

# New Delhi resists expanding Indo-U.S. security relations

by Ramtanu Maitra and Susan Maitra

According to available reports, the much-strengthened U.S. Fifth Fleet, patrolling the Persian Gulf, has asked New Delhi for permission to visit some of India's ports on the west coast. Americans have also asked New Delhi for the usage of the Mazagaon drydocks, which they have offered to upgrade technologically and which are located in the vicinity of Bombay. Apparently the Indians have not responded, ostensibly because of the mandarins' inability to gauge the political ramifications of accepting such an offer.

A positive response on the part of New Delhi will not only involve settling accounts with election-year politicking, but will also require real and direct participation in maintaining the peace and security of the area, not simply rhetoric.

## Some distortions

The Indian policy to block such visits by American ships is primarily to prevent India from playing any role as a partner of the United States in providing security to the Gulf countries or to protect the maritime trade routes fanning into southeast and far eastern Asia. The policy is a strange mix of hangovers from the Cold War days and a general mistrust of the United States, under the garb of nationalism, that had been nurtured over the years by the Indian elite's close relations with the British and the Soviets.

In particular, the name of the Indian game is linkage, that is, to link every initiative from Washington with a number of valid grievances against the United States that have been hanging fire over the years. The grievance list is well known: continuing U.S. pressure to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); arming of Pakistan by the United States; U.S. reluctance to put Pakistan on its list of terrorist nations; Washington's stop-and-go policy on technology transfer to India; U.S. pressure on India to drop the medium-range surface-to-air missile (Agni) development program; America's uncertain position on the Kashmir issue; America's repeated efforts to equate Pakistan with India, etc.

There is one glaring problem with the policy of "linkage." Due to New Delhi's lack of leverage on Washington, such linkages accomplish nothing, but often are deliberately

put up by the Indian Foreign Office mandarins to create obstacles in the way of achieving anything in the area of joint security, while serving some other western power's interests, most often those of Great Britain.

Such negative policies are the hallmark of countries where security issues are dominated by career bureaucrats committed to maintaining the status quo, and by widely compromised intelligence agencies. Moreover, distortion and disinformation are often used deliberately to shift public opinion against the United States. During the Clinton administration, the statements of a relatively low-level State Department official such as Robin Raphel, which were seemingly biased against India, were used by high officials in New Delhi as a club to hit Washington on the head. More recently, Henry Kissinger's statements before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which in fact undermined the Clinton administration more than they did India, were played up in New Delhi by some as a "policy statement emanating from Washington."

## Kissinger's 'contain India' policy

Shortly before his congressional testimony, Kissinger had been in China at the invitation of Prime Minister Li Peng, and he told Li that for all practical purposes the Clinton administration was finished, and the Bush-Kissinger faction of the Republicans would be back in power in Washington in 1996. The purpose of this propaganda was served, and the Chinese prime minister and his faction within Beijing's splintered power bloc has subsequently taken a position of confrontation against Washington. Kissinger followed up that set of lies by telling the subcommittee that the stability of Asia depends upon China and the United States participating in shaping Asia's future.

He went on to tell the subcommittee chairman and a friend of the Khalistanis (as the Kashmiri separatists call themselves) in the United States, Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), that there exists a "clash of perceptions" between New Delhi and Beijing over Tibet and Myanmar (Burma), and to a lesser extent over Southeast Asia.

"As India emerges into a great power status, it can be

expected to return to the policies of the British Raj which were, after all, conceived by the Indian Civil Services under the viceroys located first in Calcutta and toward the end of the British rule in New Delhi. It will seek an influential, if not dominant role, in the arc extending from Aden to Singapore," Kissinger said.

The statement aimed at appeasing the geopoliticians within the Beijing leadership and to seek a fresh alliance with that faction which may emerge as the dominant faction in the immediate post-Deng era. It was a clear message conveyed to the Clinton administration that the United States must have a "China first" policy, and not a policy which equates India and China one to one in Asia. However, in New Delhi, the essence of the statement was garbled, and some infantile rage was expressed against the United States, as if Henry Kissinger were representing the Clinton administration.

### Initiatives undermined

That is not to say that nothing good has happened in India-U.S. relations during President Clinton's administration in Washington and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's in Delhi. Rao's visit to the United States in 1994 was a success; U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott had a most successful visit to India, and his actions helped New Delhi to realize that Washington's India policy is not run by Robin Raphel. Also notable is the fact that four members of President Clinton's cabinet—Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Defense Secretary William Perry, and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin—besides the First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, have all visited India. Although some of these visits did not produce anything concrete, there has been no dearth of dialogue between the Clinton administration and New Delhi during the last three years.

But the eagerness of New Delhi to put all differences with the United States in the same box, made some of these visits less productive than they could have been. For instance, the visit of Defense Secretary Perry, who never engaged in any India-baiting, failed to produce anything substantial. Statements from Indian Defense Ministry officials to the effect that Perry's visit made them skeptical of what the United States wants, were deliberate frauds created to subvert the visit. Some unnamed top defense officials were quoted saying that the progress in defense cooperation will depend on what the Americans really want from the relationship. Finally, the Perry trip was pushed aside by the devious mandarins of New Delhi as "undiscernible."

Similar patterns were also observed in the followup to the 1991 initiative by Washington, commonly referred to as the Kicklighter Proposal. The proposal called for pursuit of "a common policy of gradually strengthening ties toward expanded cooperation and partnership by the end of this decade through high-level visits, exchanges, and periodic policy reviews, Indian-U.S. army staff talks, and cooperative

work in selected areas of common interest." Shed of rhetoric, the proposal was meant to develop a joint capability, though not necessarily physical, in undertaking responsibility for the security of the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, through a strategic understanding between the U.S. Pacific Command and the Indian Navy. At the time, Indian Chief of Staff Gen. S.F. Rodrigues and Defense Minister Sharad Pawar responded positively.

But despite a significant number of meetings between the two sides, the proposal has gotten caught in the catch-all box of Indian grievances. This became evident when Indian Defense Secretary A. Nambiar called off his trip to Washington scheduled for the end of June. As a result, the most powerful lobby against Washington in India, represented by the British and the Israelis, is now enticing New Delhi to revive the "historic defense relationship with London." Recent forays to London for defense purchases by Indian government officials indicate that the historic relationship from the colonial days is very much alive.

### British bias compromises Indian security

In this heavily-biased-toward-the-British scheme of things, many of Washington's signals get crossed and sometimes distorted. For instance, the recent arrest of Daya Singh Sandhu at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport

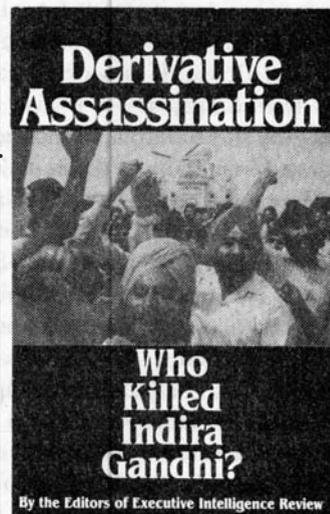
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went by without a stir. Sandhu, allegedly the leader of the Khalistan Liberation Forces, is wanted in India in connection with crimes including a bus bombing in September 1993 that killed 8 people and wounded 29 others. But while many Khalistani terrorists live and carry on their drug- and gun-related crimes within India from Britain and Canada, these activities are seldom linked by Delhi while dealing with either of those nations.

Because of such a pronounced bias, India's security has been heavily compromised. British Special Armed Services personnel were at the time of writing poring over the nitty-gritty of Kashmir's security arrangements, while advising the Indians on a commando raid, ostensibly to get four foreign hostages being held by Kashmir's Al-Faran guerrillas released. At the same time, Indian security personnel were fuming against the political leadership for bringing in the foreigners to look into the topography and security of a sensitive area such as Kashmir. In Sri Lanka, where Washington gave India a free hand to shape things, India has made a mess. The Tamil Tigers, who are a part of the international drug-and-gun crowd along with the Afghans who are involved in terrorism in Kashmir, were nurtured and trained by the Indian security agencies in the early 1980s. The recent jailbreak, which saw 43 Tigers escape from an Indian jail, only shows how badly the security of this nation has been subverted.

The other development concurrent with such a bias, or because of it, is India's continuing neglect of its Navy. Influenced heavily by the geopoliticians of the British genre who would like to confine India to the status of a land power, India acts like a small nation looking north as the source for all its troubles. Its endless preparation to fight the final battle against Pakistan—a tiny nation compared to India—and its efforts to build up a tangible defense against China, have left its long coastlands unmanned and highly vulnerable. It is this vulnerability which has been fully exploited by the Tamil Tigers to build up its assets from India's southernmost state of Tamil Nadu to the upper states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Orissa. It is widely known that the Tigers bring arms from Singapore—a British and Israeli gun-shipment point—by ship to Jaffna, the northernmost part of Sri Lanka, separated from India by the 21-mile-wide Palk Strait.

More importantly, its feeble Navy has made India less of a strategically effective nation in its efforts to help maintain peace and stability in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. This has isolated India even within Asia, and has turned it into a non-player in the events and security developments occurring around it. While a closer naval relationship between the U.S. Navy and the Indian Navy could help provide stability in the areas surrounding India and allow India to emerge as a nation responsible for maintaining peace and stability in the region, Kissinger and his ilk will continue to push for the isolation of India by creating an environment of threat in India's north.

## Greenpeace is linked to Earth First!

*This press release was issued by 21st Century Science & Technology magazine on Aug. 10:*

Just as the Washington, D.C., bureau chief of Greenpeace was insisting in a letter to the *Washington Times* that his organization was based on "non-violence," a state court in the German city of Hamburg ruled on July 28 that "the collaboration of Greenpeace with the terrorist organization Earth First!" cannot be denied. A three-judge panel, presided over by Judge Krause, issued the ruling in case 3240556-94, a libel suit brought by Greenpeace.

The Hamburg court ruling is one of several blows that have punctured Greenpeace's friendly, money-raising facade. Greenpeace has been especially frantic to hide the truth about its real agenda since the weekly of Lyndon LaRouche's political movement, *Executive Intelligence Review (EIR)*, documented in its issues of Oct. 28, 1994 and Jan. 13, 1995 how Greenpeace—which brags about its "independence"—is in reality just the "direct-action" arm of the international environmentalist movement, run top-down by Prince Philip and the House of Windsor and its allies for the purpose of reducing the world's population and destabilizing political opponents of the European nobility. This exposé was excerpted in the Winter 1994 issue of *21st Century*.

At the same time, the "non-violent" Greenpeace has been proven to be working both openly and stealthily with Earth First!, a group that advocates using terrorist tactics to achieve its environmentalist agenda.

The national press has picked up on the story that a "hit list" appeared five years ago in the underground newspaper *Live Wild or Die*, which is distributed by members of Earth First! Two of the top three names on this "Eco-F—ker Hit List" have been recent victims of the so-called Unabomber.

A copyrighted article in the Aug. 3 issue of the *Sacramento Bee* states that the information on Earth First! was documented by Barry Clausen, a private investigator in Seattle who had infiltrated Earth First! in the early 1990s. Clausen also provided detailed documentation of the connections between Greenpeace and the terrorist Earth First! Many Greenpeace leaders, he found, are also leaders of Earth First! and the two groups hold joint environmental actions. This information was the subject of the lawsuit Greenpeace brought in Germany.

The July 28 German court ruling concerns a small publishing company in Wiesbaden, Böttiger Verlag GmbH, which is known for its publication of scientific material de-