in 2002 after Washington said Pyongyang had admitted to pursuing secretly a nuclear arms programme in violation of the 1994 agreement. The regional powers hope to persuade North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons programmes in exchange for security guarantees and economic assistance.

Khaleej Times, 24 July 2005

### **New stand by N. Korea (Mohammed A. R. Galadari)**

On the face of it, North Korea is mellowing down: so much so, it has extended an invitation to President Bush to undertake a visit of the country, similar to what was done by Jimmy Carter in 1994, and the idea being to help normalize the strained relations between the two sides. Or is it just another stunt? Dear readers, those who know the ways of Kim Jong-il will know he has a tendency to blow hot and cold. But, it appears the dictator knows by now that he is fighting against a wall, and there are no easy escape routes. Hence the first round of talks between top North Korean officials and US representatives in New York last month. It is clear to Pyongyang that the West is firm in its positions in respect of the North's military expeditions, and that Kim cannot hope to get unqualified support from Beijing if he continues to defy the US and the UN in respect of the nuclear disarmament talks.

Khaleej Times, 24 July 2005

### **Grand bargain or capitulation? (Praful Bidwai)**

The Manmohan Singh government seems to have made a habit of signing far-reaching agreements without the least bit of transparency or even the pretence of prior discussion. This happened last month when Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee went to the United States on an "exploratory" visit and returned with the "New Framework" for defence. This has major implications for India's security and for her policy independence. Now,

the Prime Minister has himself signed a nuclear "cooperation" agreement with President George W. Bush which transforms India's nuclear status in Washington and significantly alters the global nuclear order. There was no discussion of the agreement's likely content in the Cabinet, its Committee on Security, or National Security Advisory Board. Even the Department of Atomic Energy, which will execute the agreement, was not consulted about its feasibility, likely costs, or other matters. This sets an egregious model of governance, which excludes the people from vital decisions, which are monopolised by a handful of supposedly "wise" men.

Asian Age, 24 July 2005

**Bush nukes NPT** (Strobe Talbott)

Washington: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh received a warm welcome on the South Lawn of the White House, a rare banquet (the equivalent of a state dinner), presidential hospitality for the Indian CEOs who were part of Indian official entourage, a reaffirmation of the two countries' determination to fight terrorism together, and a raft of agreements that should improve the climate for commercial cooperation. However, the headline outcome of the Manmohan Singh visit was not good news for a cause to which both his government and the US are committed: nuclear non-proliferation. President Bush agreed to give India virtual membership in the club of recognised nuclear-weapons states created by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NPT dates back to 1968, when five states had tested nuclear weapons: Britain, China, France, Russia (then the Soviet Union), and the US. The treaty was a deal between them and the rest of the world; the "haves" would, over time, negotiate the reduction and eventual elimination of their nuclear arsenals, and the "have-nots" would refrain from acquiring nukes in exchange for financial and technical assistance in developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Washington Post, 24 July 2005

**Bush's Bold Bet On India** (Jim Hoagland)

The United States and India have put aside their troubled past to reach far into the future with a visionary bilateral agreement that challenges both nations and the rest of the world to treat nuclear weapons and nuclear energy with greater realism than they do under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. If Congress agrees to the changes in law sought by the Bush administration to put the agreement signed last week into force, nuclear energy will take center stage from nuclear weapons in the new order of U.S.-Indian relations, which now become crucial to constructing a post-Kyoto consensus on climate change. Energy vs. arms has been an atomic trade-off dictated by the nuclear treaty for nearly a half-century -- before global warming became a major international concern, and before rogue states showed they were not interested in such a trade. New Delhi and Washington give impetus both to the growing acceptance by environmentalists of nuclear energy as a lesser evil and to the Bush Doctrine of post-Sept. 11 security.

Daily Times, 25 July 2005

**Iran making bomb, says N-watchdog** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: The Wisconsin Project, a nuclear watchdog group, has said that Iran's actual nuclear conduct suggests that it wants to "generate more than kilowatts" of energy and that the direction of its programme points to bomb acquisition. The group's 'Iran Watch bulletin' for June-July likens Iran's conduct to that of Iraq before the 1991 Gulf War. Both countries conducted secret nuclear experiments and both relied on clandestine imports and on cover-ups. Iran and Iraq, according to this analysis, both secretly produced small amounts of plutonium and enriched uranium, the two materials that fuel nuclear bombs. To make plutonium, Iranian and Iraqi scientists used small reactors that their countries had imported under the "guise" of peaceful nuclear research. To make enriched uranium, both countries ran high-speed gas centrifuges and also experimented with lasers. In 1991, Iran imported uranium compounds from China, including over a ton of uranium hexafluoride gas.

The New York Times, 25 July 2005

**North Korea Nuclear Goals: Case of Mixed Signals** (Douglas Jehl and David E. Sanger)

WASHINGTON, July 24: Early this year, American spy satellites detected a spike in suspicious tunneling activity at a highly secretive military site in the mountains of North Korea. It alarmed some of the government's top nuclear analysts, who saw it as a sign that North Korea might be preparing to make good on threats to conduct its first test of a nuclear weapon. There was even tantalizing talk among some officials in Washington that the North Koreans were so far along in preparing for an underground detonation that they had built a reviewing stand for dignitaries to witness the earth tremble. The prospect of an imminent test became a crucial point in briefings by the Bush administration to its Asian allies and China, arguing that the North Korean threat was growing rapidly and that they needed to increase pressure to resume six-nation talks aimed at disarmament. After weeks of diplomatic maneuvering, North Korea agreed to resume the talks, which are to begin Tuesday.

Reuters, 25 July 2005

### **US, N.Korea Nuclear Envoys to Meet on Eve of Talks**

BEIJING: U.S. and North Korean negotiators are to meet on Monday on the eve of a long-awaited round of six-party talks aimed at ending the three-year crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told reporters the meeting would take place on Monday afternoon -- a rare diplomatic contact between the two main protagonists in a crisis that has simmered since October 2002. Hill gave no time or venue for the meeting, one of a flurry of discussions taking place before the fourth round of talks between the two Koreas, the United States, Russia, Japan and host China gets under way formally on Tuesday. Three previous rounds ended without progress and few expect any breakthrough at the latest round. Still, the prospect of a meeting between Washington and Pyongyang and faint progress at weekend meetings between the two Koreas provided a more buoyant atmosphere for the first round of talks in nearly a year.

International Herald Tribune, 25 July 2005

### **Nuclear talks must advance, North and South Korea agree**

BEIJING Delegations from North Korea and South Korea at the six-party talks this week on the North's nuclear ambitions met here on Sunday and agreed that solid progress was needed in the coming discussions. The meeting Sunday, which lasted for 100 minutes, was led by the South Korean deputy foreign minister, Song Min Soon, and his North Korean counterpart, Kim Kye Gwan, said Bae Young Han, a spokesman for the South Korean delegation. "They have agreed on the need to make substantial progress" in this round of talks, said Bae, director general for press and public relations at the South Korean Foreign Ministry. He said the delegates had discussed "many issues" but would not give any details. Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, quoted Song as saying that the two sides had "agreed to come up with a framework to realize denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." It did not elaborate. Song also said the two Koreas had agreed to maintain contact throughout the talks and to cooperate to bring results, according to the Yonhap report.

The Washington Post, 25 July 2005

### **Diplomats State Modest Goals for Nuclear Talks** (Edward Cody)

BEIJING, July 24: Key participants in long-stalled negotiations to eliminate North Korea's nuclear weapons program set out modest goals Sunday for a new round of talks opening Tuesday, saying they hoped for enough progress to get the negotiations moving again after a 13-month deadlock. The conservative attitude, from leaders of the U.S., North Korean and South Korean delegations, reflected sober assessments by diplomats from all sides that the six-nation negotiations still face a long, difficult task despite hopes raised by North Korea's decision this month to return to the table after its long boycott. Christopher Hill, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs and head of the U.S. negotiating team, told reporters that he did not expect the new round of talks to resolve the long-simmering confrontation over North Korea's weapons program. The hope, he added, was for enough progress to justify more talks.

People's Daily, 25 July 2005

### **Will new round break deadlock of nuclear talks?**

As delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States arrived in Beijing, the new round of the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue slated to begin next Tuesday has again caught world wide attention. Although great uncertainties remain for the talks, analysts said, there is a glimpse of hope that the deadlock of the talks may be broken should all sides value the upcoming opportunity following a break of 13 months. Huge difficulties still remain ahead as the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue is one the most complicated, sensitive and tough issues in current world. No substantial progress was made in the previous three rounds of the talks in 2003 and 2004. The new round of the talks, to be held among China, the DPRK, the United States, Russia, the ROK and Japan, will begin next Tuesday but when the talks will conclude is undecided.

People's Daily, 25 July 2005

### **ROK, DPRK reach consensus on nuke talks**

The Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Sunday in Beijing reached a consensus on setting up a framework for the denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula, according to a senior ROK diplomat. Following a 100-minute meeting with his DPRK counterpart Kim Kye-gwan Sunday morning, Song Min-soon, deputy foreign minister and head of the ROK delegation for the upcoming six-party talks, told a press conference that the ROK and DPRK reached consensus on many issues during the meeting, but declined to give more details. It was the first meeting between the ROK and the DPRK after their arrival in Beijing for the talks, which is scheduled to open on Tuesday. The ROK and DPRK decided to continue such bilateral talks and cooperate for substantial results in the six-party talks, which involves China, DPRK, the United States, ROK, Russia and Japan, Song said. The ROK delegation will hold bilateral contact with the other four delegations, according to Song.

The Korean Herald, 25 July 2005

**Editorial: Prospect of nuclear talks**

The fourth round of six-nation talks on resolving the international standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program opens in Beijing tomorrow. The fact that the six nations have agreed to meet again after a year-long hiatus indicates the prospect of substantive progress is brighter than they met last; otherwise, they would not meet at all. Much of the credit for the improved outlook goes to Seoul and Washington. While Seoul has offered to provide 200 million kilowatts of electricity annually to energy-starved North, Washington has softened its attitude toward Pyongyang, refraining from making ad hominem attacks on North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. But these efforts, important overtures as they may be, are certainly not sufficient to guarantee a success. Seoul's offer for electricity aid is undoubtedly attractive to the North. But it is grossly unrealistic to reckon that the offer would lead the North to commit itself to nuclear disarmament.

Daily Yomiuri, 25 July 2005

**Initiatives needed at 6-way talks** (Takao Hishinuma)

The six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear aspirations will resume Tuesday in Beijing. While Pyongyang, which declared in February it possessed nuclear weapons, and Washington, which has demanded the complete abolition of North Korea's nuclear weapons programs, are at odds, the focus of the new round of negotiations is whether they can produce any initiatives toward solving the North Korean nuclear issue. The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush believes the latest round of talks have to continue until certain progress is made. U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack has repeatedly said the new round of talks must make progress. A senior State Department official said the negotiations should continue until some sort of accomplishment was realized. The U.S. side believes that deputy-level meetings and a working-level meeting should complement full-scale talks by chief delegates.

China Daily, 25 July 2005

**US, North Korean envoys to meet before Korean nuclear talks in Beijing**

The U.S. envoy to six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear program said Monday he would hold a rare one-on-one meeting with his North Korean counterpart before the talks. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said he would meet North Korea's envoy on Monday afternoon before the full round of talks begins Tuesday after a gap of more than a year. "We are just trying to get acquainted, review how we see things coming up and compare notes," Hill told reporters. Referring to Tuesday's talks, he said, "We are looking forward to working hard and trying to make some progress." He did not say what progress Washington hopes to make. The talks also include host China, South Korea, Russia and Japan. Hill said Sunday that he didn't expect the meetings this week to be the last set of negotiations over demands that the North give up its nuclear program. He said the process is "going to take a lot of work."

Teheran Times, 25 July 2005

**Iran will definitely overcome nuclear challenge: foreign minister**

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said here on Monday that the nuclear issue and regional developments are the two main challenges facing Iran's next foreign minister and expressed hope that his replacement would do better than he had done. Speaking in a farewell ceremony for reporters, Kharrazi told the Mehr News Agency that Iran's nuclear dossier will be one of the most significant challenges for future administrations, but added that Iran would definitely overcome the problems. The Iranian nation is proud of the country's achievements in the field of nuclear technology, all Iranians are determined to support these achievements, and the nuclear negotiations have progressed well so far by relying on this national support, he added. As a significant regional power, Iran should stabilize its position in such a way that all the world, and particularly the major powers, would have to recognize the country's position, and significant steps have been taken to achieve this ideal, he said.

The Guardian, 25 July 2005

**Expectations low for Korean nuke talks**

BEIJING: A fresh round of international talks aimed at convincing North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons ambitions resumes this week after a 13-month suspension, and a key U.S. envoy said Sunday the new negotiations won't be the last. The talks starting Tuesday involve six nations, but key protagonists Washington and Pyongyang have not budged from positions in previous rounds. The United States refuses to give any concessions until the North Korea is certified as free of nuclear weapons; the North doesn't want to turn over its nuclear trump card without receiving something first in return. "I wouldn't expect this to be the last set of negotiations," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, the U.S. representative to the talks said in Beijing. "The negotiations have been in suspension ... for over a year, so we have to see where we go with these." "We would like to make some measurable progress. It's going to take a little time, it's going to take a lot of work, but

we come here in a real spirit of trying to make some real progress."

The Korean Herald, 25 July 2005

**Catchwords in six-party talks** (Lee Joo-hee)

BEIJING: What the six-party talks reopening in Beijing tomorrow will achieve after a 13-month stalemate is anybody's guess. What is certain is that several circumstances have changed since June last year, including North Korea's announcement Feb. 10 it now possesses nuclear weapons and a seemingly changed and more flexible attitude toward the communist state by the second George W. Bush administration. And, although each of the six-nation talks participants - the two Koreas, United States, China, Japan and Russia - enter the negotiations with different ideas, they do agree on the key catchwords and issues. Following are the focal points of the talks. Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula: There is no disagreement that the ultimate aim is to denuclearize the peninsula. However, the meanings the participants attach to the words differ significantly. When South Korea and the United States say the peninsula must be denuclearized, they mean complete dismantling of all North Korean nuclear programs encompassing weapons-usable plutonium and a suspected uranium enrichment program. The United States even opposes North Korea developing any nuclear power facilities solely for energy.

The Nation, 25 July 2005

**US-India nuclear pact**

It took Islamabad a little while to examine the US-India defence and nuclear framework deal and show concern at its implications for the region. General Musharraf told the National Command Authority at a meeting on Saturday that Pakistan did not want to engage in an arms race but would not close its eyes to the induction of advanced weaponry in its neighbourhood. Nevertheless, the overall reaction remained mild, with an unnamed official earlier indicating that the 'Pakistani government was not much perturbed over' it. The proposed nuclear cooperation needs Congressional approval that should not be difficult for the Bush administration to secure. It affords further evidence that the US policymakers feel neither constrained by international law nor concerned about the reactions of others, including friends and allies, while pursuing their unilateralist policies. Flying in the face of its international obligations and treaties, the US would, if it so chooses, have no hesitation in bestowing favours on a country that could advance its strategic interests, while at the same time seek to punish others it perceives to be violating these very treaties. The deal clearly goes against the stipulations of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group that was, in fact, formed as a reaction to India's nuclear test in May 1998 as well as the NPT.

Dawn, 25 July 2005

**India-US pact & our response** (Maqbool Ahmad Bhatti)

The signing on June 29 of a 10-year defence agreement between US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld of the US and Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee in Washington reveals the outlines of the strategic partnership, that has been developing between them since 1995. Indeed, the 180-degree turn in US perceptions towards South Asia took place immediately after the end of the cold war in 1989, when sanctions were slapped on Pakistan under the Pressler Law in October 1990. However, though it was decided as early as 1995 to set up a joint defence consultation group between India and the US, matters did not move seriously, even though the Asia Society had recommended in its report a year earlier that closer relations with India were desirable, in view of China's rapid development, and other threats in the region, including religious extremism.

The Times of India, 25 July 2005

**Come Together On Nuclear Pact** (K Subrahmanyam)

Criticism of the Indo-US treaty is misleading. The debate on the nuclear pact with the US is a sad comment on the Indian political establishment. Politicians as well as some former officials of the atomic energy establishment are making blatantly untenable and contradictory statements about the treaty. For instance, they are saying that our military nuclear programme is only a very small fraction of our atomic energy programme, which is absolutely correct. They then argue that the military and civilian programmes cannot be separated. This is prima facie illogical. I am not a nuclear scientist and I cannot pretend to know the technical aspects of nuclear reactors. But I have been a nuclear strategist for 37 years and am familiar with the working of the atomic energy establishment. I was the convenor of the National Security Advisory Board that drafted India's nuclear doctrine. I have been and still am a consistent advocate of India having a nuclear deterrent.

The Indian Express, 25 July 2005

**Dispelling the Spooks about Nukes** (Ila Patnaik)

The nuclear energy agreement with the US commits India to separate military and civilian nuclear facilities. India will provide the International Atomic Energy Agency a list of civilian facilities and allow inspection of these civilian facilities, in return for which India will get access to nuclear technology, equipment and fuel.

Daily Times, 25 July 2005

**Good day for India, bad for nonproliferation** (Strobe Talbott)

India and the United States have both shown a penchant for going it alone. If the Indian and American versions of unilateralism reinforce one other, it will work to the detriment of institutions like the UN and risk turning treaties like the NPT from imperfect but useful mechanisms into increasingly ineffectual ones. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh received a warm (indeed, as it happened, sweltering) welcome on the South Lawn of the White House, a rare banquet (the equivalent of a state dinner), presidential hospitality for the Indian CEOs who were part of Indian official entourage, a reaffirmation of the two countries' determination to fight terrorism together, and a raft of agreements that should improve the climate for commercial cooperation. However, the headline outcome of the Manmohan Singh visit was not good news for a cause to which both his government and the United States are committed: nuclear nonproliferation. President Bush agreed to give India virtual membership in the club of recognised nuclear-weapons states created by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The Tribune, 25 July 2005

**No threat to national security** (K. Subrahmanyam)

Ill-informed arguments against Indo-US pact. Of all the objections to the Indo-US joint statement, the most vociferous one is about its impact on India's national security. Those who put forward this argument cite the Indian agreement to separate civil and military components of our nuclear programme as deleterious to our building up of an adequate arsenal, when taken together with the possibility of the Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) being concluded in the next few years. Let us analyse this proposition dispassionately and not play politics with it. The first suggestion to offer to place civilian nuclear reactors under international safeguards in exchange for access to civil nuclear technology and nuclear fuel came from Dr Raja Ramanna, who headed the first Pokhran team. It cannot be the contention that he knew less about the issue than some of our journalists and atomic energy officials other than the succeeding chairmen. Dr Ramanna was for a robust Indian arsenal.

The Times of India, 26 July 2005

**Vajpayee and Dr Singh: United in States** (Percy Fernandez)

NEW DELHI: One was left to wonder what happened to Dr Singh during the last leg of his US tour. His remarks on Pakistan to the American press were unseemly if not indecorous. On being asked whether India would expect the United States to say no to Pakistan for a similar nuclear technology agreement that was signed between Bush and Singh, the Indian Prime Minister did say what he had to and rightly, that it's a decision the United States has to make. But he didn't stop there. He went on to add that he was realistic enough to recognize the role that terrorist elements have played in the last few years in the history of Pakistan. He also said Taliban was a creation of Pakistan extremists, how Wahabi Islam flourished and, numerous madrassas were set up top to preach this jihad based on hatred of other religions and Pakistan is not a democracy in the sense that we all know. One would not want to doubt the intentions of his remarks but it was the timing and its appropriateness that is fiercely in doubt.

Hindustan Times, 26 July 2005

**'Difficult for India to implement nuclear deal with US'** (KJM Varma)

ISLAMABAD, July 26: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday said it was not easy for India to implement its recently signed nuclear deal with the United States as it is difficult to separate civilian and military nuclear programmes, which is a requirement under the agreement. "The India-US nuclear deal reached during the just concluded visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Washington was not easy to implement as it cannot be enforced until India segregates its weapons and energy related in nuclear programme," Musharraf said in an interaction with Editors of major media organisations in Lahore. "It is not an easy thing to separate the civil and military nuclear programme," he said. The Pakistan President said the proposed acquisition of US-made Patriot missile defence systems by India was a worrying proposition for his country but asserted that the missiles do not have a high success rate.

Hindustan Times, 26 July 2005

**Pakistan makes light of Indo-US nuclear pact**

ISLAMABAD, July 26: Asserting that it expected the same benefits in nuclear and space technology from United States as given to India, Pakistan on Monday said the Indo-US agreement on nuclear expertise worked out during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington did not amount to recognition of New Delhi's nuclear power status. "We have noted the understanding between India and US on cooperation in civilian energy. US has made it clear that this does not amount to recognising India as a nuclear weapons state," Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Naeem Khan told reporters. In the light of emerging US-India cooperation in the fields of civilian nuclear energy, Pakistan has "expectations" that it will be able to expand its cooperation with United States "in multiple fields, including peaceful uses of nuclear energy and space technology," Khan said.

Deccan Herald, 26 July 2005

**Nuclear deal: PM to meet BJP, Left leaders**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will meet leaders of the BJP and other Opposition parties as also of Left parties to clear the air on the nuclear deal with the US before making a statement in Parliament on the issue on Friday. On Tuesday Dr Singh will meet leaders of the Left parties who have voiced apprehensions over the agreement on civilian nuclear energy signed during his recent visit to Washington. They said the deal "marks an end" to India's disarmament policy and continues the NDA's "pro-US shift". The CPM and the CPI, key allies of the UPA government, had attacked the Indo-US defence cooperation framework and said there were "legitimate apprehensions" that restrictions hampering the pursuit of an independent nuclear technology policy for peaceful purposes would be imposed. Official sources said Dr Singh's efforts were aimed at explaining the advantages of the agreement, removing suspicions and forging a national consensus. Under the agreement, the US has implicitly recognised India as a nuclear weapons state and agreed to cooperate in the country's civilian nuclear programme.

Daily Times, 26 July 2005

**US will not recognise India as nuclear state, says Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: The United States has assured Pakistan that it would not recognise India as a nuclear state in consequence of its defence pact with India, said Foreign Office spokesman Naeem Khan in his weekly press briefing here on Monday. "We are reviewing the US-India defence pact. We will take all measures for the security and defence of our country. The US has made it clear that it will not recognise India as a nuclear state," he said. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice twice talked to the Pakistani leadership during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's presence there and took them into confidence, said Khan. "We hope the US will sign a similar defence pact with Pakistan so that the balance of power is not upset," he said. He said that countries having nuclear regime should understand "ground realities about nuclear-armed countries". Pakistan will need 8,800 megawatts of electricity by 2025 to meet its energy requirements. "We want to meet this requirement using nuclear fuel," he said.

Daily Times, 26 July 2005

**Editorial: India-US nuclear cooperation and Pakistan**

Pakistan's reaction to news of US-India nuclear cooperation agreement has so far been mature. It has not betrayed panic. This is good. Panic is not going to solve anything and in any case the movement that we have seen along the India-US track should not come as a surprise for those who have been plotting the course of India's US diplomacy since the Clinton administration. The increasing tendency of the Bush administration to seek allies and supporters for its causes outside the United Nations framework has also ensured that Washington should look upon an ambitious India as a strategic partner. To take the edge off the agreement on nuclear cooperation, the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called up General Pervez Musharraf after the signing and assured him that it would have no impact on power relations in the region since the cooperation is confined to India's civilian nuclear programme and energy generation.

Daily Times, 26 July 2005

**'Pakistan top recipient of IAEA technical assistance'**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has become the top recipient of the IAEA's technical assistance among the member states because of its active participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) technical co-operation programme and training to IAEA fellows at the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). Parvez Butt, PAEC chairman, said this at the opening of a one-week PAEC/IAEA research coordination workshop on irradiation of fruits and vegetables to ensure hygienic quality and enhancing their shelf life, on Monday, says a press release. He said that 20 IAEA funded projects were being carried out at various PAEC institutes and the PAEC's labs at PINSTECH had been declared regional resource units of the IAEA. He spoke about the necessity of putting up irradiation plants to enhance the shelf life of fruits and vegetables, saying that a big part of these items was wasted because of their short natural shelf life.

Daily Times, 26 July 2005

**Experts divided over Indo-US nuclear deal (Iftikhar Gilani)**

New Delhi: Even as the Communists are edging to join hands with the BJP-led opposition to nail the Government on the prime minister's deals with the United States, experts are divided over the agreement he signed with Washington to import nuclear fuel and reactors. After decades of "self-reliance", the sudden attempt to seek the US help is not appreciated by some experts who say the Department of Atomic Energy plan to produce 20,000 megawatts(mw) of nuclear power by 2020 with such help is unrealistic. At present, India produces only 2700 mw of electricity from its nuclear plants. Except for two US-made reactors in Tarapur and one in Rajasthan, all

operating reactors are based entirely on indigenous research efforts. The department of atomic energy has been unable to import nuclear fuel or technology for decades because of sanctions against India, prompted by its nuclear tests in 1974. Nuclear power experts estimate that India's reserves of natural uranium will support 10,000 mw of nuclear power. While uranium deposits have been detected at sites in Andhra Pradesh and the Northeast, efforts to mine the mineral have failed to take off.

The News, 26 July 2005

### **US and South Asian nuclear question** (Nasim Zehra)

On July 19 late night, President General Pervez Musharraf received a call from the US Secretary of State Dr Condoleezza Rice. She wanted to reassure him that advances in the US strategic partnership with India was not at the cost of Pakistan's interests. Specifically, the US-Indo nuclear cooperation raises questions regarding Washington's de facto acceptance of India as a nuclear power. Earlier the US Undersecretary of State, Nicholas Burns, pre-empting Pakistan's concerns had said, "The fact is that India has a record of non-proliferation, which is exceptional; very strong commitment to protection of fissile material, other nuclear materials and nuclear technology; and there is a transparency about India's programme, which has been welcomed." A similar statement from Washington on Pakistan could obviously not be forthcoming. In fact moving beyond into the broader question of US strategy in South Asia the undersecretary added: "There is no reason for us to have a hyphenated strategic framework for South Asia. There are issues where the US policy intersects and there are issues where we can have individual relationships with both countries."

The News, 26 July 2005

### **India test-fires short range Trishul missile**

BALASORE: Trishul, India's most sophisticated short-range surface-to-air missile, was today test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, 15 km from here, defence sources said. Indigenously developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher at about 1156 IST. The missile was targeted at a Para barrel dropped from a helicopter, the sources said. Powered by a two-stage solid propellant system, the missile has achieved the target range of nine km. However, the range can be enhanced with completion of its other trials, the sources said.

The Washington Post, 26 July 2005

### **New Talks on North Korea Open With Fresh Strategy** (Edward Cody)

BEIJING, July 26: Breaking a 13-month deadlock, diplomats from six nations opened a new round of negotiations Tuesday designed to persuade North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. Delegation chiefs from the United States and North Korea laid out their positions using what seemed to be particularly conciliatory language during a round of preliminary speeches, with each seeking to appear receptive to the other's key demands. Despite these gestures, diplomats cautioned that long, difficult negotiations lie ahead. North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, who leads his country's negotiating team, reiterated his government's declared willingness to work for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula -- the Bush administration's main goal and the overall purpose of the six-party process that has been underway under China's aegis since August 2003. "The fundamental thing is to make real progress in bringing about denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Kim said in an opening session broadcast live on Chinese state television. "This requires a very firm political will and a strategic decision by the parties that have an interest in ending the threat of nuclear war. The North Korean government is fully prepared for these talks, and our understanding is that the United States and the other countries are also ready."

China Daily, 26 July 2005

### **DPRK, US to hold one-to-one nuclear talks again**

Delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States for an international nuclear talks will carry out one-to-one meeting again in Beijing on Tuesday, said sources close to the negotiation. The two delegations had their first one-to-one meeting Monday afternoon at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, where the fourth round of the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue opened Tuesday morning. The talks, involving China, the DPRK, the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and Japan, was aimed at denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. After the opening ceremony of the talks, there will be a group meeting of the delegation heads and then bilateral talks between China and the ROK, Russia and Japan, according to a notice at the press center next to the state guesthouse. Qin Gang, spokesperson of the Chinese delegation, is scheduled to host a press conference Tuesday afternoon, according to the notice.

Khaleej Times, 26 July 2005

### **Progress on Pyongyang**

The much-debated six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programme were finally brought back on track yesterday. There has been mixed response to Pyongyang's return to the talks. While the Asian neighbours of the North Korean regime are fervently hoping of a breakthrough in the efforts to engage the rogue regime, the Western nations, the US in particular, do not appear so upbeat. Yet, the very fact that the Beijing talks are being held in the first place is a sign of progress in dealing with the 'Dear Leader' Kim. But the most promising sign of progress is the bold decision of the US and North Korean envoys to hold a one-on-one meeting ahead of the talks yesterday. Goes without saying, of course, that such direct interaction between the US and North Korea - in a blow-hot, blow-cold mode for many years - could go a long way in bringing down mutual hostilities and helping in resolving the impasse.

The Japan Times, 26 July 2005 (B. Gautam)

#### **New Delhi and Washington grow closer**

MADRAS: It seems that India and the United States are finally on the same side. After years of mutual suspicion during the Cold War -- when New Delhi veered toward Moscow and Washington played the China card -- Indo-American relations appear set to follow a mature path and agenda. This process might have occurred sooner but it was delayed by the 9/11 terror attacks on the U.S., which led Washington to lean toward Pakistan due to its strategic geographic location. Following the recent signing of an agreement by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and U.S. President George W. Bush, New Delhi is happy that Washington now recognizes its concerns with terrorism and has come close to accepting India as a nuclear power despite the fact that it has not signed international nonproliferation treaties. Although Washington has refused, at least for the time being, to support New Delhi's bid for a permanent seat on an expanded U.N. Security Council, the U.S. has agreed that, as a responsible state with "advanced nuclear technology" (a euphemism for nuclear weapons), India should accrue the same benefits and advantages as other nuclear powers.

The New York Times, 26 July 2005

#### **U.S. and North Korea Envoys Meet Ahead of 6-Nation Nuclear Talks** (Jim Yardley and David E. Sanger)

BEIJING, July 26: Negotiators from the United States and North Korea held a rare, private meeting on Monday, underscoring the heightened stakes and grave concerns surrounding the six-nation talks on the North Korean nuclear crisis that opened here on Tuesday. The United States envoy, Christopher R. Hill, played down his 75-minute afternoon meeting with the North Koreans, and American officials in Beijing provided few details of the meeting. But in Washington, the State Department spokesman, Sean McCormack, described the meeting as "businesslike" and said that "they were able to compare notes about how the talks might move forward." The fact that Mr. Hill publicly acknowledged the bilateral talks - which the United States had largely shunned in negotiating sessions that abruptly ended more than a year ago - appeared to signal a new American approach. The White House has resisted one-on-one talks with the North Koreans, except for rare and brief asides on the edges of larger negotiating sessions. President Bush has insisted that Japan, China, South Korea and Russia all participate so that North Korea must confront its biggest neighbors at once.

The Nation, 26 July 2005

#### **We're pushing nuclear, missile plans 10 times faster** (Mubashir Hassan)

LAHORE-President General Pervez Musharraf on Monday said that country's nuclear programme was moving 10 times faster than before and there was no external pressure on its leadership to roll it back. "Our nuclear and missile programmes are heading fast in the right direction, and we would not succumb to any pressure on this count", the president said in categorical terms while briefing newspaper editors, columnists and senior journalists here at the Governor's House. The Punjab Governor, Lt Gen. (r) Khalid Maqbool, Punjab Chief Minister, Ch. Pervaiz Elahi, Federal Information Minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad and senior officials of information ministry were present on the occasion. The President while answering a question also denied any outside pressure on Pakistan with regard to nuclear scientist A.Q Khan.

Newindpress.com, 26 July 2005

#### **As good as it gets** (C Raja Mohan)

As you tune into India's great debate on the nuclear pact that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has signed up with President George W. Bush, don't let the experts flummox you with all the jargon. If you leave the nuclear detail to the government and the experts, you will find the latest Indo-US pact a tectonic shift in geopolitics. All such shifts in global order produce delicious ironies. Just savour them. The first irony is that the "unilateralist" Bush Administration has chosen to modify one of the most important treaty arrangements in the world to favour an India that is allegedly passionate about "multilateralism". The Indo-US nuclear pact is about a convergence between the Bush Administration, which views treaties from the pragmatic rather than legal perspective, and a "revisionist" India which has long sought a change in global nuclear rules.

The Indian Express, 26 July 2005

**Ending our nuclear winter** (C. Raja Mohan)

Why Indo-US pact is a deal every govt in Delhi would have loved to cut. As you tune into India's great debate on the nuclear pact that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has signed up with President George W. Bush, don't let the experts flummox you with all the jargon. If you leave the nuclear detail to the government and the experts, you will find the latest Indo-US pact a tectonic shift in geopolitics. All such shifts in global order produce delicious ironies. Just savour them. The first irony is that the "unilateralist" Bush Administration has chosen to modify one of the most important treaty arrangements in the world to favour an India that is allegedly passionate about "multilateralism". The Indo-US nuclear pact is about a convergence between the Bush Administration, which views treaties from the pragmatic rather than legal perspective, and a "revisionist" India which has long sought a change in global nuclear rules.

Deccan Herald, 27 July 2005

**Did Kargil have an N-dimension?** (P R Chari)

New questions arise with revelations of nuclear activism during the Indo-Pak Kargil conflict. This question just does not go away. The latest allusion to the Kargil conflict having a nuclear dimension is mentioned by Hussain Haqqani in his book Pakistan between Mosque and Military. Haqqani, who held top positions in Pakistan, relies on the earlier revelations made by Bruce Riedel, a career intelligence officer serving in the National Security Council during the Clinton administration. So has Strobe Talbott, former Deputy Secretary of State, in his seminal book Engaging India, that comprehensively details the India-United States engagement on the nuclear issue during the Clinton era. Bruce Riedel's disclosures, incidentally, relate to a meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on July 4, 1999, during the Kargil conflict, where he was present.

South Asia Tribune, 27 July 2005

**India Should be Forced to Open Up its Nuclear Installations** (Sampathkumar Iyengar)

AHMEDABAD, July 28: Civilian nuclear cooperation between US and India is touted to be greatest achievement of the visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his US visit early this month. Spin doctors have gone to town with the claim that the Indian delegation has struck a great deal with the US. Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran claimed immediately after the release of the Singh-Bush joint statement that it would help India get "the whole range of civilian nuclear energy cooperation open to us, including what many people have been talking about - fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station near Mumbai." Seen dispassionately, he pointed out, this was clearly a "major breakthrough for India." Bored of all hullabaloo and hype, the factual position of the outcome of the visit is not as dramatic. President George Bush did promise India full cooperation in developing its civilian nuclear power program in exchange for New Delhi's commitment to adhere to international regimes aimed at curbing arms proliferation, provided the Indians move quickly to fulfill their obligations.

Hindustan Times, 27 July 2005

**North Korean nuke talks enter second day** (Anil K Joseph)

Beijing, July 27: The six-party talks on the "complicated" North Korean nuclear issue entered the second day in Beijing on Wednesday with close-door meetings and negotiations, official sources said. Negotiators will have a plenary session in the morning at the heavily guarded Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. Bilateral talks will be held in the afternoon, sources said. At a press briefing on Tuesday, spokesman for the Chinese delegation, Qin Gang said the resolving of the nuclear issue is a "complicated" process, and that it is hard to predict what results can be achieved. The duration of the talks depends on how the talks is going on, he said. Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, at the opening ceremony on Tuesday urged all the negotiators to show flexibility and take a pragmatic attitude to seek "positive progress".The in-camera talks, involving North Korea, United States, South Korea, China, Russia and Japan, started after a 13-month gap. The delegations held a plenary meeting held in the morning and had direct bilateral meetings.

Daily Times, 27 July 2005

**Pakistan will maintain nuclear deterrent, says Khurshid Kasuri**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will continue maintaining its credible nuclear deterrent, said Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, while talking to a six-member Sri Lankan media delegation at the Foreign Office on Tuesday. He welcomed the delegation and expressed satisfaction over current bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He praised Sri Lankan government's efforts to strengthen peace and stability in the country. About the recent India-US defence agreement, he hoped that the US Congress legislation to operationalise the agreements - between the two countries - would be non-discriminatory. The minister said that Pakistan's nuclear capability was defensive and based on minimum credible deterrence. Pakistan's nuclear programme and strategic assets are secure and under strict and multi-layered custodial controls, he added. Mr Kasuri said that Pakistan, being the frontline state in the global war on terrorism, was committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations.

The News, 27 July 2005

### **Iran seeks EU's help to continue nuclear dialogue**

TEHRAN: Iran has called on the European Union to agree to Tehran resuming some sensitive nuclear work to prevent a collapse of talks, a nuclear negotiator said on Tuesday. Iran has repeatedly said it would end its freeze on uranium enrichment, a key process in the nuclear fuel cycle, if it is not satisfied with the progress of talks with the Europeans on its nuclear activities. "One of our minimum (demands) is that the suspension is partially lifted," said a letter from Iran's chief negotiator Hassan Rowhani to the EU, negotiator Ali Agha Mohammadi told the student news agency ISNA. The EU-3, Britain, France and Germany have been holding talks to encourage Iran to provide guarantees that its nuclear programme is not aimed at building the atomic bomb, in return for various trade and political incentives. Tehran has previously simply sought EU recognition of its right to enrichment to be included in proposals due to be submitted by the Europeans by August 1. "For negotiations to continue, the Europeans must accept the minimum reduction in the length of the suspension (called for) by Iran," said the letter.

Dawn, 27 July 2005

### **US says it won't attack DPRK**

BEIJING, July 26: The United States on Tuesday reassured North Korea it viewed the country as a sovereign nation which it would not attack, as a new round of talks began to address the North's nuclear weapons programmes. North Korea also struck a less confrontational tone, announcing that it wanted to work towards a nuclear-free Korean peninsula in language observers saw as a positive sign that progress could be made after a 13-month deadlock. The US approach, just months after Washington described the secretive Stalinist state as an "outpost of tyranny", will go some way to placating the North which has long urged the US to recognise it as a legitimate government. But the United States made no mention about normalizing ties, another key demand of North Korea before it agrees to work on ways to dismantle its atomic weapons. "We view the DPRK's sovereignty as a matter of fact. ... And we remain prepared to speak with the DPRK bilaterally in the context of these talks," chief US envoy Christopher Hill said in opening remarks.

Guardian, 27 July 2005

### **Good start to North Korea talks** (Jonathan Watts)

Unusually positive signs emerged yesterday from the new round of six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear ambitions, as Washington indicated that it had no intention of attacking the North. The chief US delegate, the assistant secretary of state, Christopher Hill, stressed that America recognised North Korea's sovereignty. North Korea's top negotiator said a breakthrough in the nearly three-year standoff would require "very firm political will and a strategic decision by the parties concerned that have an interest in ending the threat of nuclear war". A Chinese spokesman said the talks had started on a "sound footing" but said that formidable obstacles lay ahead. Washington wants a prior agreement on the "verifiable and irreversible" dismantling of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme before it provides security guarantees and economic aid. North Korea demands a phased schedule in which it will be rewarded for each step it takes towards denuclearisation.

The New York Times, 27 July 2005

### **U.S. Tries a New Approach in Talks With North Korea** (Jim Yardley and David E. Sanger)

BEIJING, July 26: The Bush administration appeared to show signs of new flexibility in talks with North Korea on Tuesday, with American and North Korean diplomats meeting here at length to discuss the delicate question of how aid or energy assistance may be provided to the North as it begins the process of dismantling its nuclear weapons program. Delegations from the two countries met alone here for the second straight day to discuss a proposal the administration put forward in June 2004 before North Korea walked away from talks. Christopher R. Hill, who is leading the American delegation, told reporters that the "businesslike" meeting again raised the prospect of a three-month "freeze" period on North Korea's nuclear activity, followed by a rapid dismantlement of their nuclear plants. In return, the aid spigot from South Korea and other neighbors would begin to open wider.

Reuters, 27 July 2005

### **Day Two of N.Korea Crisis Talks - Mood Upbeat**

BEIJING: East Asian regional powers held a second day of six-party talks on Wednesday aimed at ending the crisis over North Korea's nuclear ambitions with positive signs from both Washington and Pyongyang raising hopes for progress. The atmosphere surrounding the long-delayed fourth round of discussions between the two Koreas, the United States, Russia, Japan and China has been upbeat, but few expect a breakthrough. Delegates held a plenary session of almost three hours on Wednesday at which they had been expected to clarify their positions. China's Xinhua news agency said the parties would be holding bilateral meetings in the afternoon.

Japanese chief negotiator Kenichiro Sasae told the morning session: "North Korea must make a strategic and substantive decision to commit itself to abandoning its nuclear programs with the aim of denuclearising the Korean peninsula." "We strongly hope that North Korea will accept demands for the complete dismantlement of all nuclear programs including a uranium enrichment program in an internationally reliable and verifiable manner," the Japanese embassy quoted him as saying.

China Daily, 27 July 2005

**Chinese delegation head calls for political courage in six-party talks**

Chinese delegation head Wu Dawei Wednesday called on all sides to the six-party talks to seize opportunities, meet challenges and work together with their utmost political courage to create a better future for Northeast Asia. Wu, also China's vice foreign minister, made the remarks at the first plenary session of the fourth round of the six-party talks held at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. At the plenary session, he said, negotiators from the six nations stated their stances and advanced opinions on how to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They reiterated that they would adhere to the goal of denuclearization and to dialogues for a peaceful resolution of the issue. "They agreed to, on the basis of the results achieved in the previous three rounds of talks, continue in-depth discussions, give earnest considerations to the concerns and stances of the other parties, and work together for positive progress in the ongoing talks," he said.

Daily Yomiuri, 27 July 2005

**North Korea ready to talk on N-program** (Hidetoshi Ikebe and Masahiko Takekoshi)

North Korea's chief delegate to the six-way talks said Tuesday his government was ready to form a "strategic decision" to make the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free, but stopped short of clarifying whether Pyongyang would abandon development of such weapons immediately. In his opening remarks to the fourth-round of six-way talks, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan said a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula would happen only if all parties show their political will and make strategic decisions. "We're ready [for such a decision]. I believe the delegates of the United States and all other members also are ready," Kim said, attending the six-way talks that were being held for the first time since June 2004. Later Tuesday, the United States and North Korea held bilateral talks, during which Pyongyang responded to a U.S. proposal made in previous discussions to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

Teheran Times, 27 July 2005

**Iran may resume nuclear work if EU proposal delayed**

TEHRAN: Iran said on Tuesday the European Union had until August 1 to present a proposal that would enable the country to produce nuclear fuel or Tehran will go its own way, a senior Iranian official said on Tuesday. Ali Agha-Mohammadi, spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told state television there could be no backtracking on the right to atomic fuel. An EU troika of Britain, Germany and France has been in talks with Tehran to try to defuse a crisis over Iran's nuclear program. The EU group has asked Iran to stop making nuclear fuel in return for economic incentives. The EU trio has until early August to present Iran with a set of final proposals aimed at ending the dispute. "We have told Europeans that there should not be any delay in submitting their proposals," Agha-Mohammadi said. "After August 1 we will make our decision." Iran strongly denies U.S. accusations it is trying to build atomic weapons and says its nuclear facilities will only be used as part of a civilian energy program.

The Asahi Shimbun, 27 July 2005

**Editorial: Six-party talks : Solving nuclear crisis is key to settling abduction issue.**

After a hiatus of 13 months, six-party talks on the North Korea nuclear standoff have resumed in Beijing. The main thing is to resolve this issue peacefully. The North's declaration that it possesses nuclear weapons has made what was already a grave situation much more serious. We cannot feel optimistic about the outcome of the talks. The objective is for North Korea to scrap its nuclear programs and put in place arrangements to verify Pyongyang's compliance. As long as North Korea believes that its nuclear arms are the key to safeguarding the Kim Jong Il regime, it will not get rid of the arsenal until it has the security assurances it craves. War is out of the question. The only possible way will be to seek a comprehensive solution, which will consist of normalizing relations between North Korea and the United States, and Japan, and providing economic assistance in exchange for Pyongyang's pledge to scrap its nuclear programs.

Daily Yomiuri, 27 July 2005

**Future of 6-way talks hanging in the air**

The latest round of six-way talks aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions opened in Beijing on Tuesday after a hiatus of 13 months. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and regional

stability can only be achieved by having Pyongyang agree to abandon its nuclear programs. The other five countries involved in the talks--Japan, China, South Korea, Russia and the United States--need to do their utmost to achieve this goal. The preceding three rounds of talks failed to bring about any results whatsoever. Should there also be no progress this time, the *raison d'etre* for the six-way talks will be lost. And if this happens, the issue will be taken up for discussion at the U.N. Security Council, possibly prompting the international body to take punitive measures against Pyongyang. During the previous round of talks in June last year, the United States made a comprehensive proposal to North Korea, urging it to make the strategic decision to dismantle its nuclear programs.

The News, 27 July 2005

**Changing equations in Asia** (M B Naqvi)

Two recent developments in Asia need to be kept in sharp focus to better understand the changing equations in the region. The first is intense growth of the affair between the US and India. They have signed two major agreements in recent weeks. One of them is the framework for defence cooperation in which the Americans have offered maximum military cooperation. This includes India's buying of military equipment, training in the US of Indian military personnel, more joint operations by the Navies of the two countries, co-production of F-16s and F-18s and, of course, inclusion of India in naval operations to interdict suspected nuclear material being carried in the Indian Ocean. The other agreement between them is over civilian nuclear reactors. India is required to sharply divide its nuclear facilities into military and civilian. While the military ones will remain outside the international inspections, the civilian ones will be sold by the US, but will come under the IAEA's bailiwick.

The Nation, 27 July 2005

**Indo-US nuclear deal** (S. M. Hali)

Pakistani media has reacted strongly to the Indo-US nuclear deal and it should for India has practically achieved twin objectives - sustaining India's nuclear arsenal and acquiring civilian nuclear technology. The deal virtually amounts to America's recognition of India as a nuclear power. This leaves Islamabad, which prides itself on being the frontline state in the US-led War on Terror and a major non-NATO ally, stumped. However, the saner elements in the Indian media are not only questioning the deal but advocating rationality. "Belying his sedate and conservative visage, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has cut a deal with the US on the nuclear issue that none of his predecessors dared, or perhaps wished to, do. Bartering away the country's independence in nuclear policy-making has invariably meant courting domestic political strife; and, as a Congress leader, he would have thought but a hundred times before overturning a policy that was crafted by none other than Indira Gandhi, that lady of steel, who in 1974 stunned the world with nuclear tests at Pokhran, and incurred sanctions from the Western world led by the US.

The Times of India, 27 July 2005

**Pak seeks nuclear, space parity with India** (Chidanand Rajghatta)

WASHINGTON: As expected and true to form, Pakistan has begun making its pitch to the United States seeking "parity" with India in nuclear and space fields. "Having its own strategic relations with the US, Pakistan would like to extend this cooperation in multiple fields, including the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and space technology," Pakistan's foreign office spokesman Naeem Khan was quoted as saying in Islamabad, even as Washington indicated that it has decisively de-hyphenated the two countries and is unlikely to buy the argument. In fact, it's not just nuclear and space deals, Pakistan, which is designated Washington's "Major Non-Nato Ally," wants a whole new defence pact similar to the one signed between the defence establishments of India and the United States. We hope the US will sign a similar defence pact with Pakistan so that the balance of power is not upset," Khan said at his weekly briefing on Monday.

The Hindu, 27 July 2005

**The ITER project and energy security** (M.R. Srinivasan)

India with its growing economy and improving living standards is looking for a large source of energy. The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project could be the way forward. The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project has been in the news of late. There was an announcement that agreement had been reached among the participating entities to locate it in France. In an interaction with presspersons, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told them that India was keen on joining the project and that French President Jacques Chirac was enthusiastic about Indian participation. The participants at present are the United States, Russia, the European Union, Japan, China, and South Korea. It is interesting to recall the genesis of the ITER project. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) suggested to the international community in the latter 1980s that the development of controlled fusion reactors (or thermonuclear reactions) could be embarked upon as an international collaborative programme.

The Statesman, 27 July 2005

### **Partnership for prosperity**

By offering India "full civilian nuclear cooperation nuclear energy," President Bush has made a bold move in establishing long term strategic and economic relations with a country that many US experts perceive as a reliable global partner. Mr Bush did not let the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty stand in the way of his new global vision, where an economically strong democratic India would play a stabilising role in world affairs, especially in Asia. The partnership to help India "become a major power in the 21st century" is not about containing any other rising power but to let India develop as an alternative model of economic growth without compromising fundamental freedoms. Rapid economic growth of India, 8-9 per cent a year for the next few decades, would lift millions of Indians out of abject poverty.

The Indian Express, 27 July 2005

### **A power less exotic** (Ila Patnaik)

Bring hard-nosed commercial considerations to bear on nuclear electricity

If India sets out to build nuclear reactors that could generate 20,000 megawatts (MW) or 40,000 MW of electricity, this could be a large-scale effort, involving perhaps \$40 billion of imported equipment. Eventually, this could be a way to "use foreign exchange reserves" to build infrastructure. But it is important to be sure that these big decisions are made wisely. The nuclear energy agreement with the US commits India to separate military and civilian nuclear facilities, like nuclear weapon states do. India will provide the International Atomic Energy Agency with a list of civilian facilities and allow inspection of these facilities, placing them under safeguards. In return, India gets access to nuclear technology, equipment and fuel. The time it will take to achieve this gives us breathing space to address domestic issues. It is time for us to separate nuclear weapons work from the task of nuclear reactors as a tool for electricity generation.

The Indian Express, 27 July 2005

### **Gujral praises N-deal, calls for a united front** (C. Raja Mohan)

Listen carefully to Singh, don't rush into polemics: former PM's advice to parties. Former Prime NEW DELHI, JULY 26: Expressing political satisfaction with the recent visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Washington, former Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral called for a reasoned parliamentary debate on the Indo-US nuclear pact. Gujral, who stoutly resisted US pressures on India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty during 1996-98, said the new nuclear pact signed with the United States could "bring stability to India's nuclear policy". "The Indo-US nuclear pact should be judged in perspective rather than derogatory adjectives," Gujral said in a conversation with The Indian Express. Responding to the BJP and Left criticisms of the pact, Gujral emphasised the "essential continuity in India's foreign and nuclear policies" and called for a "consensual approach" in the impending parliamentary debate on the Indo-US nuclear pact.

The Indian Express, 28 July 2005

### **IAEA terms under US pact won't tie India's hands** (C. Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI, July 27: Contrary to assertions here that the separation of India's civilian and military nuclear programmes and placing the former under international safeguards will undermine India's nuclear deterrent, a reading of similar agreements by other nuclear weapon states suggests the government will retain full operational flexibility under any such arrangement. Besides choosing which facilities of the nuclear programme it wants to designate as civilian and place under international safeguards, India will have the option of removing facilities from the list it would eventually submit to the International Atomic Energy Agency. In addition, India, like the five other nuclear weapon states, would also retain the option of withdrawing nuclear material, if national security reasons so demand, from the facilities on which it voluntarily accepts IAEA safeguards. Under the nuclear pact signed with the United States last week in Washington, India has agreed to place its non-military nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in return for comprehensive civilian nuclear energy cooperation.

The Times of India, 28 July 2005

### **De-nuclearise Koreas: Japan**

BEIJING: The six countries trying to settle the North Korean nuclear crisis set out their positions on Wednesday, the second day of talks marked so far by unusually frequent direct contacts between North Korean and US envoys. The mood surrounding the long-delayed fourth round of talks in Beijing between the two Koreas, the United States, Russia, Japan and China has been upbeat, but few expect a breakthrough. Delegates held a plenary session of almost three hours on Wednesday at which they clarified their positions on Pyongyang's acquisition of nuclear weapons. The parties were holding a series of bilateral meetings in the afternoon. China's Wu Dawei said after the morning session that all six negotiators had stated their stances and offered opinions on how to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula, Xinhua news agency said. Wu, who is a vice foreign minister, said his fellow delegation chiefs had underlined their commitment to dialogue and to a peaceful resolution of the issue.

The Times of India, 28 July 2005

### **Bush looks forward to visiting India next**

WASHINGTON: US President George W Bush is looking forward to his proposed visit to India next year, White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan has said. "I know the President looks forward to visiting India next year," he said here on Tuesday. "The President meets with world leaders on a frequent basis and has opportunities to visit individually with world leaders at various summits or forums that are going on. So he looks forward to being there next year, as well," McClellan said. Referring to recent visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Washington, McClellan said "certainly he had a very good visit with Prime Minister Singh."

Daily Times, 28 July 2005

### **Pact with US doesn't mean India will take part in army action: Mukherjee** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: India has made it clear that the framework agreement signed with the United States on June 28 does not imply that Indian armed forces are participating in any military action initiated by the US against international terrorism. "We have not contemplated any such participation or implied it in the arrangement. Participation in operations will be guided by the national interest and our foreign and defence policies, including our independent stand on international issues," Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told the Rajya Sabha. In a written reply to Rajya Sabha member Shahid Siddiqui, the defence minister said that the framework he signed was "nothing new as it only reflects the agreed minutes of the defence relations between the two countries signed back in January 1995 for common security interests". Maintaining security and stability, defeating terrorism and violent religious extremism, and preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are some of the common interests, he said.

The News, 28 July 2005

### **Iran to resume nuclear conversion**

TEHRAN: Iran has decided to end its suspension of sensitive uranium ore conversion activities regardless of what proposals the European Union makes in the next few days to try and dissuade it, outgoing reformist President Mohammad Khatami said on Wednesday. "I hope that their proposals will, as agreed, allow for the resumption of (conversion) activities at Isfahan," Khatami told reporters. "But whether they do or not, we're going to resume the activities at Isfahan." Khatami announced the decision after a cabinet meeting and said it had been taken at an earlier gathering of top leaders of the regime. The president gave no date for the resumption of conversion, the process that turns uranium ore into a gas as a precursor to enrichment. But he said the "deadline" for ending the suspension was the end of July or beginning of August when the EU big three of Britain, France and Germany are supposed to submit a detailed package of proposals on the future of Iran's nuclear programme.

The News, 28 July 2005

### **North Korea urges US to remove nuclear threat**

BEIJING: North Korea said Wednesday it would give up its nuclear weapons only after the alleged US atomic threat is removed from the divided Korean Peninsula and relations with Washington are normalised, according to a South Korean report. The North also demanded the United States abandon plans to topple its communist regime and instead establish mechanisms for peaceful coexistence, according to a report from Yonhap news agency, citing a source close to the talks. The comments were reportedly made by the head of the North Korean delegation, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, at the start of the second day of six-nation nuclear disarmament talks Wednesday. Both Washington and Seoul deny there are any US nuclear weapons in the South, and South Korea had earlier raised the possibility of opening South Korean and US bases for some form of verification of that fact by the North.

The Washington Post, 28 July 2005

### **Meetings Signify Shift On Talks With N. Korea** (Glenn Kessler)

During a flight to Africa two years ago, then-Secretary of State Colin L. Powell met with President Bush to discuss the crisis over North Korea's nuclear programs. A key point was that the State Department's chief negotiator at disarmament talks needed to be able to talk one on one with North Korean officials. Powell ultimately won permission for one brief meeting, on the side of a room filled with officials from other countries. But Powell's negotiator, James A. Kelly, was permitted only to say the same thing to any question raised by the North Koreans: Go back and read my prepared statement. But now, almost unnoted, an important shift has taken place in the Bush administration's approach to North Korea: The ban on genuine one-on-one talks has been all but abandoned. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's chief negotiator, Christopher R. Hill, sealed a deal for North Korea to return to the talks during a private three-hour dinner this month in Beijing with his North Korean counterpart. Since then, Hill has held several bilateral meetings with North Korea, including a session before the talks formally began on Tuesday.

The New York Times, 28 July 2005

**North Korea Seeks U.S. Aid Before It Halts Its Nuclear Program** (Jim Yardley)

BEIJING, July 27: North Korea on Wednesday criticized an American plan to defuse the nuclear crisis, saying the proposal demands too many steps toward dismantling the country's nuclear program before providing any corresponding aid or energy assistance, a senior United States official said in a background meeting with reporters. North Korea's criticism of the American plan, first proposed in June 2004 before the talks broke off, was not unexpected, noted the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the private nature of the discussions. But it underscored the "fundamental differences" between the countries as participants in the six-nation nuclear talks took on the difficult task of finding common ground to resolve the crisis, now in its third year.

The Associated Press, 28 July 2005

**Scientists Experiment With Current in Nev.**

LAS VEGAS: Scientists at the Nevada Test Site said they generated a current Wednesday equal to roughly four times all the electrical power on Earth. The current, which created pressures in materials millions of times greater than normal, was part of an experiment to better understand nuclear weapons. The experiment was conducted at the test site's Atlas Pulsed Power Facility by scientists from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, along with staff from the test site and contractor Bechtel Nevada. During the few millionths of a second that it operated, the 650-ton Atlas pulsed-power generator discharged nearly 19 million amps of current through an aluminum cylindrical shell about the size of a tuna can, the National Nuclear Security Administration said. Atlas, which works as a giant power multiplier, was designed as part of an Energy Department program to determine the readiness of the nation's nuclear stockpile without underground testing.

The Guardian, 28 July 2005

**Tehran accuses US of nuclear double standard** (Simon Tisdall)

Iran accused the Bush administration yesterday of operating a double standard and undermining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by agreeing to aid India's civil nuclear programme, while insisting that Tehran abandon its nuclear ambitions or face international sanctions. The Iranian accusation will raise the temperature as the EU3 - Britain, France and Germany - prepare to unveil a "final" draft proposal on curbing Iran's nuclear programme early next month. The US and Israel suspect Iran is only months away from acquiring nuclear weapons capability, a charge Tehran flatly denies. The EU3 plan is expected to offer limited economic incentives and energy generation assistance if Iran forgoes uranium enrichment, which is associated with the manufacture of nuclear weapons. But Iranian resistance to the proffered deal may have been reinforced by President George Bush's unexpected decision last week to acknowledge India's status as a nuclear weapons state and offer "full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade", despite the fact that India, unlike Iran, has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Washington Post, 28 July 2005

**North Korea Rejects U.S. Plan on Arms** (Edward Cody)

BEIJING, July 27: North Korea on Wednesday formally rejected the terms of a long-standing U.S. proposal for resolving the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, diplomats said. The North Korean objections, although expected, underlined the difficulties negotiators face in newly resumed six-party talks here despite improved atmospherics and what diplomats described as increased resolve to make progress toward banning nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. "The DPRK is a country that prides itself on being different, and this is certainly proving true in these negotiations," a senior U.S. official said, using the initials of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "Things are not easy." As described by U.S. officials, the proposal first made in June 2004 would provide aid and security assurances to North Korea if it agreed to a schedule that would do away with its nuclear weapons program.

Dawn, 28 July 2005

**Indo-US strategic pact** (Agha Shahi)

The signing of the New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship by the defence ministers of the two countries in Washington on June 28, marked the commencement of "a new era" in their evolving strategic partnership and a follow-up to the signing last year of the next steps in strategic partnership agreement. After noting that the US-India defence cooperation had advanced to an unprecedented and qualitatively different level since 1995, when the agreed minute on defence relations between the US and India was signed, the latest agreement clearly states that it would support and be an element of the broader US-India strategic partnership. It "builds on past successes, seizes new opportunities and charts a course for the US-India defence relationship for the next ten years." The latest US-India defence pact claims to advance their shared security interests which include; maintaining security and stability; defeating terrorism and violent religious extremism; preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and associated materials, data and technologies; and protecting the free

flow of commerce via land, air and sea lanes.

Dawn, 28 July 2005

### **Dealing with North Korea**

While it is encouraging that the six-party talks, involving North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the US have restarted in Beijing after a gap of 13 months, impediments remain in the way of persuading North Korea to give up its nuclear programme. The latter has been a major source of tension in Southeast Asia for several years now, and especially after North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003 and scrapped an accord with South Korea for keeping the region free of nuclear weapons. Several times North Korea has also fired missiles into the sea, setting off alarm bells in the region, and has violated peace accords, including the 1994 Agreed Framework according to which Pyongyang would abandon its nuclear plans in return for oil and light water reactors from Washington. Blowing hot and cold over the issue, it has gone ahead with its ambitions giving rise to fears of a nuclear strike in the region - a scenario that cannot be ruled out given North Korea's erratic leadership in the person of Kim Jong-il.

The Nation, 28 July 2005

### **Manmohan's Pakistan bashing** (Inayatullah)

The Indian Prime Minister's resoundingly successful US visit, preceded as it was with the Indian-US defence agreement signed by Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, was remarkable in many ways. It marked the climax of the process begun with Jaswant Singh-Strobe Talbott rounds of talks and Bill Clinton's historic 5-day visit to India where contours of a "common vision" were spelt out. "We meet as leaders of two great democracies committed to working together", said President Bush in his welcome speech at the White House, "for a better and safer world". And added that: "the relationship between our two nations has never been stronger and will grow even closer in the days and years to come. US and India have built a relationship of great potential. As we face this century's challenges, we look forward to building and expanding this relationship to lay the foundation for peace and prosperity for our children and grandchildren". The words "grandchildren" are significant indicating as they do, the envisaged, long-term close relationship.

The Indian Express, 28 July 2005

### **Indo-US Ties: Why the Flak?** (Radha Kumar)

Manmohan Singh's recent visit to the US has come in for criticism from both hawks and doves, most of it undeserved. In fact, there are plenty of real issues for debate, not whether Uncle Sam's embrace will be a bear hug. Manmohan Singh's recent visit to the US has come in for criticism from both hawks and doves, most of it undeserved. The relationships that he set up will serve to strengthen India's interests at both national and civic levels. While they give substance to the partnership that was launched by the NDA government, they have broadened its parameters and shifted its emphasis, from being centered on defence to including development, democracy and peacemaking.

The Indian Express, 28 July 2005

### **Who's next for a regime change?**

Iran and North Korea's nuclear programmes pose a diplomatic challenge to the US. Although a third of the "axis of evil" is now occupied by US forces, the other two thirds - North Korea and Iran - remain clear threats to US interests. Consider North Korea: in February 2005, Pyongyang announced that it had nuclear weapons, and it is now thought to have several of them, or at least the material to build them. Over time, if the United States does nothing, North Korea's arsenal will surely grow, as will the amount of its fissile material. The results of this growth will be destabilising and potentially disastrous: a sizable North Korean nuclear arsenal might well stimulate similar weapons programmes in both Japan and South Korea, diminishing the region's stability. The repercussions could also spread far beyond Northeast Asia if Pyongyang decides to sell its new weapons or nuclear fuel for hard currency - as it has with drugs and missile technology in the past.

Asia Times, 28 July 2005

### **The economics of nuclear proliferation** (Jeffrey Robertson)

SEOUL: Nuclear non-proliferation can readily be compared to basic economics. Like the regulation of any functioning market, it's about influencing demand and supply. But what the failure of the May review conference of the parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has shown, regulating demand has been quietly neglected in favor of regulating supply. On the demand side of proliferation there is the largely theoretical question as to why states decide to acquire nuclear weapons. On the supply side, there is the more practical question as to how states go nuclear. Why do states acquire nuclear weapons? The widest-held understanding comes from what is known as the "realist" school of international relations. This theory, simply put, posits that

states acquire a nuclear capability for the sole purpose of increasing their power relative to other states, in what can be understood as a rational decision to ensure their survivability in the anarchic system of international relations. Adaptations to the theory cite domestic concerns such as national prestige or perceived isolation, as adding to a state's desire to go nuclear.

Asia Times, 28 July 2005

**US risks Asian arms race** (Stephen Zunes)

For more than two decades, arms control experts have argued that the most likely scenario for the hostile use of nuclear weapons was not between the former Cold War superpower rivals, an act of terrorism by an underground terrorist group or the periodically threatened unilateral US attack against a "rogue state", but between India and Pakistan. These two South Asian rivals have fought each other in three major wars - in 1947, 1965 and 1971 - and have engaged in frequent border clashes in recent years in the disputed Kashmir region, coming close to another all-out war as recently as 2002. It is ironic, then, that President George W Bush - who reiterated in the 2004 presidential campaign that his primary concern was the proliferation of nuclear materials - is actively pursuing policies that will likely increase the risk of a catastrophic nuclear confrontation on the Indian sub-continent.

The Asahi Shimbun, 28 July

**Japan focuses more on nukes** (Yu Yoshitake)

BEIJING: Chided earlier for being out of step, Japan's delegation to the six-party talks here on North Korea made strong calls Wednesday for Pyongyang to abandon all of its nuclear programs. At the same time, it made reference to Japan's "unfortunate past" with the Korean people. Kenichiro Sasae, Japan's chief negotiator, reiterated that Tokyo is ready to settle outstanding problems connected with its 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula as a means for normalizing ties. That presumably would translate into economic aid to the North. Sasae also touched on the abduction issue despite earlier criticism from other participants to stay focused on the nuclear issue. He sought to set up a bilateral meeting with the North Korean delegation in the hope of making progress on the contentious abduction issue. Earlier on Wednesday, Sasae told reporters on his way to the talks: "We will first concentrate on the nuclear issue. The focal point is whether we can press North Korea to make a strategic decision (on the issue)."

The Korean Herald, 28 July 2005

**U.S., North Korea put down new demands** (Lee Joo-hee and Kim Man-yong)

BEIJING: The United States and North Korea unveiled at the six-party talks yesterday the newest versions of their demands, with reportedly diverse positions which are likely to be an additional burden as the two sides strive for substantial progress. Chief delegates of the six countries trying to end the North Korean nuclear standoff laid out their positions as the fourth round of the long-stalemated negotiations moved through a second day. But the United States and North Korea remained on parallel courses, with the former promising security assurances and economic aid in return for verifiable nuclear dismantlement and the latter demanding normalized relations with Washington for a full dismantlement, it was understood. The United States reportedly presented a three-step proposal that would first require North Korea to dismantle all nuclear weapons and programs through effective verification. Other parties would then provide security assurances and economic cooperation. The parties would also deal with multilateral issues, including North Korean missiles and human rights concerns.

People's Daily, 28 July 2005

**US says good exchange of views with DPRK despite differences remains**

The United States and the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) agreed to keep exchanging views on the uranium enrichment issue, which would not be a stumbling block to the new round of six-party talks, a senior US official said at a press briefing Wednesday. "One of the issues we talked about with the DPRK was the issue of highly enriched uranium," a senior government official said, referring to bilateral contact on Tuesday. Delegates held a plenary session lasting almost three hours Wednesday at which they clarified their stances and offered views on how to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula. The issue of highly enriched uranium, which can be used to produce nuclear explosive devices, was also mentioned in a keynote speech by the United States at the fourth round of six-party negotiations on Wednesday, he said. "We obviously have some differences with them about the sequencing of these issues," he said, "we did not achieve an agreement with them on that but we did agree to keep talking about it."

People's Daily, 28 July 2005

**US official: six-party talks should focus on denuclearization of Korean Peninsula**

The six-party talks should focus on the denuclearization of the Korea Peninsula, a US senior government official said at a news briefing in Beijing Wednesday. The official, who spoke under anonymous condition, said that at the

plenary this morning, all the parties concerned discussed the need to focus on the denuclearization of the Korea Peninsula. "The real efforts are to keep focusing on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," the official said. He said participants were now focusing on agreeing some form of statement as a framework, "a set of agreed principles on the basis of which we can narrow the scope of issues and lay out an eventual schedule for negotiation of an overall agreement." "We obviously have some differences with them about the sequencing of these issues," he added. The official said it is not necessary to solve all the issues within the framework of the six-party talks. Instead, some of the issues could be solved through bilateral mechanism.

People's Daily, 28 July 2005

### **Six-party talks moving towards right direction, Chinese vice FM**

The ongoing fourth round of the six-party talks is moving towards the right direction, said Chinese vice foreign minister Dai Bingguo Thursday when meeting with the heads of the six delegations. Dai said the atmosphere of the talks is "good." "All the delegates come to the talks with a good political will, that is, to make progress in solving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue," he said. "They have made frank, in-depth and pragmatic discussions on how to realize a nuclear-weapon-free peninsula and setting an overall goal of the six-party talks through various forms," Dai said. Dai said the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is very complicated and it is very natural that related parties have differences. "However, the more complicated the work is, the more significant and more valuable it will be if we deal with it properly," said Dai. Dai stressed that all the people hope the issue can be peacefully solved through talks and hope the peninsula can have a peaceful development.

People's Daily, 28 July 2005

### **The six-party talks and "China factor"**

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, while delivering his opening speech at the fourth round of six-party talks, said with emotion: "the talks are likely to encounter various difficulties or setbacks. However, where there is a will there is a way. Just like having a meal bite by bite, through a step-by-step process, one can eventually reach the destination. If you climb up one hillside at a time you can always ascend a mountain. China will continue to coordinate and cooperate with the other parties and make unremitting efforts to realize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and maintain regional peace and stability." Although only a few words, they fully reflect the largeness and fortitude of the Chinese government's stance on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. Many of the international public opinions, when commenting on the six-party talks, mentioned the active role of China or the "China factor" in the six-party talks. The Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, which has escalated since early 1990s, is a severe test of China's diplomacy. China, whose reform and opening up has entered a period to tackle the key problems, needs a peaceful and stable neighboring environment.

Financial Times, 28 July 2005

### **Nuclear deal with India spells division in Washington** (Caroline Daniel and Demetri Sevastopulo)

In the state dining room at the White House last Monday, the floral "trumpeting elephants" made of carnations and saffron silk tablecloths were laid out well in advance for the official dinner welcoming Manmohan Singh, Indian prime minister. Yet less than 90 minutes before President George W. Bush was due to toast his visitor, senior officials were frantically trying to secure agreement on civil nuclear co-operation. The joint statement was finally rushed out at 6.28pm. "It came together faster than we expected," conceded one senior administration official. "The night before, we were not sure we would have much of an agreement." For the first time, the US acknowledged India's status as a nuclear weapons power. In return for India agreeing to accept additional inspections and tighter nuclear controls, the US offered "full civil nuclear energy co-operation and trade".

Business Standard, 28 July 2005

### **Atoms of uncertainty** (D Shyam Babu)

The recent India-US deal brings in many uncomfortable questions. That India and the United States could conclude a nuclear deal after a gap of more than forty years means the triumph of hope over experience. For India, it is presented as a non-military, apolitical commercial deal giving precedence to economic factors. But in real world matters economic and political remain indivisible, and much of the commentary has rightly taken note of the big picture. It is not the point, either, that New Delhi has not made strategic calculations but the question is whether it will succeed in the gamble. It is indeed a gamble because India has sought to accomplish long-term goals of giving fillip to its civilian nuclear sector and leading the way (ultimately) to its being accepted as a nuclear weapons state. The US has been guided by at least one short-term goal: scuttling the Iran gas pipeline to India. The deal also brings Washington a bit closer to its objective of co-opting India as an ally in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

### **Chinese silence fails to unnerve India** (C Raja Mohan)

New Delhi, July 28: On the brink of regaining access to the international nuclear energy market, India hopes support from Russia, France and Britain will help the Bush administration change international non-proliferation rules. While the three European nuclear powers have broadly welcomed the Indo-US nuclear pact, the official Chinese silence has not gone unnoticed here. The government, however, is not overly concerned about potential opposition from Beijing to altering the global rules of nuclear commerce. Analysts here underline the possibility that China might either oppose the Indo-US nuclear deal or demand that similar privileges be extended to Pakistan as well. While India will wait to assess the attitudes of different nations on the issue, it is betting that there will be enough political support in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for the Bush proposals.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

#### **US reveals more on China-Pak N-links**

A Q Khan Washington, March 6: Newly declassified US government documents made public on Friday shed new light on almost three decades of US unease over China's suspected cooperation with Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. For 15 years, over the course of four US administrations, China ducked and denied repeated American inquiries about Beijing's cooperation with Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. But one of the briefing papers released on Friday states: "We have concluded that China has provided assistance to Pakistan's programme to develop a nuclear weapon capability" in the areas of fissile material production and possibly also in nuclear device design. Researchers who obtained the documents and made them public said that exactly what the US government knew about Chinese nuclear sharing with Pakistan remains highly secret.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

#### **Pak upgrading its nukes, UN disturbed**

Vienna, March 16: Pakistan has developed new illicit channels to upgrade its nuclear weapons programme, despite efforts by the UN atomic watchdog to shut down all illegal procurement avenues, diplomats and nuclear experts said. Western diplomats familiar with an investigation of the nuclear black market by the UN's Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said this news was disturbing. While Pakistan appeared to be shopping for its own needs, the existence of some nuclear black market channels meant there were still ways for rogue states or terrorist groups to acquire technology that could be used in atomic weapons, they said. "General procurement efforts (by Pakistan) are going on. It is a determined effort," a diplomat from a member of the 44-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) told Reuters on condition of anonymity. "This was discussed at an NSG meeting in Vienna last week," he said, adding that those involved in the discussion agreed to try to keep the issue secret to avoid upsetting Pakistan.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

#### **Gita@Armageddon for father of N-bomb**

Trinity Site, New Mexico, July 13: "Now, I am become death, the destroyer of worlds," said the father of the atom bomb as he witnessed the world's first nuclear explosion three weeks before Hiroshima was flattened. Physicist Robert Oppenheimer solemnly cited the Hindu holy text, the Bhagavad-Gita, as he watched a blinding flash give way to a huge mushroom cloud over the remote desert of the South-western US state of New Mexico. One of his colleagues witnessing the first nuclear test shortly before dawn on July 16, 1945, summed up the bomb's awesome power of the bomb more prosaically, "Now we are all sons of bitches," said fellow physicist Kenneth Bainbridge. "We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried, most people were silent," Oppenheimer said years later of the reactions of the scientists, who were relieved the crucial test was successful, but horrified at the deadly power they had harnessed.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

#### **Bush's bold bet on India** (Jim Hoagland)

George W Bush The United States and India have put aside their troubled past to reach far into the future with a visionary bilateral agreement that challenges both nations and the rest of the world to treat nuclear weapons and nuclear energy with greater realism than they do under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. If Congress agrees to the changes in law sought by the Bush administration to put the agreement signed last week into force, nuclear energy will take centre stage from nuclear weapons in the new order of US-Indian relations, which now become crucial to constructing a post-Kyoto consensus on climate change. Energy vs arms has been an atomic trade-off dictated by the nuclear treaty for nearly a half-century - before global warming became a major international concern, and before rogue states showed they were not interested in such a trade.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

#### **Manufacturing the nuclear scare** (A. Gopalakrishnan)

Rest assured, Dr Singh has not given away our nuclear jewels to the US. One major controversy gaining ground

in India about the Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation is that it will lead to a serious debilitation of our national security due to the consequent capping of the fissile material inventory. The fear is that this would limit the level of our "minimum nuclear deterrent" in course of time. These objections have several reasons, but the root cause is differing perceptions about the deterrent itself. Some in this country feel that India need not have a nuclear deterrent at all. A comparable, but small, fraction of the population considers the current nuclear arsenal to be insufficient in quantity and quality, and believes that we must perfect better and more powerful weapons, including thermonuclear devices of the megaton level. This group includes a large number of the currently serving and retired nuclear weapon scientists as well as key leaders of certain political parties. But, the majority of Indians, while they are proud of

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

**Nevada: Scientists supercharge aluminium 'can' to study nukes**

LAS VEGAS, JULY 28: Scientists at the Nevada test site said they generated a current equal to roughly four times all the electrical power on earth. The current, which created pressures in materials millions of times greater than normal, was part of an experiment to better understand nuclear weapons. The experiment was conducted yesterday at the test site's Atlas pulsed-power facility by scientists from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. During the few millionths of a second that it operated, the 650-ton Atlas pulsed-power generator discharged nearly 19 million amps of current through an aluminum cylindrical shell about the size of a tuna can, the National Nuclear Security Administration said. Atlas, which works as a giant power multiplier, was designed as part of an energy department programme to determine the readiness of the nation's nuclear stockpile without underground testing.

The Statesman, 29 July 2005

**Koreas pledge to work for nuke talks' success**

VIENTIANE, (Laos) July 28: Foreign ministers of South Korea and North Korea pledged today to work towards the success of six-party talks in Beijing aimed at getting North Korea to scrap its nuclear weapons programme. The South Korean foreign minister Mr Ban Ki-moon met briefly at a hotel in the Laotian capital with the North Korean foreign minister Mr Paek NamSun during a conference of the Association of South East Asian Nations Regional Forum. "Both North Korea and South Korea will work together to expedite the process and to contribute to the early resolution and peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue and achievement of the ultimate goal of denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula," they said in a joint statement after their meeting. Earlier, Mr Ban noted that the last time the two ministers met was an year ago during the Asean Regional Forum in Jakarta. "We hope to have regular meetings between the North and South Korean ministers," Mr Ban said before heading into the meeting with Mr Paek. .

The Tribune, 29 July 2005

**Pranab defends Defence pact**

New Delhi, July 28: The Defence Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, today told the Lok Sabha that the "New Framework for United States-India Defence Relationship" signed recently will enhance the capabilities of India's armed forces without committing the country to any specific actions or obliging it to do anything that was not in the national interest. Mr Mukherjee, replying to supplementaries in the House during question hour, said his visit to the USA in June 2005 opened that country as a potential source of advanced defence equipment and technology, increasing India's options and leverages vis-a-vis suppliers in the acquisition of defence technology. "It will promote cooperation with the USA to enhance the capabilities of India's armed forces and defence industries and increase our strategic maneuverability in international affairs without committing India to any specific actions, nor obliging us to do anything that is not in the country's national interest," Mr Mukherjee said.

The Tribune, 29 July 2005

**Policy and public opinion** (Inder Malhotra)

Indo-US nuclear deal's harsh lesson. IF the overheated and ongoing debate on the nuclear deal between India and the United States has proved anything it is that in this country even the most sensitive national security issues become almost instantly a football of partisan politics. As after the Shakti series of nuclear tests in May 1998, so now, partisanship and acrimony have distorted the public discourse. Both the trenchant critics of the July 18 agreement between the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the US President, Mr. George Bush, and the somewhat staid defenders of it have had their say elaborately and repetitively, generating far more heat than light. Ultimately, the collective judgment of Parliament would prevail. But the problem is that even a majority verdict loses its shine if the gulf between the majority and the minority is wide and their schism bitter, especially on nuclear policy that calls for, in Dr. Singh's own words, "consensus and continuity". It is in this context that some aspects of the current contention deserve the attention they haven't yet received. The first is the reaction in the US to the Bush-Manmohan deal that so many here - including those who had personally negotiated inconclusively

a similar though not identical arrangement with Washington - have denounced so vehemently. Intriguingly, the American reaction has been a mirror image of that in India.

The Tribune, 29 July 2005

**India's nuke controls intact** (Ashish Kumar Sen)

To the casual observer, India might seem to be a "weak link" in the international non-proliferation regime. But New Delhi has compiled a track record of controlling proscribed dual-use exports that compares favourably with most signatories to the export control regimes, according to a new report published by the Centre for International Trade and Security at the University of Georgia. Noting that India is a significant potential source of advanced dual-use technologies, which has also refrained from joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty or any of the multilateral export control arrangements, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, and the Wassenaar Arrangement, the report's authors - Anupam Srivastava and Seema Gahlaut - point out that India nevertheless has a "decades-old" system of export controls.

Daily Times, 29 July 2005

**Indo-US pact not Pakistan specific: Bush**

ISLAMABAD: The United States-India defence pact is not directed against Pakistan and Washington will not allow the South Asian balance of power to be disturbed, American President George W Bush assured President Pervez Musharraf in a 30-minute telephone talk on Thursday. The two leaders discussed various matters including regional peace and security and the war on terrorism. Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed confirmed the conversation, adding that the leaders discussed regional and global issues. Sources said that Bush praised Pakistan's security agencies capture of Hashim Qadeer, an accused in the Daniel Pearl case. He said the US was Pakistan's strategic partner and the whole world highly appreciated Islamabad's cardinal role to root out terrorism. President Musharraf has taken bold decisions to eradicate terrorism and extremism, said Bush, according to sources. The US president added, "Washington has assured Musharraf that it is aware of Pakistan's security requirements and will fulfil them."

Daily Times, 29 July 2005

**'US pact will put India's N-programme in jeopardy'** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: Experts here have warned that Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's promise to the United States to sign the additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would "put the whole nuclear programme in jeopardy". India's nuclear facilities will be greatly hit if they are opened up to international inspectors, as there has been hardly any demarcation between civilian and military research facilities, they said. "The scientists who are involved in the nuclear power plants and other facilities are the same ones who research on nuclear arms. Even the nuclear fuel mines are common for both civilian and military purposes," said an expert while analysing the significance of the PM's promise on the Indian nuclear programme. Experts say that the prime minister's nuclear bargain with the United States to get nuclear fuel and equipment for nuclear power plants is "fraught with the danger of exposing India's defence preparedness on the nuclear front".

Daily Times, 29 July 2005

**US seeks Korean nukes inspections**

MOSCOW: The United States proposed that international inspectors enter North Korea in September to check its nuclear facilities during a bilateral meeting with the Stalinist state Thursday, a Russian report said. The proposal was made in talks between North Korea's chief delegate Kim Kye-gwan and US counterpart Christopher Hill, their third this week, on the sidelines of wider international talks on denuclearising the Korean peninsula, Interfax news agency quoted a North Korean source as saying. The two countries on Wednesday restated their uncompromising positions on the three-year standoff, revealing that major differences remained despite a better atmosphere and softer rhetoric.

The News, 29 July 2005

**IAEA seeks global cooperation to counter nuke terror**

NEW YORK: Observing that some countries still lack programmes and resources to respond properly to the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism, the UN nuclear watchdog agency has called for global cooperation to help them strengthen national capacities. "Global cooperation is the key to harnessing nuclear energy in the service of development and peace," the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in its annual report. "Global nuclear developments in 2004, such as the changing outlook for nuclear power, the increasing role of nuclear applications in global sustainable development initiatives, greater international cooperation in matters of safety and security, and the increasing recognition of the need to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, have created new challenges and opportunities for the Agency," it says.

Dawn, 29 July 2005

### **Iran smuggling steel for nukes, allege exiles**

PARIS, July 28: Iran has been using front companies to import a type of steel that can be used for the casing of a nuclear bomb and for machines that can enrich uranium to weapons-grade, an exile group alleged on Thursday. The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) said the country was seeking to produce its own maraging steel and skirt international export controls by importing it. The group, which seeks to oust Iran's clerical rulers, has given accurate information in the past on some of Iran's nuclear facilities, and the UN's nuclear watchdog said it would study its latest charges. Iran says its nuclear programme will be used only to generate electricity. But Washington and European countries fear Tehran could use its nuclear plants to produce bombs. "The regime is using maraging steel to build the casing and containers for missiles as well as external rotors of missile engines," Mohammad Mohaddessin of the NCRI told a news conference in Paris. Maraging steel, a high-strength alloy harder than normal steel, is a controlled substance with both civilian and military uses.

The News, 29 July 2005

### **US warns Iran against violating N-deal**

WASHINGTON: The White House warned Iran on Thursday against resuming key work on its nuclear fuel cycle, saying it could prompt the United States and its European allies to pursue UN sanctions against Tehran. On Wednesday outgoing Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said Iran would resume some work on its nuclear fuel cycle, which the West suspects is part of a clandestine effort to produce a bomb. "Iran made some commitments to suspend their uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities. We expect them to abide by that commitment," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters. "If Iran is going to violate their agreements, then we would obviously be looking at discussing with (the) Europeans, who have also committed to doing so, looking at going to the (United Nations) Security Council," McClellan added. "If they were to begin those activities again, they would be violating the commitment they made under the Paris agreement with the Europeans," McClellan said, adding "And we have made it very clear that Iran has a history of hiding their nuclear activities from the international community."

The New York Times, 29 July 2005

### **U.S. Offers North Korea Evidence That Nuclear Secrets Came From Pakistani's Network** (David E. Sanger and Jim Yardley)

WASHINGTON, July 28: In negotiations with North Korea this week, the Bush administration has for the first time presented the country with specific evidence behind American allegations that North Korea secretly obtained uranium enrichment technology from a founder of Pakistan's nuclear program, two senior administration officials said. The decision to share the intelligence with North Korean negotiators, the officials said, was part of an effort to convince North Korea that any discussions about disarmament must cover not only the nuclear weapons program it has boasted about, but a second one that it now denies exists. Putting on the table the evidence that North Korea obtained technology from the network built by Abdul Qadeer Khan is significant because it is an effort to break an impasse over the scope of North Korea's nuclear program.

International Herald Tribune, 29 July 2005

### **North Korea Talks: Regional side effects** (Leon V. Sigal)

NEW YORK Now that North Korea has returned to six-party talks, the question remains, will the Bush administration continue to watch Pyongyang arm without trying to do what South Korea and Japan think just might get it to stop: sustained diplomatic give and take? Most hard-liners in the Bush administration are unilateralists who couldn't care less what allies think. Others take it on faith that North Korea is determined to arm, not deal, and believe that a nuclear-arming Pyongyang will drive Seoul and Tokyo further into Washington's arms. The administration insists that six-party talks are further isolating North Korea and that pressure by China and others will bring it to heel. With a negotiated resolution viewed as desirable and possible in South Korea and Japan, however, administration misplaying of North Korea is threatening to unravel U.S. alliances in Northeast Asia and enhance China's influence.

The Korean Herald, 29 July 2005

### **6-way talks move to crucial phase**

BEIJING: After five days of bilateral exchanges and a third day of official sessions, negotiations on the North Korean nuclear standoff yesterday entered a critical bargaining stage with delegations weighing how to start drafting the first joint declaration ever to emerge from the six-party framework. "We would like to see if we can get some six-party drafting in the next 24 hours," top U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill was quoted as telling reporters after a lengthy morning meeting with the North Korean counterparts. American and North Korean diplomats met face-to-face for nearly three hours to talk about their parallel interpretations of the Korean Peninsula's denuclearization in their third rendezvous since Sunday. Aside from the different demands made by each country

in their keynote speeches, the United States and North Korea have been and still differ significantly and fundamentally on the meaning of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

Daily Yomiuri, 29 July 2005

**Japan needs more nuclear energy**

The new general guidelines for nuclear energy policies formulated by the Atomic Energy Commission signify the first forward-looking course of action set for this nation's atomic power program in many years. The latest policy guidelines framed by the government's advisory panel incorporate a plan to expand the scope of nuclear energy development and utilization. For years, the commission's policy framework has been treated as a long-term plan for nuclear power research, development and utilization. The government's panel has worked to draw up such a plan every five years to adjust the nation's nuclear program to the changes in the energy situation both at home and overseas. The latest policy framework--the 10th of its kind to be devised since the panel was set up in 1956--has been recast as a set of guidelines for nuclear power policies. The framework also marks a great change in policies to be pursued under the nation's nuclear program.

Dawn, 29 July 2005

**A peace built by nukes and cash** (Rajan Menon)

The Bush foreign policy squad has not had much to cheer about lately. The Iraqi insurgency won't die. Iran is suspected of seeking nuclear weapons. North Korea already appears to have acquired a small stash. But as the president met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last week, the White House could take heart from what's happening in South Asia. For starters, nuclear weapons have promoted peace in that volatile region, it turns out. When India and Pakistan went nuclear in 1998, most people in the West believed that South Asia had become a more dangerous place. That was a gloomy assessment, considering that the subcontinent had seen full-scale war between India and Pakistan, intermittent skirmishes and terrorist attacks. But now South Asia is more stable than it was a decade ago, and the prospects for a settlement of the competing claims to Kashmir are better, arguably, than they have ever been. What accounts for the turnaround?

Daily Times, 29 July 2005

**Bush starts to get it right on India's nuclear status** (Jonathan Power)

The new policy has all the advantages of jettisoning hypocrisy. The next step, which logically should grow from it, would be to revise the Non-Proliferation Treaty to make India formally one of the established nuclear powers, and thus gain India's membership of the Treaty. The critics of President George W Bush's new nuclear deal with India have got it back to front. They appear to have no understanding of the history of US-Indian nuclear relations. They draw their pessimistic and sanctimonious conclusions about how this new policy of relaxing the supply of advanced nuclear materials to India will further undermine the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as if no water had ever flowed under the bridge.

The Tribune, 29 July 2005

**Parliament must support the PM** (H.K. Dua)

The Prime Minister is to make a statement in Parliament today on his recent visit to Washington, which indeed brought about a qualitative change in relations with the United States. People's reaction to the outcome of the visit in the country has been warm. Hopefully, Parliament will not grudge Dr Manmohan Singh the support he is entitled to after what he has achieved in talks with President George W. Bush, notwithstanding the noises of the BJP as well as the communists. India has gained a lot from the Prime Minister's visit. It has virtually run out of nuclear fuel needed for the Tarapore and a few other nuclear power plants. No member of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group is prepared to give India the nuclear fuel because of the US restrictions on it after the 1998 nuclear blasts at Pokharan. With oil prices soaring to astronomical heights and limited thermal and hydroelectric resources, India has no choice but to develop nuclear energy. This requires the import of nuclear fuel which India can now get from the United States, or from a third country, possibly Russia.

The Hindu, 29 July 2005

**The truth behind the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal** (Siddharth Varadarajan)

In opening the door to nuclear commerce with India, Washington has confirmed how much an alliance with New Delhi is worth to it. But is anybody on the Indian side doing the math? IN THE fullness of time, last week's nuclear agreement between India and the United States will be seen as one of those decisive moments in international politics when two powers who have been courting each other for some time decide finally to cross the point of no return. The U.S. and India have 'come out', so to speak, and the world will never be the same again. Every world order needs rules in order to sustain itself but sometimes the rules can become a hindrance to the hegemonic strength of the power that underpins that order. Following India's nuclear tests in 1998, the U.S. had two options:

continuing to believe the Indian nuclear genie could be put back, or harnessing India's evident strategic weight for its own geopolitical aims before that power grows too immense or is harnessed by others like Europe or China. The U.S. has chosen the latter option, and the joint statement released by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on July 18 is the most dramatic textual manifestation of what Washington is attempting to do.

Deccan Herald, 29 July 2005

#### **Impact on South Asia (M B Naqvi)**

The agreements have a bearing on a larger geo-political situation than just Indo-Pak peace process. Although the context of new Indo-American relations is larger, its impact on South Asia is also important. The two Indo-American agreements - on Framework for Military Cooperation and the other on civilian nuclear cooperation - are extraordinarily significant. It might mark the beginning of the end of Indo-Pak Peace Process. Mr Manmohan Singh, who once called it irreversible, now says "if Pakistan does not stop sending jihadis into Kashmir", he would be forced to stop it. New Delhi's complaints of infiltration are growing.

The Statesman, 29 July 2005

#### **Bush starts to get it right**

The critics of President George W Bush's new nuclear deal with India have got it back to front. They appear to have no understanding of the history of Indo-US nuclear relations. They draw their pessimistic and sanctimonious conclusions about how this new policy of relaxing the supply of advanced nuclear materials to India will further undermine the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as if no water had ever flowed under the bridge. Let's go back to the head of that river. The first mistake in dealing with India was for President Richard Nixon to make it unambiguously clear in the early days of his opening-to-China policy that a major reason for taking China seriously was China's possession of the bomb. The second mistake was the famous Nixon-Kissinger "tilt" towards Pakistan during the India-Pakistan war of 1971. It was at that time that the Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, gave the go ahead to India's scientists to develop a nuclear device. The third mistake was to say nothing, yes nothing, when India exploded its first nuclear device in 1974. In the West only the UK and Canada made a public criticism.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

#### **US says no to bilateral nuke pact with N. Korea**

WASHINGTON, July 28: Despite agreeing to further one-on-one talks with North Korea, the United States insisted once again on Thursday that it would not negotiate any bilateral agreement with Pyongyang on its nuclear programme. "We have no intention of negotiating any bilateral agreement with North Korea. That approach was tried and it failed," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. The US is engaged in six-party talks in Beijing to try to end North Korea's nuclear programme and is resisting any pressure from Pyongyang to come to a bilateral agreement with the communist state.

Asian Age, 30 July 2005

#### **PM on N-deal: It's quid pro quo**

NEW DELHI: Dismissing criticism over the civilian nuclear deal with the United States, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told Parliament on Friday that there had been no compromise on India's strategic needs, and nothing that curbed its nuclear weapons programme. Security interests will remain "our highest priority", he said. Dr Singh also made clear that India's actions were reciprocal to the United States following its own side of the understanding set out in the joint statement released during his recent visit to Washington. "There is nothing in this joint statement that amounts to limiting or inhibiting our strategic nuclear weapons programme over which we will retain unrestricted, complete and autonomous control," said the Prime Minister. "We expect a close correlation between the actions to be taken by the United States and by India. Indian actions will be contingent at every stage on the actions taken by the other side," he said.

Khaleej Times, 30 July 2005

#### **Iran rejects EU request to delay nuclear proposals**

TEHERAN: Iran on Saturday rejected a European Union request to delay submitting EU proposals to solve a dispute over the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme, a spokesman for the Supreme National Security Council said. The European Union, represented by Britain, France and Germany, were due to offer Iran a limited package of nuclear, economic and political incentives to give up work the United States suspects is a veil for efforts to build a nuclear bomb. In return, the EU wanted Iran to agree to maintain indefinitely its suspension of uranium enrichment, nuclear fuel reprocessing and related activities. The Iranian spokesman said ambassadors for the so-called EU Three had asked for the Aug. 1 deadline for their proposals to be extended till Aug. 7. "We reject any

delay. We are expecting their proposals to be submitted on Aug. 1 and it should meet Iran's minimum expectations," council spokesman and nuclear negotiator, Ali Aghamohammadi, told Reuters.

The Asahi Shimbun, 30 July 2005

**Accord in works at 6-party talks** (Yu Yoshitake)

BEIJING: Delegates to the six-party talks here on North Korea are set to draw up an accord Saturday based on a verbal agreement between Washington and Pyongyang, Japanese officials said. China was working Friday night on a draft document to be presented to other parties to study, the officials said. The actual wording is not known. Nor was it clear if North Korea had agreed to abandon all its nuclear programs. Also remaining to be clarified were overall issues such as human rights, which includes abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents. An official said the finished document would likely take a few days. Earlier Friday, host Beijing met with representatives of the other parties to get their input. The Japanese delegation said the accord must state the need for the complete abolition by North Korea of all its nuclear programs, sources said. In an effort to keep the abduction issue alive, Japanese officials also sought inclusion of a clause calling for the resolution of human rights issues, the sources said.

People's Daily, 30 July 2005

**China presents joint document draft for six-party talks**

China presented a joint document draft for the six-party talks, according to an official with the delegation of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Saturday in Beijing. The official, who is unwilling to be named, said deputy heads of the six delegations will discuss the draft. Delegations of the fourth round of the six-party talks began to discuss a joint document draft, according to an official with the Chinese delegation Saturday. Heads of the six delegations, namely, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, the ROK, Russia and Japan, held a no-more-than-one-hour meeting from 11:20 am Saturday, according to the press center of the talks. Also Saturday, the Chinese delegation held bilateral meetings with the DPRK and the United States, respectively, while the DPRK and the United States also held a one-on-one meeting.

Asian Age, 30 July 2005

**US doesn't see India N-arms status** (Seema Mustafa)

New Delhi, July 30: Has the United States recognised India as a nuclear weapons state? There appears to be a major communication gap between New Delhi and Washington on this with India insistent that there is tacit recognition in the joint statement signed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush of this desired status, but US officials are firm that this is not so. The recognition is essential to India's claim that it has sufficient leverage and flexibility as a nuclear weapons state to implement the commitments made by Prime Minister Singh in the joint agreement with President Bush. US undersecretary of state for political affairs Nicholas Burns, a key negotiator in the deal, told reporters in Washington just after the meeting between the two leaders, "This is all about nuclear power. It is not about nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons were not the subject of this agreement. By taking this decision we are not recognising India as a nuclear weapons state. We are simply opening up a channel in order to cooperate on a commercial basis and a technological basis on nuclear power itself, and that is a very important distinction."

China Daily, 30 July 2005

**The nuclear talks enter uncharted territory**

A South Korean official said China had presented a draft joint statement for discussion. Previous rounds have failed to secure a common position. U.S. chief negotiator Christopher Hill said on Saturday: "Seriously, we will have a lot of discussion about text to see if we can come to some agreement among the six." "But I want to let you know it's going to take a while, this is not going to be finished today or even tomorrow because even though the text will be rather brief (it will be) rather important too." The talks have come a long way from the early days of the administration of George W. Bush, when the president labelled North Korea part of an "axis of evil" alongside Iran and pre-war Iraq, or even from early this year when his secretary of state called Pyongyang an "outpost of tyranny". This time the discussions involving the two Koreas, the United States, Russia, Japan and China have remained open-ended. If lacking in major concessions so far, they have featured a more thorough airing of viewpoints that the parties hope could point to possible consensus.

Xinhua, 30 July 2005

**US says DPRK should not retain civilian nuclear capability**

WASHINGTON, July 29: The United States said on Friday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) should dismantle its nuclear weapons programs and should not retain a civilian nuclear capability as well. The remark came after Christopher Hill, top US envoy to the six-party talks currently being held in Beijing,

suggested that Washington could be willing to allow the DPRK the peaceful use of atomic power if the DPRK rejoined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The DPRK withdrew from the NPT in 2003. "We don't challenge the fact that they have the rights to this under the treaty, but we challenge whether they should be exercising these rights," Hill told reporters in Beijing on Friday. However, Sean McCormack, a State Department spokesman, said on Friday that Hill was clear that the DPRK should not be allowed to retain civilian nuclear capability. "I think he was very clear and we're very clear that we do not think that North Korea should retain a civilian nuclear capability," McCormack said, stressing that the US goal is to achieve a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

Xinhua, 30 July 2005

#### **Japan urged to handle issue of chemical weapons victims**

TOKYO, July 30: Chinese victims suffering from exposure to chemical weapons left by Japanese troops during World War II on Saturday urged the Japanese government to apologize and provide living and medical support for the victims. A group of Chinese chemical weapons victims from Qiqihar and some Japanese victims suffering from chemical leak accident in Ibaraki Prefecture met here to criticize the chemical weapons incident and call for the government to properly handle the issue. The Chinese victims, along with their lawyers, arrived in Tokyo on July 29 for an 11-day tour to carry out a series of negotiations with the Japanese government for proper treatment on the issue. "If Japanese government does not apologize and provide living and medical support for the victims, we will sue the government," Su Xiangxiang, a lawyer of the Chinese victims said.

Daily Yomiuri, 30 July 2005

#### **Japan to N. Korea: Let's talk** (Yuji Anai)

The Japanese government's efforts to hold bilateral negotiations with North Korea on the abduction issue continues to hit a brick wall with Pyongyang refusing to sit down with Japan on the sidelines of the six-way talks here. This disappointment comes despite the support the United States and China have expressed for such talks. The six-way talks began in Beijing on Tuesday. At an informal meeting of Cabinet ministers in Tokyo on Friday, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said, "The Japanese delegation at the six-way talks has certainly expressed our opinion on the issue of abduction of Japanese by North Korea." "The nuclear issue is important, and the abduction issue is also important. We're trying to solve [various issues relating to North Korea] comprehensively," the prime minister added. Koizumi's remark came after Education, Science and Technology Minister Nariaki Nakayama expressed frustration over the treatment of the abduction issue at the six-way talks.

The Korean Herald, 30 July 2005

#### **'Discussion' or 'negotiation'? Washington wavers** (Lee Joo-hee and Kim Man-yong)

There is no doubt that the most prominent addition to the nuclear talks currently being held in Beijing is the unprecedented bilateral talks between the top negotiators of Washington and Pyongyang. Although the two sides have shared one-on-one talks in previous rounds of disarmament talks, they were never as frequent or as lengthy. Moreover, the outcome of the six-party negotiations hinge almost entirely upon progress in the bilateral talks between these two nations, who share contrasting interests on the single issue of defining what denuclearizing the Korean peninsula means. But while North Korea openly welcomes one-on-one bargaining with the United States, the latter is more careful not to describe it as a "negotiation." The United States has been neurotically sensitive about the phrase "bilateral negotiations" with North Korea, understandably due to the unfavorable memory of the Geneva Agreement fallout in 2002.

Deccan Herald, 30 July 2005

#### **N Korea-US nuke talks deadlocked**

North Korea nuclear crisis talks enter uncharted territory today, with the six parties sitting down with hopes of drafting their first joint statement to cap the longest negotiating session yet. The main protagonists, the United States and North Korea, appear as entrenched as ever, diplomats say, with Pyongyang sticking to its demands for security guarantees and aid and Washington insisting the nuclear programmes be dismantled first. Still, the first round of talks in more than a year has seen an unprecedented level of contact between the US and North Korean sides, who have met for talks five times already this week after refusing to budge from scripted position statements in three previous rounds. "I have the impression that the United States and North Korea have deepened their understanding of each other's positions after hours and days of bilateral discussions," a Japanese delegate said today. "But I believe the two sides remain far apart," he said. "Our work to draft a joint document will get into full swing today," he added.

The Indian Express, 30 July 2005

#### **Questions and answers**

The PM's response to fears raised about the India-US treaty was forthright and clear. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement to Parliament on Friday on his recent trip to the United States, can well be perceived as a model of forthright statesmanship. The statement achieved three principal objectives. It clearly laid out the terms of the Indo-US cooperation, it responded honestly and convincingly to the apprehensions that have been raised about the India-US treaty, and it provided a forceful articulation of India's national interest. The statement refutes every major objection that has been raised against the treaty. The prime minister clarified, above all, that the treaty did not impinge upon India's autonomy. On the contrary, it enhanced it by giving India access to technologies and fuel that has long been denied to it. In discussions of the treaty, there was some confusion over how the obligations imposed upon India and the United States would be sequenced. The prime minister made it categorically clear that India's obligations were contingent upon the United States fulfilling its obligations. This should allay any fears that the treaty would trap India.

The Indian Express, 30 July 2005

#### **We don't give until we take: PM on N-deal**

NEW DELHI, July 29: The Government will place its non-military nuclear facilities under international safeguards only after all restrictions on civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India are lifted, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told both houses of the Parliament today. In a suo motu statement on the nuclear pact he had signed with President George W. Bush last week, Singh underlined that "reciprocity" would be the key to implementing the India's new nuclear commitments. "There is nothing in this joint statement that amounts to limiting or inhibiting our strategic nuclear weapons programme over which we will retain unrestricted, complete and autonomous control," said the Prime Minister. He explained that India's commitments on the nuclear issue would be "conditional upon, and reciprocal to, the US fulfilling its side" of the deal.

The Hindu, 30 July 2005

#### **PM's statement on US visit generally alright: Basu**

New Delhi, July 30: With CPI(M) asking the Government not to make any commitments on the nuclear issue so long as US assurances to India on nuclear supplies were implemented, veteran Marxist Jyoti Basu today said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement on his US visit was "generally alright". The issue came up for discussion on the concluding day of the two-day meeting of the party's Polit Bureau here. "It seems generally alright" was Basu's cryptic comment when asked about the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament. CPI (M) Polit Bureau member Sitaram Yechury yesterday said "we think the Prime Minister himself believes that so long as there is no concrete assurance from the US, we should not initiate any action in this direction."

The News, 30 July 2005

#### **Britain denies deadline for EU offer on Iran nukes**

LONDON: Britain denied Saturday there is a deadline for the the European Union to make an offer for a deal on Iran's nuclear program, after Tehran demanded the bloc publish its latest proposals within two days. "An exact date hasn't been fixed," said a Foreign Office spokesman in London -- which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency -- adding the parties were following only a general guideline of late July or early August. An Iranian nuclear negotiator, Ali Agha Mohammadi, told a foreign news agency that Britain, France and Germany must present their offer for a deal by Monday, which he said was the originally scheduled time, and not a later proposed date of August 7. The negotiator complained that the August 1 date had been fixed at a previous meeting in London and if the Europeans did not stick to this then Iran would take "measures in line with its national interest".

The Washington Post, 30 July 2005

#### **Iran demands EU make nuclear offer by Aug. 1**

TEHRAN: Iran demanded on Saturday that the European Union submit proposals in a dispute over its nuclear program by Aug. 1 rather than take a week longer. The European Union -- represented by Britain, France and Germany -- is due to offer Iran a limited package of economic and political incentives to give up work that the United States suspects is a veil for efforts to build a nuclear bomb. In return, the EU wants Iran to agree to maintain indefinitely its suspension of uranium enrichment, nuclear fuel reprocessing and related activities. Ali Aghamohammadi, a spokesman for the Supreme National Security Council, said the parties had originally agreed an Aug. 1 deadline, and that ambassadors for the "EU Three" had asked for this to be extended by six days. "We reject any delay. We are expecting their proposals to be submitted on Aug. 1 and it should meet Iran's minimum expectations," he told Reuters.

Dawn, 30 July 2005

#### **US presents DPRK with 'evidence': Links with A.Q. Khan**

NEW YORK, July 29: The Bush administration has for the first time presented North Korea with specific 'evidence' behind American allegations that it secretly obtained uranium enrichment technology from the founder of Pakistan's nuclear programme, the New York Times said, quoting two senior administration officials. The officials told the newspaper that "the decision to share the intelligence with North Korean negotiators was part of an effort to convince North Korea that any discussions about disarmament must cover not only the nuclear weapons program it has boasted about, but a second one that it now denies exists". Putting on the table the evidence that North Korea obtained technology from the network built by Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan is significant because it is an effort to break an impasse over the scope of North Korea's nuclear programme. American officials were reluctant to describe the North Korean response, but one official told the paper that when presented with the evidence "they argue with us about it."

Dawn, 30 July 2005

#### **Indo-US pact - a gamble? (Afzaal Mahmood)**

Three weeks after the signing of a 10-year defence agreement that will enable New Delhi to buy sophisticated US military equipment, President George W. Bush has now agreed to provide American civilian nuclear knowhow and nuclear fuel to India, indicating a major policy shift in global and regional implications. Under the accord hammered out at a White House meeting between President Bush and the visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the US will enhance Indo-US cooperation "in the areas of civil nuclear, civil space and high technology commerce". The arrangement agreed to between the two leaders will enable India to secure international help for its civilian nuclear reactors, while retaining its nuclear arms. In the case of India, President Bush has set aside the long-term American policy that countries refusing to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty should be denied civilian nuclear assistance and, in many cases, face a weapons embargo.

The Tribune, 30 July 2005

#### **Document: PM's statement in Parliament on US visit**

The purpose of my visit was to sensitise the US Government about the full extent of the changes that have taken place in India since 1991. These changes have given us a stronger capability to work with the United States on more equal terms as we address common concerns and challenges. I also sought to emphasise that the Indian economy is stronger than it has ever been and we hope to participate in and benefit from the economic processes of globalisation. We are determined to be a competitive destination for investment, including foreign investment and the US business community could contribute to development in India through greater investment and trade. We are uniquely placed to enter into such mutually beneficial interaction drawing on the strength of our knowledge sector. Hence another important goal was to underline to the US that the emergence of India as a centre of knowledge based industries and services would provide a good basis for long-term collaboration between our economies.

Daily Yomiuri, 28 July 2005

#### **U.S. may tolerate peaceful N. Korean nuclear program**

The United States told North Korea it would allow Pyongyang to maintain a peaceful atomic power program if the reclusive state rejoined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said Friday afternoon. The proposal was made during their fifth round of bilateral talks aimed at bridging disagreement on the meaning of "denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. envoy proposed possibly excluding North Korean nuclear development for peaceful purposes, with certain conditions, from the denuclearization. The U.S. compromise may lead to a breakthrough in the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program. However, North Korea may demand that the United States normalize diplomatic relations and provide other incentives before Pyongyang scraps its nuclear program. Hill said the United States believed that North Korea had a right to a peaceful nuclear development program if it ratified the NPT.

Daily Yomiuri, 30 July 2005

#### **Pugwash confab issues antinuke declaration**

The 55th Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs closed Wednesday after issuing the Hiroshima Declaration of the Pugwash Council that aims to ban nuclear weapons. In the declaration, delegates called on nuclear powers to agree to the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention. They also urged states to act promptly to control nuclear material to prevent regional conflicts and the possible use of nuclear weapons by terrorists. The declaration stated that the number of countries that have nuclear weapons has grown in the past 10 years, and that almost no progress has been made toward nuclear disarmament. It also said strategies focusing on the possible use of nuclear weapons were close to being established. The declaration called for compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as short-term measures.

People's Daily, 31 July 2005

### **Six-party talks enter new stage**

Heads of delegations to the fourth-round of six-party talks concluded their meeting in Beijing on July 30, agreeing to have discussions on a joint document which indicates the talks having entered a new stage. Prior to this, the Chinese delegation held one-on-one talks with the delegations of the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), respectively. According to a source from the delegation of Republic of Korea (ROK), China has proposed a draft of the common document to other five parties, hoping agreement could be reached. "We will have a lot of discussion about the text, and see if we can come to some agreement today," said Christopher Hill, head of the US delegation, on Saturday when he left his hotel. "But I want to let you know it will take a while and can not be finished within a day," said Hill. "This is a very difficult negotiation."

The Indian Express, 31 July 2005

### **Basu okays N-deal, signals comrades to dilute hard red line**

NEW DELHI, July 30: Scotching speculation of a widening rift between the UPA and the Left, the CPI(M) politburo today inched closer to Manmohan Singh's foreign policy. It was apparent that the two pro-Congress elders in the party, Jyoti Basu and Harkishan Singh Surjeet, had swung the opinion within the politburo the Manmohan way. Surrounded by mediapersons this afternoon, Basu surprised everybody by underplaying the differences with the UPA on Indo-US nuclear deal. When asked if his party would continue to make an issue of the nuclear deal, Basu replied in the negative. When asked how he regarded the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament yesterday, he just mentioned, "okay." It was fair indication that opinion was changing inside A K Gopalan Bhavan on the crucial nuclear deal. And given the reams of anti-Manmohan Singh and anti-US statements that have been published recently by both AKG Bhavan and the CPI headquarters of Ajay Bhavan, it was obvious that Basu and Surjeet have squeezed out a positive interpretation of yesterday's statement made by Singh in Parliament.

Reuters, 31 July 2005

### **N.Korea Nuclear Talks Struggle with Joint Statement**

BEIJING: Negotiators at six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear programs struggled on Sunday to thrash out a joint statement of principles that has eluded them for nearly three years. The tortuous Beijing talks, now into their sixth day, looked set to drag on. Despite an unprecedented flurry of one-to-one meetings, the main protagonists, Washington and Pyongyang, still appeared far apart on the critical issue of how and when the North's nuclear weapons programs should be dismantled. Chief negotiators from the two Koreas, China, the United States, Russia and Japan left it to deputies to haggle over the text of the draft statement put forward by China, with the aim of producing a joint document that all parties could sign. "Our deputies are locked in a room at the negotiations going through the text and to determine what the differences are," U.S. chief negotiator Christopher Hill told reporters. "It's a very lengthy, difficult process." Hill said the Americans had no plans for a bilateral meeting with North Korea on Sunday.

The Associated Press, 31 July 2005

### **Nuke Talks Focus on China Draft Statement**

BEIJING: Talks to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons focused on a draft statement that the main U.S. envoy praised as a good basis for discussion, a sign of possible progress as an unprecedented sixth day of meetings opened Sunday. However, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill stressed differences remained with North Korea on a resolution of the 2 1/2-year-old nuclear standoff, which has raised regional tension and concerns that it could spark an arms race in East Asia. Hill has met five times with the North Koreans amid the talks and said Sunday he would probably see them again. No end date for the talks has been set, and Hill said "it's going to take a while" -- noting the process requires translating texts into five languages of the nations at the talks: Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean and Russian. "I want to caution everyone that it's a lot of work to look at a document and go line by line by line," Hill said Sunday afternoon at his Beijing hotel. "Things are moving, we have to see how it goes."

The Washington Post, 31 July 2005

### **China Tries to Advance N. Korea Nuclear Talks (Edward Cody)**

BEIJING, July 30: China circulated a proposed agreement on broad principles for ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program Saturday, seeking to push forward long-stalled six-party talks aimed at guaranteeing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. The Chinese draft, which diplomats discussed without reaching a conclusion, was seen as an attempt to pull together the lowest common denominator of views that have been laid out during five days of intense but so far fruitless negotiations here, including an unprecedented half-dozen bilateral meetings between U.S. and North Korean diplomats. "We're operating from a piece of paper now, and we'll see what we can do," said Christopher Hill, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs and leader of the U.S.

delegation. Hill has said that signing off on a list of what he called "agreed principles" was the main goal of the current round of talks, which began Tuesday. The idea, he explained, is to use the agreement on principles as a foundation for further talks and a demonstration that the six-party process is worth pursuing.

The Washington Post, 31 July 2005

**Iran says ready to restart nuclear work Monday** (Parisa Hafezi)

TEHRAN: Iran said it would restart some nuclear activities on Monday unless it receives European Union proposals on Sunday to break a diplomatic impasse. The EU is due to offer Iran some economic and political incentives in return for an indefinite suspension of uranium enrichment, nuclear fuel reprocessing and related activities. If Iran does not comply, the EU has threatened to back calls by the United States for the Islamic Republic to be reported to the United Nations Security Council and face possible sanctions. "If we do not receive the EU proposal today, tomorrow morning we will start part of activities in Isfahan's uranium conversion facility," Ali Aghamohammadi, spokesman for the Supreme National Security Council, told state television. "This will be under the supervision of U.N. inspectors," he added. A conversion plant near the central city of Isfahan takes processed uranium ore, mined in Iran's central desert, and turns it into uranium hexafluoride gas. This gas can be pumped into centrifuges that spin at supersonic speed to enrich uranium.

Daily Times, 31 July 2005

**Iran rejects EU request to delay nuclear proposals**

TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday rejected a European Union request to delay submitting EU proposals to solve a dispute over the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme, said a spokesman for the Supreme National Security Council said. The European Union, represented by Britain, France and Germany, were due to offer Iran a limited package of nuclear, economic and political incentives to give up work the United States suspects is a veil for efforts to build a nuclear bomb. In return, the EU wanted Iran to agree to maintain indefinitely its suspension of uranium enrichment, nuclear fuel reprocessing and related activities. The Iranian spokesman said ambassadors for the so-called EU Three had asked for the August 1 deadline for their proposals to be extended till August 7. "We reject any delay. We are expecting their proposals to be submitted on August 1 and it should meet Iran's minimum expectations," said Ali Aghamohammadi, the council spokesman and nuclear negotiator.

Dawn, 31 July 2005

**India's quest for nuclear status** (Ghayoor Ahmed)

According to a joint statement issued in Washington on July 18, US President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have resolved to transform the relationship between their two countries and establish a global partnership in areas of mutual interest, including the nuclear field. US Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns called it a "high water mark of US-India relations since 1947". It is generally believed that President Bush, aiming to boost India as a counterbalance against China's growing military might, has moved closer to accepting it as a nuclear weapons state, notwithstanding his rhetoric of a vigorous non-proliferation policy. While welcoming the Indian prime minister to the White House on July 18, President Bush appreciated India's strong commitment to preventing nuclear proliferation and stated that as a responsible state, with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such states are entitled to.