

Issue Brief for Congress

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Pakistan-U.S. Relations

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SUMMARY

The major areas of U.S. concern in Pakistan include: nuclear nonproliferation; counter-terrorism; regional stability; democratization and human rights; and economic reform and development. An ongoing Pakistan-India nuclear arms race, fueled by rivalry over Kashmir, continues to be the focus of U.S. nonproliferation efforts in South Asia and a major issue in U.S. relations with both countries. This attention intensified following nuclear tests by both India and Pakistan in May 1998. South Asia is viewed by some observers as a likely prospect for use of such weapons. India has developed short- and intermediate-range missiles, and Pakistan has acquired short-range missiles from China and medium-range missiles from North Korea. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947.

U.S.-Pakistan cooperation began in the mid-1950s as a security arrangement based on U.S. concern over Soviet expansion and Pakistan's fear of neighboring India. Cooperation reached its high point during the 1979-89 Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. U.S.-Pakistan ties weakened following the October 1990 cutoff of U.S. aid and arms sales, which were suspended by President Bush under Section 620E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) (the so-called "Pressler amendment"). Further U.S. sanctions were imposed on Pakistan (and India) as a result of their 1998 nuclear tests. The see-saw Pakistan-U.S. relationship has been on the upswing following Pakistan's enlistment as a frontline state in the U.S.-led war on terrorism resulting from the September 2001 attacks on New York and Washington. Nuclear sanctions on Pakistan and India have been waived; Congress also has given the President author-

ity to waive, for two years, sanctions imposed on Pakistan following its 1999 military coup.

Both Congress and the Administration consider a stable, democratic, economically thriving Pakistan as key to U.S. interests in South, Central, and West Asia. Although ruled by military regimes for half of its existence, from 1988-99, Pakistan had democratic governments as a result of national elections in 1988, 1990, 1993, and 1997. Between 1988 and 1999, Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party, and Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, each served twice as prime minister. Neither leader served a full term, being dismissed by the president under constitutional provisions that have been used to dismiss four governments since 1985.

In October 1999, the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was overturned in a bloodless coup led by Chief of Army Staff Pervez Musharraf, who suspended the parliament and declared himself chief executive. In June 2001, General Musharraf assumed the post of president. The United States has strongly urged the Pakistan military government to restore the country to civilian democratic rule. President Musharraf has pledged to honor a Pakistan Supreme Court ruling ordering parliamentary elections to be held by late 2002. The Musharraf government has begun to address Pakistan's many pressing and longstanding problems, including the beleaguered economy, corruption, terrorism, and poor governance. Pakistan will receive well over one billion dollars in U.S. assistance and several billion dollars from international organizations to help strengthen the country as a key member of the U.S.-led anti-terrorism coalition.



MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Pakistan and India moved closer to war even as the war against terrorism continued in the western part of Pakistan and terrorist attacks occurred in Pakistan itself.

In May a car bomb killed 14 people in Karachi including 12 French military contractors who were working on a submarine project. Some Pakistani officials blamed India for the attack while French defense officials suggested that the attack was planned by Al Qaeda.

As war tensions escalated various foreign governments, including the United States, urged restraint and asked Pakistan's president, General Pervez Musharraf, to stop Kashmiri militants from crossing the border into India.

President Musharraf was faced with opposition from both left-wing and right-wing groups within the country. Left wing and centrist groups were rallying against the general's April 30th referendum that allowed him an additional five years in power. Right wing groups were upset with the general's position on Afghanistan, his crackdown on Islamic groups within the country, and with the General's handling of the Kashmir crisis. When the general called for a national unity meeting representatives of the two major parties refused the invitation to participate.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Historical Background

The long and checkered U.S.-Pakistan relationship has its roots in the Cold War and South Asia regional politics of the 1950s. U.S. concern about Soviet expansion and Pakistan's desire for security assistance against a perceived threat from India prompted the two countries to negotiate a mutual defense assistance agreement in May 1954. By late 1955, Pakistan had further aligned itself with the West by joining two regional defense pacts, the South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and the Baghdad Pact (later Central Treaty Organization, CENTO). As a result of these alliances and a 1959 U.S.-Pakistan cooperation agreement, Pakistan received more than \$700 million in military grant aid in 1955-65. U.S. economic aid to Pakistan between 1951 and 1982 totaled more than \$5 billion.

Differing expectations of the security relationship have long bedeviled ties. During the Indo-Pakistani wars of 1965 and 1971, the United States suspended military assistance to both sides, resulting in a cooling of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. In the mid-1970s, new strains arose over Pakistan's apparent efforts to respond to India's 1974 underground test of a nuclear device by seeking its own capability to build a nuclear bomb. Limited U.S. military aid was resumed in 1975, but it was suspended again by the Carter Administration in April 1979 because of Pakistan's secret construction of a uranium enrichment facility.

Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, Pakistan was again viewed as a frontline state against Soviet expansionism. In 1980, the Carter Administration offered Pakistan \$400 million in economic and security aid, but it was turned down. In September 1981, the Reagan Administration, negotiated a \$3.2 billion, 5-year economic and military aid package with Pakistan. Pakistan became a funnel for arms supplies to the Afghan resistance, as well as a camp for three million Afghan refugees.

Despite the renewal of U.S. aid and close security ties, many in Congress remained concerned about Pakistan's nuclear program, based, in part, on evidence of U.S. export control violations that suggested a crash program to acquire a nuclear weapons capability. In 1985, Section 620E(e) (the so-called Pressler amendment) was added to the FAA, requiring the President to certify to Congress that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device during the fiscal year for which aid is to be provided. The Pressler amendment represented a compromise between those in Congress who thought that aid to Pakistan should be cut off because of evidence that it was continuing to develop its nuclear option and those who favored continued support for Pakistan's role in opposing Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. A \$4 billion, 6-year aid package for Pakistan was signed in 1986.

With the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, beginning in May 1988, Pakistan's nuclear activities again came under close U.S. scrutiny. In October 1990, President Bush suspended aid to Pakistan. Under the provisions of the Pressler amendment, most economic and all military aid to Pakistan was stopped and deliveries of major military equipment suspended. Narcotics assistance of \$3-5 million annually was exempted from the aid cutoff. In 1992, Congress partially relaxed the scope of the aid cutoff to allow for P.L.480 food assistance and continuing support for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

One of the most serious results of the aid cutoff for Pakistan was the nondelivery of some 71 F-16 fighter aircraft ordered in 1989. In December 1998, the United States agreed to pay Pakistan \$324.6 million from the Judgment Fund of the U.S. Treasury – a fund used to settle legal disputes that involve the U.S. government – as well as provide Pakistan with \$140 million in goods, including agricultural commodities.

Pakistan-India Rivalry

Three wars – in 1947-48, 1965, and 1971 – and a constant state of military preparedness on both sides of the border have marked the half-century of bitter rivalry between India and Pakistan. The acrimonious nature of the partition of British India into two successor states in 1947 and the continuing dispute over Kashmir have been major sources of tension. Both Pakistan and India have built large defense establishments – including ballistic missile programs and nuclear weapons capability – at the cost of economic and social development. The Kashmir problem is rooted in claims by both countries to the former princely state, divided by a military line of control, since 1948, into the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-controlled (Free) Kashmir. India blames Pakistan for supporting a separatist rebellion raging in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley that has claimed 30,000 lives since 1990. Pakistan admits only to lending moral and political support to the rebellion, while accusing India of creating dissension in Pakistan's Sindh province. (For further discussion, see pp. 9-10.)

The China Factor

India and China fought a brief border war in 1962, and relations between the two remained tense for three decades, each deploying troops along a line of control that serves as the boundary. In September 1993, China and India signed an agreement to reduce troops and maintain peace along the line of control dividing their forces. Despite this thaw in relations, the India-China boundary has yet to be settled, and India remains suspicious of China's military might. India-China relations suffered a setback as a result of statements by Indian government officials that its May 1998 nuclear tests were prompted in large part by the China threat.

Pakistan and China, on the other hand, have enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial relationship over the same three decades. Pakistan served as a link between Beijing and Washington in 1971, as well as a bridge to the Muslim world for China in the 1980s. China's continuing role as a major arms supplier for Pakistan began in the 1960s, and included helping to build a number of arms factories in Pakistan, as well as supplying arms. In September 1990, China agreed to supply Pakistan with components for M-11 surface-to-surface missiles, which brought warnings from the United States. Although it is not a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), China agreed to abide by the restrictions of the MTCR, which bans the transfer of missiles with a range of more than 300 kilometers and a payload of more than 500 kilograms. In August 1993, the United States determined that China had transferred to Pakistan prohibited missile technology and imposed trade sanctions on one Pakistan and 11 Chinese entities (government ministries and aerospace companies) for two years. A July 1995 *Washington Post* report quoted unnamed U.S. officials as saying that the U.S. intelligence community had evidence that China had given Pakistan complete M-11 ballistic missiles. In February 1996, the U.S. press reported on leaked U.S. intelligence reports alleging that China sold ring magnets to Pakistan, in 1995, that could be used in enriching uranium for nuclear weapons. Pakistan denied the reports.

On November 21, 2000, the United States imposed 2-year sanctions on the Pakistan Ministry of Defense and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Organization, as well as Iranian entities, as a result of past Chinese assistance to Pakistani and Iranian missile programs. In September 2001, the U.S. State Department again imposed 2-year sanctions on a PRC company and Pakistan's National Development Complex. The PRC company reportedly delivered 12 shipments of components for Pakistan's Shaheen missiles in early 2001. (For background and updates on China-Pakistan technology transfer, see CRS Issue Brief IB92056, *Chinese Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Current Policy Issues*.)

Pakistan Political Setting

On April 30, 2002, Pakistanis went to the polls in a national referendum to extend President Musharraf's term by five years. The referendum question was, "For the survival of the local government system, establishment of democracy, continuity of reforms, end to sectarianism and extremism, and to fulfill the vision of Quaid-e-Azam [Great leader – i.e. Pakistan's late founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah], would you like to elect President General Pervez Musharraf as president of Pakistan for five years?" The president won 98% of the

vote from a 50% voter turnout. The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy, a coalition of political parties that are opposed to the election, say that turnout was closer to 5%.

The referendum arguably gives President Musharraf a national mandate to carry on his political and economic reforms and to reassure international public opinion that he is abiding by democratic ideals.

The opposition groups denounced the referendum as fraudulent and urged Pakistanis to boycott the poll. Their fear reportedly is that Musharraf will now attempt to rework the constitution to weaken the role of the Prime Minister and the political parties. In a post-October governmental structure likely to be instituted by Musharraf, the Prime Minister is not to have control over Pakistan's National Security Council – an institution that is to be dominated by the President and the military. The Prime Minister would be invited to certain meetings – for example on nuclear issues – but her or his vote would not be binding. The current National Security Council has a wide range of authority and advises the president on issues relating to national security, sovereignty, Islamic ideology, and the integrity and solidarity of the country.

There is also concern about the legitimacy of the October 2002 elections. President Musharraf has refused to allow Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, the leaders of the two major parties (the Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League, respectively), to participate in the elections. Instead Musharraf has argued that if either leader were to return to Pakistan they would have to face trial for the crimes they had committed. Senior government sources have also stated that Pakistan's political parties will face crucial reforms under the Political Parties Act, which could see a purge of their senior leaders. To replace them, President Musharraf plans to groom a new generation of political leaders under his patronage. "The new parliament will be Musharraf's team, and they will act together for the betterment of the country," said a top government official, in an interview with *Asia Times*.

At the same time there has been an easing of pressure on Islamic fundamentalist groups in Pakistan. The head of the pro-Taliban Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam, Maulana Fazlur Rahman was released from prison while the head of the banned terrorist organization, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Maulana Masood Azhar, was released from prison and placed under house arrest. On Pakistan's national day, the Jamaat-i-Islami was allowed to hold a public gathering in Rawalpindi, the seat of the army's General Headquarters. Leaders and activists of the moderate and secular Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy were arrested in Lahore when they tried to exercise their right of association.

Changes have also taken place in Pakistan's Kashmir policy. In an effort to assuage international concerns, President Musharraf has moved away from direct support of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba groups. Instead, it is expected that he will call for the people of Kashmir to determine their own future without the support of the Pakistan-based Islamic jihadi network. Musharraf recently installed Sardar Abdul Qayyum as chairman the National Kashmir Committee, and he has been at odds with the jihadi forces. However, a recent meeting in Azad Kashmir reflects Pakistan's changing Kashmir policy. The meeting was attended by the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference (an umbrella organization of 23 separatist groups), Sardar Abdul Qayyum, leading Kashmiri intellectuals, and three Pakistani brigadiers. The meeting concluded that the policies of Kashmir fighters should

represent Kashmiri interests rather than those of Pakistan. This would tend to keep the movement indigenous and increase its credibility.

The April 30 referendum has been dismissed by Pakistan's major political parties as meaningless and has reportedly widened the divide between them and the President. President Musharraf called for a meeting of all political groups within the country to forge national unity in response to India's military moves. Opposition groups boycotted the meeting and instead, reportedly, have demanded that President Musharraf step down and hand over power to an independent caretaker. The opposition parties are concerned that the President might use the crisis with India to consolidate his position. For the first time in Pakistan's history, with war looming, the opposition has not shown solidarity with the government. In fact some of President Musharraf's critics blame him for creating the current impasse with India because of the steps he took as the army chief during the Kargil crisis in 1999.

Background. Military regimes have ruled Pakistan for half of its 54 years, interspersed with periods of generally weak civilian governance. After 1988, Pakistan had democratically elected governments, and the army appeared to have moved from its traditional role of power wielder or kingmaker toward one of power broker or referee. During the past decade, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif each served twice as prime minister. Bhutto was elected prime minister in October 1988, following the death of military ruler Mohammad Zia-ul Haq in a plane crash. General Zia had led a coup in 1977 deposing Bhutto's father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was later executed. Despite the restoration of democratic process to Pakistan in 1988, the succeeding years were marred by political instability, economic problems, and ethnic and sectarian violence. In August 1990, President Ishaq Khan dismissed Bhutto for alleged corruption and inability to maintain law and order. The president's power to dismiss the prime minister derived from Eighth Amendment provisions of the Pakistan constitution, which dated from the era of Zia's presidency.

Elections held in October 1990 brought to power Nawaz Sharif, who also was ousted, in 1993, under the Eighth Amendment provisions. The 1993 elections returned Bhutto and the PPP to power. The new Bhutto government faced serious economic problems, including drought-induced power shortages and crop failures, as well as increasing ethnic and religious turmoil, particularly in Sindh Province. According to some observers, the Bhutto government's performance also was hampered by the reemergence of Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, in a decisionmaking role. Zardari's role in the previous Bhutto government was believed to have been a factor in her dismissal. He served two years in jail on corruption charges, but subsequently was acquitted. In November 1996, President Farooq Leghari dismissed the Bhutto government for "corruption, nepotism, and violation of rules in the administration of the affairs of the Government" and scheduled new elections for February 1997. Zardari was placed under detention by the interim government, where he currently remains.

Nawaz Sharif's PML won a landslide victory in the February 1997 parliamentary elections, which, despite low voter turnout, international observers judged to be generally free and fair. Sharif moved quickly to consolidate his power by curtailing the powers of the President and the judiciary. In April 1997, the Parliament passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the constitution, which deleted the President's former Eighth Amendment powers to

dismiss the government and to appoint armed forces chiefs and provincial governors. The new amendment was passed unanimously by both houses of parliament and signed by President Leghari. As the result of a power struggle in November, Sharif replaced the Supreme Court Chief Justice, Leghari resigned, and Sharif chose Mohammad Rafiq Tarar as president. As a result of these developments and the PML control of the Parliament, Nawaz Sharif emerged as one of Pakistan's strongest elected leaders since independence. His critics accused him of further consolidating his power by intimidating the opposition and the press. In April 1999, a two-judge Ehtesab (accountability) Bench of the Lahore High Court convicted former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her husband of corruption and sentenced them to 5 years in prison, fined them \$8.6 million, and disqualified them from holding public office. Bhutto was out of the country at the time. In commenting on the conviction, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan noted: "...the selective manner in which *ehtesab* has been conducted by the executive smacks of political vindictiveness." In April 2001, the Pakistan Supreme Court ruled that former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's 1999 conviction for corruption was biased and ordered a retrial.

Pakistan-U.S. Relations and Bilateral Issues

U.S. policy interests in Pakistan encompass a wide range of issues, including nuclear weapons and missile proliferation; South Asian regional stability; democratization and human rights; economic reform and market opening; and efforts to counter terrorism and narcotics. These concerns have been affected by several developments in recent years, including: 1) the cutoff of U.S. aid to Pakistan in 1990, 1998, and 1999 over nuclear and democracy issues; 2) India and Pakistan's worsening relationship over Kashmir since 1990, and their continuing nuclear standoff; 3) Pakistan's see-saw attempts to develop a stable democratic government and strong economy in the post-Cold War era; and, most recently, 4) the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, on New York and Washington.

The Bush Administration has identified exiled Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, who had long been harbored by the Taliban government in Afghanistan, as the prime suspect in the terrorist attacks on the United States. On September 13, President Musharraf – under strong U.S. diplomatic pressure – offered President Bush “our unstinted cooperation in the fight against terrorism.” Because of its proximity to Afghanistan and former close ties with the Taliban, Pakistan is considered key to U.S.-led efforts to root out terrorism in the region. The Taliban and bin Laden enjoy strong support among a substantial percentage of the Pakistan population, who share not only conservative Islamic views but also ethnic and cultural ties with Afghanistan. A major issue facing the Administration is how to make use of Pakistan's support — including for military operations in Afghanistan — without seriously destabilizing an already fragile state that has nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

In an effort to shore up the Musharraf government, most sanctions relating to Pakistan's (and India's) 1998 nuclear tests and Pakistan's 1999 military coup were waived in September and October. On October 29, 2001, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that Pakistan will receive well over one billion dollars in U.S. assistance and several billion dollars from international organizations to help strengthen Pakistan as a key member of the U.S.-led anti-terrorism coalition. Direct assistance programs will include aid for health, education, food, democracy promotion, child labor elimination, counter-narcotics, border security and law enforcement, as well as trade preference benefits. The United States also

will support grant, loan, and debt rescheduling programs for Pakistan by the various international financial institutions, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Asian Development Bank. In addition, Pakistan has received promises of substantial aid, debt relief, and trade concessions from Japan and the European Union in recognition of its support for the international anti-terrorism coalition. Japan, which is Pakistan's largest bilateral aid donor, announced on October 26, 2001, that it was suspending sanctions imposed on Pakistan and India following their 1998 nuclear tests.

On November 10, 2001, President Bush met with President Musharraf in New York, where both addressed the U.N. General Assembly. According to the White House, the two leaders discussed the anti-terrorism campaign, regional security issues, economic cooperation, human rights, the October 2002 Pakistani elections, and ways to strengthen the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. President Bush hosted a dinner for President Musharraf that evening.

Security

Nuclear Weapons and Missile Proliferation. Since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, U.S. and Pakistan officials have held talks on improving security and installing new safeguards on Pakistan's nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. Fears that Pakistan could become destabilized by the U.S. anti-terrorism war efforts in Afghanistan have heightened U.S. nuclear proliferation concerns in South Asia. On May 11 and 13, 1998, India conducted a total of five underground nuclear tests, breaking a 24-year self-imposed moratorium on nuclear testing. Despite U.S. and world efforts to dissuade it, Pakistan followed, claiming five tests on May 28, 1998, and an additional test on May 30. The unannounced tests created a global storm of criticism, as well as a serious setback for two decades of U.S. nuclear nonproliferation efforts in South Asia. (See also CRS Report 98-570, *India-Pakistan Nuclear Tests and U.S. Response* and CRS Report RL30623, *Nuclear Weapons and Ballistic Missile Proliferation in India and Pakistan: Issues for Congress*.)

On May 13, 1998, President Clinton imposed economic and military sanctions on India, mandated by section 102 of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), and applied the same sanctions to Pakistan on May 30. Humanitarian assistance, food, or other agricultural commodities are excepted from sanctions under the law. In November 1998, the U.S. Department of Commerce published a list of more than 300 Indian and Pakistani government agencies and companies suspected of working on nuclear, missile, and other weapons programs. Any U.S. exports to these entities required a Commerce Department license, and most license requests reportedly were denied. On the one hand, Pakistan was less affected than India by the sanctions, since most U.S. assistance to Pakistan had been cut off since 1990. On the other hand, Pakistan's much smaller – and currently weaker – economy was more vulnerable to the effects of the sanctions.

U.S. policy analysts consider the continuing arms race between India and Pakistan as posing perhaps the most likely prospect for the future use of nuclear weapons. India conducted its first, and only, previous nuclear test in May 1974, following which it maintained ambiguity about the status of its nuclear program. Pakistan probably gained a nuclear weapons capability sometime in the 1980s. India is believed to have enough plutonium for 75 or more nuclear weapons. Pakistan may have enough enriched uranium for 25 nuclear weapons. Both countries have aircraft capable of delivering weapons. India has

short-range missiles (Prithvi) and is developing an intermediate-range ballistic missile (Agni) with enough payload to carry a nuclear warhead. Pakistan reportedly has acquired technology for short-range missiles (Shaheen) from China and medium-range missiles (Ghauri) from North Korea, capable of carrying small nuclear warheads.

Proliferation in South Asia is part of a chain of rivalries — India seeking to achieve deterrence against China, and Pakistan seeking to gain an “equalizer” against a larger and conventionally stronger India. India began its nuclear program in the mid-1960s, after its 1962 defeat in a short border war with China and China’s first nuclear test in 1964. Despite a 1993 Sino-Indian troop reduction agreement and some easing of tensions, both nations continue to deploy forces along their border. Pakistan’s nuclear program was prompted by India’s 1974 nuclear test and by Pakistan’s defeat by India in the 1971 war and consequent loss of East Pakistan, now independent Bangladesh.

U.S. Nonproliferation Efforts. Neither India nor Pakistan are signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). India has consistently rejected both treaties as discriminatory, calling instead for a global nuclear disarmament regime. Pakistan traditionally has maintained that it will sign the NPT and CTBT only when India does so. Aside from security concerns, the governments of both countries are faced with the prestige factor attached to their nuclear programs and the domestic unpopularity of giving them up. Following the 1998 tests, the United States set forth five steps India and Pakistan need to take in order to avoid a destabilizing nuclear and missile competition. They include the following:

Halt further nuclear testing and sign and ratify the CTBT. U.S. and international pressure after the 1998 nuclear tests produced resolutions by the U.N. Security Council and the Group of Eight (G-8) urging India and Pakistan to sign the CTBT. Japan — the largest bilateral aid donor for both countries — made resumption of its aid programs contingent on signing the CTBT and assurances not to transfer nuclear technology or material to any other country. In October 2001, however, Japan suspended sanctions against both countries in recognition of their support for the U.S.-led war on terrorism. Although both India and Pakistan currently observe self-imposed moratoria on nuclear testing, they continue to resist signing the CTBT — a position made more tenable by U.S. failure to ratify the treaty in 1999.

Halt fissile material production; cooperate in FMCT negotiations. Both India and Pakistan have agreed to participate in negotiations on the fissile material control Treaty. Both countries, however, have expressed unwillingness to halt fissile material production at this stage in the development of their nuclear weapons programs.

Refrain from deploying or testing missiles or nuclear weapons. The United States has urged India and Pakistan — with little success — to adopt constraints on development, flight testing, and storage of missiles, and basing of nuclear-capable aircraft. On April 11, 1999, India tested its intermediate-range Agni II missile, firing it a reported distance of 1,250 miles. On April 14-15, Pakistan countered by firing its Ghauri II and Shaheen missiles with reported ranges of 1,250 and 375 miles, respectively. Most recently, India tested a longer version of its short-range Prithvi missile in December 2001.

In August 1999, India's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government released a draft report by the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) on India's nuclear doctrine. The report, although retaining India's no-first-use policy, called for creation of a "credible nuclear deterrence and adequate retaliatory capability should deterrence fail." It proposed nuclear weapons "based on a triad of aircraft, mobile land-based missiles and sea-based assets...." The United States and other countries criticized the document as destabilizing, noting that, if adopted, the proposed policy would ratchet up nuclear arms racing in the region.

Maintain and formalize restraints on sharing sensitive goods and technologies with other countries. Both India and Pakistan apparently have good records on nonproliferation of sensitive technologies and have issued regulatory orders on export controls. Since May 1998, both countries have continued to hold expert-level talks with U.S. officials on export controls. U.S. concern was raised in late 2001 by disclosures that two retired Pakistani nuclear scientists had briefed bin Laden and other al Qaeda officials on several occasions. The war in Afghanistan also heightened fears of instability in Pakistan that could lead to Islamabad's nuclear assets being compromised in the event of a radical Islamist military coup. This has resulted in renewed U.S. policy debate on transfers of nuclear weapons safeguards technologies to Pakistan and/or India. India also continues to press for ending of export controls on dual-use technologies that it needs for its civilian nuclear and space programs, which has raised further U.S. policy debates on export controls and technology transfer.

Reduce bilateral tensions, including Kashmir. Beginning in 1990 – with the increasing friction between India and Pakistan over Kashmir – the United States strongly encouraged both governments to institute confidence-building measures in order to reduce tensions. Measures agreed to so far include: agreement on advance notice of military movements; establishment of a military commander "hotline"; an exchange of lists of nuclear installations and facilities; agreement not to attack each other's nuclear facilities; a joint ban on use and production of chemical weapons; and measures to prevent air space violations. In February 1999, Prime Minister Vajpayee took an historic bus ride to Pakistan to hold talks with then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The two leaders signed the Lahore Declaration in which they agreed to intensify efforts to resolve all issues, including Jammu and Kashmir and to take a number of steps to reduce tensions between their countries.

The prospects for India-Pakistan detente suffered a severe setback in May-July 1999, when the two countries teetered on the brink of their fourth war, once again in Kashmir. In the worst fighting since 1971, Indian soldiers sought to dislodge some 700 Pakistan-supported infiltrators who were occupying fortified positions along mountain ridges overlooking a supply route on the Indian side of the line of control (LOC) near Kargil. Following a meeting on July 4, between then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Clinton in Washington, the infiltrators withdrew across the LOC. (See CRS Report RS20277, *Recent Developments in Kashmir and U.S. Concerns.*)

Tensions between India and Pakistan remained extremely high in the wake of the Kargil conflict, which cost more than 1,100 lives. Throughout 2000, cross-border firing and shelling continued at high levels. India accused Pakistan of sending a flood of militants into Kashmir and increasingly targeting isolated police posts and civilians. Pakistan also accused India of human rights violations in Kashmir. According to Indian government sources, more than 5,000 militants, security forces, and civilians were killed in Jammu and Kashmir state

in 1999-2000. The United States strongly urged India and Pakistan to create the proper climate for peace, respect the LOC, reject violence, and return to the Lahore peace process. In November 2000, India announced a unilateral halt to its military operations in Kashmir during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In December, the Pakistan government announced that its forces deployed along the LOC in Kashmir would observe maximum restraint and that some of its troops would be pulled back from the LOC. Indian army officials noted that clashes between Indian and Pakistani forces along the LOC had virtually stopped since the cease-fire began and that there had been a definite reduction of infiltration of militants from Pakistan. In February, Prime Minister Vajpayee extended the cease-fire until the end of May 2001. Kashmir's main militant groups, however, rejected the cease-fire as a fraud and continued to carry out attacks on military personnel and government installations. As security forces conducted counter-operations, deaths of Kashmiri civilians, militants, and Indian security forces continued to rise.

In May 2001, the Indian government announced that it was ending its unilateral cease-fire in Kashmir but that Prime Minister Vajpayee would invite President Musharraf to India for talks. The July summit talks in Agra between Musharraf and Vajpayee failed to produce a joint communique, reportedly as a result of pressure from hardliners on both sides. Major stumbling blocks were India's refusal to acknowledge the "centrality of Kashmir" to future talks and Pakistan's objection to references to "cross-border terrorism." Since the Agra talks, tensions have continued to rise. According to Indian government reports, more than 2,000 people have died since January 2001 as a result of the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir state, including 618 civilians, 1,133 militants, and 228 security forces. According to Amnesty International, more than 1,100 people have disappeared in Kashmir since the revolt began in 1990.

On October 16-17, 2001, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Pakistan and India in an effort, in part, to calm seriously escalating tensions over Kashmir. India responded to an October 1 terrorist attack by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Muhammad, which killed 38 people in Kashmir, by resuming heavy firing across the line of control that divides the disputed territory. Cross-border firing between India and Pakistan had been largely suspended since November 2000. Powell urged both countries to seek a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute. On October 29, the chief of the U.N. Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) accused both countries of playing "political games" on the issue of Kashmir. In reportedly the first instance of a public statement by the UNMOGIP in 50 years, Maj. Gen. Hermann K. Loidolt stated further: "My assessment is that the situation will become more tense in the time coming, not only along the LOC [Line of Control] but also in the whole of Jammu and Kashmir state."

An attack against the Indian parliament on December 13, 2001, thought to have been carried out by Pakistan-based Islamic militants, left 14 dead and brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war. India blamed the suicide attack on two militant groups that Indian leaders believe were sponsored by Pakistan: Jaish-e-Muhammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba. These two groups allegedly have been fighting from bases in Pakistan to end Indian rule in part of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. Following the attack, Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee stated "We do not want war, but war is being thrust on us, and we will have to face it." Pakistani leaders, in return, accused India of ratcheting up tensions between the two countries and said that Pakistan would make India pay "a heavy price for any misadventure." In the weeks following the attack on the Indian parliament, both India and

Pakistan have, in a “tit-for-tat” fashion, issued threats, conducted military maneuvers and repositioned missile batteries along their border, and levied sanctions against each other.

The events of May seemed to be pushing India and Pakistan to escalate the standoff on their border to a full-scale military conflict. The attack by Kashmiri militants on the army base in Kaluchak, Jammu was viewed as a serious provocation by the Indian government and it intensified war plans. In response the Pakistani government began to reassign troops from the Afghanistan border to the eastern border with India. It also recalled all Pakistani troops engaged in international peacekeeping operations.

Pakistan tested three ballistic missiles, the intermediate range Ghauri and the short-range Ghaznavi and Abdali, from May 25-28, 2002, to send a message to India that it would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons in a forthcoming conflict. Pakistan’s representative to the United Nations also made it clear that in the event of a conflict the country had not ruled out the first use of nuclear weapons. President Musharraf added that Pakistan would not start a war, but it would respond forcefully to aggression and carry out “offensive defense” – take the war into Indian territory. The thinking in Pakistan, reportedly, is that should a conflict take place, India’s Muslim minority would rise in rebellion – particularly in the state of Kashmir. This would complicate Indian warfighting efforts.

Congressional Action. Through a series of legislative measures, Congress has incrementally lifted sanctions on Pakistan and India resulting from their 1998 nuclear tests. In October 1999, Congress passed H.R. 2561, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000, and it was signed by the President as P.L. 106-79 on October 29. Title IX of the act gives the President authority to waive sanctions applied against Pakistan and India in response to the nuclear tests. In a presidential determination on Pakistan and India issued on October 27, 1999, the President waived economic sanctions on India. Pakistan, however, remained under sanctions triggered under Section 508 of the annual foreign assistance appropriations act as a result of the October 1999 coup. The Foreign Operations Export Financing and Related Appropriations Agencies Act, 2001, provided an exception under which Pakistan could be provided U.S. foreign assistance funding for basic education programs (P.L. 106-429; Section 597). The U.S. Agency for International Development request for FY2002 includes \$7 million for programs to strengthen civil society and reform public education in Pakistan.

After the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, and in recognition of Pakistan’s cooperation with the U.S.-led coalition being assembled, policymakers searched for new means of providing assistance to Pakistan. President Bush’s issuance of a final determination on September 22, 2001, removed remaining sanctions on Pakistan and India resulting from their 1998 nuclear test, finding that denying export licences and assistance was not in the national security interests of the United States. Also, on October 27, President Bush signed into law S. 1465 (P.L. 107-57), which gives the President two-year waiver authority to lift sanctions on foreign assistance imposed on Pakistan following the 1999 military coup if he determines that such a waiver would facilitate the transition to democratic rule in Pakistan and is important to U.S. efforts to combat international terrorism. The law not only gives the president authority to waive sanctions related to democracy but to waive sanctions imposed on Pakistan for its debt servicing arrearage to the United States under the terms of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. At the end of 1999, Pakistan’s international debt was \$30.7 billion, of which \$2.38 billion was owed to the United States. P.L. 107-57 allowed for an agreement of Pakistan to reschedule \$379 million

of its debt to the United States thereby enabling it to cancel its arrearage. After President Musharraf's visit to Washington D.C. in February 2002, President Bush wrote a letter to Congress stating that he had ordered \$220 million in emergency funds that had been given to the Defense Department for warfighting and to the State Department for security upgrades, be reallocated to Pakistan "for costs incurred in aiding U.S. military forces in Operation Enduring Freedom."

For FY2003, the Bush Administration has proposed increased funding for Pakistan that includes \$50.0 million for development assistance (up from an estimated \$15.0 million in 2001), \$200.0 million in the Economic Support Fund (up from \$9.5 million in 2001), \$1.0 million for International Military Education and Training (same as 2001), \$50.0 million for Foreign Military Financing (up from zero in 2001), and \$4.0 million for International Narcotics Control (up from \$2.5 million in 2001). (For details, see CRS Report RS20995, *India and Pakistan: Current U.S. Economic Sanctions*, by Dianne E. Rennack.)

Pakistan-U.S. Military Cooperation. The close U.S.- Pakistan military ties of the Cold War era – which had dwindled since the 1990 aid cutoff – are in the process of being restored as a result of Pakistan's role in the U.S. anti-terrorism operations in Afghanistan. Pakistan also has been a leading country in supporting U.N. peacekeeping efforts with troops and observers. Some 5,000 Pakistani troops were stationed in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as part of the U.S.-led Persian Gulf War efforts in 1990. Pakistani troops played an important role in the U.S.-led humanitarian operations in Somalia from 1992 to 1994. In November 2001, there were 5,500 Pakistani troops and observers participating in U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Sierra Leone, East Timor, Kosovo, Congo, and other countries.

Democratization and Human Rights

Democratization Efforts. The United States considers the October 1999 Pakistan military coup to be a serious setback to the country's efforts to return to the democratic election process beginning in 1988. National elections, judged by domestic and international observers to be generally free and fair, were held in 1988, 1990, 1993, and 1997. Pakistan democracy between 1988 and 1999, however, was marred by wide-scale corruption, volatile mass-based politics, and a continuing lack of symmetry between the development of the military and civilian bureaucracies and political institutions. The politics of confrontation between parties and leaders flourished at the expense of effective government; frequent walkouts and boycotts of the national and provincial assemblies often led to paralysis and instability. The major political parties lacked grassroots organization and failed to be responsive to the electorate.

Human Rights Problems. The U.S. State Department, in its *Pakistan Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2001* (issued March 4, 2002), noted that, although Pakistan's human rights record remained poor under the military government, there were improvements in some areas, including freedom of the press. The government bureaucracy continued to function but was "monitored" by the military. The judiciary continued to be subject to the executive branch but in May 2000, President Musharraf promised to abide by a Supreme Court ruling that national elections will be held no later than 90 days after October 12, 2002. The State Department report cited continuing problems of police abuse, religious discrimination, and child labor. Security forces were cited for committing extrajudicial killings and for using arbitrary arrest and detention, torturing and abusing

prisoners and detainees, and raping women. Political and religious groups also engaged in killings and persecution of their rivals and ethnic and religious minorities. Politically motivated violence and a deteriorating law and order situation reportedly continued to be a serious problem.

In recent years, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and Amnesty International have issued reports critical of abuses of the rights of women and minorities. According to the reports, rape is a serious problem, particularly rape of minors and gang rape. The State Department human rights report also noted a high rate of abuse of female prisoners – including rape and torture – by male police officers. Women also suffer discrimination in education, employment, and legal rights. Discrimination against women is widespread, and traditional constraints – cultural, legal, and spousal – have kept women in a subordinate position in society. The adult literacy rate for men in Pakistan is about 50% and for women about 24%. Religious minorities – mainly Christians, Hindus, and Ahmadi Muslims – reportedly are subjected to discriminatory laws and social intolerance. A 1974 amendment to the Pakistan constitution declared Ahmadis to be a non-Muslim minority because they do not accept Muhammad as the last prophet. The Zia government, in 1984, made it illegal for an Ahmadi to call himself a Muslim or use Muslim terminology. Blasphemy laws, instituted under the Zia regime and strengthened in 1991, carry a mandatory death penalty for blaspheming the Prophet or his family. Blasphemy charges reportedly are usually brought as a result of personal or religious vendettas.

Economic Issues

Pakistan's current military government inherited an economy in recession. A decade of political instability left a legacy of soaring foreign debt, declining production and growth rates, failed economic reform policies, and pervasive corruption. Foreign debt totals more than \$32 billion; foreign reserves are less than \$1.5 billion (about 6 weeks of imports); gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate (usually averaging 5-6%) reportedly has slipped to 3%; and both agricultural and industrial growth have dropped since 1998.

Over the long term, analysts believe Pakistan's resources and comparatively well-developed entrepreneurial skills hold promise for more rapid economic growth and development. This is particularly true for Pakistan's textile industry, which accounts for 60% of Pakistan's exports. Analysts point to the pressing need to broaden the country's tax base in order to provide increased revenue for investment in improved infrastructure, health, and education, all prerequisites for economic development. Less than 1% of Pakistanis currently pay income taxes. Agricultural income has not been taxed in the past, largely because of the domination of parliament and the provincial assemblies by wealthy landlords.

Successive Bhutto and Sharif governments made agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), promising austerity, deficit reduction, and improved tax collection in return for loans and credits. The promised reforms, however, fell victim to political instability and a host of other problems, including floods, drought, crop viruses, strikes, a bloated and inefficient bureaucracy, widespread tax evasion, weak infrastructure, and a swollen defense budget. The Musharraf government has had some success in putting economic reforms back on track, including expanding collection of income and sales taxes, trade liberalization, and improving transparency. In January 2001, the Paris Club of creditor nations agreed to reschedule \$1.7 billion in repayments on Pakistan's foreign debt of \$32

billion. On August 29, an International Monetary Fund team cleared release of the final installment of a \$596 million standby loan to Pakistan and confirmed “Pakistan’s solid macroeconomic performance, including lower inflation, a strengthening of the balance of payments, and reduction of fiscal imbalances.”

Meetings between Pakistani government officials and representatives of the IMF, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank have been successful, as the financial institutions reportedly have been pleased with the progress made in stabilizing and reforming the Pakistani economy. The Pakistani government has stabilized the country’s external debt at \$38 billion and the country’s hard currency reserves reached \$5.28 billion by April 2002 — an increase of nearly \$4 billion since October 1999. At the same time the IMF and the World Bank urged the Pakistani government to cut defense expenditures from the current 3.5% GDP to 3.3% of GDP by 2003-2004. The World Bank said that if regional tensions subsided and the Kashmir dispute was resolved, this would provide a further fiscal cushion for a peace dividend. A new arms race with India, however, could be fiscally disastrous.

On the positive side, Pakistan’s economic reforms and a more prudent fiscal policy have reduced the fiscal deficit from 7% of GDP to about 5.2% of GDP. Foreign remittances have exceeded \$1.6 billion — \$772 million more than in 2000. Exports exceeded \$9 billion for the first time in seven years, and inflation, at 3%, was the lowest in three decades. Interest on public debt together with defense spending, however, consume 70% of total revenues, thus squeezing out development expenditure, including social spending.

In the view of the International Financial Institutions — the World Bank, the IMF, and the Asian Development Bank — the major risk to economic reforms and to future investment was the possibility that there might be a break in the continuity of policy after the October 2002 elections for the national and provincial assemblies. President Pervez Musharraf’s victory in the April 30, 2002 referendum is expected to boost investor and international financial institution confidence that the economic and political reforms will stay the course.

Trade and Trade Issues. In 2000, U.S. exports to Pakistan totaled \$453 million and imports from Pakistan totaled \$2.2 billion. The United States has been strongly supportive of Pakistan’s economic reform efforts, begun under the first Nawaz Sharif government in 1991. According to the report for 2000 of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), however, a number of trade barriers remain. Some items are either restricted or banned from importation for reasons related to religion, national security, luxury consumption, or protection of local industries. U.S. companies have complained repeatedly about violations of their intellectual property rights in the areas of patents and copyrights. Pakistan’s patent law currently protects only processes, not products, from infringement. A 1992 Pakistan copyright law that provides coverage for such works as computer software and videos is being enforced but has resulted in a backlog of cases in the court system. The International Intellectual Property Alliance estimated trade losses of \$137 million in 2000, as a result of pirated films, sound recordings, computer programs, and books.

Narcotics

In recent years, the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region has supplied a reported 20%-40% of heroin consumed in the United States and 70% of that consumed in Europe. The region is second only to Southeast Asia’s Golden Triangle as a source of the world’s

heroin. Opium grown in Afghanistan and Pakistan is processed into heroin in more than 100 illegal laboratories in the border region. Although much of the heroin is smuggled by land and sea routes to Europe and the United States, a substantial portion is consumed by Pakistan's rapidly growing domestic market. The Pakistan government estimates the 4 million drug addicts in the country include 1.5 million addicted to heroin. According to some experts, Pakistan's drug economy amounts to as much as \$20 billion. Drug money reportedly is used to buy influence throughout Pakistan's economic and political systems.

Pakistan's counter-narcotics efforts are hampered by a number of factors, including lack of government commitment; scarcity of funds; poor infrastructure in drug-producing regions; government wariness of provoking unrest in tribal areas; and corruption among police, government officials, and local politicians. U.S. counter-narcotics aid to Pakistan, administered by the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, totaled \$3.5 million in FY2001, with \$3.5 million requested for FY2002. The major counter-narcotics efforts engaged in by the Pakistan government, some of which receive U.S. or U.N. support, include: improved law enforcement; reduction of demand; opium crop destruction and crop substitution; and outreach programs that include supplying roads, irrigation, drinking water, and schools to remote tribal areas.

In March 2001, President Bush submitted to Congress his annual list of major illicit drug producing and transiting countries eligible to receive U.S. foreign aid and other economic and trade benefits. Pakistan was among the countries certified as having cooperated fully with the United States in counter-narcotics efforts, or to have taken adequate steps on their own. According to the report, Pakistan almost achieved its goal of eliminating opium production by reducing the poppy crop to a record low of 500 hectares, down from 8,000 hectares in 1992. Pakistan, however, faces major challenges as a transit country, despite reduced production of opium in Afghanistan. Cooperation with the United States on counter-narcotics efforts was described as excellent, including arrests, extradition, and poppy eradication.

Terrorism

After the September 11 attacks on the United States, Pakistan pledged and has provided support for the anti-terror coalition effort. According to the U.S. State Department report on global terrorism for 2001, Pakistan has afforded the United States unprecedented levels of cooperation by allowing the U.S. military to use bases within the country, helping to identify and detain extremists, and tightening the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In December 2001, President Musharraf announced a proposal to bring Pakistan's madrassas (religious schools) – some of which have served as breeding grounds for extremists – into the mainstream educational system. Pakistan also began sweeping police reforms, upgraded its immigration control system, and began work on new anti-terrorist finance laws. Musharraf also began cracking down on “anti-Pakistan” extremists and, by January 2002, authorities had arrested more than 2,000, although many have subsequently been released.

In May 2002, a bomb blast in Karachi killed 14 people (including 12 French military contractors) and raised fears that terrorist groups would complicate the law and order situation within the country. The blast was attributed to various groups including Indian

intelligence and members of the Al Qaeda. In the war on terror, Pakistani troops, for the first time since independence, operated in tribal areas of the country – an area that they traditionally stayed out of for fear of antagonizing the local population. By late May, however, President Musharraf was beginning to pull some troops from the region to help strengthen the eastern border with India.

At the same time, the Pakistani government has been under pressure from various nations to terminate the infiltration of insurgents from Pakistani Kashmir into Indian Kashmir. As India increased its preparations for war – following the attack in the Kaluchak region of Jammu – the United States, Britain, and Russia called upon Pakistan to stop militants from crossing into Indian Kashmir. President Bush challenged President Musharraf to show results in stopping militants from carrying out terrorist acts in Indian Kashmir. While expressing concern about Pakistan’s missile tests the president made it clear that preventing terrorism was a higher priority. He said, “I am more concerned about making sure. . . .that President Musharraf show results in terms of stopping people from crossing the border.” He added, “Stopping terrorism. That is more important than the missile testing.” President Musharraf for his part, in an interview to the *Washington Post* countered, “. . . there is nothing happening across the Line of Control. And I’ve also said that Pakistan is a part of the coalition to fight terrorism. And we will ensure that terrorism does not go from Pakistan anywhere outside into the world.” Critics have charged, however, that President Musharraf has eased up on militants in the country by releasing some of the people he had jailed after September 11 in his promised crackdown on Islamic militants.

President Musharraf asked the international community to credit Pakistan for having the courage to send troops into the tribal areas to capture suspected Al Qaeda operatives. He pointed out that Pakistani troops were the first troops to have moved into the area in over a century. The President continued that there were three elements of terror that the world was concerned with: Al Qaeda, Kashmiri militants, and the growing Sunni sectarian terrorism in Pakistan. He also pointed out that the Indian goal was to destabilize Pakistan, “. . . their aim is to destabilize me, my government, and Pakistan. Destabilize us economically, and politically and diplomatically. That is what they want to achieve.”