

The Daily Times, 1 May 2005

**Pakistan is our strategic partner, says US official**

WASHINGTON: Stephen Hadley, National Security Adviser to President George Bush, said on Friday that the United States considered Pakistan "a strategic partner". He said this in a meeting with Jehangir Karamat, Pakistan's ambassador to the US. "The United States holds Pakistan in high esteem for its valuable cooperation," the US official added. Mr Hadley said that the US-Pakistan friendship was "mutually advantageous and broad-based". Presenting the review of Pakistan-US relations, Mr Karamat updated Mr Hadley on Pakistan-India ties after President Pervez Musharraf's visit to New Delhi.

The Indian Express, 2 May 2005

**US not surprised at India pressing case**

WASHINGTON, MAY 1: The United States has said that the expansion of the United Nations Security Council will be examined in terms of its effectiveness and the problems of the 21st century, adding it was not "surprised" the matter had become an issue with India. "I don't think it (Security Council) would necessarily be weaker if it is larger. But these are questions that clearly have to be examined very closely," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Brazilian magazine *Veja* in an interview. "The one thing I will say is that the UN was formed in 1945 and obviously we have to start to look at these issues so that the UN can be updated to look as if it is really ready to deal with the 21st century, not the 20th," Rice said with regard to Security Council reform. The US was not surprised by demands for 'reform' of the Security Council, Rice said, adding "I am not at all surprised that countries that are taking on a more global role are desirous of Security Council membership and are pressing their case. I am not at all surprised that it has become an issue in Brazil or India or other places."

The Daily Times, 2 May 2005

**US hopes Pakistan and India will 'close the chasm' (Khalid Hasan)**

WASHINGTON: Don Kemp, deputy assistant secretary for South Asia, has expressed strong support for the thaw in Pakistan-India relations, hoping that the movement forward will continue so that it can help "close the chasm". Kemp was addressing a meeting of the executive council of the American-Pakistani Physicians of North America (APPNA) here on Friday. He filled in for assistant secretary of state Christina Rocca who excused herself because of family medical reasons. Kemp said what was currently being witnessed was the "highest point" in relations between the two neighbours. He called the change "dramatic." He paid to Pakistan, what has by now become an almost a formulaic tribute, whenever an American official speaks, when he praised Islamabad's role in the war against international terrorism. He also stressed that the American commitment to Pakistan was "long-term". Referring to the decision to offer F16 aircraft to Pakistan, he said, it was intended to meet Pakistan's legitimate defence needs. Pakistan, he added, was also fighting extremism. He praised the Pakistan army's role in the tribal areas, an undertaking that had caused it the loss of several hundred lives. He said thousands of militants had been killed but much remained to be done by way of mopping up operations.

Hindustan Times, 3 May 2005

**All nations, including India, Pak, must adhere to NPT: US**

The US is going full steam ahead on its demand for "universal" adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and said all nations, including India and Pakistan, would have to adhere to the agreement to have "full relationship" with the rest of the world. "I think one thing that will be re-emphasised or reiterated in his (US representative's) remarks (at the Non-Proliferation Review Conference) will be that we believe in universal adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan told reporters when asked whether US President George W Bush "is going to put pressure on India - his friends, India, Pakistan and Israel - to shut down their nuclear arsenals". State Department spokesman Richard Boucher echoed similar sentiments when asked about the issue of nuclear arsenals of India and Pakistan, at the regular briefing on Monday. When a correspondent asked why he did not mention India and Pakistan, which have developed nuclear weapons and whether the two South Asian countries were not "better off" than countries without nuclear weapons, Boucher said: "I don't think so but I am sure they would debate that."

People's Daily, 3 May 2005

**US boasts of deterrent capability over DPRK**

The United States on Monday boasted its deterrent capability over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) after reports that the DPRK test-fired a short-range missile. "We have, after all, a very strong alliance with South Korea and a very strong alliance with Japan. And of course the United States maintains significant - and I want to underline 'significant' - deterrent capability of all kinds in the Asia-Pacific region," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said after talks with French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier. "I don't think there should be any doubt about our ability to deter whatever the North Koreans are up to, but that does not mean that it is not a serious problem and that the North Koreans shouldn't come back to the six-party talks," Rice said. The test of DPRK's missiles "will at some point have to be a part of the discussions," Rice said. "It appears that there was a test of a short-range missile by the North Koreans and it landed in the Sea of Japan. We're not surprised by this. The North Koreans have tested their missiles before," White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card said in an interview with CNN's "Late Edition."

Daily Times, 3 May 2005

**US, Asian allies downplay North Korea's missile test**

SEOUL: The United States, Japan and South Korea on Monday played down North Korea's test-firing of a short-range missile off its east coast, saying it was not related to Pyongyang's drive for nuclear weapons. US officials confirmed Sunday's test, a day before the opening of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty conference in New York, and called on its allies to express concern. But they said they were not surprised by incident, the latest short-range missile test apparently timed for political

impact. "We're not surprised by this. The North Koreans have tested their missiles before. They've had some failures," White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card told CNN television. "We have to work together with our allies around the world - especially the Japanese, the South Koreans, the Russians and the Chinese - to demonstrate that North Korea's actions are inappropriate," Card said. "We don't want them to have any nuclear weapons, we don't want the Korean peninsula to have any nuclear weapons on it."

The Times of India, 3 May 2005

#### **US stiffens stand at NPT**

WASHINGTON: The US has made it clear it will counter attempts by signatories to the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to press the "lawful" Nuclear Five to disarm before asking others not to build atomic weapons, while vowing to continue its call for universal compliance to the treaty. This was stated by state department's leading arms control official assistant secretary of state Stephen Rademaker, ahead of the review conference of NPT which began on Monday in New York, attended by some 190 nations. India, which has not signed the NPT which came into effect in 1970, is among countries advocating time-bound universal disarmament. "Some of the concern expressed to date in the NPT review process about the pace of nuclear disarmament has dangerous overtones... Some states suggest strengthening the treaty's non-proliferation provisions should be linked to greater progress on nuclear disarmament," Rademaker told a congressional committee on April 28. "This point of view is fraught with risks, not least of which is to appear to excuse proliferation by blaming those who lawfully possess nuclear weapons under the NPT... Such thinking is confused and wrong. If it is accepted, it weakens nonproliferation. It must be vigorously countered," he said.

People's Daily, 4 May 2005

#### **Rice urges Iran not to seek nuke**

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Tuesday urged Iran not to develop nuclear weapons under the pretenses of developing a nuclear program for civilian purposes. "There needs to be a very clear commitment from the Iranians to live up to their international obligations and not to seek nuclear weapons under cover of nuclear civilian power," Rice told reporters after talks with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana. Washington has repeatedly accused Iran of using its civilian nuclear program as a cover to develop nuclear weapons. Iran always denies this, saying its nuclear program is for peaceful power generation. Prior to Rice's allegation, US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher also renewed American call for Iran to abandon its uranium enrichment program. "There is no reason for them to have an enrichment and reprocessing program," said Boucher, "We continue to believe that this is the only way for Iran to resolve this issue, and a way that the international community will be able to verify and to support." The US officials made the remarks after Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said on Tuesday that Iran is "determined" to pursue all legal areas of nuclear technology, including enrichment, exclusively for peaceful purposes.

The Korean Herald, 4 May 2005

#### **South Korea, U.S. keep close watch on N.K. tunnels** (Joo Sang-min)

Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities have been keeping track of North Korean construction of underground tunnels in a northeastern region, raising speculation they could be for military purposes although any use as an underground nuclear test site appears unlikely because the area is populated. Defense Ministry officials said yesterday the authorities have watched the construction since the late 1990s in Gilju County, in North Hamgyeong Province, but have not been able to verify the purpose of the tunnels. "Korea and the United States have continuously been checking the process of the tunnel construction, but the specific aim is uncertain at this moment," ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Shin Hyun-don told reporters. Pyongyang has constructed about 8,200 underground tunnels over the years to disguise its military buildup and use the tunnels as military posts in the event of a war, according to North Korean data leaked to media last year.

China Daily, 4 May 2005

#### **Rice to North Korea: U.S. can defend itself**

Talking tough, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice informed North Korea on Monday the United States is able to defend itself and its allies against nuclear and missile threats. Responding to reports that North Korea launched a short-range missile into the Sea of Japan on Sunday, Rice said, "I don't think there should be any doubt about our ability to deter whatever the North Koreans are up to." And, in reassuring South Korea, Japan and other allies in the Pacific area, Rice told reporters: "This is not just between the United States and North Korea." A suggestion Thursday by Vice Adm. Lowell E. Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, that North Korea might be able to strike American territory with a nuclear-tipped missile also has raised tensions and concerns. Negotiations with North Korea on its nuclear weapons program are stalemated. But Rice said North Korea's missile program should be put on the agenda when and if the talks are resumed. By contrast, South Korea and other Asian governments appeared to take Sunday's missile test in stride. They said it was a short-range weapon that could not reach even Japan and it had no link to Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

The Japan Times, 4 May 2005

#### **Japan, U.S. to seek other options on N. Korea**

WASHINGTON (Kyodo) Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice agreed Monday to seek "other options" if North Korea continues to refuse to return to the six-party talks on its nuclear ambitions. Machimura told reporters after the meeting they also agreed to cooperate on U.N. reform, including Japan's bid to gain a permanent seat on the Security Council. However, Rice did not give a clear-cut response to Japan's plan to submit a resolution in June on expanding the council's membership, according to Machimura. The two also remained divided over Japan's 17-month-old

import ban on American beef, with Machimura again stopping short of making commitments despite strong U.S. calls for an early resumption of imports. Following the hastily arranged talks, Machimura said he agreed with Rice on a U.S. initiative to upgrade the ongoing sub-Cabinet-level "strategic dialogue" involving the two nations and Australia into a top-level consultation body of foreign ministers. They also reaffirmed the need to maintain the momentum in discussions between the two nations on the realignment of the U.S. military in Japan.

The News, 4 May 2005

#### **US detects N Korea's test preparations**

SEOUL: US intelligence has detected the movement of heavy equipment in North Korea that points to possible preparations for an underground nuclear test, a South Korean newspaper said on Tuesday. The influential Chosun Ilbo, quoting a government source, said US spy satellites had captured frequent movements of trucks in the northeastern region of Kilju, as well as the movement of cranes and other heavy equipment into the area. "US intelligence authorities believe the images and other information point to preparations for a possible underground nuclear test," the source was quoted as saying. US and Japanese news reports last week said Washington had warned some governments and agencies that North Korea could be preparing for a test, which would represent a serious escalation of tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions. South Korean officials and US have since denied there were definitive signs of an imminent test. On Tuesday Seoul shot down the latest report, with Defence Minister Yoon Kwang-ung telling reporters before a cabinet meeting there were no unusual indications in the area.

Dawn, 4 May 2005

#### **India, Pakistan not better off with N-weapons: US** (Anwar Iqbal)

WASHINGTON, May 3: The United States said on Tuesday that it did not believe India and Pakistan were better off possessing nuclear weapons, but did not include the two South Asian nations among those criticized for violating the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The assertion of US position on the nuclear issue, given at an afternoon briefing at the State Department, comes amid a major non-proliferation conference being held at the UN headquarters in New York. The conference, which will run through May 27, brings together top officials from across the world every five years to review the status of the NPT. At the briefing in Washington, State Department's spokesman Richard Boucher counted Libya, South Africa, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan among those nations who have agreed to get rid of their nuclear weapons and said: "They're all better off for it."

The Hindu, 4 May 2005

#### **U.S. demands Iran dismantle all nuclear facilities** (David E. Sanger)

UNITED NATIONS: The gulf between Iran and the United States widened considerably on Monday when the Bush administration, at the opening of a conference on the future of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, demanded that Iran dismantle all the "equipment and facilities" it has built over the past two decades to manufacture nuclear material. The demand, made by Stephen Rademaker, Assistant Secretary of State who spoke at the opening of the conference in the chamber of the General Assembly on Monday afternoon, has been made before by the United States. But it came only two days after Iran threatened to resume some production activities in coming weeks. As part of Iran's negotiations with the European Union over the future of its nuclear programme - which it insists is solely intended for electricity production - Iran has demanded that it must be allowed to install 3,000 centrifuges, which enrich uranium. If enriched at a low level, that uranium could fuel a nuclear power plant. But the centrifuges could also produce enough highly enrichment uranium to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Daily Times, 5 May 2005

#### **Rice reiterates Iran should not seek nukes**

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Tuesday that Iran should not seek to develop nuclear weapons under the pretenses of developing a civilian nuclear programme. "There needs to be a very clear commitment from the Iranians to live up to their international obligations and not to seek nuclear weapons under cover of nuclear civilian power," Rice told reporters after meeting here with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana. Solana for his part said Iran knew the "consequences" if it did not issue certain guarantees about its nuclear aims, hinting the issue could be brought before the UN Security Council. Rice spoke after a department spokesman renewed a call earlier Tuesday for Tehran to abandon its uranium enrichment programme after Iran reserved the right to pursue such activities despite fears it was working on a nuclear bomb.

Daily Times, 5 May 2005

#### **States wrangle over right to nuclear technology** (Carol Giacomo)

The United States and others have accused Iran of a clandestine 18-year effort to use its NPT membership as a guise for acquiring technology needed to produce nuclear weapons. At the heart of this month's United Nations nuclear non-proliferation conference is a fundamental question: Do countries have an unambiguous right to peaceful nuclear energy? It used to be assumed the answer was yes, as Iran insists. But the United States and others recently have shown more willingness to re-think the issue, emphasising crucial conditions and setting new parameters for a debate that is unlikely to be resolved soon. Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi affirmed Tehran's position on Tuesday during the second day of debate at the conference taking stock of the 1970 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, under which Iran and 182 other states renounced nuclear arms. As part of the pact's inherent bargain, the five states officially allowed to retain nuclear arms - the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain - promised to help non-nuclear states acquire peaceful nuclear energy and in time, to scrap their own atomic arsenals.

Daily Times, 6 May 2005

### **Japan, US prepare to refer Korea to UNSC**

TOKYO: Japan and the United States may start preparations in late May to refer North Korea to the United Nations Security Council over its nuclear weapons ambitions, a Japanese newspaper said on Thursday. The two governments may also seek talks with South Korea, China and Russia over the issue, judging that Pyongyang is unlikely to return quickly to the six-party talks it has boycotted for almost a year, the right-leaning Sankei Shimbun said. "We should start preparations in May," the paper quoted a Japanese foreign ministry official as saying of the UN referral, which could lead to sanctions. US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Shotaro Taniuchi agreed at a meeting last month that the process should begin if Pyongyang did not change its attitude, the paper said. North Korea has said it would treat the imposition of sanctions as a declaration of war.

The New York Times, 6 May 2005

### **U.S. Cites Signs of Korean Preparations for Nuclear Test** (David E. Sanger and William J. Broad)

WASHINGTON, May 5: White House and Pentagon officials are closely monitoring a recent stream of satellite photographs of North Korea that appear to show rapid, extensive preparations for a nuclear weapons test, including the construction of a reviewing stand, presumably for dignitaries, according to American and foreign officials who have been briefed on the imagery. North Korea has never tested a nuclear weapon. Bush administration officials, when asked Thursday about the burst of activity at a suspected test site in the northeastern part of the country, cautioned that satellites could not divine the intentions of Kim Jong Il, North Korea's leader, and said it was possible that he was putting on a show for American spy satellites. They said the North Koreans might be trying to put pressure on President Bush to offer a improved package of economic and diplomatic incentives to the desperately poor country in exchange for curtailing its nuclear activities.

The Associated Press, 6 May 2005

### **Experts: Much Nuclear Safety Work Remains**

WASHINGTON: Even as the government warns of al-Qaida's determination to obtain nuclear weapons, programs funded by the United States secured less Russian nuclear material in 2004 than the year before, according to a report Thursday by private nuclear analysts. The study on global nuclear threat reduction programs came the day after U.S. and Pakistani officials announced the arrest of al-Qaida's No. 3 operative, Abu Farraj al-Libbi. The Pakistani government believes al-Libbi may have allies in its military's senior rungs, and U.S. experts say those officers may play a role in guarding Pakistani nuclear sites. "The danger of nuclear theft is a global problem. It is not just a Russia problem," said Matthew Bunn, a co-author of the report from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Nuclear Threat Initiative. "We need to forge a common nuclear standard for the world because terrorists are going to get nuclear material wherever it is easiest," Bunn added. "Nuclear security is only as strong as its weakest link."

Newindpress, 6 May 2005

### **When US talks nuclear to India** (A Gopalakrishnan)

Media reports have been suggesting that India is about to receive "civilian nuclear co-operation" from the US. While analysts have speculated that this might include the supply of foreign reactors and nuclear safety assistance, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have been silent about the details. The questions we need to ask are: What concrete assistance does India need from the US to further our civilian nuclear programme? What does the US want in return? And, what are the short-term and long-term strategic implications of such co-operation? India today has fourteen operating nuclear power reactors and nine more are under various stages of construction or commissioning. Eighteen of these are pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs), two are the US-supplied boiling water reactors (BWRs) at Tarapur, two are pressurised water reactors (PWRs) being built at Kudamkulam, and the last one is a Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of our own design on which civil work has just started.

Daily Times, 6 May 2005

### **US struggles with North Korea, Iran N-standoffs** (Peter Mackler)

While the US administration has declared nuclear non-proliferation a top priority, it has failed to devise an effective strategy for North Korea and Iran. Despite years of efforts to keep North Korea and Iran from developing nuclear weapons technology, the United States and its allies have made little headway, with few viable options on the horizon. Negotiations coupled with economic, diplomatic and security incentives have barely slowed Pyongyang's nuclear arms programme and Tehran's drive to process its own nuclear fuel for possible military use. Both the insular Asian state and hardline Islamic Republic have become increasingly pugnacious. But while Washington insists that no option is off the table, US allies oppose the use of force. So the administration of President George W Bush, already at war in Iraq, has been focusing on diplomatic solutions and struggling to find new means of leverage.

Reuters, 7 May 2005

### **N.Korea, China - Japan talks top Asia - Europe meet**

KYOTO: Asian and European foreign ministers urged North Korea on Saturday to return to talks on its nuclear weapons ambitions "without any further delay" as concerns grew that Pyongyang was preparing to carry out an atomic test. Early a year has passed since a third round of China-hosted six-party talks on the crisis ended inconclusively, and North Korea has since declared that it possesses nuclear arms. "(The ministers) strongly urged the DPRK to return to the negotiating table of the six-party talks without any further delay, and to make a strategic decision so as to achieve the denuclearisation of the (Korean) peninsula in a peaceful manner through dialogue," said a chairman's statement issued at the end of a two-day Asia-Europe

Meeting (ASEM).

The Guardian, 7 May 2005

**Spy photos spot signs of N Korea nuclear test site** (Julian Borger and Jonathan Watts)

American officials believe that new satellite photographs of North Korea show intensive preparations for a possible nuclear weapons test, it was reported yesterday. The imagery is said to show tunnels being dug under a mountain in the north-east of the country and then rock and building materials being taken back in, possibly in an effort to contain an underground blast. The pictures also show what appears to be an observation stand a few miles away. Details of the satellite intelligence were reported by the New York Times yesterday, quoting Pentagon and White House officials, who pointed out that the apparent test preparations could be a ruse to pressure the United States into making concessions at the negotiating table. The prospect of a nuclear test by North Korea has alarmed its neighbours, who have spent the past two years trying to head off a confrontation between Pyongyang and Washington that could destabilise the region.

The Associated Press, 7 May 2005

**Official: N. Korea Nuclear Test Possible**

WASHINGTON: U.S. spy satellites have detected what may be preparations for North Korea's first test of a nuclear weapon, although analysts believe it could be a calculated ruse on Pyongyang's part, a U.S. defense official said Friday. The satellite images show North Korea has dug and refilled a significant hole at a suspected test site in Gilju in the northeastern part of the country, said the official, discussing intelligence only on the condition of anonymity. The hole was dug in a manner consistent with preparations for an underground nuclear test, although it is not known whether the North Koreans deposited a weapon inside, the official said. In addition, the official said, they have built some bleachers a sufficient distance from the hole, presumably for viewing any test. Officials elsewhere in the U.S. government played down the remarks.

The New York Times, 7 May 2005

**U.S. Warns North Korea Against Nuclear Test**

WASHINGTON, May 6: The White House warned North Korea on Friday that conducting a nuclear test would be "a provocative act," and Japan's foreign minister raised the possibility of requesting United Nations sanctions against the North. The White House statement came a day after The New York Times reported growing concern among administration officials and several intelligence agencies about signs that North Korea might conduct its first nuclear test at a site near Kilju in the northeast. Several officials confirmed those reports on Friday, and two officials with access to the information said satellites were also watching the construction of some platforms and crates hundreds of miles from the possible test site, near a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon.

The New York Times, 7 May 2005

**Under Fire at Work, Los Alamos Director Will Move On** (William J. Broad)

G. Peter Nanos, a retired Navy admiral who sought to put Los Alamos National Laboratory on a sound management footing but alienated many employees with his brusque, top-down style, is stepping down as director to take a post at the Pentagon. G. Peter Nanos, director of Los Alamos, plans to join the federal Defense Threat Reduction Agency. His departure was announced yesterday by the University of California, which manages Los Alamos, the nation's premier nuclear weapons laboratory, for the federal government. Starting in January 2003, Dr. Nanos worked first as interim director of Los Alamos, in the mountains of New Mexico, and then as permanent director. He pursued a strict agenda that ended up all but shutting down the laboratory from last July to late January.

The Korean Herald, 7 May 2005

**'Washington-N.K. war of words will not resolve crisis'**

Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing yesterday shared deep concern over the spate of invective exchanged recently between the United States and North Korea and said the open antagonism will not help resolve the crisis over the North's nuclear weapons. They also agreed Pyongyang's repeated comments about its nuclear weapons production would aggravate the confrontation and the North's isolation at a time when hectic efforts are underway to try to get the communist state to end its boycott of the six-party talks on ending the nuclear standoff. Just hours before the Ban-Li meeting, President George W. Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao had a telephone conversation in which both leaders renewed their commitment to work together to end the nuclear stalemate peacefully. They will meet face to face in Moscow tomorrow ahead of a ceremony Monday to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Khaleej Times, 7 May 2005

**North Korea nuclear test would be "provocative": White House**

WASHINGTON: The United States warned Friday that any nuclear weapons test by North Korea would be considered a provocative act, as reports suggested the Stalinist state could stage an underground nuclear experiment. The New York Times said in a report that US officials familiar with satellite and intelligence data believed North Korea was building a reviewing stand and filling in a tunnel, signs of a potential underground nuclear test. "I don't want to get into discussing intelligence matters, but what I would say is that if North Korea did take such a step, that would just be another provocative act that would further isolate it from the international community," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. He said all countries in the region wanted a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. The United States and North Korea's neighbours had been working through multilateral talks to meet the objective, he added.

The Indian Express, 7 May 2005

**US cites signs of North Korea preparing for nuclear test**

WASHINGTON: White House and Pentagon officials are closely monitoring a recent stream of satellite photographs of North Korea that appear to show rapid, extensive preparations for a nuclear weapons test, including the construction of a reviewing stand, presumably for dignitaries, according to American and foreign officials who have been briefed on the imagery. North Korea has never tested a nuclear weapon. Bush administration officials, when asked on Thursday about the burst of activity at a suspected test site in the northeastern part of the country, cautioned that satellites could not divine the intentions of Kim Jong Il, North Korea's leader, and said it was possible that he was putting on a show for American spy satellites.

The New York Times, 8 May 2005

**Amid Tensions, Bush and Putin Conduct Meeting in Russia** (Elisabeth Bumiller)

MOSCOW, May 8: President Bush met tonight with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in what was widely expected to be a tense encounter after days of recriminations over Russian rollbacks on democracy and the country's actions in World War II, but the top foreign policy advisers to both men moved swiftly to pronounce the meeting a success. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Sergey V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, appeared in an unusual joint briefing at a guest house on the grounds of Mr. Putin's presidential dacha outside Moscow to say that the two leaders had talked extensively about nuclear proliferation and Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza this summer. Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin even took a brief spin on the dacha grounds in a gleaming 1956 Volga, with Mr. Bush at the wheel. In a photograph that is likely to become a symbol of the goodwill that the White House and Kremlin sought to portray here on a damp spring evening, the two presidents waved from the windows as the car emerged from a forest of birches.

The New York Times, 9 May 2005

**Despite Tension, Bush-Putin Meeting Is Called a Success** (Elisabeth Bumiller)

MOSCOW, May 8: President Bush met Sunday night with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in what was widely expected to be a tense encounter after days of recriminations over Russian rollbacks of democracy and the Soviet Union's actions in the World War II era, but the top foreign policy advisers to both men swiftly pronounced the meeting a success. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Sergey V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, appeared in an unusual joint briefing at a guest house on the grounds of Mr. Putin's presidential dacha outside Moscow to say the two leaders had talked extensively about nuclear proliferation and Israel's plan to withdraw from Gaza this summer. Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin even took a brief spin on the dacha grounds in a gleaming 1956 Volga, with Mr. Bush at the wheel. In a photograph that is likely to become a symbol of the good will that the White House and Kremlin sought to portray here on a damp spring evening, the two presidents waved from the windows as the car, purchased by Mr. Putin last year, emerged from a forest of birches.

The New York Times, 9 May 2005

**When It Comes to Replacing Oil Imports, Nuclear Is No Easy Option, Experts Say** (Matthew L. Wald)

WASHINGTON, May 8: President Bush has proposed reducing oil imports by increasing the use of nuclear power, which he said in a recent speech was "one of the most promising sources of energy." There is a problem, though: reactors make electricity, not oil. And oil does not make much electricity. Nuclear reactors produce about 20 percent of the electricity used in the United States and about 8 percent of the total energy consumed. Oil accounts for 41 percent of energy consumption. Could a few dozen more reactors, in addition to the 103 running now, cut into oil's share of the energy market? "Indirectly, but very indirectly," said Lawrence J. Goldstein, president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation, a nonprofit group that studies the economics of oil. People who think nuclear power is a way to reduce oil imports are "confusing several issues," he said. Peter A. Bradford, a former member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, added, "No one knowledgeable about energy policy would link nuclear power and gasoline prices."

The Guardian, 10 May 2005

**Pressure to restart N Korea nuclear talks** (Ian Traynor)

China, South Korea and the UN's nuclear watchdog yesterday pleaded with North Korea and the US to resume talks as the International Atomic Energy Agency estimated that Pyongyang already had enough material for up to six bombs. While South Korean and Chinese leaders met in Moscow and urged the North Korean regime to return to the table after almost a year of stalemate, Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the IAEA, tacitly called on the US administration to adjust its hard line to allow six-party talks to resume. There were signs last night that the US might have heeded Dr ElBaradei. In an interview with CNN from Moscow, the US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, said the US "of course, recognises that North Korea is sovereign".

China Daily, 10 May 2005

**US offers direct talks with North Korea**

The United States sought to coax North Korea back to the negotiating table on Monday by saying it viewed the nation as sovereign and would hold direct talks as part of six-party nuclear discussions. U.S. officials have said this before, but repeating the positions was significant one day after North Korea said it wanted clarification on both points before deciding whether to resume talks about ending its suspected nuclear arms programs. Chinese and South Korean leaders over the weekend called for resolving the matter through peaceful dialogue following a report last week that some U.S. officials believe North Korea may be preparing for a nuclear test. The United States regards the six-way talks among North Korea and South Korea, China, Russia Japan and itself as the best way to persuade Pyongyang to give up nuclear arms in exchange for U.S. security guarantees and economic incentives from others. "The United States, of course, recognizes that North Korea is sovereign."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told CNN in an interview in Moscow, echoing a statement she first made in March during visit to Japan, China and South Korea.

The Associated Press, 10 May 2005

**Blix: U.S. Not Committed to Nuke 'Bargain'**

UNITED NATIONS: Washington isn't taking "the common bargain" of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as seriously as it once did, and that's dimming global support for the U.S. campaign to shut down the North Korean and Iranian nuclear programs, the former chief U.N. weapons inspector said. Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton, by questioning the value of treaties and international law, has also damaged the U.S. position, Hans Blix said. "There is a feeling the common edifice of the international community is being dismantled," the Swedish arms expert said. Blix, now chairman of the Swedish government-sponsored Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, spoke with reporters in the second week of a monthlong conference to review the 1970 nonproliferation treaty. Under the 188-nation pact, nations without nuclear weapons pledge not to pursue them, in exchange for a commitment by five nuclear-weapons states – the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China – to negotiate toward nuclear disarmament.

Reuters, 10 May 2005

**N.Korea blames U.S. for 'fuss' on nuclear tests**

SEOUL: Reports it could soon conduct an underground nuclear weapons test were speculation cooked up by Washington, North Korea said on Tuesday, but the secretive state did not deny outright that one might be planned. Media reports have said spy satellites show North Korea has apparently stepped up activity in its northeastern region of Kilju. The area has been suspected of being where the North would conduct a test, U.S. and South Korean officials have said. "The United States is making a fuss that our republic may proceed with an underground nuclear test in June and it will report its own view to the International Atomic Energy Agency and other countries, including Japan," the North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary. The official KCNA news agency reported about the commentary on its Korean-language service. The South's Yonhap news agency carried the report.

The Nation, 11 May 2005

**US-Iran confrontation** (Dr Maqsud UI Hasan Nuri)

Call it, coincidence or fate, Pakistan's security outlook does not seem to be improving. For the last five decades it was the eastern neighbour India that consumed Pakistan's energy and resources to the point of obsession. In the late 1990s it was thought that going nuclear will alleviate most of strategic anxieties, but since 9/11 the security woes have shifted to western borders complicating the security calculus. As if problems in Balochistan, FATA and Northern Areas were not enough, the crescendo of US-Iran war of words is ominous. The US wants Iran to stop enrichment and reprocessing of uranium - citing the latter as a precursor for possible attempt of secret manufacture of nuclear weapons. It has fronted the three EU states to engage Iran in a round of negotiations, failing which it has threatened to invoke the UNSC for clamping sanctions. Iran, on the other hand, claims that it has a legal right to pursue peaceful development of nuclear energy. It has rebutted the US offers of being facilitated in being admitted to WTO and sale of spares for civil aircraft as a "bribe" and vowed that it will not cease its peaceful nuclear programme.

Dawn, 11 May 2005

**US undermining NPT, says Blix**

UNITED NATIONS: Former chief UN weapons inspector, Hans Blix, said on Monday that the United States ambivalence towards the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty is dimming global support for the US campaign to shut down nuclear programmes of North Korean and Iran. "Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton, by questioning the value of treaties and international law, has also damaged the US position," Mr Blix said at a news conference on the sidelines of the NPT review conference. Mr Blix said: "There is a feeling that the common edifice of the international community is being dismantled." He also cited the Bush administration proposals to build new nuclear weapons and talk in Washington even of testing weapons, ending a 13-year-old US moratorium on nuclear tests.

People's Daily, 11 May 2005

**US-DPRK talks in New York still possible: spokesman says**

The United States said on Tuesday that the New York talks between officials from Washington and Pyongyang over the resumption of the six-party talks remains possible although "it's not a negotiating channel". "The New York channel obviously exists and it remains open, and we'll use it when we deem it appropriate, as we have in the past," acting State Department spokesman Tom Casey told a news briefing. However, Casey noted, "it's not a negotiating channel, it's not a replacement or substitute for the six-party talks. "We put forward a good proposal at the last round of six-party talks...We'd certainly like to hear back from the North Koreans about that and think another round of six-party talks would be the way to do that." On Nov. 30 and Dec. 3 of last year, officials of the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had two rounds of talks in New York over the resumption of the six-party talks which was designed to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. In stead of having negotiation with the DPRK, Washington said, the bilateral talks was aimed at telling Pyongyang that the US was ready to resume the six-party talks without precondition.

People's Daily, 11 May 2005

**China would be pleased if US, DPRK have direct contact**

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Tuesday that China will be "pleased" if the United States and the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have direct contact in any form. "China is in support of any proposals, measures and steps that are conducive to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula, to easing the tension there and to the early resumption of the six-party talks," Liu told a routine press conference. However, he added, the conditions required for the direct contact between DPRK and the US depend on the two parties themselves instead of the Chinese side. "Whether they are within the framework of the six-party talks or not and, provided the U.S. and the DPRK, as main parties concerned, are able to exchange views on some issues, it would be helpful to resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula," he said. Liu said that any party in the six-party talks should only say or do things conducive to continuing the six-party talks or easing the situation. China hopes all relevant parties should show flexibility, pragmatic spirit and sincerity and push for the resumption of the six-party talks, he noted.

The Times of India, 11 May 2005

#### **US steps out of Pokhran shadow** (Chidanand Rajghatta)

WASHINGTON: Almost seven years to the week after India conducted its nuclear tests, the principle scientist who supervised the event and who was denied an American visa soon after will be visiting the United States. Dr R Chidambaram, who is now the Principle Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, will be in Washington on May 19 for talks with the US nuclear establishment. The scientist's post is of the rank of a minister of state. The high-level exchange centers around the proposed cooperation between the two sides on nuclear energy issues, including talks on relevant technologies and ways to get around the roadblocks. Dr Chidambaram was Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission at the time of the tests and he played a key role in its execution, including on-site supervision. Weeks after the tests, he was scheduled to attend a meeting organized by the American Crystallographic Association in his capacity as vice-chairman of the International Union of Crystallographers. But an enraged Clinton administration denied him a visa despite support for him from the American scientific community. Several other scientists were subsequently denied visas and researchers and engineers working on joint collaborations such as the LCA project were asked to return home.

Reuters, 13 May 2005

#### **Senate Panel Issues Bill Updating U.S Energy Policy**

WASHINGTON: A draft Senate energy bill, parts of which will be released on Friday, would boost the nation's emergency oil stockpile, protect the power grid from blackouts and offer tax credits to companies that use wind or solar power to generate electricity. But the most contentious issues such as incentives to boost domestic oil drilling and whether states can allow offshore drilling for natural gas in areas now off-limits have yet to be worked out, Senate Energy Committee aides said. The House of Representatives last month approved its version of energy legislation. President Bush wants Congress to send him a final energy package by Aug. 1. An overall federal spending plan approved recently by Congress limited the energy bill to no more than \$11 billion in tax breaks and incentives. Previous congressional attempts at energy bills would have cost more than double that amount. Republican and Democratic members of the Senate Energy Committee met privately for months to draft the bill.

Reuters, 13 May 2005

#### **China Says U.S. Impeding N.Korea Arms Talks - NYT**

NEW YORK: A senior Chinese diplomat on Thursday accused the Bush administration of undermining efforts to revive negotiations with North Korea and said there was "no solid evidence" that Pyongyang was preparing to test a nuclear weapon, the New York Times reported. The comments by Yang Xiyu, a senior Foreign Ministry official and China's top official on the North Korean nuclear problem, reflect growing frustration in Beijing with the Bush administration, the newspaper said in a report from Beijing. Even as the White House presses China to find a solution to the nuclear issue, Chinese officials say, it has hurled insults at North Korea and given its leaders excuses to stay away from the bargaining table, according to the Times. "It is true that we do not yet have tangible achievements" in ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Yang said in an interview with the newspaper. "But a basic reason for the unsuccessful effort lies in the lack of cooperation from the U.S. side." Yang said that when President Bush called North Korea leader Kim Jong-il a "tyrant" last month, Bush "destroyed the atmosphere" for negotiations.

The Washington Post, 13 May 2005

#### **Nuclear? No, Restoration** (Charles Krauthammer)

Four years ago this week, President Bush nominated Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen to the federal bench. Four years later, she and six other appeals court nominees remain unconfirmed and unvoted upon because of Democratic filibusters. This technique is defended by Democrats as traditional and rooted in history. What a fraud. The only example that comes close is Lyndon Johnson's nomination in 1968 of (sitting) Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas to be chief justice. But this case is muddled by the fact that (a) Fortas was subject to allegations involving conflicts of interest and financial impropriety, (b) he did not appear to have the votes anyway, and (c) the case involved elevation on the court, not appointment to the court. Even if we concede Fortas, that is one successful filibuster, 37 years ago, in two centuries of American history. In 2000, a small number of Republicans tried to filibuster two Clinton judicial nominees but were defeated in that attempt not only by Democrats but also by Republicans voting roughly 3 to 1 for cloture.

The News, 13 May 2005

#### **Rice hopeful over Iran nukes negotiations**

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed hope that Iran would accept a deal to scrap any suspect nuclear fuel activities, despite Tehran's announcement it planned to resume them soon. "The Iranians have been making

various threats publicly. We are following it very closely," Rice told a Senate committee here, amid speculation Tehran would pursue efforts to eventually develop nuclear weapons. "But it's our hope that the Iranians are going to continue these negotiations because it's really the only reliable way for them to really be a part of the international system and to be accepted there," she said. "The Security Council always remains an option should the Iranians not live up to their obligations," Rice said. "But we are still hopeful that they will recognize where they are." "So we are watching the situation, we are in very close contact with our allies, but we are hopeful that the Iranians are going to take the deal that's being given to them.

Dawn, 13 May 2005

#### **Israel has 400 nuclear warheads: US official**

UNITED NATIONS, May 12: A former Pentagon official and whistle-blower, Daniel Ellsberg, said on Wednesday that Israel could have close to 400 nuclear weapons at present. "That's more than Britain, China, India and Pakistan, and probably more than France," said Mr Ellsberg at a press briefing before he addressed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty conference here. He observed that Israeli Technician Mordechai Vanunu revealed in 1986 that Israel had about 200 nuclear weapons. Mr Vanunu has estimated that at the same rate of production Israel had when he left Dimona in 1985, the country should have close to 400 weapons today, Mr Ellsberg said. Mr Ellsberg, who spoke on behalf of the non-profit Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, which promotes the abolition of nuclear weapons, said Israel today was probably the third or fourth-largest nuclear state - behind the United States and Russia, and possibly France.

The Korean Herald, 13 May 2005

#### **U.S. ineffective in pressuring N. Korea to dismantle weapons** (Joo Sang-min)

The United States appears to be running out of effective cards to play in forcing North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, especially as it is getting little cooperation from China, a major ally of the communist state, analysts said. China reportedly is turning a deaf ear to U.S. appeals to apply economic or political sanctions against North Korea to press the communist state to abandon its nuclear ambitions. Worried about stability in the neighboring country, which is a precondition to its economic developments, Beijing has refrained from using pressure, analysts said. Washington has been discussing with China and Russia the possibility of taking the nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council, but China, one of the U.N. council's permanent members, has signaled it would veto any such move. Tensions have been mounting recently over the North's nuclear weapons program amid reports that it may be preparing a nuclear weapons test. In February, the North declared that it possesses nuclear weapons and will increase its arsenal as a deterrent against "U.S. hostility."

People's Daily, 14 May 2005

#### **US expects DPRK back to six-party talks: spokesman**

The United States on Friday declined to respond to Japan's call for a five-nation talk if the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will not come back to six-party talks to solve nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula. "I think we'll have to see... we all continue to believe firmly that the best way to solve this (nuclear) problem is through six-party talks," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "And we're looking for North Korea to come back, and to come back serious, to deal with the issues and to eliminate the nuclear weapons program," Boucher said. US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, Chris Hill, who is visiting Seoul, South Korea, will have talks with South Korean government officials over the nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula, Boucher said. Japan said on Friday the UN Security Council or the five nations involved in the six-party talks should meet to pressure DPRK if the country remained defiant on its nuclear program.

International Herald Tribune, 14 May 2005

#### **US, S. Korea to focus on diplomacy**

SEOUL: South Korea and the United States agreed to "strengthened diplomatic measures" to persuade North Korea to return to six-nation nuclear talks, a senior official said here Friday, while dismissing assessments by some U.S. officials that the communist state might be preparing for a nuclear test. The comment on the possibility of a North Korean nuclear test was made in Washington by the deputy foreign minister, Song Min Soon of South Korea, and repeated by the country's intelligence chief in Seoul. Song later traveled with Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, Washington's lead negotiator on North Korea, to Seoul to continue consultations. "There is powerful logic to their coming to the table and agreeing to the proposals which will truly address their needs," Hill said at the airport outside Seoul, when asked about North Korea's chances of returning to talks. "I cannot see how nuclear weapons, in any way, address any real need of theirs."

The News, 14 May 2005

#### **US nuclear weapons policy is 'immoral' and 'illegal', says former Defence secretary** (Kaleem Omar)

KARACHI: Robert McNamara, who served as US secretary of defence under President John F Kennedy and President Lyndon B Johnson from 1961 to 1968 and as president of the World Bank from 1968 to 1981, and who is the author of several books including "Blundering Into Disaster: Surviving the First Century of the Nuclear Age" (1986) and "In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam" (1999), has characterised current US nuclear weapons policy as "immoral, illegal, militarily unnecessary, and dreadfully dangerous." Writing in the May/June 2005 issue of Foreign Policy, an American bi-monthly journal, McNamara says in an article titled "Apocalypse Soon": "It is time, well past time, in my view, for the United States to cease its Cold War-style reliance on nuclear weapons as a foreign-policy tool...The risk of an accidental or inadvertent nuclear launch is unacceptably high. Far from reducing these risks, the Bush administration has signaled that it is committed to keeping the US nuclear arsenal as a mainstay of its military power, a commitment that is simultaneously eroding the international norms that have limited the spread of nuclear weapons and fissile materials for 50 years."

International Herald Tribune, 18 May 2005

**John Tierney: Wrong again on nuclear power** (John Tierney)

NEW YORK: The great taboo against nuclear power seems to be over in Washington. This is a mixed blessing. The subject had been off limits to environmentally correct politicians since the spring of 1979, when the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania inspired the Woodstock of the antinuke movement. More than 65,000 protesters marched on the Capitol to hear energy experts like Jackson Browne and Benjamin Spock - and, of course, Jane Fonda, an authority because of her role in the "The China Syndrome." Celebrities and politicians, warning of meltdowns and cancer epidemics, demanded the shutdown of all nuclear plants. Protesters dressed as mushrooms chanted, "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want to radiate." I went to the rally sympathetic to the movement but left unsure of which was scarier, nuclear power or its enemies. Now some prominent environmentalists are having second thoughts, as reported this week by Felicity Barringer of The New York Times. Given the threat of global warming, they say, encouraging new nuclear power plants may be necessary. And Congress is about to take up proposals to reinvigorate the industry.

Daily Times, 20 May 2005

**France backs discussing withdrawal of US nuclear weapons**

PARIS: Paris backs a call by Berlin to discuss at NATO the withdrawal of the remaining US nuclear weapons stationed in Germany, the International Herald Tribune reported Thursday citing France's defense minister. The Paris-based daily said that in an interview French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie backed a call made earlier this by her German counterpart Peter Struck for a possible withdrawal in NATO committees. While showing understanding for the demand by Germany's governing center-left coalition for the weapons to be removed, she refused to explicitly call on Washington to withdraw them, the newspaper reported. An estimated 150 US nuclear weapons are stationed on German soil out of a total of about 480 in Europe.

Daily Times, 20 May 2005

**US says Iran testing Europeans' resolve on nukes**

WASHINGTON: Iran is testing the resolve of France, Britain and Germany to stick together and keep a united front with Washington in talks over Tehran's nuclear programme, a senior US administration official said on Wednesday. "I think what's really going on is a period of testing, with the Iranians testing whether they can kind of break the EU-3 apart or break the EU-3 from us," the official said, referring to the three European states negotiating with Iran. "It's complicated, it's hard, it's going to take some time, I think the EU-3 have a pretty good approach," he said to a small group of reporters on condition of anonymity. The European trio has offered Iran political and economic incentives to stop its uranium enrichment programme, which the United States suspects may be used to produce nuclear weapons. "Iran has thought for a long period of time it could both pursue its nuclear weapons programme and still have relations with the rest of the world, maybe not great relations with us, but good relations with everybody else," the official said. "Russians do not look with favour on the notion of an Iran with a nuclear weapon along with the kinds of missiles they are developing to deliver them. I'm not sure China in its heart of hearts would like to have a nuclear Iran," the US official said.

Reuters, 20 May 2005

**Senate Group Warns China Faces Test Over N. Korea**

WASHINGTON: A North Korean nuclear test can still be averted but China must agree to join the United States and other Asian nations in a quarantine of the isolated communist state, according to an analysis by the Bush administration's U.S. Senate allies. The paper, released on Thursday to key staff aides by the Republican Policy Committee that advises the U.S. Senate, predicted that a threatened North Korean nuclear weapons test would have sweeping security ramifications and said resolving this crisis peacefully is a "clear test for China." The paper also anticipated possible regional reactions to a test, including accelerated missile defense cooperation between the United States and its Asian allies and the permanent stationing of additional U.S. forces at sea and on land in the region. The analysis said U.S. ally South Korea might mobilize its forces to defend itself against the North and purchase more advanced U.S.-made arms. But it also suggested Seoul, fearing war, might form "some kind of confederation with the North" and ask U.S. troops to leave.

The Washington Post, 20 May 2005

**U.S. Envoy Met With North Korean Officials at U.N.** (Glenn Kessler and Anthony Faiola)

After a public appeal from North Korea, a State Department envoy met with North Korean officials at the United Nations last week to reiterate Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's recent statement that the Bush administration recognizes the reclusive country's sovereignty, U.S. officials said yesterday. The secret meeting, the first such back-channel communication in five months, was a U.S. attempt to prod North Korea back to six-nation disarmament talks, after similar efforts by such allies as China and South Korea. The North Korean officials did not respond, except to say they would pass the message to leaders in Pyongyang, the capital, but North Korea appeared to dismiss the rare direct assurances. "U.S. recognition of sovereignty is fake," the official KCNA news service quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry official as saying. The issue is important to the government, which has repeatedly said it is under threat of attack by the United States and frequently seeks reassurances of its status as an equal power.

Daily Times, 21 May 2005

**US in new push to force DPRK to resume talks** (Anthony Faiola and Glenn Kessler)

TOKYO: Spurred by fears of a possible North Korean nuclear test, the United States and its Asian allies have stepped up a diplomatic offensive to bring the Pyonqyanq government back to stalled disarmament talks, although analysts say the effort

has yet to show any signs of yielding results. With tensions rising in East Asia as North Korea refuses to return to talks aimed at dismantling its nuclear weapons programmes, US officials held a meeting last Friday with North Korean diplomats in New York, US officials confirmed on Thursday. The meeting was first reported by Japan's Asahi newspaper on Thursday. Later, White House spokesman Trent Duffy told reporters travelling with President Bush to Milwaukee that the two countries had "working-level contacts" last week in New York, where North Korea has a representative office at the United Nations. "This channel was used to reiterate the message directly that the North Koreans need to return to the six-party talks without conditions," he said. He said there has not been a response from the North Koreans.

People's Daily, 24 May 2005

**S.Korean, US presidents to meet on nuclear issue in June: report**

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun will meet US President George W. Bush in Washington on June 10 to discuss ways to coax the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ( DPRK) back to the six-party talks on solving the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, South Korean Yonhap News Agency quoted informed source as reporting on Tuesday. "President Roh's Washington visit will be a working visit which will not involve any other functions than the proposed summit meeting between the two leaders," the source said, adding Roh will leave Seoul on June 9 and return home on June 11. The six-party nuclear talks have been suspended since September last year as Pyongyang refused to be present at the planned fourth round of the talks citing Washington's "hostile" attitude. Pyongyang declared in February that it suspended participation in the six-party nuclear talks indefinitely. "We hope the summit meeting will produce a good result if we stress the need to resolve the ... nuclear issue peacefully," the source said.

The Korean Herald, 24 May 2005

**U.S. must confront N.K. challenge** (Jing-dong Yuan)

North Korea seems to be fighting with Iran for the spotlight in the nuclear proliferation suspense drama. Following its May 1 test of a short-range missile, it announced it has just removed another 8,000 spent fuel rods from its 5 megawatt research reactor in Yongbyon to bolster its nuclear arsenal. In addition, news reports mainly from the United States focus on North Korean preparation - or at least gives the impression of plans - for a possible nuclear test. Recently declassified documents reveal how for decades Pyongyang has tirelessly worked on developing its own nuclear arsenal to deter what it views as U.S. aggression. The much talked about nuclear test could still be a ruse, as some point out; but recent developments - North Korea's provocations and U.S. inaction - certainly do not bode well for the now almost defunct six-party talks aimed at defusing and eventually reversing the North Korean nuclear crisis, now in its 32nd month and nowhere closer to a resolution.

The Associated Press, 24 May 2005

**'Nuclear Five' Yet to Find Common Ground**

UNITED NATIONS: Five years ago, it worked: The major nuclear powers produced a joint statement on ways to reduce the nuclear threat, helping bring a successful end to the 2000 conference to strengthen the nonproliferation treaty. This time around, at the latest of the twice-a-decade treaty reviews, the going looks tougher in closed-door talks on a joint declaration. "The situation has changed drastically in those five years," top Russian delegate Anatoly Antonov said Monday, as the monthlong global conference entered its final week with prospects dimming for significant arms-control initiatives. At the 2000 conference, the five powers' endorsement of the 1996 nuclear test-ban treaty, for example, signaled to states without nuclear weapons that those with them were serious about eventual disarmament. That joint position contributed to a spirit of compromise that led to a consensus final document among the more than 180 treaty members, Antonov said.

International Herald Tribune, 24 May 2005

**U.S. efforts on Korea talks bring a response** (Choe Sang-Hun)

SEOUL: North Korea said it was seriously studying a U.S. overture for resuming six-nation negotiations on ending its nuclear weapons development, while South Korea said Monday that how North Korea responds to the American initiative could be a turning point in the nuclear standoff. Joseph DiTrani, the U.S. special envoy on North Korea, visited the Communist state's UN mission in New York on May 13 and delivered an official message that Washington recognized the North as a sovereign state and had no intention of invasion. DiTrani then urged North Korea to return to six-nation talks. The visit, the first direct U.S.-North Korea contact in six months, raised hopes that the two main players in the nuclear confrontation might be working toward a compromise to break a yearlong deadlock in nuclear talks. "How North Korea will respond is very important," Kim Sook, the head of the South Korean Foreign Ministry's North American bureau, told KBS radio on Monday. "It will be a watershed in efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear problem."

The Indian Express, 26 May 2005

**US wants India, Pakistan to ink NPT**

WASHINGTON: The US wants India, Pakistan and Israel to "eventually" become non-nuclear weapon states, but recognizes that it is an impossible goal now. US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for non-proliferation, Andrew K. Sammel, in a statement to the 2005 review conference on NPT in New York said: "The United States shares the view that the conference should reinforce the goal of universal NPT adherence. That goal is for Israel, India and Pakistan to eventually join the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states." "The situation in South Asia also poses unique challenges. Let me reiterate that the United States remains committed to NPT universality. We recognize, however, that India and Pakistan may not join the treaty for the foreseeable future," the statement, released in Washington, said. "We remain deeply concerned by the dangers posed by

nuclear weapons and their delivery systems in South Asia and do not believe they enhance regional security."

Daily Times, 26 May 2005

#### **US and NATO's nuclear policies 'immoral'**

UNITED NATIONS: US and NATO nuclear policies are immoral, dangerous and destructive of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, a former US Defense Secretary from the Vietnam War era, Robert McNamara, said on Tuesday. McNamara, who spoke at a conference taking stock of the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, was defense secretary in the 1960s under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. He was the architect of early US policy in the Vietnam War. "If I were to characterise US and NATO nuclear policies in one sentence, I would say they are immoral, illegal, militarily unnecessary, very, very dangerous in terms of the risk of inadvertent or accidental launch and destructive of the non-proliferation regime that has served us so well," he said. McNamara, 88, said the month-long conference should strengthen the treaty and "ensure that North Korea and Iran do not become nuclear powers." But he added, "I believe there is a high probability that the conference will fail to achieve those objectives."

Daily Times, 26 May 2005

#### **Tehran says US pressure obstacle to EU-Iran nuclear deal**

GENEVA: An Iranian negotiator warned on Wednesday that US pressure was an obstacle to reaching an agreement between EU countries and Iran over Tehran's controversial nuclear programme during talks in Geneva. "The Europeans want to find a solution, but their room for manoeuvre is restricted because of their transatlantic political ties," Iranian negotiator Cyrus Nasseri told AFP. The world community must "do everything" to stop Iran from one day gaining access to nuclear weapons, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, whose country currently holds the EU presidency, said on Wednesday. "Everything must be done to avoid having a new country in this very precarious region of the world acquiring a nuclear bomb," Asselborn told reporters on the sidelines of a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Security Forum meeting in the central Swedish town of Aare. His comments came on the same day as the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany were to meet with Iran's top negotiator Hassan Rowhani in Geneva for crucial talks aimed at avoiding an escalation of Tehran's standoff with the West over its nuclear programme. Iran has described those talks as a "last-ditch meeting" to avoid referring Iran to the UN Security Council - and into Washington's diplomatic line of fire - if the talks fail.

Dawn, 26 May 2005

#### **McNamara for no-war pact with N. Korea**

UNITED NATIONS, May 25: Robert McNamara, who was US defence secretary during the Vietnam war, on Tuesday called on the Bush administration to give 'negative security assurances' to North Korea and Iran in order to stop their nuclear enrichment programme. "North Korea should be assured that US is not looking for a regime change and should be offered a non-aggression pact" in order to gain its compliance, he said. Addressing a press conference on the eve of the conclusion of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) on Tuesday, Mr McMamara stressed that the 'situation is very dangerous' vis-a-vis proliferation of nuclear weapons and asked nations to take decisive action on the issue to contain the problem. He said if the NPT conferences failed to achieve its objective of controlling nuclear proliferation and nuclear disarmament, the UN Security Council may have to step in to stop proliferation.

Haaretz.com, 26 May 2005'

#### **The U.S. removes the nuclear brakes** (Reuven Pedatzur)

Under the cloak of secrecy imparted by use of military code names, the American administration has been taking a big - and dangerous - step that will lead to the transformation of the nuclear bomb into a legitimate weapon for waging war. Ever since the terror attack of September 11, 2001, the Bush administration has gradually done away with all the nuclear brakes that characterized American policy during the Cold War. No longer are nuclear bombs considered "the weapon of last resort." No longer is the nuclear bomb the ultimate means of deterrence against nuclear powers, which the United States would never be the first to employ. In the era of a single, ruthless superpower, whose leadership intends to shape the world according to its own forceful world view, nuclear weapons have become a attractive instrument for waging wars, even against enemies that do not possess nuclear arms. Remember the code name "CONPLAN 8022." Last week, the Washington Post reported that this unintelligible nickname masks a military program whose implementation could drag the world into nuclear war.

The Korean Herald, 26 May 2005

#### **Editorial: Coming Roh-Bush talks**

It takes little imagination to guess that Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions and the Seoul-Washington military alliance will be the key issues of discussion when President Roh Moo-hyun meets President George W. Bush next month. No other issues are so serious and so pressing as to draw immediate attention from the two leaders. Both Seoul and Washington agree North Korea has become a greater threat to regional security since it declared on Feb. 10 that it possesses nuclear weapons. It is now believed to be in the process of extracting additional weapons-grade plutonium from spent fuel rods. More ominous still, Pyongyang is suspected of preparing to conduct an underground nuclear test. But there is a widening gap between Seoul and Washington on how to approach the nuclear problem. Washington, which says it cannot wait indefinitely for North Korea to return to the six-way talks, is apparently considering abandoning diplomatic negotiations as an ultimate means of solution, but Seoul is opposed to talking about any alternative at this time.

The Guardian, 27 May 2005

#### **Deadlock feared in nuclear treaty talks** (Julian Borqer)

WASHINGTON: A global conference to review the non-proliferation treaty is due to end today, almost certainly in deadlock, jeopardising what is seen as the best chance of containing the spread of nuclear weapons. Observers at the month-long conference in New York said there was broad agreement on how to tighten the 35-year-old treaty but substantive agreement had been blocked by hardline positions adopted by the US and Iran. The US rejected references in any final text to the comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), which Bill Clinton was the first US president to sign, in 1996, but which was never ratified by the Senate. The Bush administration has said it will stick to its moratorium on nuclear tests but would not accede to a global treaty outlawing them. Iran has opposed all attempts to constrain or even mention its nuclear programme, which it says is purely for peaceful purposes but which many countries fear could be a front for a weapons programme. "Why this conference matters is that it is a chance for all the member countries to come together and breathe new life into the treaty," said Joseph Cirincione, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "What you see is that the vast majority of the countries are in basic agreement ... but they have been blocked by an uncoordinated but parallel action by the US and Iran."

The Associated Press, 27 May 2005

#### **N. Korea Denies Nuclear Testing Reports**

SEOUL: North Korea has denied reports that it might be preparing to test a nuclear weapon, calling them a U.S. "fabrication." U.S. officials said earlier this month that North Korea appeared to be digging tunnels and building a reviewing stand in the northeast and said these could be preparations for a nuclear test. At the time North Korea criticized the report, which was based on spy satellites, but did not deny it. "The U.S. leadership has recently ... come out with a fabrication that there are some kind of missile tests and signs of an underground nuclear test," the Korean Central Television Station, the North's only nationwide network, said late Thursday. KCTS said the United States continued to use "very bellicose, abusive language" toward North Korea. "Our army and people do not want a war or relations (with the United States) to worsen, but we also would not beg for dialogue and peace under any circumstances," KCTS said. The communist North has stepped up its anti-U.S. rhetoric in recent days, repeating claims that Washington is preparing to unseat leader Kim Jong Il and refusing to rule out a pre-emptive attack of its own.

China Daily, 27 May 2005

#### **US making plans if North Korea abandons talks**

The Pentagon said on Thursday it was preparing for the possibility that North Korea had decided to abandon six-party nuclear talks and a top official said diplomacy with Pyongyang would soon have to produce results. At a congressional hearing, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Richard Lawless – the Bush administration's senior Asia experts – kept up the pressure on Pyongyang to return to the negotiating table and promised U.S. "flexibility" if it did. But they indicated American patience was wearing thin and the impasse could not go on forever. However, Washington is also aware that any other U.S. options for dealing with the growing nuclear problem are grim. Hill and other officials have repeatedly said the administration would consider "other options," including military options, if the talks collapsed or if Pyongyang tested a nuclear weapon. For nearly a year, North Korea has boycotted China-hosted six-party talks aimed at persuading it to abandon nuclear weapons-related activities. Other states involved are South Korea, Japan and Russia.

The Guardian, 27 May 2005

#### **America's broken nuclear promises endanger us all** (Robin Cook)

Bush has done his utmost to frustrate talks on the non-proliferation treaty  
Not a day goes by without a member of team Bush lecturing us on the threat from weapons of mass destruction and assuring us of the absolute primacy they give to halting proliferation. How odd then that the review conference on the non-proliferation treaty will break up this evening, barring an 11th-hour miracle, with no agreed conclusions. And how strange that no delegation should have worked harder to frustrate agreement on what needs to be done than the representatives of George Bush. The tragedy is that, for all its faults, the non-proliferation treaty has hitherto been the best barrier put up by the international community against the spread of nuclear weapons. With the support of all but a handful of nations, the treaty provided a robust declaration that the development of nuclear weapons is taboo. That peer-group pressure has since resulted in more countries abandoning nuclear weapons than acquiring them.

The Asian Age, 31 May 2005

#### **India-U.S. nuclear mismatch** (Dr A. Gopalakrishnan)

Dr A. Gopalakrishnan says that neither does the U.S. possess crucial nuclear safety experience of direct relevance to India, nor does India need its assistance. Civilian nuclear cooperation between India and the US is said to be one of the topics for discussion when our Prime Minister visits Washington in mid-July. The officials of the ministry of external affairs (MEA) are quite upbeat about this, the department of atomic energy (DAE) maintains a stoic silence on the matter, and the media analysts in the country anticipate a more optimistic outcome than everyone else. But, no official in India or the US is willing to provide a clear picture on what exactly is being discussed. In this regard, the central questions we need to ask are these: What concrete assistance does India need from the US to further our civilian nuclear programme? In relevant areas, are the foreign policy stances of the two countries close enough to warrant the successful initiation of any meaningful nuclear cooperation, without India having to make unacceptable compromises? What is it that the US wants in return from us for this cooperation? And, what are the short-term and long-term strategic implications of such cooperation?

The New York Times, 31 May 2005

#### **Rice to Discuss Antiproliferation Program** (David E. Sanger)

WASHINGTON, May 30: The Bush administration is preparing to discuss for the first time details of the early fruits of its efforts

to join forces with other nations in intercepting weapons and missile technology bound for Iran, North Korea and Syria, according to several administration officials. Some details are expected to be presented to foreign diplomats at the State Department on Tuesday by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the officials said. Many of the diplomats are from the 60 or so nations that have joined President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, an effort to use a patchwork of national laws and agreements with other countries to intercept suspected weapons shipments in ports and on the high seas. The timing of the presentation is significant because Mr. Bush's aides, in conversations where they insisted on anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, are talking with increasing urgency about using similar techniques to cut off North Korea's main sources of hard currency: shipments of weapons, illegal drugs and counterfeit currency.

The Korean Herald, 31 May 2005

**Top nuclear negotiator travels to U.S.**(Lee Joo-hee)

Seoul's key foreign policy and security officials leave for Washington today to meet U.S. counterparts to discuss the North Korean nuclear standoff and to prepare for the June Korean-U.S. summit. Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon and Cheong Wa Dae's National Security Adviser Kwon Chin-ho make a four-day visit a week before the planned summit between Presidents Roh Moo-hyun and George W. Bush on June 10. Song is scheduled to meet State Department and National Security Council officials, including Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, his counterpart at the stalled six-party nuclear talks. Kwon will meet Stephen Hadley, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other officials, Cheong Wa Dae spokesman Kim Man-soo said. Kwon will focus on arrangements for the summit between Roh and Bush, who are expected to have an in-depth discussion on North Korea's nuclear problem and recent developments in the Korea-U.S. alliance. It is Roh and Bush's fourth round of summit talks. North Korea's nuclear standoff reached a new level earlier this month when the informal channel of contact between Washington and Pyongyang through the North's U.N. delegation was revived.