

National News

U.S. relations with South Asia to grow

State Department officials told an Oct. 15 background briefing that the U.S. will make increasing engagement with India and Pakistan an important goal during the second Clinton administration. "The U.S. recognizes the growing importance of South Asia and the need for high-level attention, which has not been there at the Secretary of State or Presidential level in a very long time." Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering and a small team visited India on Oct. 17 and 18, and travelled to Pakistan on Oct. 19 and 20, to prepare for other cabinet-level visits, leading up to a trip to both nations by President Clinton next year.

"We are moving in a new direction with U.S. foreign policy as a result of the end of the Cold War," said one official. "It's clear that India is also looking at its foreign policy in a new fashion than they have in the past. The Gujral Doctrine, first moved forward by then-Foreign Minister Gujral, now Prime Minister Gujral, of India's place in the region and its relations with its smaller neighbors, is a very welcome development, welcomed by those in the region and those outside the region."

He added that "the fact that there is movement in Indian and Chinese relations provides some opportunity perhaps for India, over time, to see its concerns about its Chinese neighbor lessened, which could allow them, over time, to see their national security requirements somewhat differently than they do today."

'Clash of civilizations' admitted to be a flop

Samuel P. Huntington, the godfather of the "Clash of Civilizations" ideology that brands Islam and China as the new, post-Cold War "enemy image," admitted that his effort at implementing this new geopolitical doctrine has flopped, in a commentary in the Oct. 12 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Huntington first enunciated his doctrine in the

Council on Foreign Relations journal *Foreign Affairs* in 1993.

His tactical retreat in the *Times-Dispatch* is a summary of a longer article to appear, of course, in *Foreign Affairs*. "The years since the end of the Cold War have seen intense, wide-ranging, and confused debates about American national interests. . . . The new environment has been variously interpreted as involving the end of history, bipolar conflict between rich and poor countries, movement back to a future of traditional power politics, the proliferation of ethnic conflict verging on anarchy, the clash of civilizations, and conflicting trends toward integration and fragmentation."

Rather than admit the truth—that his thesis is a patently pro-British geopolitical fraud—he blamed the "American identity" that he alleged is based on opposition to some enemy: "Until the end of the 19th century, the United States defined itself in opposition to Europe. Europe was the past: backward, unfree, unequal, characterized by feudalism, monarchy, and imperialism. The United States was the future: progressive, free, equal, republican." Now, since the fall of communism, "Saddam Hussein simply does not suffice as a foil. Islamic fundamentalism is too diffuse and too remote geographically. China is too problematic and its potential dangers too distant in the future."

He concluded that, without an enemy image, America will disintegrate into internal ethnic and racial divisions, a throwback to his 1975 Trilateral Commission report, *The Crisis of Democracy*.

Mississippi workfare is new name for slavery

In Mississippi, many welfare recipients are being forced to work slave-labor jobs, or are being dropped from the rolls, losing not only welfare, but food stamps and medical benefits as well. This is part of the "welfare reform" signed into law in 1996. In 1995, under Gov. Guy Fordice (R), Mississippi began a pilot project with 7,000 welfare recipients called "Work First," under which recipients who declined work assignments or missed work appointments had their welfare cash grants, as well as food stamps and

medical assistance for adults, cut off. Initially, 42% of recipients in the program found jobs, leading the Gingrichites to hail the experiment as a huge success. However, 15 months later, only 21% of the recipients in the program are still working.

Many of the jobs are Nazi slave-labor. For example, 10 women recipients from Greenville were assigned to a catfish plant, in Eudora, Arkansas to gut fish, an hour away. The plant normally has a turnover rate of 300%, but the women can't refuse the job, because they would lose all benefits. Donald Taylor, the plant's comptroller, who also employs welfare recipients from Arkansas and Louisiana, praised the Mississippi workfare program, drawing, "If they can go back to Uncle Sam, you can't keep them in the plant."

Exemplary of those who lose benefits is Curley Barron, who was already caring for a mother with emphysema and a brother with a rare bone disease, and took in her brother's two children. When she was unable to abide by the stringent workfare requirements, she was forced place the children in foster care.

U.S. sanctions policies coming into question

Several articles on Oct. 16 raised the question of whether having the U.S. try to enforce unilateral trade sanctions against countries and companies that trade with Iran may not be damaging to U.S. policy, and indicate that the Clinton administration is reviewing that tack.

Exemplifying the problem are two deals between Russia and Iran: The *New York Times* details the fact that Russia's oil giant Gazprom is selling \$1 billion in bonds to finance Russian participation in the \$2 billion French and Malaysian deal to pump natural gas off the coast of Iran. Since Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is closely tied to Gazprom, imposing sanctions would be seen as an "unfriendly" move toward Russia. Senate Banking Chairman Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) is beating the drums for sanctions.

The *Washington Times* details a similar, perhaps more serious, case, in which the CIA has put together a hit-list of people and insti-

RICHARD MELLON SCAIFE'S \$600,000 annual subsidy to the right-wing *American Spectator* led to the firing of its publisher, Ronald Burr, after he demanded an audit of the funds. As one writer, who quit in protest, summarized the issue: "The tendency of the magazine to do this Clinton-obsessive stuff, I don't get." Scaife is a leading money-bags behind the Get Clinton operation, just as he had funded the Get LaRouche operation, earlier.

NURSES STRUCK Prince George's Hospital Center in Maryland, outside Washington, D.C., on Oct. 18-19, to protest understaffing. The nurses have been working without a contract since 1994, and the rising patient-nurse ratio has placed patients in jeopardy. Dimension Health Corp., which runs the four Prince George's hospitals, has begun replacing protesting nurses, with inexperienced, non-union personnel.

A HOMELESS EPIDEMIC of "men, women, and children living on the street" is looming in Washington, D.C., if cuts now planned by the D.C. Financial Control Board and Congress go through, according to Sue A. Marshall, executive director of the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness. The city's spending for the homeless will be slashed from \$11.3 million for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, to \$4.3 million for this year.

EARTH FIRST! eco-terrorists assaulted the Eureka, California office of Rep. Frank Riggs (R) on Oct. 17, over Riggs's sponsorship of a water-management appropriations bill. In May, Earth First!'s Bison Management Group in Montana physically attacked Sen. Conrad Burns, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, and Gov. Mark Racicot.

GOV. GEORGE W. BUSH of Texas, under intense pressure, finally agreed to pardon an innocent man, on Oct. 8. Kevin Byrd spent 12 years in prison for a rape that DNA tests prove he didn't commit.

tutions involved in selling missile technology to Iran, including the head of the Russian Space Agency. Sanctions would undercut the ability of the Gore/Chernomyrdin Commission to develop joint space projects.

In the *Washington Post*, columnist Jim Hoagland attacked D'Amato and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) for promoting sanctions, in the face of "growing international opposition." He added that the administration is planning a "bottom-up review" of the policy.

Soros funds Washington marijuana initiative

Washington State's "medical marijuana" referendum, Initiative 685, has received \$335,000 from international speculator and drug-legalization money-bags George Soros, who also funded the referendum's model which passed in Arizona last year. The referendum is on the Nov. 4 ballot.

With money from Soros, Citizens for Drug Policy Reform now has almost \$1 million. In addition to Soros, John Sperling, head of the University of Phoenix, who was the key backer of the Arizona measure, has given \$312,000 to the Washington campaign; and Peter Lewis, an associate of Sperling and CEO of Progressive Insurance in Cleveland, Ohio, has contributed \$435,000. Although Lewis is also a major contributor to the Democratic Party, the drug legalization lobby, under the guise of "medical marijuana," has just as much, if not more, backing from the Mont Pelerin Society and the Conservative Revolution types, as it does from overaged flower children.

Initiative 685 would allow physicians to recommend any illicit drug to their patients, including marijuana, LSD, and heroin. Opposition to the initiative is led by Washington's Gov. Gary Locke, Lt. Gov. Brad Owen, along with local prosecutors and businesses. "Advocates of this initiative are portraying it as a compassionate plea for help for seriously and terminally ill people. But the goal is not medical marijuana, the goal is drug legalization." Later, he told the press: "I think the most disgusting thing . . .

is that it uses the sick and dying to make the sale for a couple of billionaires' philosophy on drugs."

Last July, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that there is no Constitutional right to violate state and Federal law by using marijuana for medical reasons. The decision reversed a lower court ruling that struck down the state's ban on medical marijuana.

High court lets stand Oregon euthanasia law

The U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 14 refused to hear a legal challenge against Oregon's so-called physician-assisted suicide law, the first in the nation that lets doctors prescribe lethal drugs to "terminally ill" patients to kill themselves. The case, *Lee v. Harclerod*, was brought by a group of physicians and their terminally ill and disabled patients, who sued to stop enforcement of the Death with Dignity Act, also known as Ballot Measure 16, soon after it was voted up in referendum in 1994. The plaintiffs charged—and a Federal court agreed—that the law unconstitutionally denies sick or disabled patients equal protection under the law. Under Measure 16, the state would not stop "terminally ill" suicidal patients from killing themselves, as it would other patients.

The Supreme Court, however, let stand, without comment, a Ninth Circuit Court ruling overturning the injunction against the Nazi law, claiming that patients lacked legal standing, because they were not in personal danger of injury under the euthanasia law. U.S. District Court Judge Michael Hogan disagreed. In August 1995, when he ordered a permanent injunction against Measure 16, he wrote: "If a terminal patient does not have standing, who does?" With the Supreme Court's decision, that injunction will be lifted.

In opposition to procedural rulings and arguments, in 1996, the Schiller Institute submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the Supreme Court, detailing the precedents against "physician-assisted suicide" established by the War Crimes Tribunal at Nuremberg.