

[22 July, 2004]

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forward in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence. In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the talks on June 28, the Foreign Secretaries, *inter alia*, approved the measures recommended by the Expert level meeting on Nuclear CBMs in New Delhi on 19-20 June, 2004. The two sides proposed a comprehensive framework for CBMs aimed at initiating and enhancing communication, coordination and interaction. It was also agreed to immediately restore the strength of the respective High Commissions to the original level of 110; to immediately release all apprehended fishermen in each other's custody and put in place a mechanism for the return of unintentionally transgressing fishermen and their boats from high seas without apprehending them; and to initiate steps for early release of civilian prisoners. It was also agreed in principle to re-establish the Consulates General in Karachi and Mumbai.

(c) and (d) The Delhi-Lahore bus service resumed its services on July 11, 2003; the direct flights and overflights between India and Pakistan resumed with effect from January 1, 2004; and the Samjhauta Express and freight train services restarted on January 15, 2004. This has facilitated greater movement of people and goods between the two countries.

Foreign visits of Minister of External Affairs

939. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of countries recently visited by the Minister of External Affairs;

(b) the details of officials talks held by India with them to solve the pending disputes/issues including boundary disputes; and

(c) the outcome of such talks, particularly with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The names of countries visited by the External Affairs Minister along with the details of official talks held with them to solve the pending issues including boundary disputes, are given below:

NEPAL:

EAM visited Nepal on 4-5 June, 2004 and had discussions with His Majesty King Gyanendra, and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba during

which all aspects of bilateral relations between India and Nepal were reviewed. Nepal is amongst our closest neighbours with whom we share an open border. India and Nepal enjoy a unique relationship of friendly cooperation on wide range of subjects for mutual benefit of both countries. The External Affairs Minister has assured His Majesty's Government of Nepal of India's continued support to Nepal in strengthening its security capabilities and in developing its infrastructure, including in the field of water resources. India has also agreed to share her experiences in holding elections with Nepal's Election Commission. Both Governments have agreed to continue the ongoing dialogue to further strengthen and diversify the mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

USA

EAM attended the funeral of former US President Ronald Reagan on June 11, 2004. EAM met the US Secretary of State Colin Powell during the visit and the two sides reaffirmed the importance attached to India-US relations.

UNITED KINGDOM

EAM visited London on 16th June, 2004. He met UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. The two Ministers had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral relations and major international developments. EAM's meeting with UK Foreign Secretary, was the first high level contact with the UK Government after the new Government has assumed office.

CHINA

EAM visited China on 21-22 June, 2004 to attend the ACD meeting in Qingdao. He met his Chinese counterpart, Li Zhaoxing. Foreign Minister Li conveyed to the EAM that China is ready to work with the new Government in India to develop deeper relations in the political, economic, military and other fields. EAM conveyed to Foreign Minister Li that the Government of India attaches great importance to relations with China. He invited Foreign Minister Li to visit India and reiterated Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's invitation to Premier Wen Jiabao to visit India. Later this year, Foreign Minister Li accepted the invitation and conveyed his hope that he would be able to visit India in the near future. EAM also underlined that India is committed to developing relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality. India wants improvement in bilateral relations at

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all levels and wishes to address all outstanding issues in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner. Both sides agreed that it is important to continue the development of trade relations and defence exchanges.

INDONESIA

EAM visited Jakarta from 30th June, 2004 to 2nd July, 2004 to **attend** the **ASEAN** Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting. He held bilateral meetings with his counterparts, Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand to discuss matters concerning bilateral cooperation. An MoU between India and Indonesia on Combating International Terrorism was signed on 2nd July, 2004.

SINGAPORE

EAM visited Singapore on 3rd July, 2004. He had meetings with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Senior Minister of Singapore. The discussions covered bilateral issues such as trade and investment, defence, counter-terrorism, and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

(c) During the **EAM**'s talks with the Foreign Minister of China in Qingdao, China, the Chinese Foreign Minister welcomed the Indian government's decision to nominate National Security Advisor, Shri J.N. Dixit, as India's Special Representative for discussions on the boundary issue. The third meeting of Special Representatives is expected to take place in the near future.

FBI report on murder of Daniel Pearl

940. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the FBI report that the murder of Daniel Pearl in Pakistan had some link with the hijacking of IC-814; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Following the kidnapping and killing of the Wall Street Journal Reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan, media stories in February, 2002 reported that FBI investigators had identified two key suspects, Mohammed Hashim Qadir, known to be a