

currency to be restored to a functioning condition, and to provide the protectionist conditions with U.S. protection, under which Ecuador can rebuild itself.’

“I think the problem of the recent coup and so forth, were all the result of what I’ve seen as an ongoing, deliberate direction of policy. And I have a frightened President Bill Clinton on my hands, who does not have the guts, even though I’m sure he knows better, and doesn’t feel he has the position, to take this on. . . .

“In not making that decision, the President of the United States is making a very serious mistake, worse than a mistake.”

### **The LaRouche solution**

In response to a question as to what he would do as President of the United States regarding the crisis in Ecuador and similar crises, LaRouche responded:

“I would pick up something I published in early August of 1982, something that got me into a good deal of trouble, but also got me some friends in Ecuador at the time, among other countries.

“It’s called ‘Operation Juárez.’ My policy for the Americas is essentially summarized in that paper, in ‘Operation Juárez.’ . . . I wrote that as a cooperative effort—it was all my writing and my responsibility—but as a cooperative effort with the government of Mexico, the President of Mexico [José] López Portillo, and other leaders of Ibero-America, during that period.

“And I think people, by looking at that, and looking at today’s situation, will recognize exactly where I stand, and what that means implicitly, in terms of countries such as Ecuador.

“If I were President of the United States, I would act immediately; say, the United States, as under the policy of John Quincy Adams, under the policy of Blaine, under the policy of Franklin Roosevelt, the policy enunciated by John Kennedy—I would enunciate that policy.”

LaRouche added: “The function of the United States, is to protect the independent states of the Americas from that kind of rapacity by international powers. And this is a case where the foreign policy of the United States, under a President who knows what his business is, would be to step in and say, ‘No, you don’t do that to Ecuador.’

“And that would give the Ecuadoreans the room to begin putting their own affairs into good order.”

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## **The Indian Subcontinent**

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# **Fernandes assures West of ‘limited war’**

by Ramtanu Maitra

India’s mercurial Defense Minister George Fernandes has assured Western observers that any war with Pakistan would be limited. At the same time, he warned Islamabad that the belief in Pakistan that “India would be deterred in any war imposed on it, and will not fight back,” is a serious error of judgment.

Speaking at an international seminar on “Asian Security in the 21st Century,” in New Delhi, the Indian Defense Minister, referring to Pakistan Chief Executive Pervez Musharraf’s recent statement that Pakistan would use nuclear weapons as the last resort, said that Islamabad has not understood the “real meaning of nuclearization” on the subcontinent. According to Fernandes, an atomic arsenal “can deter only the use of nuclear weapons, but not all and any war.” He added that under the nuclear shadow, a “conventional war remained feasible, though with definite limitations if escalation across the nuclear threshold was to be avoided.”

### **Continuing hostilities**

Fernandes’s statement came in the wake of continuing skirmishes along the disputed Kashmir borders. Pakistan has recently accused the Indian Army of crossing the Line of Control, the de facto border between the two countries in Kashmir. India has denied the charge. But both sides admit that shelling across the borders has intensified, and that there is little hope that either side will soon return to the negotiating table to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

In a discussion with reporters outside of the conference hall, Fernandes warned that if Pakistan remains in the grip of the “Kargil syndrome,” India is ready to give a “Kargil-like” response. Last summer, India successfully drove out a horde of infiltrators from Pakistan who had entered the Indian part of Kashmir and entrenched themselves in the high hills of Kargil, with the purpose of carrying out widespread terrorism within Kashmir.

Referring to General Musharraf’s recent threat “to teach India a lesson” if India crosses the Line of Control, Fernandes said that he would like to see Pakistan get over the humilia-

tion it had suffered at Kargil, and to prepare itself for talks to resolve the dispute.

### Pressure on Musharraf

Fernandes's statement came as the stability of Islamabad's military government is coming into doubt. General Musharraf's visit to China, which raised a few eyebrows in India, seemed to be designed to consolidate his hold on power, but his inability to extract an endorsement of Pakistan's position from China on Kashmir did not help him domestically. As a result, rumors began to circulate in Pakistan that his Army colleagues are already in the process of pushing him out of the top post. Musharraf, in a public statement, said that the Army is unified behind him. He also dismissed "doubts" expressed by some in Pakistan that he is not in charge of the government, and accused unnamed wrongdoers of spreading disinformation. He said that a lot of money has been pumped into this exercise.

Although General Musharraf did not pin down who these rumor-mongers are, it is evident that he is responding to a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times*, by Selig Harrison, a senior South Asia analyst. Harrison named two generals with long-standing ties to Pakistan-based Islamic militant groups, Lt. Gen. Mohammad Aziz, chief of the general staff, and Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Ahmed, director of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), as among those who are elbowing Musharraf out.

"It was Aziz with his roots in Kashmir and a long record of military service there, who masterminded the invasion of the Kargil area on the Line of Control in early 1999, triggering a dangerous confrontation with New Delhi," Harrison wrote.

### The terrorism problem

Harrison's assessment could be premature and speculative, but the fact remains that Washington's pressure on Musharraf is mounting fast. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Karl Inderfurth was in Islamabad on Jan. 20, along with Michael Sheehan, State Department coordinator on counter-terrorism, and Donald Camp, a senior official from the National Security Council. Inderfurth, who also met with the Afghan Taliban Administration Minister in Islamabad, asked Pakistan categorically to curb terrorism and to pressure the Taliban to hand over to Washington the notorious anti-U.S. Saudi-born terrorist, Osama bin Laden.

Although Islamabad subsequently managed to bring Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, a key Taliban official, to Pakistan to discuss the matter, it failed to secure an agreement from the Taliban to hand over bin Laden.

It is certain that Islamabad will hear a lot more from Washington on the issue in the coming days, and that pressure to crack down on terrorists — whether they are function-

ing within Pakistan, along the Kashmir borders, or within Afghanistan's borders — will rapidly mount well before U.S. President William Clinton embarks on his visit to the Indian subcontinent this spring.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has already placed advertisements twice in Pakistani newspapers, offering substantial monetary rewards for information on possible attacks on American citizens or American citizen-owned installations in Pakistan. The fact that these advertisements appeared on the very day Inderfurth arrived in Islamabad, sends a message to Musharraf.

General Musharraf has begun to feel the heat from the United States on the economic front as well. As Harrison pointed out, Washington hoped that the new regime under Musharraf and his top generals would take actions to reform the Pakistani economy. It is this underlying hope which led Washington to agree to reschedule Pakistan's \$950 million debt to the United States, a step which eased the way for the International Monetary Fund to release a \$250 million installment of its \$1.32 billion rescue package for Pakistan.

Despite the early promise to meet all of Washington's demands, the Musharraf government has faltered and slowed down on such measures as tightening tax collections and imposing a new round of sales taxes to raise fresh revenue.

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