

Deceiving For All Time?

K. Subrahmanyam

President Abraham Lincoln famously said, “You can fool all people for some time and some people for all time. But you cannot fool all people for all time.” Evidently, the Pakistani delegate to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva has not heard this oft-repeated quotation. While opposing the move in the CD to initiate discussion on the Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), he has spun his version of history and launched a vituperative attack on India. Evidently the delegate subscribes to the *Goebbelsian* dictum that if a falsehood is repeated a number of times it will acquire credibility. While he has referred to Pakistani security imperative having dictated its acquisition of nuclear weapons in response to Indian nuclear test of 1974, he has omitted to explain why Pakistan initiated wars against India on four occasions - the last one at Kargil in 1999 after both countries acquired nuclear weapons. While he stresses Pakistan needing nuclear weapons against a nuclear neighbor, he does not extend that logic to India. Let the facts speak for themselves.

In 1965, India sponsored the UN resolution on nuclear non-proliferation. According to Z.A.Bhutto's death cell testimony, Pakistan commenced its negotiations to acquire nuclear weapon technology from China eleven years before it concluded the agreement in June 1976. That is, this covert process began in 1965 at the time of the Maoist Cultural Revolution when China opposed non-proliferation. Faced with such a China and failing to get nuclear security guarantees from the major powers, India decided on acquisition of nuclear explosive technology in late 1972. But according to various accounts, Bhutto took the decision to develop nuclear weapons in the Multan conference held in January 1972.

In the first UN Special Session on Disarmament the Indian Prime Minister, Morarji Desai made a declaration renouncing nuclear weapons for India. But Pakistan intensified its efforts for weapon development with focus on Dr. A. Q. Khan's Uranium Enrichment process obtained unauthorisedly from the Dutch Almelo Plant. According to the accounts released by Simon Henderson in the Sunday Times, quoting from a copy of the letter written by Dr. Khan to his wife, when he feared for his safety and life after he was questioned in December 2003, the Chinese help came in the early 1980s in the form of 50 kg of enriched Uranium, the bomb design and Tritium. At the same time, while India was denied enriched Uranium fuel for its Tarapur reactor, which it was contractually entitled to receive because of US legislation, and the London Suppliers Group's embargo on India was tightened, Pakistan negotiated support for the Afghan mujahideen campaign against Soviet forces in Afghanistan with the US - in exchange for US military and civil aid and an understanding that the US would not question Pakistan's nuclear programme. This is disclosed in General Arif's book '*Working with General Zia*'. In January 1987, Pakistan conveyed during the time of 'Operation Brasstacks' exercise a threat to India that it was in a position to inflict unacceptable damage on India if its sovereignty or territorial integrity were violated. Simultaneously

Dr.A.Q.Khan gave an interview to the Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar disclosing that Pakistan had assembled the bomb

After Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi failed to interest the UN Special Session on Disarmament on his Disarmament plan, in which he offered to forego any Indian development of nuclear weapons in exchange for the acceptance of his phased disarmament plan, and in the light of intelligence of Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons with Chinese technological assistance, India started development of nuclear weapons in early 1989. According to the disclosures in the book 'The Nuclear Express' by two American nuclear scientists, Thomas Reed and Danny Stillman who had extensive interaction with Chinese nuclear establishment, China conducted the test of a Pakistani nuclear device on 26th May 1990 at Lop Nor. According to Dr. A. Q. Khan, Pakistan started transferring nuclear weapon technology to Iran and North Korea with full approval of the Army, which was in charge of the programme from 1989. Though Dr. Khan was initially charged by General Musharaff of having run a rogue proliferation network, he has since been fully exonerated by the judiciary and is now a free man. He has disclosed that North Korean missiles were obtained in exchange for enrichment technology with the full approval of the Pak Army authorities.

Simultaneously Pakistan initiated a policy of using terrorism as an instrument of foreign policy. Presumably, it was encouraged by its confidence that its nuclear weapon capability provided a deterrent shield against any attempt at punishment by a victim of its terrorism. Jehadi groups trained during the Afghan war became appropriate instrumentalities. Taliban, al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Toiba and other terrorist organizations originated under the patronage of Pakistan Army's Inter Services Intelligence wing. The first victim of this terrorism was the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. There were also attacks on the New York World Trade centre and at the CIA headquarters in 1993. In 1998 the International Islamic Front against Crusaders and Zionists was formed. Al Qaeda shifted to Afghanistan in 1996 and obtained safe haven under the Taliban regime installed there by Pakistan in 1994. The al Qaeda attack on the US on 9/11 (September 11, 2001) was plotted in Pakistan by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed - a Pakistani citizen. As the Taliban was cleared by the combined action of US and the Northern Alliance from Afghanistan, Pakistan joined the war on terrorism to provide safe haven to al Qaeda and Afghan Taliban. Under Pakistani Army's patronage they have regrouped and restarted their operations. The British Prime Minister told the world and the Pakistani Prime minister that 75 percent of terrorist attempts in UK had their trails leading to Pakistan. US have been thwarting successfully a number of terrorist attempts on its homeland by Lashkar-e- Toiba patronized by Pakistan Army. There are also worries about the linkages between Jihadis and the Pakistan nuclear establishment.

The US Director of National Intelligence Admiral Dennis Blair told the US Senate on February 2, 2010: "Islamabad has maintained relationships with other Taliban-associated groups that support and conduct operations against US and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) forces in Afghanistan...the Al Qaeda, Afghan Taliban, and Pakistani militant safe haven in Quetta will continue to enable the Afghan

insurgents and Al Qaeda to plan operations, direct propaganda, recruiting and training activities, and fundraising activities with relative impunity".

When President George Bush stopped at Islamabad in March 2006, General Musharraf raised the issue in public of Pakistan being extended the civil nuclear cooperation as was being done for India. President Bush's short answer was that Pakistan was different, its needs were different and its history was different. India has been recognized as a responsible power with advanced nuclear technology. The nations of the European Union, Indonesia, US and Russia who have been victims of terrorism of various Pakistan supported jihadi groups are not likely to be taken in by Islamabad's propaganda. The whole world knows that Pakistan has been the largest nuclear proliferator and continues to be the epicenter of global jihadi terrorism. These are the facts that were not brought to the notice of the CD.

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