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TOPIC: Prime Minister's remarks to the Media on his visit to Russia

DATE: 17.06.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of External Affairs, <http://www.meaindia.nic.in/>

Meetings with President Hu Jintao of China, President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Zardari of Pakistan and President Medvedev of Russia.

I have had an intense and productive visit to Russia to participate in the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and in the first ever standalone summit meeting of the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China yesterday. This has been my first visit abroad in the new term of the Government. The visit has reinforced my sense of the significance of India's engagement with the world, particularly at this time of economic crisis and political change.

In the short time that I was in Yekaterinburg, I had also had bilateral meetings with President Hu Jintao of China, President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Zardari of Pakistan and President Medvedev of Russia.

As you know, India is an observer in the SCO and has primarily attended Summits at the Ministerial level. I chose to attend this Summit because of President Medvedev's personal invitation and as the format this time provided for full participation by Observers in the restricted and plenary sessions with the other leaders. Central Asia, where the SCO is active, is part of India's extended neighbourhood. We look forward to increased functional cooperation with the SCO.

At the BRIC Summit, we discussed the need to intensify cooperation among ourselves and discussed the international economic downturn, and how we can prepare for the forthcoming G-8 and G-20 Summits. We live in times of rapid economic change when the BRIC economies are a factor of stability and growth. India has borne the global economic crisis well, though we have not been unaffected. There was general agreement on the need to continue our coordination in BRIC on economic matters, to seek implementation of G-20 decisions of interest to developing countries, and reform of present systems of global governance and the international financial system. We have agreed that our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors will meet, and with the help of experts, examine the further steps we should take in this regard.

In my meeting with President Hu Jintao of China, we reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations and recommitted ourselves to carrying forward the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership that we established in 2005.

President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan was our honoured guest at our Republic Day earlier this year. We both expressed satisfaction at the rapid expansion of proposals for bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including energy, petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. Our Foreign Ministers will lay out a road map with timelines for implementing these proposals.

When I met President Zardari of Pakistan, we discussed India-Pakistan relations, which remain under considerable stress. The primary cause of this, as everyone knows, is the terrorist attacks against India from Pakistani territory. I conveyed to President Zardari the full extent of our expectation that the Government of Pakistan take strong and effective action to prevent the use of Pakistan's territory for terrorist attacks against India, act against the perpetrators of past attacks and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan. The President of Pakistan told me of Pakistan's efforts to deal with this menace and the difficulties that they face.

We agreed that our Foreign Secretaries will discuss what Pakistan is doing and can do to prevent terrorism from Pakistan against India and to bring those responsible for these attacks to justice

including the horrendous crime of the attacks in Mumbai. They will report to us and we will take stock of the situation when we are at Sharm el Sheikh for the Nonaligned Summit in mid-July.

I have spoken before of my vision of a cooperative subcontinent, and of the vital interest that India and the people of the subcontinent have in peace. For this we must try again to make peace with Pakistan. It also requires effective and strong action against the enemies of peace. If the leaders of Pakistan have the courage, determination and statesmanship to take the high road to peace, India will meet them more than half-way. These were the ideas and sentiments that I shared with the President of Pakistan.

With President Medvedev, I exchanged views on the unique and close strategic partnership that we enjoy with Russia. We are both looking forward to its rapid development in the future.

I return to India satisfied with the results of my visit. International developments and the economic crisis will pose fresh challenges to Indian diplomacy. I am, however, confident that we will be able to convert challenge into opportunity for India.

Q. 1 Talks with President Zardari

Let us wait for the outcome of the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries. As I said the purpose of this meeting is to learn from Pakistan what it has done to control terrorist activities directed against India and what they claim to do and in the process President Zardari mentioned to me the problems that they face. I explained to him that whereas Pakistan has now taken effective action against Taliban and Al Qaeda, we have a feeling that those elements who are actively engaged in perpetrating terrorists acts in our country, they are not being brought to justice. So my expectation is that this meeting of Foreign Secretaries will tell us whether Pakistan has taken effective action , if it plans to take effective action against these perpetrators of terrorism.

Q.2. Any Discussion on Kashmir?

No discussion on Kashmir took place. He did not raise it nor did I raise it. He did mention to me the difficulties that Pakistan is facing in containing terrorism and asked us to bear with him, give him some more time. But there was no mention of Kashmir at anytime in our discussions

Q.3. – (Not audible)

I have often said we can choose our friends but we have to live with our neighbours. It is necessary not to close our channels of communication with neighbours. I think that's what we should do.

Q.4. Any tangible outcome of the talks with Pakistan? Did you raise the issue of release of Hafeez Sayeed?

I did raise with him what tangible things we would like to see.

Q...? (not audible)

I think that's better not said.

Q.5. Any timelines?

We have said that the meeting of Foreign Secretaries should take place before the NAM Summit, that is in July.

Q.6.What will be the policy agenda for next 5 years? Will BRIC be useful or be a talk shop?

I hope it goes beyond shop talk. We are responsible for 40 % of the population. If all the nations join together, I think their voices will be heard in the global councils.

As for India `s relations (policy agenda) we will pursue the path that has been outlined by the Hon'ble President in the address to parliament a few days ago.

Q.7. Comments on the situation in BJP

Well I am not in favour of gloating over the difficulties of other political parties. I wish them well.

Q.8. Spat with Mr. Advani?

Well I was compelled to reply and I did say a few things which Advaniji said had hurt him. Then he rang me up on 16th May and he expressed regret. In exchange , I apologized to him if I had said anything to hurt his feelings. I look forward to a close relationship with the leader of the opposition.

Q.9. What are your priorities? Pakistan?

You must have read the President's address. I think those are our priorities.

We wish Pakistan well in dealing with the Talebans, the Al Qaedas. But I would also like Pakistan to show the same determination in dealing with terrorists who operate from Pakistan's soil and conduct acts of terror against our country.

Q.10. Alternate Global Currency

Those were the ideas that were aired but no concrete conclusion emerged. It was agreed that these are highly complex issues , Replacing dollar by other currency –National or SDRs. And it was felt that this matter required proper examination by our Foreign Ministers and Governors of Central Banks.

Q.10. What difficulties were expressed by Zardari?

President Zardari's point was that he is fighting a grim battle and there are difficulties in fighting on all fronts and therefore he said, while I am absolutely sincere in controlling terrorism from what ever source it emanates and at which ever country it is directed you must bear with me.

Q.11. Presidents address and the budget?

I would not like to disclose what's going to be in the budget. I think that would be improper.

Q.12. Any reduction of troops along the border by India and Pakistan?

Troop deployment is a matter of functional necessity and I won't like to speculate on that in public on what we should do or what they will be doing.

Q.13.Situation in Kashmir.

As regards Jammu & Kashmir , the Home Minister was there. The Home Minister made some important statements of the deployment of forces. And it is very unfortunate that these incidents have taken place. If there were any violation of human rights we will take effective action and I have also promised the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister that once the new Government settles down, we will look at the problems of developing Jammu and Kashmir, update our development and reconstructive plans. I have always said that we would be happy to engage in a dialogue with any groups and I mean any groups in talking to us that option is open and we would welcome even those groups who are not in the political mainstream . If they have any views ,we are quite willing to discuss with them. In the past also I have invited the Hurriyat .They said they would send us proposals, they never sent us any proposals. They said there are too many people detained. I asked them to give me a list of people who they felt had been detained without purpose, they never gave any list. I am not complaining. We are willing to engage in dialogue with anyone who is willing to shun the use of gun.

Q -14 BRIC has no Secretariat who will coordinate?

This is the first meeting at Summit level of BRIC Countries. It is an evolving situation. As we grapple with the challenges that lie ahead, what modalities there would be in place to enable us to play an effective role. As I said, it is not a one time operation and we will be meeting again next year in Brazil to take stock.

Q.14.Membership of SCO?

I believe it is for others. If they feel India will be useful as a member we would welcome it. But I am not lobbying for it. Central Asia is our extended neighbour. We are expanding our contacts with the countries of Central Asia. I had a very good meeting with the President of Kazakhstan when he was in Delhi for 26th January celebrations. We had a very extensive agenda of cooperation in diverse fields. We will do more of this with other countries of Central Asia. I had on the sidelines a very good discussion with the President of Tajikistan who is very keen I visit Tajikistan as early as I can.

Q.15. Election results - Coalition Politics on way out – Are the days of single party governments coming back.

I am not an astrologer.

Q... (not audible)?

If wishes were horses beggars would ride.

Q.16. Kerala Governor Issue

The Governor is a constitutional head of state and it would not be proper to comment.

Q.17. Naxal menace in India

I had said many times that Naxalism is a great danger to our polity. The Home Minister has good ideas. We will take effective action and we have plans. Would not be able to go in public what we propose to deal with the menace. But its seriousness is fully appreciated and recognized by our Government.

Q.18. West Bengal- politics of aid?

Mamta Banerjee is an honoured member of my cabinet and we will work together as colleagues. But the relationship between the Govt. Of West Bengal or for that matter State and the Central Government are governed by constitutional norms. We will fully abide by constitutional norms which should guide the conduct of Center-State relations.

TOPIC: Briefing by Special Secretary (Pol & Intl. Orgns) on Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to XV NAM Summit in Egypt

DATE: 09.07.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of External Affairs, <http://www.meaindia.nic.in/>

ISSUES: India's Involvement

Shri Vivek Katju, Special Secretary (Pol & Intl. Orgns): Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will be participating in the XV NAM Summit which is being held at Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, on July 15-16, 2009. He will address the Summit during the general debate. A number of leaders will call on Prime Minister on the margins of the Summit. External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, National Security Advisor Shri M.K Narayanan, and senior officials will form part of Prime Minister's delegation to the Summit.

The themes of the XV Summit are: International Solidarity for Peace and Development, and the Current Economic & Financial Crisis. In accordance with NAM practice, the Summit would focus in comprehensive manner on global regional and sub-regional issues as well as issues relating to development and human rights and on social issues to.

The Summit will be preceded by a meeting on 13-14 July of NAM Foreign Ministers to prepare for the Summit. External Affairs Minister will participate in this meeting. A meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine will be held on 13 July. EAM will make a statement at the meeting.

In parallel with NAM Summit, a NAM first Ladies' Summit will be held at the initiative of Egypt. Smt. Gurusharan Kaur will be participating in this meeting. The theme of the meeting is Women in Crisis Management – Perspectives and Challenges, Best Practices and Lessons Learned. The meeting will be

anchored by the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and will focus on the role of women in the context of the global economic and food, health and humanitarian crises. Heads of UN Agencies: FAO, WFP, WHO, and ITU are expected to make brief statements during the two separate sessions of the first Ladies' Summit. Smt. Gurusharan Kaur will make a statement during this meeting.

The Non-Aligned Movement stands for principles which India has always espoused and pursued in international affairs: sovereign equality of states; respect for territorial integrity, a peaceful, equitable and just world order; and the progress of developing countries through socio-economic development.

India's commitment to NAM is firm and abiding. As in the past, India will continue to play active role in the Movement.

TOPIC: Transcript of media briefing by Foreign Secretary at Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt)

Date: 15 July 09

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening and welcome to the Media Centre. Foreign Secretary is here to brief you about Prime Minister's engagements today. After his opening remarks, Foreign Secretary will be happy to take a few questions.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Shivshankar Menon): Good evening. Sorry to keep you waiting. Under-estimated business as usual. I thought I would brief you about what happened today, about Prime Minister's engagements, and also some of the meetings that the External Affairs Minister had in the last three days.

As you know, this morning was occupied primarily with the Inaugural Ceremony. I think you saw that. In the afternoon, Prime Minister was the third speaker in the general debate. You have got the text of what he said. I presume that has been distributed and you have probably filed your story. Thereafter, he had a series of bilateral meetings. He met with some in the Conference Centre, some separately as bilaterals.

He met with President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas for quite sometime. They discussed the situation in Palestine, in the Middle-East; and also talked of India's longstanding ties with the Palestinian people, what we have done, what we hope to do with them in the years to come. It was a very warm and friendly conversation. They have known each other for sometime. One of the things that was mentioned was the need, which President Abbas had picked up from Prime Minister's speech, to impart skills to young people, giving them the ability to go out and get jobs, work in today's world. He was very keen that we build on that idea. So, we will be working with the PNA to try and do that. President Abbas was still hoping that there would be progress in terms of the peace process itself, but he was not underestimating the difficulties. The Prime Minister reiterated our traditional position of support and commitment to the Palestinian cause, to the two States living side by side in peace and in security.

Thereafter, Prime Minister met with the Prime Minister of Malaysia where again they reviewed the bilateral relationship. We have a very active bilateral relationship. As you know, we have finalized a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN. It is now just a question of a formal signing to bring it into force. There are several joint projects of Malaysian investments in India and Indian investments in Malaysia as well. There is a large Indian community in Malaysia. So, they discussed those issues of how we encourage that. He also spoke of Malaysian companies thinking of investing in power production in India to serve the Indian market. There were several other ideas like that which were discussed. Prime Minister was also invited to visit Malaysia, an invitation that he accepted. But we will have to set dates through diplomatic channels.

There was a brief pull-aside with the President of Bosnia Herzegovina. He mentioned an idea that all the successor States of Yugoslavia had of commemorating the anniversary of the first NAM Conference together. He said he was trying to collect opinions among themselves. Let us see where it leads. It will be interesting if they do that, 20/11.

Then, Prime Minister had a meeting with the President of Vietnam which, as you know, is a country very important in our look-east strategy. We have had a very successful visit by the President to Vietnam last year. We have also built an economic relationship as Vietnam has opened up and liberalized her economy. We do almost 2.8 billion dollars worth of trade every year which is growing

quite rapidly. They were interested in cooperation in several fields – in education, S&T. We have already set up Skills Development Centers in Vietnam. We have an Indian Entrepreneurship Centre which we have set up which they now want to multiply and replicate in other parts of the country because they find that a useful experience. They are keen to send students for higher degrees in India.

In the last meeting of the day Prime Minister met with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. It was the Prime Minister's first meeting with her after her victory in the election in Bangladesh; and her first meeting with him after his victory in elections over here. They congratulated each other on the elections. It is a very close and intimate relationship. As you know, in any such relationship there will always be issues but no issues that we think we cannot solve through bilateral discussions with goodwill on both sides. So, we looked at which parts of the relationship we need to build. Prime Minister said that he hoped to continue widening, deepening, broadening the relationship in every sphere at a pace and speed which Bangladesh is comfortable with. One of the issues that were mentioned was naturally the use of Bangladeshi territory by Indian insurgent groups who use it. She assured the Prime Minister that this would not be allowed; and that action would be taken against such elements who try to use their territory.

There was also a discussion on various projects which are of interest to both sides. The Tipaimukh issue has been active in the last few weeks in the Bangladeshi media and I think some Bangladeshi political circles have been raising it. We have been talking to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in Bangladesh Parliament. We have invited them to send an all-party delegation to visit Tipaimukh and to actually see it, to see what is actually going on so that a lot of the exaggerated fears or claims about it would be set at rest; and that ultimately we might start looking at more creative solutions, at solutions where both sides develop an interest on how they run or operate these projects. That is because, as you know, Bangladesh for a considerable time has been speaking of upstream storage being the solution to their problems. They have been talking of upstream storage in Nepal in the past. But this also in effect would amount to upstream storage and power at a time when both Bangladesh and India need power desperately. So, we said we are ready to look at all kinds of creative solutions to see how we try and solve these problems.

Their Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water will be visiting on the 29th and 30th. We will go to the site and we will arrange to show them the site so that they see it themselves.

There was considerable discussion of the potential of railway projects, of other projects that both sides are interested in. So, we will be developing those over the next few months. But both sides are happy, I think, with the way the relationship is going. So, it was a very useful meeting. It has set out our agenda for our work in the next few months.

The External Affairs Minister who has been here for the last three days has also been having a series of meetings with his counterparts from Mauritius, Egypt, Singapore, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Iran. I cannot brief you in detail because frankly I was not here. But if anybody is interested, please contact Swaminathan, our Ambassador here. He will be in a position to tell you about that.

Tomorrow morning and afternoon, Prime Minister will be having bilateral meetings with the President of Egypt, our host, and with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the President of Sri Lanka. He will probably be also meeting with President Karzai in the course of the day. We are working that out. There will be a concluding session in the afternoon, a formal closing of the Conference. That is really all I have for you right now. If there are any questions, I will be very happy to answer them. And I think I can guess what they are.

Official Spokesperson: Please allow the mic to come to you. You indicate your interest and the mic will come to you.

Question: Menon sahab, kya aaj aapki Pakistan ki Videsh Sachiv se mulaqat hui hai? Kaha jaata hai ki roadmap taiyar hoga, agenda taiyar hoga, donon deshon ki Prime Ministers ki meeting ke liye. Doosra, kya Gilani sahab se aapki mulaqat hui hai? Aur kya joint statement koi jaari karne ki baat hai donon deshon ki oar se, donon Prime Ministers ki oar se?

Foreign Secretary: Kal shaam ko yahan pahunchne ke baad, Pakistani ki Videsh Sachiv se meri mulaqat hui thee. Dedh ghanta usmein laga tha. Kal shaam ko mile the. Phir aaj bhi meeting ke

dauran baahar unse bhi mila tha, do-teen baar mila tha. Aur Gilani sahab se bhi mulaqat hui thee. Lekin woh to corridor mein khade hue haath milaya tha hamne. Dus-bees minute ham vahan khade hue baat kiye. Kya baat kiye, kya niklega, nateerja kya hoga, Prime Minsiter jab milenge Gilani sahab se kal kya niklega, yeh to aap kal poochiye mujhse. Main kal bata dunga aapko. Kyonki, abhi kaam chal raha hai. Abhi to baat-cheet jaari hai aur chalta rahega.

Question: Mr. Menon, if you are not going to give us details about your meeting, I want to ask you one question. A number of foreign dispatches from Correspondents talk about a level of arrogance in the Indian Delegation talking to Pakistan. If you cannot really talk with a democratically elected Government which is battling internal demons of its own, and you cannot talk with military dictators, then who can you really talk to in Pakistan? Bilawal?

Foreign Secretary: That is a 'when did you stop beating your wife?' kind of question. We have been talking to Pakistan to whoever is ruling in Pakistan steadily since 2003. So, quite frankly I do not understand the question. We have been talking to Pakistan even after the Mumbai attacks. After the Mumbai train blasts we talked to them. So, the basis on which that question is phrased I think is completely wrong. It is just false. We kept our High Commissioners in place after the Mumbai blasts. We are in communication with them. I do not think that is the issue. The question is what we discuss and what it results in. And we do have difficult issues to address. We have had in the past; we still have difficult issues to address. And that is what we are talking to them about. As far as we are concerned, it has been consistently our approach, our policy, that there is no way but dialogue to deal with these issues, either to take the relationship forward or to address the issues that might divide us.

Question: Mr. Foreign Secretary, there have been some reports that the Prime Ministers will issue a joint statement. I think that is the best case scenario of these talks. But even there were to be a joint statement, from ...(Unclear)... for example, analysts, observers have said that there are so many unresolved issues and both sides do not seem to agree on how to resolve them. For example, the handling of the Mumbai attackers. I think there are perhaps different points of view on the strength of the evidence that India has provided and the dossier that is provided. What do you think can be done to and how are these issues going to be resolved?

Foreign Secretary: There must be a question in there somewhere! Frankly, whether there is a joint statement or not, we will know tomorrow. So, it is not going to take that long. You do not have to wait that long. We will let you know tomorrow morning. But I do not think that is the issue here. The question is not the form of how we come out and brief you on what happened in the meeting. I think the issue is really how do we deal with what has brought us to this condition of a stressed relationship; and how do we see the way forward. I think all that will be answered tomorrow.

Question: Sir, you met your counterpart for 90 minutes yesterday. Is India satisfied with the progress that Pakistan has made as far as investigations are concerned?

Foreign Secretary: We had a good, detailed discussion. He told us what they have done; what they feel they can do; where they think it is going. He described the situation as he saw it. I told him of our concerns. But it was not our job at that stage to either decide - yes, this is good; this is bad; this is satisfactory. Our job was to tell each other what we thought and then to go back and report to our leaders. And we are still in the process of talking to each other. So, I do not want to say conclusively, yes, this is it, and we start drawing conclusions from it yet. This is why I am saying, you will know tomorrow. Our job is really to talk to each other, do what we were told by our leaders to do in Yekaterinburg in Russia on the 16th of June which is for them to tell us what they have done about terrorist attacks on India from Pakistan; for us to express our concerns and so on to them; and then to see the way forward and report to our leaders, which is what we are in the process of doing.

Question: Sir, how non-negotiable is the Indian decision to make the next round of dialogue, as and when it should evolve with Pakistan, limited and focused specifically on terrorism? I ask this because some sections of the Pakistan media are reporting a deadlock in Foreign Secretary talks over the issue of what the forthcoming framework of dialogue should be, Composite Dialogue on Terrorism?

Foreign Secretary: I think the less you speculate the less likely you are to go wrong. All these stories about what we are supposed to have done! We have seen a lot of stories which bear no relationship to reality. The point we have made is a more general point which is that it cannot be that the dialogue does not take into account what has happened. We have had a series of events which have happened.

Now you cannot just keep doing exactly the same dialogue over and over again unless it deals with reality as we find it; and with the sources of trouble in our relationship. That is part of it. So, what we are saying here is that, let us see how we deal with this situation. We have a situation where India-Pakistan relations are stressed and they are stressed for certain reasons - because of terrorist attacks on India from Pakistan. So, we need to take that into account to see how we move forward, how we deal with that first. What I am trying to say is there is no such decision saying we will not do this, we will not do that. No. We are saying, we have a situation here; we have to see how we deal with it. All will be revealed tomorrow. You can try in various ways but you will know tomorrow anyway.

Question: Just to clarify, you said we are still in the process of talking. Are you going to meet your Pakistani counterpart?

Foreign Secretary: We have been meeting right through the day, outside, inside; and we will keep doing this. We know each other quite well. We have been in touch for a long time. So, it is not as though we need to set up a formal meeting. We can talk to each other in various ways or forms.

Question: Mumbai hamle ke baad lagataar Videsh Mantralay ke taraf se aur tamaam bade Mantriyon ke taraf se bayan aaya ki jab tak shadyantrakariyon ko sazaa nahin ho jaati tab tak aage ki baat-cheet ka raasta mushkil hai. Ab aap baat kar rahein hain ki "how to deal with it?" Kya is situation ya is statement se deal karne mein ek step forward jaane ke liye taiyar hain?

Foreign Secretary: Let me be absolutely precise. What we have always said is 'credible action to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice'. That is what we have said from day two. Secondly, 'credible action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan from which attacks on India take place'. Just to be clear, because that is slightly different from what you are saying.

Question: You have said that you are going to meet today.

Foreign Secretary: No I did not say that. I said that we are in touch. We have been meeting through the day. We will stay in touch. We will keep talking.

Question : Is Pakistan willing to admit quite overtly and quite clearly that they have been sponsoring terrorism after ...

Foreign Secretary: Please ask Pakistan. I do not speak for Pakistan.

Question: Sir, does the dossier provided by Pakistan speak about ...(Unclear)... by Pakistan. Do you think it amounts to ...(Unclear)...

Foreign Secretary: As said, I am not in a position today to say yes or no or to draw conclusions to described it As credible or not. They have given us a dossier describing what they have done. My job as Foreign Secretary is, having listened to them and got their dossier, to report to my leadership. Then we will tell you.

Question: A supplementary to this question. Does the dossier contain the identity of eight suspects identified by Pakistan as a demonstration of their commitment to investigating the Mumbai terror attacks?

Foreign Secretary: I think what it contains is the identity of five people who are under arrest, nine people who are proclaimed offenders whom they are looking for, and the names and identities of some other people who they say they are looking for who might be connected to the Mumbai attacks.

Question: Mr Menon, you have been telling them that you want credible action to dismantle terror structure. What is it that the Pakistan has been telling you in the last two days?

Foreign Secretary: Pakistan has told me, and they were quite clear about this, that they listed the actions that they have taken. They also spoke of their determination to fight terrorism. For the rest, I am sure, if you ask them they will tell you.

Question: In the past two days there have been a lot of reports on Hafiz Sayeed and that the Punjab Government there is working for the ...(Unclear)... Did it come up in the conversation? And what did the

leaders say?

Foreign Secretary: It did. We are still looking for clarity, quite frankly. I believe the Punjab Government has withdrawn their appeal, but were also told that there is some other action which may be likely. So, quite frankly, we are waiting for clarity.

Question: Beyond 'good and detailed discussions' how will you characterize your meetings with your counterpart over the last 24 hours?

Foreign Secretary: Good and detailed.

Question: Beyond that.

Foreign Secretary: What else is there beyond that? Quite frankly, there is no point. I am having a discussion with my counterpart. For me that is my primary job. I am not going to negotiate through the media. I have said this to you before; I will end up, I am sure, saying it to you again. But it does not make sense. When we spoke to each other last night just before we parted, we both agreed we would not negotiate through the media.

Question: Sir, nine proclaimed offenders ki aapne dossier mein baat ki hai, Bharat ne hamesha se Dawood Ibrahim ki baat ki hai. To kya uske baare mein bhi is dossier mein koi ...

Foreign Secretary: We raised the issue of Indian fugitives from Indian justice who are in Pakistan. We did raise the issue.

Question: Kya dossier mein is baat ka ...

Foreign Secretary: There is not mention of them in the dossier. The dossier relates to Mumbai directly.

Question: I want to know what in your reckoning is a credible action against terror. How would you understand the Pakistani attempts to clean up Swat or Waziristan? Do you think it is actually dismantling of terror infrastructure? Or do you differentiate between what you are asking and what Pakistan is doing?

Foreign Secretary: I think we have been through this before. We are not in the business of laying out markers saying, "This would be credible; up to this is not credible; beyond this would be credible". We have always avoided that. When we see credible action we will know it. It speaks for itself. We would be very happy if they took the same kind of decisive action against terrorists and terrorist groups in Pakistan which operate against India as they are taking against some of the groups in Western Pakistan.

Question: Sir, once again on the dossier. Does the dossier also an ...(Unclear)... organization or any link towards to ISI?

Foreign Secretary: It does. It does include some terrorist organizations.

Question: Sir, you said that you had good and detailed discussions. What does this 'good' mean? Can you explain it a little bit? How do you describe this 'good'.

Foreign Secretary: You have to look up the dictionary I think. Quite frankly, there is no point going on asking the same question in twenty-five ways. I have made it quite clear why I will not negotiate through the media, and also why you cannot expect some great characterization of what is likely to happen tomorrow from us.

Question: Because it has not been decided yet?

Foreign Secretary: Because we are still in the middle of a conversation, and it is an ongoing conversation.

Question: Sir, beyond the Prime Minister's interaction tomorrow, have you had discussions on how the

talks will go on beyond that? Do you have a way forward beyond tomorrow?

Foreign Secretary: We will let you know tomorrow.

Question: Sir, the Pakistani Foreign Secretary yesterday said that it is quite a pity that you and he had to meet in different countries – in Yekaterinburg and now here. And he said ...

Foreign Secretary: No, we did not meet there.

Question: No, you did not. That is true. He said that he would like to come to India and also said that he had extended an invitation to you. Is anything like that coming?

Foreign Secretary: We will tell you tomorrow. You know, we are just going around. You are just asking the same question in different forms. And this becomes a test of ingenuity on both sides.

Question: Just very briefly, why do you think Pakistan is not able to take credible action? Why has it not been able to take credible action for the past period? What would you like to see changed really? I ...(Unclear)... markers but in terms of willingness and ability what do you think ...(Unclear)... can achieve? Is there inability or is there a lack of willingness? What is the problem?

Foreign Secretary: I am not in the mind-reading business. I do not want to go that route that - do they want to, could they, if they would, etc. I do not want to go down that route. For me what is important is that we both know we have a problem here that we have to deal with. For us the problem is quite clear – it is terrorist attacks out of Pakistan on India - and we need to deal with that. And the Indian public opinion needs to see a clear, credible action against that. So, that is what we are discussing.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you, very much.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you.

TOPIC: **Statement of Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the 15th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**
DATE: 15.07.2009

**Mr. Chairman,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Honourable Heads of State and Government,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

It is a great pleasure to be in Egypt -- this ancient land, the cradle of civilization.

We are grateful to the brotherly government and people of Egypt for the warm reception and gracious hospitality accorded to us since our arrival here.

We also extend our warmest felicitations to Egypt for assuming the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement for the second time.

As a founding member, Egypt has made a tremendous contribution to the promotion of the goals and objectives of our Movement.

We have no doubt that, under Your Excellency 's wise stewardship, NAM will forge ahead in fully realizing its noble purposes.

I also take this opportunity to pay rich tributes to Cuba , and His Excellency Raul Castro , for outstanding leadership during Cuba 's term as the NAM Chair.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Summit is taking place at another defining moment in history. This is a time of immense challenges, but equally immense opportunities.

It is our conviction that the vision and principles outlined by the NAM 's founding fathers are not only valid today, but are indeed indispensable. The solidarity which helped us promote collective good in the past is equally essential for the future.

We, in Pakistan , believe that the core of NAM 's efforts today should be our quest for sovereign equality. In these changing times, our Movement must renew its emphasis on giving full life and meaning to the immutable principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity , non-aggression, non-intervention, mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence.

Mr. Chairman,

Security -- including economic security -- is indivisible. The global financial and economic crisis is affecting us all. The continued progress and prosperity of our peoples is at stake.

We must utilize this opportunity to fashion a holistic response. Our approach should be balanced, premised on the mutuality of interests of developed and developing countries . A conceptual rethink is required regarding the optimal balance between the role of governments and markets.

The temptation for protectionism must be resisted at all costs. Market access should significantly expand, generating trade and employment opportunities. Stimulus packages and special dispensations to help particularly the vulnerable economies are essential.

We must also work for comprehensive reform of the global financial and economic architecture, especially in the realm of enhanced regulation, more accountability, and inclusive decision-making. Only a profound transformation will produce desired results.

Mr. Chairman,

This Summit appropriately focuses on ' international solidarity for peace and development.' In Pakistan , peace and development are the core national priorities of our democratic government . The guiding light for us is the vision of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the father of our nation, of a progressive, modern, democratic, Islamic Pakistan – at peace within, and peace without.

We are currently engaged in a resolute national effort to eliminate terrorism and militancy. Our valiant security forces and the people of Pakistan have rendered enormous sacrifices in fighting this menace. Millions of our citizens have been recently dislocated.

Pakistan deeply appreciates the support and solidarity it has received from friends in the international community.

Terrorism is a global phenomenon. Only regional and global solutions would work. Military means alone will not suffice. The only successful strategy would be a multi-dimensional strategy, particularly which addresses the root causes. Sustainable success would come from resolving the long-standing political disputes and promoting socio-economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

The advancement of Pakistan 's economic development goals is possible only in an environment of regional peace and stability. We are, therefore, steadfastly pursuing friendly and cooperative relations with our neighbours on the basis of equality, mutual interest, and mutual benefit.

There has recently been some forward movement in our relations with India . We hope to sustain this momentum and move towards comprehensive engagement. We believe durable peace in South Asia is achievable. It will be facilitated by the resolution of all outstanding disputes, including Jammu and Kashmir . The peace dividend for the 1.5 billion people in the regional would be enormous.

Peace and stability in Afghanistan is in our vital interest. For its part, Pakistan is engaged bilaterally with the brotherly government of Afghanistan to realize the objectives of peace, security and development.

Mr. Chairman,

On the international plane, we suggest that NAM pursue the following eight-point programme to advance the cause of peace and development:

One , reinforce the normative framework by stressing strict adherence to the principles of inter-state relations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Two , strengthen the multilateral system to curb unilateralist impulses and to advance the interests of all states in an equitable manner.

Three , re-design the global institutional architecture on the basis of democracy, accountability and transparency.

Four , promote the pacific settlements of disputes. Pakistan has already stressed the need for NAM to expeditiously evolve a mechanism for conflict resolution.

Five , develop a new global consensus covering arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as well as access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Our approach should be based on the Charter principles and the concept of equal security for all states.

Six , deepen South-South cooperation.

Seven , pay urgent attention to the issue of climate change , including in South Asia . The developing countries need to be provided adequate resources and technology to deal with this looming crisis.

Eight , promote inter-faith dialogue.

Mr. Chairman,

We are at a historical juncture. The path we take today would determine the evolution of the world tomorrow. We have a historical responsibility to our future generations.

For its part, Pakistan will continue to actively contribute to the advancement of the NAM 's worthy goals and objectives .

I thank you.

TOPIC: **PM's opening remarks at the Press Briefing in Sharm El Sheikh**

DATE: 16.07.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of External Affairs, <http://mea.gov.in/secframe.php?sec=pb>

I will today be concluding my visits to France and Egypt, and returning to India.

As I said before, India's participation as the Guest of Honour at France's National Day was a honour for the people of India, and is a matter of pride for all of us. In my discussions with him, President Sarkozy went out of his way to reaffirm the high priority he attaches to France's relations with India. We discussed the full range of our bilateral cooperation, including counter-terrorism and defence cooperation. President Sarkozy was categorical in his assertion that France is ready for full civil nuclear cooperation with India in all areas, and there were no limits to this cooperation. I look forward to receiving him in India in the near future.

The NAM Summit in Egypt has reaffirmed the Movement's significance in today's context. NAM has evolved into a powerful voice of almost two-thirds of the world's nations. Our voice has been heard with great attention and I believe the views we have articulated have found widespread resonance within the Nonaligned Movement.

The Summit's call for bringing the decision-making processes in the international architecture, including the United Nations and the international financial institutions, in tune with contemporary realities reflects the priority which the world attaches to this issue. I am glad that the Summit has heeded our call to strongly condemn international terrorism and on the need for international cooperation to effectively combat it.

I have complimented President Mubarak on his most successful stewardship of the Summit. We are confident that under Egypt's wise and experienced leadership, the Movement will gain fresh impetus and strength.

On the sidelines of the Summit, I met the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Malaysia, the President of Vietnam, and the President of the Palestinian National Authority. Earlier today I called on President Mubarak of Egypt. I hope to meet the Prime Minister of Nepal and President of Sri Lanka later today.

All these countries belong to our immediate and extended neighbourhood. I found a uniform desire among all these countries to further enhance their relations with India. This is a matter of great satisfaction for us. We will reciprocate their friendship to the best of our ability.

I have good discussions with Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan earlier today. During that meeting we discussed the present condition of India-Pakistan relations, its future potential, and the steps that are necessary to enable us to realize the potential.

We have agreed on a Joint Statement which is available with you.

I return back to India satisfied with my visit and my various interactions with world leaders, which have substantially advanced our national interests.

TOPIC: Joint Statement Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani

DATE: 16.07.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of External Affairs, <http://www.meaindia.nic.in/>

ISSUES: De-linking action on terrorism and the Composite Dialogue process

The Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani met in Sharm El Sheikh on July 16, 2009.

The two Prime Ministers had a cordial and constructive meeting. They considered the entire gamut of bilateral relations with a view to charting the way forward in India - Pakistan relations.

Both leaders agreed that terrorism is the main threat to both countries. Both leaders affirmed their resolve to fight terrorism and to cooperate with each other to this end.

Prime Minister Singh reiterated the need to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice. Prime Minister Gilani assured that Pakistan will do everything in its power in this regard. He said that Pakistan has provided an updated status dossier on the investigations of the Mumbai attacks and had sought additional information/evidence. Prime Minister Singh said that the dossier is being reviewed.

Both leaders agreed that the two countries will share real time, credible and actionable information on any future terrorist threats.

Prime Minister Gilani mentioned that Pakistan has some information on threats in Balochistan and other areas.

Both Prime Ministers recognized that dialogue is the only way forward. Action on terrorism should not be linked to the Composite Dialogue process and these should not be bracketed. Prime Minister Singh said that India was ready to discuss all issues with Pakistan, including all outstanding issues.

Prime Minister Singh reiterated India's interest in a stable, democratic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Both leaders agreed that the real challenge is development and the elimination of poverty. Both leaders are resolved to eliminate those factors which prevent our countries from realizing their full potential. Both agreed to work to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence.

Both leaders reaffirmed their intention to promote regional cooperation.

Both Foreign Secretaries should meet as often as necessary and report to the two Foreign Ministers who will be meeting on the sidelines of the forthcoming UN General Assembly.

Sharm el Sheikh

July 16, 2009

TOPIC: Joint Statement and issue of Balochistan

DATE: 18.07.2009

SOURCE: Press Trust of India

Issues:

- **Issue of Balochistan**
- **Fighting Terrorism**
- **Trust Deficit**

Gilani says India interfering in Balochistan

Two days after the controversial Indo-Pak joint statement in Egypt, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Saturday night blamed India for "interference" in Balochistan and "other areas" and said the document reflected Pakistan's concerns over this.

The joint statement signed by him and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh "underlines our concerns over India's interference in Balochistan and other areas of Pakistan", Gilani told his first press conference after his return from Sharm-el Sheikh.

At the outset, he showered praise on Singh for agreeing to restart dialogue, saying the Indian leader had shown "political sagacity" and "statesmanship" in realising that talks were the only way forward.

The statement, which has been attacked by opposition parties and commentators in India, in a brief reference to Balochistan said that Gilani had "mentioned that Pakistan has some information on threats in Balochistan and other areas."

Referring to the document, Gilani said it provides for discussion on all outstanding issues with India.

Asked when Pakistan will give proof to India about its "interference" in Balochistan, he said "as and when talks take place, it will be handed over. Right now we are talking about talks."

During his long interaction with journalists, Gilani was congratulated by them for "showing courage" at the talks with Singh and getting Balochistan onto the table.

Fighting terrorism

Asked about Singh's response when he raised the issue of Balochistan, Gilani evaded a direct reply, saying both India and Pakistan are "victims of terrorism" and "joint effort" is required to fight it.

To a question, Gilani said Singh was "very clear" that he was ready to discuss all issues. "Just put the cards on the table, I am not scared," he quoted Singh as saying during their three-hour-long discussions.

He said there was "trust deficit" in relations between India and Pakistan and "with more interactions, that will be taken care of."

When pointed out that a leader of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir had criticised the omission of Kashmir issue in the joint statement, Gilani said the reference to "all outstanding issues" includes Kashmir, which, he noted, is the "cornerstone" of ruling Pakistan People's Party's policies.

He said Prime Minister of PoK had called him to congratulate for what he has done on Jammu and Kashmir.

"We discussed in detailed regarding the Composite Dialogue. In principle, we both agreed that dialogue is the only way forward. The population of both the countries is 1.5 billion people and we can't make them suffer and hold hostage to one issue," Gilani said about his talks with Singh.

Queried whether the US had helped in making India agree to resuming dialogue, the Pakistan Prime Minister said, "I have never requested America. It is our own effort, Pakistan's own efforts. Both leaders (Singh and Gilani) were convinced with the stand we took that will help both the countries to move forward."

Gilani was asked whether the filing of chargesheet today against five accused in the Mumbai attacks was a coincidence or a gesture towards India. "We were already probing. A lot of evidence is being probed. It is just coincidence," he replied.

He said Pakistan has sought more information on Mumbai attacks and Singh has agreed to send it.

"When we get further information, certainly we will bring to justice (the perpetrators)," the Prime Minister said.

Trust deficit

Gilani said Singh had expressed apprehension about another Mumbai-type attack and he had said if there was "credible and actionable information, it should be shared with our agencies and Pakistan will help."

The Prime Minister also contradicted President Asif Ali Zardari on his comment that Pakistan does not feel threatened by India.

"Ask them who hold such a view. We have not had very good relations with India. So have to be little careful. There is lack of trust. When this ends, then we can say we are not threatened. It is too early to say that now," he said when asked whether he shared Zardari's view that India is not a threat to Pakistan.

The two countries could address each other's reservations only by sitting at the negotiating table, he said.

Gilani also said he had told Singh that Pakistan would take action against terrorism without being asked to do so by anyone as it was in the country's own interest.

Terrorism is a problem for Pakistan and we need to resolve it...It is our resolve not to allow terrorists to grow in Pakistan," he said.

Replying to another question about Indian consulates in Afghanistan being purportedly involved in fomenting unrest in Pakistan, he said: "We will not allow Pakistani soil to be used for terrorism and we would not want other countries to be used for the same purpose. We need to talk on these issues".

Both India and Pakistan are victims of terrorism and there is a need for joint efforts to tackle the menace, he said.

TOPIC: REMARKS BY PRIME MINISTER SYED YUSUF RAZA GILANI ON THE ADDRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA IN THE LOK SABHA

DATE: 20.07.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of External Affairs, <http://www.meaindia.nic.in/>

ISSUES: Appreciation of Indian Prime Minister

"I wish to reciprocate the sentiments for peace expressed by Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during his address to Lok Sabha today.

At Sharm El Sheikh, we had useful talks and a good meeting of minds. We had agreed that terrorism was a common threat. We also agreed that dialogue is the only way forward.

The Indian Prime Minister has rightly emphasized the importance of honourable settlement of the outstanding issues between India and Pakistan .

I commend Dr. Manmohan Singh for his bold vision of peace and prosperity in South Asia and the statesmanship that he has demonstrated."

Islamabad

29 July 2009

TOPIC: Excerpts of the Prime Minister's statement in Lok Sabha on the debate on the PM's recent visits abroad

DATE: 29.07.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of External Affairs, <http://www.meaindia.nic.in/>

Madam Speaker,

As I have said many times before, we cannot wish away the fact that Pakistan is our neighbour. We should be good neighbours. If we live in peace, as good neighbours do, both of us can focus our energies on the many problems – our abject poverty that confront millions and millions of people in South Asia. If there is cooperation between us, and not conflict, vast opportunities will open up for trade, travel and development that will create prosperity in both countries.

It is, therefore, in our vital interest to make sincere efforts to live in peace with Pakistan. But despite the best of intentions, we cannot move forward if terrorist attacks launched from Pakistani soil continue to kill and injure our citizens, here and abroad. That is the national position. I stand by it.

I have said time and again and I repeat it right now again: it is impossible for any government in India to work towards full normalization of relations with Pakistan unless the Government of Pakistan fulfills, in letter and spirit, its commitment not to allow its territory to be used in any manner for terrorist activities against India.

This was a commitment made as my friend Shri Yashwant Sinha has mentioned to my distinguished predecessor Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and it has been repeated to me in every meeting I have had

with the Pakistani leadership. The people of India expect these assurances to be honoured and this government recognizes that as the national consensus.

Madam Speaker,

The attack on Mumbai last November outraged our nation and cast a deep shadow over our relations with Pakistan. The reality and the horror of it were brought into Indian homes over three traumatic days that still haunt us. The people of India demand that this must never happen again.

Over the past seven months, we followed a policy, using all effective bilateral and multilateral instruments at our command, to ensure that Pakistan acts, with credibility and sincerity, as we would expect of any civilized nation.

Soon after the attacks, the United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions on the Lakshar-e-Tayeba and its front organizations, including the Jamaat-ud-Dawa. It also imposed sanctions on four individuals connected with the organization, including one of the masterminds behind the Mumbai attacks, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi.

We exercised great restraint under very difficult circumstances but made it clear that Pakistan must act. On 5th January 2009, we handed over to Pakistan the details of the links to Pakistan that were revealed by our investigators. Some action followed and Pakistan formally responded to us on two occasions regarding the progress of their own investigations - in February 2009 and then just two days before my departure for Paris and Sharm El Sheikh.

The latest dossier is a 34 page document that gives details of the planning and sequence of events, details of the investigations carried out by the special Federal Investigation Agency team of Pakistan, a copy of the FIR lodged and the details and photographs of the accused in custody and those declared as proclaimed offenders. It provides details of the communication networks used, financing of the operation and seizures made in Pakistan including maps, lifeboats, literature on navigational training, intelligence manuals, back packs etc.

The Pakistan dossier states that the investigation has established beyond doubt that LeT activists conspired, financed and executed the attacks. Five of the accused have been arrested, including Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Zarar Shah, and thirteen others have been declared proclaimed offenders. A charge sheet has since been filed against them under Pakistan's Anti Terrorism Act and other relevant laws. We have been told that the investigations are nearly complete and that the trial will now proceed. We have also been asked for some further information. We will provide this shortly.

This is the first time that Pakistan has ever formally briefed us on the results of an investigation into a terrorist attack in India. It has never happened before and I repeat this is the first time. It is also the first time that they have admitted that their nationals and a terrorist organisation based in Pakistan carried out a ghastly terrorist act in India.

Madam Speaker,

The reality is that this is far more than the NDA Government was ever able to extract from Pakistan during its entire tenure despite all their tall talk. They were never able to get Pakistan to admit what they have admitted now. So the UPA government needs no lessons from the opposition on how to conduct foreign affairs or secure our nation against terrorist threats.

But while noting the steps Pakistan has taken, I have to say that they do not go far enough. We hope that the trial will make quick progress and that exemplary punishment will be meted out to those who committed this horrific crime against humanity. We need evidence that action is being taken to outlaw, disarm and shut down the terrorist groups and their front organizations that still operate on Pakistani soil and which continue to pose a grave threat to our country.

Madam Speaker,

In the final analysis, the reality is that, despite all the friends we have, and we should have as many friends as Shri Mulayam Singh ji has said, when it comes to matters relating to our national security and defence, we will have to depend on ourselves. Self-help is the best help. There is no substitute to strengthening our defence capabilities, our internal security structures and our emergency response mechanisms. I wish to assure the House that the government is giving these matters the highest priority and attention.

Several important steps have been taken to modernize, rationalize and strengthen our defence, security and intelligence apparatus. A detailed plan to address internal security challenges is being implemented in a time-bound manner. The Government is maintaining utmost vigil in the area of internal security. Measures have been taken to ensure enhanced information and intelligence sharing on a real time basis. A policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, from whatever source it originates, has been put in place.

In the area of defence, steps are underway to substantially improve our coastal and maritime security. Large acquisitions of major weapon systems and platforms have been approved for the modernization of our Army, Navy and Air Force. There has been a special focus to improve the welfare of the Armed Forces personnel.

We will spare no effort and no expense to defend our nation against any threat to our sovereignty, unity and integrity. This is the sacred and bounden duty of any Government of this great country.

Madam Speaker,

We do not dilute our positions or our resolve to defeat terrorism by talking to any country. Other major powers affected by Pakistan based terrorism are also engaging with Pakistan. Unless we talk directly to Pakistan, we will have to rely on third parties to do so. That route, I submit to this August House, has very severe limitations as to its effectiveness, and for the longer term the involvement of foreign powers in South Asia is not something to our liking.

I say with strength and conviction that dialogue and engagement is the best way forward.

This has been the history of our relations with Pakistan over the last decade. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee took a decision of political courage to visit Lahore in 1999. Then came Kargil and the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar. Yet, he invited General Musharraf to Agra and again tried to make peace. The nation witnessed the terrible attack on Parliament in 2001. There followed an extremely difficult phase in our relationship. The armed forces of the two countries stood fully mobilized.

But, to his great credit, Shri Vajpayee was not deterred, as a statesman should not be. In 2004, he went to Islamabad, where a Joint Statement was issued that set out a vision for a cooperative relationship. I must remind the House that opposition parties supported these bold steps. I, for one, share Shri Vajpayee's vision, and I have also felt his frustration in dealing with Pakistan.

In my meetings with President Zardari in Yekaterinburg and with Prime Minister Gilani in Sharm El Sheikh, I conveyed, in the strongest possible terms, our concerns and expectations. I conveyed to them the deep anger and hurt of the people of India due to the persistence of terrorist attacks in India.

I told them that the operations of all terrorist groups that threaten India must end permanently. I urged them to make no distinctions between different terrorist organizations. I said that it was not enough to say that Pakistan is itself a victim of terrorism. They must show the same political will and take the same strong and sustained action against terrorist groups operating on their eastern border as they now seem to be taking against groups on their western border.

Both President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani assured me that the Pakistan government was serious and that effective action would be taken against the perpetrators of the Mumbai carnage.

Shri Yashwant Sinha asked me what had changed between my meeting with President Zardari and the meeting with Prime Minister Gilani. In between came the dossier which showed progress though not adequate progress. Shri Sinha also asked me do we trust Pakistan. Let me say that in the affairs of two

neighbours we should recall what President Reagan once said – trust but verify. There is no other way unless we go to war.

I was told that Mumbai was the work of non-state actors. I said that this gave little satisfaction and that it was the duty of their Government to ensure that such acts were not perpetrated from their territory. I told them that another attack of this kind will put an intolerable strain on our relationship and that they must take all possible measures to prevent a recurrence.

Madam Speaker,

After I returned from Sharm El Sheikh, I made a statement in Parliament, which clarified and elaborated not just the Joint Statement issued following my meeting with Prime Minister Gilani, but also what we discussed.

I wish to reiterate that the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan know, after our recent meetings, that we can have a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan only if they fulfill their commitment, in letter and spirit, not to allow their territory to be used in any manner for terrorist activities against India. This message was repeated when the Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries met.

I stand by what I have said in Parliament - that there has been no dilution of our position in this regard.

An interpretation has been sought to be given to the Joint Statement that we will continue to engage in a composite dialogue whether Pakistan takes action against terrorism or not. This is not correct. The Joint Statement emphasized that action on terrorism cannot be linked to dialogue. Pakistan knows very well that with terrorism being such a mortal and global threat, no civilized country can set terms and conditions for rooting it out. It is an absolute and compelling imperative that cannot be dependent on resumption of the composite dialogue. In the Joint Statement itself, the two sides have agreed to share real time, credible and actionable information on any future terrorist threats.

Madam Speaker,

When I spoke to Prime Minister Gilani about terrorism from Pakistan, he mentioned to me that many Pakistanis thought that India meddled in Balochistan. I told him that we have no interest in destabilizing Pakistan nor do we harbour any ill intent towards Pakistan. We believe that a stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan living in peace with its neighbours is in our own interest.

I told him then, and I say it here again, that we are not afraid of discussing any issue of concern between the two countries. If there are any misgivings, we are willing to discuss them and remove them.

I said to him that I had been told by the leadership of Pakistan several times that Indian Consulates in Afghanistan were involved in activities against Pakistan. This is totally false. We have had Consulates in Kandahar and Jalalabad for 60 years. Our Consulates perform normal diplomatic functions and are assisting in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, where we have a large aid programme that is benefiting the common people of Afghanistan.

But we are willing to discuss all these issues because we know that we are doing nothing wrong. I told Prime Minister Gilani that our conduct is an open book. If Pakistan has any evidence, and they have not given me any and no dossier has been given, we are willing to look at it because we have nothing to hide.

Madam Speaker,

I believe that it is as much in Pakistan's vital interest as it is in ours to make peace. Pakistan must defeat terrorism, before being consumed by it. I believe the current leadership there understands the need for action.

I was told by the parliamentarians who accompanied Prime Minister Gilani that there is now a political consensus in Pakistan against terrorism. That should strengthen the hands of its leaders in taking the hard decisions that will be needed to destroy terrorism and its sponsors in their country.

Madam Speaker,

Our objective, as I said at the outset, must be a permanent peace with Pakistan, where we are bound together by a shared future and a common prosperity.

I believe that there is a large constituency for peace in both countries. The majority of people in both countries want an honourable settlement of the problems between us that have festered far too long and want to set aside the animosities of the past. We know this, but in the past there have been hurdles in a consistent pursuit of this path. As a result, the enemies of peace have flourished. They want to make our alienation permanent, the distance between our two countries an unbridgeable divide. In the interests of our people, and in the interest of peace and prosperity of South Asia, we must not let this happen.

That is why I hope and pray that the leadership in Pakistan will have the strength and the courage to defeat those who want to destroy, not just peace between India and Pakistan, but the future of South Asia. As I have said before, if they show that strength and that courage, we will meet them more than half way.

There are uncertainties on the horizon, and I cannot predict the future in dealing with neighbours, two nuclear powers. We have to begin to trust each other, but not blindly, but trust and verify. People say that we have broken the national consensus. I refuse to believe that we have broken the national consensus.

For the present we have agreed that the Foreign Secretaries will meet as often as necessary and report to the two Foreign Ministers who will meet on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. The two Foreign Ministers have met even before the Joint Statement in Trieste. I met President Zardari in Russia. So in operational terms the effect of the Statement that the two Foreign Secretaries will meet as often as necessary followed by the Foreign Ministers is no more than what we are doing at present. Does it involve surrender or a sign of weakness?

As neighbours it is our obligation to keep our channels open. Look at what is happening in the world. The US and Iran have been sworn enemies for thirty years, and yet they feel compelled to enter into a dialogue. Unless we want to go to war with Pakistan, dialogue is the only way out. But we should do so on the basis of trust but verify.

On End Use Monitoring

All governments, including our Government, are particular about the end uses to which exported defence equipment and technologies are put to and for preventing them from falling into wrong hands.

Since the late nineties, the Governments of India and the US have entered into End Use Monitoring arrangements for the import of US high-technology defence equipment and supplies. These were negotiated before this agreement in each case by successive Governments of India. The Government has only accepted those arrangements which are fully in consonance with our sovereignty and dignity.

What we have now agreed with the US is a generic formulation which will apply to future such supplies that India chooses to undertake. By agreeing to a generic formulation, we have introduced an element of predictability in what is otherwise an adhoc case by case negotiations on each occasion.

I should add that we need access to all technologies available in the world for the modernization of our defence forces. The threats to the country are growing and we need to have the capability to deal with them, and to be ahead of them. Our Armed Forces are entitled to the best equipment available anywhere in the world. It is also in our interest to diversify to the maximum extent possible the sources of our imports of defence items and equipment.

You have my assurance that the Government has taken all precautions to ensure an outcome that guarantees our sovereignty and national interest. Nothing in the text that has been agreed to compromises India's sovereignty. There is no provision for any unilateral action by the US side with regard to inspection or related matters. India has the sovereign right to jointly decide, including through joint consultations, the verification procedure. Any verification has to follow a request, it has to be on a mutually acceptable date and at a mutually acceptable venue. There is no provision for on-site inspections or granting of access to any military site or sensitive areas. This is the position in regard to the end use monitoring.

On Climate Change

The Major Economic Forum Declaration adopted at L'Aquila is not a declaration of Climate Change policy by India, nor is it a bilateral declaration between India and another country or a group of countries. It is a declaration that represents a shared view among 17 developed and developing countries, the latter category including China, South Africa, Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico. Therefore, the formulations are necessarily generally worded to reflect different approaches and positions of a fairly diverse group of countries.

It has been argued in some quarters that the reference in the Declaration to a scientific view that global temperature increase should not exceed 2°C, represents a significant shift in India's position on Climate Change and that it may oblige us to accept emission reduction targets. This is a one-sided and misleading interpretation of the contents of the Declaration.

It is India's view, which has been consistently voiced at all forums, that global warming is taking place and that its adverse consequences will impact most heavily on developing countries like India. The reference in a document to 2°C increase as a possible threshold reflects a prevalent scientific opinion internationally and only reinforces what India has been saying about the dangers from global warming. True, this is the first time that India has accepted a reference to 2°C as a possible threshold guiding global action, but this is entirely in line with our stated position on global warming.

Drawing attention to the seriousness of global warming does not automatically translate into a compulsion on the part of India or other developing countries represented in the Major Economic Forum to accept emission reduction obligations. I would like to mention that our position and the Chinese position are nearly identical, and we have been coordinating with that country. Quite to the contrary, the greater the threat from global warming, the greater the responsibility of developed countries to take on ambitious emission reduction targets. That is why, 37 developing countries including India, China, Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia, have tabled a submission at the multilateral negotiations, asking the developed countries to accept reduction targets of at least 40% by 2020 with 1990 as the baseline.

The Major Economic Forum Declaration reaffirms the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular, the principle of equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. As is well-known, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change imposes emission reduction targets only on developed countries. Developing countries are committed to sustainable development. The full incremental cost of any mitigation by them must be fully compensated by transfers of financial and technological resources from developed countries. This is fully reflected in the Major Economic Forum Declaration.

Furthermore, at the insistence of India, supported by other developing countries, the Declaration includes an explicit acknowledgement that in undertaking climate change action, the "first and overriding priority" of developing countries will be their pursuit of the goals of economic and social development and poverty eradication. This should allay any apprehension that India will be under pressure to undertake commitments that may undermine her economic growth prospects.

On the G 8 Statement on nuclear issues

Some Members have raised the issue of the Statement issued by the G-8 countries on Non-Proliferation at their L'Aquila Summit in Italy earlier in July, and the references in it to the transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology.

The concern appears to be as to whether an effort is being made by certain countries to prevent the transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology to non-NPT countries, i.e., countries like India who have not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Madam Speaker,

The government is fully committed to the achievement of full international civil nuclear cooperation. Consistent with this objective, in September last year India secured a clean exemption from the Nuclear Suppliers Group, one that was India-specific. At that time also attempts were made to make a distinction. The NSG has agreed to transfer all technologies consistent with their national laws.

The 'Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India' approved by the Nuclear Suppliers Group on September 6, 2008 contains India's reciprocal commitments and actions in exchange for access to international civil nuclear cooperation. It is our expectation that any future decisions of the NSG relating to the transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology would take into account the special status accorded to India by the NSG. The NSG has given us this clean exemption knowing full well that we are not a signatory to the NPT.

Prohibition by the NSG of such transfers would require a consensus amongst all the 46 countries. This does not exist at present. The exemption given to India by the NSG provides for consultations and we will hence remain engaged with that body, so that any decisions take into account the special status accorded to India by it.

As far as the G-8 is concerned, the fact is that we have no civil nuclear cooperation agreement with the G8 bloc per se. We have, however, signed bilateral agreements with France, Russia and the United States. As I have said before, and I repeat it here, when I raised this matter with President Sarkozy, he was gracious enough to tell me that as far as France is concerned, there will be no restrictions. He also said that if we want him to go public on this, he will do so. Therefore, there is no consensus in the NSG to debar India from such technologies. We expect that the countries concerned will honour and implement their bilateral commitments.

Madam Speaker,

In the course of the discussions, some Hon'ble Members have raised the issue of our accepting pre-conditions for transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology. I wish to once again state that pending global nuclear disarmament, there is no question of India joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon State.

I would also like to clarify that the transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology has no bearing whatsoever on India's upfront entitlement to reprocess foreign origin spent fuel and the use of such fuel in our own safeguarded facilities.

Finally, I would like to bring to the attention of this august House that India has full mastery of the entire Nuclear Fuel Cycle, and this includes enrichment and reprocessing technology. We have a well entrenched E&R infrastructure as well. Our domestic three-stage Nuclear Power Programme is entirely indigenous and self-sustaining. Our indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor Programme and linked technology puts us in the league of those very few nations which today possess cutting-edge technologies.

The transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology to India as part of full international civil nuclear cooperation would be an additionality to accelerate our three-stage programme.

New Delhi

July 29, 2009

TOPIC: Remarks by Indian Prime Minister on apprehensions about terrorist attacks and reiteration of our request to India to share information with Pakistan

DATE: 17.08.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of foreign affairs, Pakistan ,
http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2009/Aug/PR_315_09.htm

We have noted the reported comments made by the Prime Minister of India today in which he expressed apprehensions about terrorist attacks being planned in Pakistan against India . The Deputy High Commissioner of India was called to the Foreign Office by Director General (South Asia) today. He was conveyed the following:

- Indian Prime Minister's remarks warrant serious and prompt attention.
- The Government of Pakistan would like to extend its fullest cooperation to pre-empt any act of terror.
- Terrorism is a common enemy. Pakistan has itself been a victim of terrorism.
- At Sharm El Sheikh, both sides had agreed that the "two countries will share real time, credible and actionable information on any future terrorist threats."
- In all sincerity, we would request India to share information that they have and for our part we stand ready to cooperate fully in pre-empting any act of terror.
- Terrorism can only be combated by serious, sustained and pragmatic cooperation. We wish to renew our offer of cooperation to India in this regard.

TOPIC: Conclusions of the Meeting of the Kashmiri Leadership and Political Parties chaired by Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad

DATE: 04.09.2009

- Our today's deliberations have clearly established that we are all united in supporting the just cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir .
- As far as Pakistan is concerned, it remains committed to finding a just and peaceful resolution of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions and aspirations of people of Kashmir .
- Pakistan will continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir .
- All political parties in Pakistan speak with one voice on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir .
- The issue needs to be projected more vigorously. The role of the Kashmiri Diaspora is extremely important in this context.
- It is a unanimous view that India must put an end to the human rights violations in IOK and release all political prisoners in IoK.
- The meeting endorsed the holding of a Conference on Kashmir early next year.
- The elections in IOK are not a substitute for the right to self-determination. The low voter turnout in the elections was a clear message to New Delhi that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected all steps by India to force its will on the people of Jammu and Kashmir .
- The meeting noted that the CBMs on Kashmir including Cross LoC Travel and Trade were a positive development.
- The holding of the ceasefire along the LoC is an important CBM.
- The meeting called for the resolution of the water issues between Pakistan and India in accordance with the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960.
- India has regrettably put a 'pause' on the Composite Dialogue process. The dialogue process with India should continue.
- The meeting emphasized that both Islamabad and New Delhi would benefit from the resumption of the dialogue process which is in the interest of peace and security in South Asia . The Kashmiris must be associated with the talks.
- The meeting appreciated the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to grant empowerment to the people of the Northern Areas.

- The meeting expressed full solidarity with the people of IoK underlining that Pakistan will never abandon the Kashmir cause.
- The meeting was of the view that Pakistan Parliament may once again endorse our stated position on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

TOPIC: Press Conference by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh following G20 Summit in Pittsburgh, USA

DATE: 25.09.2009

SOURCE: Ministry of External Affairs, <http://www.meaindia.nic.in/>

ISSUES:

- **no pre-mature withdrawal of stimulus**
- **The emergency financing for the International Monetary Fund has been successfully completed.**
- **to help the World Bank**
- **framework for discussing global macro balances,**
- **climate change**
- **resolution of the Doha round of trade negotiations**
- **Group of 20 will henceforth be the premier forum for international economic issues.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening once again and welcome to the press conference by the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Prime Minister would be making an opening statement. Thereafter he will be happy to take a few questions. Sir, the floor is yours.

Prime Minister (Dr. Manmohan Singh): Ladies and gentlemen, we have had a very

productive meeting in which there was a comprehensive discussion among the leaders of the world on a wide range of economic issues.

The communiqué including its summary statement is before you, as is the text of my remarks. This Summit was not meant to be a trillion dollar summit as was the case with the London Summit. Its purpose was to review what has happened since the last meeting in London and chart the way forward in the light of experience. Some of the important issues we discussed are:

1. **There will be no pre-mature withdrawal of stimulus.**

2. **The emergency financing for the International Monetary Fund has been successfully completed.** We now have to address the issue of the IMF quota increase by early 2011. We have agreed to shift 5 per cent share to countries that are under-represented in the IMF.

3. We have agreed **to help the World Bank** and other regional development banks to find the necessary resources based on a review of their capital needs to be completed in the first half of 2010.

4. We have agreed **on a new framework for discussing global macro balances,** and the contributions individual countries can make through their own policies with a new process of peer review or discussion in the Group of 20.

5. We have discussed the important issue of **climate change.** The G20 have called for a successful outcome in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Copenhagen.

6. We have agreed that we should work for an early **resolution of the Doha round of trade negotiations** so as to counter protectionism. The success of the Delhi Ministerial meeting in reviving the process of negotiations was appreciated.

7. We have agreed - and in some ways this is the most important conclusion emerging from the meeting - that the **Group of 20 will henceforth be the premier forum for international economic issues**. This is an important development to broadening the global governance structure, to incorporate major developing and emerging countries into the new framework.

Thank you.

Question: Mr. Prime Minister, how serious is India's economic crisis and how can the NRIs help? Can you clarify, Sir, Chinese bragging going on around the globe including in the media in India and here in the US?

Prime Minister: There is no economic crisis in India. It is certainly true that as a sequel to the global economic crisis our exports have suffered. That has affected the rate of growth. Even then our economy is growing at the rate of six to six and a half per cent. Therefore, there is no crisis as such in India. As far as the NRIs are concerned, they are very welcome to contribute to India's development through bank deposits, through participation in capital markets both direct and portfolio investment. Portfolios are open to non-resident investments and we very much welcome their participation in processes of economic development in our country.

Question: On behalf of Indian Correspondents resident in the US, who unfortunately will not be travelling with you tomorrow, I would like to wish you a very happy birthday.

Prime Minister: Thank you very much.

Question: I would like to draw your attention, Prime Minister, to a late night announcement by the White House last night which implied that the G20 will be replacing the G8 as the primary vehicle for economic negotiations globally. What in your opinion is the impact of this on the changing architecture of international economic diplomacy?

Prime Minister: I think interdependence of nations is a fact of life. Interdependence in a globalised world means that no country, howsoever powerful it may be, can take on the entire burden of economic adjustment and economic decision-making that may be required to manage the global system in an orderly fashion. It is that perception and that reality which has I think persuaded many people in Europe and the United States that this G8 is ill-equipped to handle all the global issues. With the rise of Asia, with the growth of India, China and Brazil, the economic decision-making has to take into account the views of these countries if it is to have an optimum impact.

Question: President Obama has piloted a Resolution in the UN Security Council asking all countries to sign on to the NPT. What would your response be to that? Is this another irritant in the Indo-US relationship which has seen better days under the previous Administration?

Prime Minister: We have been assured that this is not a Resolution directed at India; and that the US commitment to carry out its obligations under the Civil Nuclear Agreement that we have signed with the United States remains undiluted. That, we have been assured officially by the United States Government.

Question: After three rounds of G20, can you give us a sense of what India's aam aadmi has gained from this? How does he benefit in his daily life from these G20 meetings?

Prime Minister: If the world economy collapses, there is obviously some effect on our country. Already the rate of growth of our economy, particularly our exports, has suffered. This has led to a decline in exports of important labour-intensive products like gems and jewellery, leather goods, textiles. No country by itself can ensure that all its goals of economic life can be achieved working to the exclusion of other participants, in the increasingly interdependent world that we live in. There is, therefore, a necessity for India to ensure that the global economic system continues to progress. We need an external environment which is conducive to the growth of our exports. We need an external environment which is conducive to the increasing flow of capital; an international environment which is conducive to increased flows of technology. All these things have a bearing on the rate of growth of our economy.

Question: Sir, the G20 has reaffirmed commitment towards continuation of stimulus packages and also no premature withdrawal of stimulus packages. Given our fiscal situation, do we have any scope for any more stimulus measures? Also given the fact the way inflation is rearing its head again, is not it time to start thinking of some amount of withdrawal of the easy monitoring fiscal policies?

Prime Minister: Our specific circumstances have to respond to our domestic situation. It is certainly true that we have a limited fiscal space and, therefore, the scope for fiscal stimulus, accelerated stimulus, is rather limited. Monetary policy had some scope, but that also would be affected if inflation really becomes a problem. As of now inflation is not a problem. Inflation is under control. But you are right that our options are limited, constrained as we are by the substantial amount of fiscal deficit. Also with the monetary initiatives which the Reserve Bank has taken, the scope gets reduced at the margin.

Question: Over-leveraging of banks in the industrial economies took the whole world almost to the brink of disaster. IMF and World Bank used to advise everybody else. Now, will the IMF and the World Bank have any role in monitoring the economies and banks of industrialised nations?

Prime Minister: There is the IMF, there is the World Financial Stability Board, there is also an agreement in today's meeting that the Group of 20 economies will be monitored by the IMF through an independent process of evaluation, and there will be a sort of peer review. So, obviously I think the process of peer review, if it gets going, will provide opportunities for all Group of 20 countries to exchange views, to discuss, to analyse the weaknesses and the strength of the economies of various countries including the strength of their financial system, the banking system included.

Question: Mr. Prime Minister, you mentioned that India has put a priority, or the G20 leaders put a priority, on concluding the Doha Round in 2010. These negotiations have gone on for some time and there is a perception that the US is maybe not moving as aggressively as it should be to finish that round. I just wanted to know what sort of signal you got from President Obama on this point. Did it appear to you that the United States was interested in wrapping up those negotiations?

Prime Minister: That is certainly what he stated that the United States is as much interested in ensuring that the Doha Round reaches a satisfactory, balanced conclusion as any other country. And I have no reason to doubt his sincerity.

Question: The Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan are scheduled to meet very soon in New York. How hopeful do you feel about the outcome of those talks and what will India's main message and focus be during those talks?

Prime Minister: India's message is that India seeks to normalise its relations with Pakistan. The only obstacle is that Pakistan should give up its old attitudes regarding the use of terror as an instrument of state policy. We hope that they would carry out investigations based on the material that we have supplied to Pakistan regarding the massacres that took place in Mumbai in November. Although the tragedy took place in India, the conspiracy was hatched in Pakistan, and that has been admitted by Pakistan Government. We sincerely hope that they would carry forward this process of investigation and bring to book all the culprits. If that is done, I have said it in Parliament, we will move an extra mile in order to normalise our relations. We are neighbours, and as neighbours we have an obligation to work together.

Question: On the very eve of this Conference, a sensational disclosure about Iran's nuclear capability has come out. Every big nation has reacted very sharply to it including the United States, England and France. What is India's position about it? Will this disclosure in any way affect the directions taken by G20?

Prime Minister: This is not a subject matter which came up for discussion in the G20. I heard only today about this news being flashed. As far as India is concerned, our position has been a principled position. Iran is a signatory to the NPT. As a signatory to the NPT, it has all the rights which go with its membership of peaceful use of atomic energy, and it must also carry out all its obligations. That is our position and that is the principled position we have taken in the last five years.

Question: Sir, in your remarks you have said that stimulus packages should not be withdrawn now because you believe that there is economic recovery but it has not yet fully reached its goal. As of today food prices in India are not under control and exports position is also not good. What are the steps that you will be taking going from here? Are you going to give any further packages, bring about any major change in policy to uplift the mood?

Prime Minister: I should not like to announce any changes in policies while I am on the foreign soil.

Question: As India takes its seat at the high table in international affairs, we still live in a very unstable neighbourhood. How does India navigate its way through this unstable neighbourhood? Specifically there is a recent report where Gen McCrystal has made some critical observations about India's role in Afghanistan, although he acknowledges that it is useful for the Afghan people. Is there any hint from the US that India should dilute its stakes in Afghanistan?

Prime Minister: No, not to my knowledge. The United States and other European countries have been very appreciative of the role that India has played in Afghanistan. We have not supplied any armed forces; we are there to assist Afghan people in reconstruction and development. We are helping to finance some of the most important projects in the area of power, road transport, health, education. Till today we have committed about 1.3 billion dollars. Not only the Government and the people of Afghanistan appreciated but whenever I have had an opportunity to discuss with the European leaders and the leaders of the United States, they have been of the same view.

As far as the neighbourhood is concerned, I agree with you that we live in an unstable environment. We have to sail in these difficult waters as best as we can.

Question: Sir, through the Summit did you get an opportunity for a one-on-one meeting with President Obama?

Prime Minister: President Obama this time did not give anyone any separate meetings. But I had an opportunity to talk to him last night. I was sitting immediately to his right. I had an opportunity this morning also to talk to him on some important issues. But as a principle, this time he said because of his preoccupation with the Conference he was not able to meet any leader bilaterally.

Question: *Sir, aap angrezi mein answer karna chahen to kar sakte hain. Hum janna chahte the ki is baar jaise black money ya phir tax havens ya us tarah se jo doubtful money hai, kya uski importance kam ho gaya ya uspe dhyan nahin diya gaya? Yeh lagta hai ki jo progress pichhle chheh mahinom mein hua hai vo sufficient raha hai. Yeh kitna bada subject raha is baar ki meeting mein? Ya bilkul mention nahin kiya gaya usko?*

Prime Minister: No, the regulatory system has to be reformed is part of the continuing agenda of the G20. Therefore, treatment of entities in tax havens remains a matter of concern. Even today's discussion touched upon that. So, it is not correct to say that that is a subject which is not of concern to the Group of 20.

Question: Sir, in your statement you have talked about the need for rejecting all kinds of protectionism. Similar words have been echoed by President Hu Jintao. More or less the words appear in the statement of the Brazilian President as well as the South African President. Are you all hinting at some of the protectionist measures initiated by some of the western economies?

Prime Minister: Obviously we are worried about protectionism raising its ugly head in many developed countries. So, there is no doubt about that.

Question: And in particular are you hinting at some of the measures that have been announced by the United States?

Prime Minister: The United States included.

Question: Sir, which part of the G20 agreement will help rebalance some of the major imbalances in the world economy? The macroeconomic review will say that China should increase domestic consumption and more foreign exchange resources should be diverted away from the dollar. Is there anything in this meeting's outcome which will help achieve this kind of aims?

Prime Minister: As of now the Group of 20 is an essay in persuasion. Whether this essay in persuasion really succeeds in achieving its objectives, only time can tell.

Question: Sir, did you get to meet the South African President and whether there was any talk on MTN which is a big issue now? Secondly, on stock markets nothing fundamentally has changed in the last one and a half years but the stock markets in India back home have gone up, almost doubled, in a short period of time. Fundamentally the economy is still reviving. Do you have any concerns on it?

Prime Minister: As far as the MTN issue is concerned, I did mention this to President Zuma

that I sincerely hope that this deal will go through and that Indian companies will not be subjected to any discriminatory treatment. It has been agreed that this matter can be further discussed with the Government of South Africa.

As far as the stock market is concerned, I am now out of touch with what is happening in stock markets. But obviously in recent months the stock markets have benefited from the return of confidence, the return flow of capital back into India. So, that is one factor. Plus, I think the fundamentals of the economy continue to remain strong. If fundamentals have a role in influencing stock prices, I think that is in the right mood.

Question: Mr. Prime Minister, you mentioned the proposal to shift five per cent share representation on the IMF Board. Is this a figure that comports with India's perception of the governance overhaul that was necessary or is this a compromise figure?

Prime Minister: It is a compromise figure because as of now the developing countries' quota is about 44 per cent. The four countries who are members of BRIC had suggested a rebalancing to the extent of seven per cent, in which case the developing countries would have I think more than 50 per cent or nearly that. So, the compromise is, seven was the demand, five is the agreed. So, obviously it is a compromise.

Question: Okay. Secondly, how exactly will the peer review process work? Is it possible that this may place constraints on domestic policy-making in the future, given the specificity of circumstances that each individual country and particularly India, as you mentioned, faces?

Prime Minister: As far as our domestic policy is concerned, every year the fund reviews it under Article 4. I do not see what more can be done as far as reviewing the Indian policy. But bringing the policies of major developed countries within the framework of a review by the Group of 20 will give us an opportunity to pick up holes in the functioning of their economies. I think that is a positive factor.

Question: Mr. Prime Minister, to expand a little bit on the climate change issue, there is a speech by President Hu at the United Nations talking a little bit about climate change. There is only about two months' time left before Copenhagen. Are you optimistic about reaching an agreement at Copenhagen? And what actions could either developed or developing countries take to reach an outcome?

Prime Minister: Let me say that I am not an astrologer. There are difficulties. On the signs of climate change, now there is a broad agreement. But how to bring about the adjustments in emissions is a complicated matter which requires an exercise in burden-sharing. There is no agreement about the rules of the game as to how this burden-sharing is to be brought about. Developing countries are of the view that the major responsibility for bringing about this situation is that of the developed countries and, therefore, they should carry out credible action in order to control emissions; and that if the developing countries are required to take any national action, for that financial resources as well as technological support should be provided. There is a broad, vague agreement that any agreement in which developing countries are also required to take any national action will have to be accompanied by credible action on the part of developed countries by way of additional provision of finance and also in ensuring flow of technologies at affordable price. But other than expressing a pious wish with regard to the success of the framework convention meeting in Copenhagen, the Group of 20 did not go into the mechanics of these things.

Question: Out of all the planks on which agreement was reached between the G20 leaders,

what do you think has been the one thing that is the most beneficial for India? You talked earlier about a conducive environment for exports. You also mentioned protectionist pressures rising in the developed world. How confident are you that the two can be reconciled?

Prime Minister: I think things could be worse with regard to protectionism. There is an evidence of creeping protectionism but it has not reached an alarming point. Therefore, it is necessary to wield international pressure to restrain and to restrict the growth of protectionism.

With regard to which of the measures taken will benefit India, let me say that I believe the institutionalisation of the Group of 20, plus also the agreement that countries which have adopted stimulus should not prematurely withdraw, has a very significant impact for the growth of Indian economy. India needs an international environment in which its economy can grow. That means, if the world economy is growing, if the world trade is growing, that certainly will help to improve our own growth reforms.

Question: Sir, you said there was an agreement that the stimulus packages should continue. Was there any realisation of the fact that this economic downturn should not block funds to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation to climate change at the G20 meeting?

Prime Minister: I am afraid the view that the developing countries should not adopt any mitigation or adaptation measures has no support among developed countries. Even developing countries recognise their responsibilities to undertake the adaptation and mitigation measures depending upon their capacities based on the principle of equity. I am not aware of anybody asking that the developing countries should not be asked to undertake any mitigation or adaptation efforts.

Question: Sir, important public figures in Pakistan have very openly admitted that the aid which was being given by the American Administration to them was being openly utilised for military purposes. Again huge aid has been given to them. Do you say that it will be again used for building military assets against India?

Prime Minister: I have seen those reports and the Government of India has officially taken note of that. We have brought this to the notice of the US Government. Even in the past whenever sophisticated weaponry was made available by the United States to Pakistan, we have always known that the only country against whom these weapons can be used is India.

Question: Mr. Prime Minister, two thirds of the Indian population and the area is very much affected by the Naxalite terrorism. In fact it is also said that they are getting foreign aid from the neighbouring countries. There is a doubt that proper steps are not being taken in this regard. Further, all development projects and programmes are very much affected. In fact, there is no development in those areas.

Prime Minister: We have to operate from both sides. We have to accelerate the tempo of development. But you are very right, if the law and order situation is disturbed, the development work cannot also proceed. A minimum amount of enforcement of law and order is an essential precondition even for carrying out development work. So, on both fronts action is being taken.

Question: Sir, just to take you back to Sharm el-Sheikh, you have broken through old mindsets in dealing with Pakistan. Does the lack of action on the ground by Islamabad

disappoint you? Are you at all hopeful of Pakistan taking any credible action and thereby the Composite Dialogue process being restarted?

Question: If you read my statement in Parliament soon after I came back from Sharm el-Sheikh, I think I have explained the whole position at great length. There is no change in my thinking on that subject.

Question: *Sir, sab se pehle to deshvasiyon ke taraf se aapko janm din ki badhai dena chahoonga, aur yeh janna chahoonga ki cake Geneva mein milega ya phir plane mein milega. Saath hi is mauke par aap deshvasiyon ko kya kehna chahenge?*

Prime Minister: I am very grateful to the people of India that they have given me this unique opportunity to serve them. I completed the first five years that they have given me this opportunity for. They have renewed their confidence in me and it is a debt I can never repay. The only way I can make even an effort to repay is to rededicate myself to the service of the people of India to the best of my ability.
Thank you very much.

Official Spokesperson: The press conference now draws to a close.

(Concluded)

TOPIC: Pakistan Welcomes India's Readiness to Discuss All Outstanding Issues

DATE: 29.10.2009

When asked to comment on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent statement wherein he expressed his readiness to discuss with Pakistan all issues including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, the Foreign Office Spokesman said that this was a welcome reiteration of the understanding reached at Sharm-El Sheikh Summit between Pakistan and India. It had been agreed that the dialogue process was the only way forward. We have always said that Pakistan and India should not allow terrorists and militants to define and drive the agenda on issues of peace, security and stability in South Asia.

The Composite Dialogue process offers hopes for a meaningful engagement to address these issues and most notably the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan will not be found wanting in sincere efforts to promote regional peace and stability and to make the peace process irreversible.

Islamabad
29 October 2009

TOPIC: India must Explain its own Conduct in Abetting Terrorism

DATE: 05.11.2009

Taking strong exception to the Indian Foreign Secretary's reported remarks that the international community should put pressure on Pakistan "to implement its stated commitment to deal with terror groups", the Foreign Office Spokesman stated that the international community is appreciative of Pakistan's actions and commitment to fight terrorism. Terrorism is a regional and global issue. In fact, India must explain its own conduct in sponsoring and abetting terrorism and militancy in our region.

Islamabad

5 November 2009

TOPIC: Pakistan rejects India's statement on Gilgit-Baltistan elections

DATE: 13/11/2009

We have seen the remarks by the Spokesperson of the Indian Ministry for External Affairs made today in which he has described the elections held in Gilgit-Baltistan yesterday as "just another cosmetic exercise intended to camouflage the fact of Pakistan's illegal occupation of areas of the state of Jammu and Kashmir." These remarks are unwarranted. The Government of India has no locus standi in the matter.

As for the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, it stems from India's refusal to implement the relevant Security Council Resolutions, which provide for a just solution of the dispute through the democratic method of a free and fair plebiscite.

Islamabad

13 November 2009

TOPIC: General Kapoor's statement betrays jingoistic mindset

DATE: 31.12.2009

Commenting on the statement made by Indian Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor that Indian army was ready to face Pakistan and China at the same time, the Spokesman said that such statements betray a hostile intent as well as a hegemonic and jingoistic mindset which is quite out of step with the realities of our time. No one should ever underestimate our capability and determination to foil any nefarious designs against the security of Pakistan. The international community should take due notice of such statements. Pakistan remains mindful of the threats posed to its security as well as the importance of promoting peace in South Asia, the Spokesman underlined.

Islamabad

31 December 2009

TOPIC: India and Pakistan exchange lists of Nuclear Installations

DATE: 01.01.2010

SOURCE: MEA India

India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the lists of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan.

The Agreement, which was signed on 31 December 1988 and entered into force on 27 January 1991, provides, inter alia, that the two countries are informed each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every calendar year. This is the nineteenth consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 01, 1992.

New Delhi

01 January 2010