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Nuclear legislation should not be India-specific: Pak official

Friday, November 17, 2006

**Source: PTI**

Islamabad: With the US Senate clearing the historic [Indo-US deal](#) on civilian nuclear energy cooperation, a top Pakistani army official today said that the legislation should not be India-specific and that its provisions should be extended to Islamabad as well.

The provisions of the deal, instead of being country-specific, must be based on a common criteria for achieving the objective of strategic stability as well as for engaging a country in civilian cooperation with the Nuclear Suppliers Group countries, General Ehsan ul-Haq, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), said.

Haq was addressing a conference in Brussels on 'Strengthened Export Controls: Pakistan's Experience Current and Future Challenges and Options'.

He said the provisions of the deal must provide a level playing field for Pakistan as well.

The US has rejected repeated Pakistani requests to strike a similar deal with it.

"The emergence of a nuclear South Asia is a reality. Pakistan and India as well as the rest of the world have to live with it," he said.

Reports suggest that China may formally announce a deal with Pakistan to set up six more nuclear power plants in this country during President Hu Jintao's visit here next week.

China has built one 350 MW nuclear power plant and is building another one with the same capacity. It has reportedly acceded to a Pakistan request to build six more.

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<http://www.centralchronicle.com/20061128/2811304.htm>

### **Eagle's Eye: NATO, Pak to boost military coopn**

Now that the emergence of a nuclear South Asia is a reality, Pakistan, India as well as the rest of the world has to live with it.

Pakistan 's military chief General Ihsahn-ul-Haq met the top brass of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) during his first "historic" visit to the alliance & headquarters in Brussels.

He addressed NATO's Military Committee, the alliance's top military body, and met with the NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Chairman of the Military Committee Gen Raymond Henault, and discussed increasing military cooperation with NATO, as well as efforts to bring stability to Afghanistan, said a NATO statement.

"This is a historic visit. This visit is a tangible evidence of genuine efforts by both NATO and also by Pakistan to enhance and improve our military-to-military cooperation and in a number of areas of mutual interest," said Henault in his welcome address.

"Pakistan is important for the security of NATO but NATO is also important for the security of Pakistan," stressed Henault.

General Haq responded by saying that "it is historic in the sense that it is the first time that a joint staff chairman from Pakistan is visiting NATO headquarters. I am grateful for the opportunity given me to

share my thoughts on mutual interest."

Pakistan and NATO have been steadily increasing cooperation since October 2005, when NATO launched a large operation to help aid victims of the devastating earthquake that struck the country.

The alliance has also opened several courses at NATO education facilities to Pakistani officers, including training in peace support operations, civil-military cooperation and defence against terrorism, noted the NATO statement.

Meanwhile, General Ihsahn-ul-Haq in his keynote speech at a conference in Brussels last week said: "Now that the emergence of a nuclear South Asia is a reality, Pakistan, India as well as the rest of the world has to live with it."

"As the NPT does not recognize Pakistan 's nuclear status, it would be unrealistic to expect us to sign the NPT in its current form."  
Commenting on the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement, General Haq said: "We feel strongly that the provisions of the deal, instead of being country specific, must provide a level playing field for Pakistan as well."

The London-based think tank South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SAASI) organized the 2-day conference with the support of among others the Pakistani government. The theme of the conference was "Strengthened Export Controls: Pakistan 's Export Control Experience, Current and Future Challenges and Options" in which nuclear experts and researchers, military and government officials and think tanks mainly from Pakistan and Europe took part.

The two-day meeting concluded in Brussels Friday afternoon noting "now that Pakistan and India have declared themselves as nuclear weapons states, it would be in the larger interest of the international community and, consequently, non-proliferation, to find viable and practicable ways and means to accommodate both these countries rather than to continue to harp on a "cap, reduce, eliminate" mantra because that is not going to happen."

According to Maria Sultan, director of the SASSI, they are planning to hold their second international conference in New Delhi. The first was held in Brussels.

**MANUJ-INEP**

<http://www.southasianmedia.net/cnn.cfm?id=340343&category=Science&Technology&Country=PAKISTAN>

## **Gen Ahsan seeks US help in civil N-tech**

Friday, November 17, 2006

BRUSSELS: Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) Chairman Gen Ehsan ul Haq said on Thursday the United States should extend civilian nuclear cooperation beyond India and include Pakistan, arguing the economic growth of the country would help defeat extremism and terrorism.

Gen Ehsan said Washington was discriminatory in its approach when it offered New Delhi a wide-ranging agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation. Instead of considering such cooperation with specific countries, he said it should be open to all countries that meet specific standards.

"There should be a criteria approach. And if any country fulfils the criteria, it should have access to those technologies," the CJCS said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Pakistan badly needs nuclear energy to feed the surging economy," he said, adding that the Pakistani government was targeting a 20-fold increase in nuclear energy output over the next 25 years.

The economy currently grows at some seven per cent per year and Gen Ehsan hoped that boosting that growth through nuclear power will reduce poverty and, hence, extremism which can lead to terrorism. "If there is no cooperation on civilian nuclear energy, it will seriously impact on our economic development and ... undermine our abilities to address the issues of extremism, which thrives on economic depravation."

Pakistan has had close cooperation with China on nuclear energy but the CJCS said it might not suffice. "We feel they may not be able to fill all of our requirements," he said, and added that China had already provided one reactor and was building a second, "yet there is a need to look to Washington", too.

"Any holding back on the economic front, or the creation of barriers on the nuclear energy front, will be counterproductive and disastrous for us on many counts," Gen Ehsan said earlier at a conference organised by the British-based South Asian Strategic Stability Institute.

Gen Ehsan believes in the potential of Pakistan also becoming another Asian economic giant, much like India, and deserves equal treatment from the United States. "We feel discrimination will be counterproductive," he told the conference.

He also told the conference that Pakistan had taken the extra ordinary steps to strengthen export controls over its nuclear capability, saying Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear capability was entirely a defensive response to legitimate national security needs.

The overarching policy of Pakistan is and will remain credible minimum nuclear

deterrence, Gen Ehsan said, adding: "The emergence of a nuclear South Asia is a reality, Pakistan and India as well as the rest of the world has to live with it."

The top Pakistani general is here for ground-breaking talks at the Nato headquarters this week in an effort to improve military cooperation between its forces and Nato troops across the border in Afghanistan. "There has been fairly good cooperation. We are trying to further enhance this cooperation with better liaison arrangements," Gen Ehsan said in the interview. "We hope that we will achieve that soon."

"It's very difficult to make an assessment of the strength of the Taliban," he said. "Of course there has been intensification of the activities there, but there are several factors responsible for that."

He said followers of the ousted Taliban regime were not the only threat facing Nato troops in the south. "Frankly speaking, the term Taliban is being used as a blanket coverage for lots of the anti-government, anti-social activities of a lot of elements, whether they be warlords or drug barons or other forms of disgruntled people."

In a separate interview with Reuters, Gen Ehsan ul Haq urged India to move to solve the stand-off over the Siachen glacier. "It's for the Indians to do something, they are in adverse occupation of that area, we don't have to do anything." In response to a question, he said there was no infiltration by Jihadis in Kashmir. "The Indians themselves are acknowledging that," he said.