

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Karzai vows to have more control over foreign troops if reelected; Holbrooke asserts that voting in August elections will also be held in the country's most dangerous areas; Mullen: Pak's ISI fomenting "chaotic activity" in Afghanistan and India; US counter-narcotics strategy to shift from "eradication" to "interdiction"**

President Hamid Karzai, addressing supporters at a rally in Kabul on July 24, stated that if he was re-elected as president in the August elections, he would seek to negotiate a new agreement regarding the status and role of foreign troops deployed in the country. He also stated that he would pursue negotiations with the Taliban and other opposition groups in order to achieve peace, and that he would devote more efforts towards ensuring governance and in achieving law and order.¹

The visiting US special envoy Richard Holbrooke meanwhile asserted that next month's presidential elections would be held even in the most dangerous places in the country, though "complex challenges" still remained. Holbrooke was speaking to reporters after visiting Taliban strongholds Kandahar and Helmand provinces in the south of the country.²

The Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mullen has accused the Pakistani ISI of fomenting "chaotic activity" in Afghanistan and India. He made these remarks ahead of his meeting with the visiting Indian Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor, who was on a 5-day visit to America in a bid to strengthen military ties between the two countries. Mullen urged the ISI to change its "strategic thrust" and stated that Washington was having "discussions" with the Pakistani leadership on this issue.³

In other developments, the US defence department's top civilian official for counter-insurgency strategy, Michael Vickers stated that the US and Afghan counter narcotics strategy will see a shift from efforts to wipe out the poppy crops to targeting the drug runners and land lords supporting the Taliban insurgency. He added that this entailed "much less emphasis on eradication" and greater focus on "interdiction."⁴

¹ "Karzai Vows More Control Over Foreign Troops," *The New York Times*, July 24, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/25/world/asia/25afghan.html?scp=17&sq=afghanistan&st=cse>

² "Complex challenges await Afghan poll: Holbrooke," *Dawn*, July 26, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/complex-challenges-await-afghan-poll-holbrooke-679>

³ "US notes ISI role in India, Afghanistan terrorism," *Press TV*, July 25, 2009, at <http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=101605§ionid=351020401>

⁴ "U.S. Shifts Afghan Narcotics Strategy," *The New York Times*, July 23, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/24/world/asia/24poppy.html?scp=9&sq=afghanistan&st=cse>

PAKISTAN

- **Sufi Muhammad arrested on charges of encouraging violence and terrorism; Holbrooke announces aid worth \$165 million for Swat refugees; UNICEF: 1 million people will remain displaced till year-end; Pakistan, France sign accord to set up anti-terror task force; Pak SC asks Musharraf to defend his November 3, 2007 action replacing the constitution**

Pro-Taliban cleric Maulana Sufi Muhammad, who brokered a peace deal between the Pakistan government and militants in the Swat Valley in February 2009, was arrested on July 26 on charges of encouraging violence and terrorism. The peace deal with the government had resulted in the imposition of Shariah or Islamic law in the valley in exchange for an end to over two years of fighting. The deal collapsed in April when the Taliban advanced into neighboring districts, forcing the Pakistan military to launch a counter-offensive under US pressure.⁵

US Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke, at a press conference in Islamabad during the week, announced another tranche of \$165 million in humanitarian aid to the country. The Obama administration has already given over \$300 million for the rehabilitation of refugees affected by the military operations in Swat.⁶ The UNICEF's Louis-Georges Arsenault meanwhile stated that about half of the estimated two million people who fled the fighting in Swat and FATA could remain displaced for the rest of the year.⁷

Pakistan and France on July 20 signed an agreement to set up a joint task force for sharing information about terrorists. The accord was signed by the visiting Interior Minister of Pakistan Rehman Malik and his French counterpart Brice Hortefeux in Paris.⁸

In other developments, the Pakistan Supreme Court on July 22 asked former military ruler Pervez Musharraf to defend his extra-constitutional actions before the court, including his proclamation of emergency and his action in replacing the Constitution with a provisional constitution order on November 3, 2007.⁹

⁵ "Pakistan Arrests Cleric Behind Deal With Taliban," *The New York Times*, July 26, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/27/world/asia/27cleric.html?scp=6&sq=pakistan&st=cse>

⁶ "US announces another \$165M humanitarian aid to Pakistan," *The Times of India*, July 23, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/World/Pakistan/US-announces-another-165M-humanitarian-aid-to-Pakistan/articleshow/4809485.cms>

⁷ "About 1m to remain displaced till year-end, says Unicef," *Dawn*, July 23, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/frontpage/about-1m-to-remain-displaced-till-yearend%2C-says-unicef-379>

⁸ "Pakistan, France plan anti-terror task force," *Dawn*, July 21, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/frontpage/pakistan%2C-france-plan-antiterror-task-force-179>

⁹ "SC calls Musharraf to defend Nov 3 actions," *Dawn*, July 23, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/frontpage/sc-calls-musharraf-to-defend-nov-3-actions-379>

SRI LANKA

- **Rajapakse appeals to all Sri Lankans to join hands in national building; Sri Lankan FM briefs EAM Krishna on rehabilitation of displaced people; Troops discover LTTE submarine; Sri Lanka urges to constructively engage post-LTTE Sri Lanka; IMF to give \$2.5 billion grant to help strengthen Colombo's finances; ADB to increase its annual allocation to \$300 million**

Sri Lankan President Rajapakse, addressing members of the Muslim community in Kandy, appealed to all Sri Lankans to join hands in national building. He added that efforts should be made towards developing the country on an "equitable basis without any communal or regional distinctions."¹⁰

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohita Bogollagama briefed his Indian counterpart S.M. Krishna on the "substantive progress" made by Colombo on the "issue of internally displaced people." EAM Krishna on his part assured the Sri Lankan Minister that India would do its utmost to help the displaced people. Mr. Krishna also hoped that Colombo will be able to fulfill its promise of rehabilitating displaced refugees within 180 days of the end of the war.¹¹

Reports meanwhile noted that troops in Mullaitivu discovered a submarine used by the LTTE for their underwater operations. The security forces were in search of this submarine for over two months.¹²

Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU urged the EU to constructively engage post-LTTE Sri Lanka. The Ambassador briefed the EU members on the rehabilitation efforts being undertaken by the government.¹³

The IMF on its part agreed to give a \$2.5 billion Stand-By Arrangement grant to Sri Lanka. The money would be spent towards rebuilding reserves, reducing the fiscal deficit and for strengthening the financial sector.¹⁴ The ADB has also decided to increase its lending by fifty percent to expedite the process of reconstruction work in the country. The Bank aims to increase Sri Lanka's annual allocation to \$300 million in 2010 from \$200 million in order to support infrastructure projects in the north and the east.¹⁵

¹⁰ "Join nation building," *Daily News*, July 25, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/25/pol01.asp>

¹¹ "India assures highest support - Indian External Minister," *Daily News*, July 25, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/25/pol01.asp>

¹² "Another LTTE submarine found," *Daily News*, July 20, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/20/sec02.asp>

¹³ "Ambassador calls for new EU-SL relations," *Daily News*, July 20, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/20/news25.asp>

¹⁴ "Sri Lanka to get \$ 2.5 billion," *Daily News*, July 22, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/22/bus01.asp>

¹⁵ "ADB lending to go up to 50 percent," *Daily News*, July 24, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/07/24/news02.asp>

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA

- **Serbia reiterates its support for 'One-China' policy; Sino-Vietnamese military delegations meet, reiterate scope for enhanced cooperation; 'Peace Mission 2009' joint exercises between China and Russia begin; Revamped, bi-lingual website of PLA to be launched**

Jing Zhiyuan, member of the Central Military Commission and commander of the Second Artillery Force (SAF) visited Serbia during the week and met with Serbian Parliament President Slavica Djukic Dejanovic. Dejanovic on his part stated that consensus existed in Serbia on the 'One-China' policy and assured the visiting Chinese official that this policy was not subject to any change.¹⁶

Li Jinai, member of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and director of the General Political Department (GPD) of the PLA received a Vietnamese delegation led by Nguyen Tuan Dung, deputy director of the General Political Department of the Vietnamese People's Army on July 22. Both officials reiterated the historical relationship between the two countries and stated that there was scope for increased mutual cooperation.¹⁷

China and Russia started a five-day joint military exercise, 'Peace Mission-2009,' on July 22. The exercises were inaugurated in the city of Khabarovsk in the Russian Far East in a ceremony attended by Chen Bingde, chief of the General Staff of the PLA and his Russian counterpart Nikolai Makarov. The exercises were meant to augment the capabilities of the troops of the two countries in the fight against terrorism.¹⁸

Reports noted that the PLA would launch its revamped, bi-lingual website on August 1, 2009, the 82nd anniversary of the founding of the 2.3-million-strong PLA. The launch is a part of the ongoing efforts to make the PLA more transparent, accessible and to have a greater focus on 'public diplomacy.'¹⁹

JAPAN

- **Tokyo announces new sanctions targeting North Korean individuals and companies; FM Nakasone meets with Clinton at Phuket, urges closer cooperation in dealing with the North Korean nuclear issue; PM Aso dissolves Lower House on July 20; Pentagon Press Secretary urges Japan to consider F-35 instead of F-22; Japan ratifies international treaty banning cluster bombs**

¹⁶ "Serbian Parliament President Meets Jing Zhiyuan," *PLA Daily*, July 22, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-07/22/content_4001535.htm

¹⁷ "Li Jinai Meets Vietnamese Guests," *PLA Daily*, July 23, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/2009-07/23/content_4001947.htm

¹⁸ "China, Russia Kick off Joint Anti-terror Exercise," *PLA Daily*, July 22, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-07/22/content_4001547.htm

¹⁹ "New Website Gives Insight into Army," *China Daily*, July 23, 2009, at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2009-07/23/content_8461310.htm

Tokyo announced that it would freeze assets of 5 North Korean individuals, four companies and a government bureau in compliance with new UN sanctions for their alleged links to Pyongyang's nuclear programme.²⁰

Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone, after his meeting with the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Phuket, Thailand on the sidelines of the ASEAN meeting, urged closer cooperation in dealing with the North Korean nuclear issue. He also discussed with his Chinese counterpart, Yang Jiechi the crucial role that Beijing should play as a close ally of Pyongyang.²¹

In domestic developments, Prime Minister Taro Aso finally dissolved the lower house on July 20 ahead of general elections slated for August 30. Public surveys have indicated that his ruling Liberal Democratic Party could lose to the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan.²²

Reports meanwhile have suggested that President Obama will veto a \$680 billion defense spending bill for fiscal year 2010 if lawmakers insist on setting aside funding for more F-22 fighters than the Defense Department has requested. The move indicates the strong resolve of Obama to suspend production of the F-22, which Japan was hoping to make the mainstay of its air force in the near future. Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morell on his part stated that the F-22 would be expensive for Japan even if the US lifted a ban on its export and urged Tokyo to consider purchasing the F-35 fighter instead.²³

In other developments, Japan has ratified an international treaty banning the use and stockpiling of cluster bombs, bringing the number of signatory countries to 14.²⁴

KOREAN PENINSULA

- **DPRK threatens to inflict "unimaginably deadly blows to the US imperialists and the South Korean puppets"; UN adds more North Korean entities and individuals to sanctions list; Clinton: Major powers will not reward any North Korean "half-measures"**

The DPRK's official KCNA news agency stated that it will "deal unimaginably deadly blows to the US imperialists and the South Korean puppets if they ignite a war."²⁵ The North's warning came even as the UN committee added a number

²⁰ "Japan to freeze North Korean assets: spokesman," *Associate Foreign Press*, July 23, 2009, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h52igZuHlaxygYNRfDNZe10Whveg>

²¹ "Nakasone, Clinton agree to cooperate on N. Korea," *Associated Press*, July 22, 2009 at http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D99JHBHG1&show_article=1

²² "Aso dissolves lower house for Aug. 30 poll, LDP facing uphill battle," *News on Japan*, July 21, 2009, at <http://newsonjapan.com/html/newsdesk/article/74919.php>

²³ "Obama to wield veto over F-22s," *Japan Times*, July 17, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090717a4.html>

²⁴ "Japan ratifies cluster bomb treaty," *Japan Times*, July 16, 2009, at <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090716b3.html>

²⁵ "DPRK vows to fight back against U.S., South Korea," *Xinhua*, July 26, 2009, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/26/content_11774933.htm

of North Korean individuals and firms to a sanctions blacklist. These included five individuals and firms and two weapons-related items.²⁶

US Secretary of State Clinton, in an interview with NBC's 'Meet the Press', reiterated that major powers wanted North Korea to return to negotiations over its nuclear program but added that they would not reward any "half-measures."²⁷

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Yudhoyono re-elected as president of Indonesia; Thailand hosts 42nd ASEAN Ministerial meeting and 16th ARF; Clinton urges US and ASEAN countries to work together to solve common problems; Myanmar criticises calls for release of Suu Kyi, terms it as interference in its internal affairs; Burma moves troops to country's north, as KIA rejects proposal to transform itself into a border security force under junta's control; APEC economic and trade ministers meet in Singapore**

In Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was re-elected as President, securing nearly 61 per cent of the vote, ahead of his nearest rival and ex-president Megawati Sukarnoputri, who secured 26.8 per cent. Vice President Jusuf Kalla could manage 12.4 per cent of the vote.²⁸

Thailand hosted the 42nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, post-Ministerial Conference and the 16th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Phuket. Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva inaugurated the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on July 20. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers among other initiatives endorsed the establishment of a landmark regional commission on human rights.²⁹

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged the US and ASEAN member states to work together to deal with emerging challenges in the present day world. On the Myanmar situation, she stated that the US looked forward to work with the ASEAN member states to bring about a positive change in the positions held by the ruling junta and called for the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.³⁰ Mrs. Clinton's comments were severely criticized by the junta as "interference" in the internal affairs of the country. In a report published by the state-run newspaper, the authorities termed Clinton's call for the release of Suu

²⁶ "UN sets new North Korea sanctions," *BBC News*, July 16, 2009, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8154691.stm>

²⁷ "Clinton urges North Korea to return to talks," *Reuters*, July 26, 2009, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-41324220090726>

²⁸ "Indonesia President re-elected," *Bangkok Post*, July 24, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/150015/indonesian-president-re-elected>

²⁹ "Southeast Asia approve human rights body," *The Jakarta Post*, July 20, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/07/20/southeast-asia-approve-human-rights-body.html-0>

³⁰ "U.S.-ASEAN Need to strengthen Ties-Clinton," *Bernam.com*, July 21, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=426889

Kyi as a part of the US grand strategy to replace the present junta with a puppet government.³¹

Reports noted that the Burmese Army was transporting more troops to the country's north, where the insurgent group, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) had a strong presence. The move followed the rejection by the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) of the ruling junta's proposal to transform its armed wing, the KIA, into a Border Guard Force (BGF), which would function as a border security force under the control and administration of the junta.³²

In other developments, a two-day meeting of economic and trade ministers of APEC was held in Singapore from July 21-22. Measures to resist protectionism in developed countries and increased support for the multinational trading system were two of the central themes of the gathering.³³

C. WEST ASIA

IRAN

- **Murli Deora: India will not bow to any pressure on IPI pipeline; Iran's Vice President removed from office on account of his supposed pro-Israeli views; Ahmadinejad removes 4 ministers ahead of cabinet formation; Clinton asserts that Iran would not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon**

Petroleum Minister Murli Deora told the Rajya Sabha that India will not bow to any external pressure regarding its participation in the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipe line. He stated that some "outstanding" issues still remained for the finalization of the gas price with Iran. Deora added that India was sure that the IPI project was good for all the three parties involved.³⁴

President Ahmadinejad informed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that Esfandiar Rahim-Mashaii had resigned from his post of vice-president on the orders of the Leader. Khamenei had indicated that appointing Rahim-Mashaii as first vice president was not in the interests of the government and could cause "rift and disappointment" among supporters of the government. There was opposition to Rahim-Mashaii's elevation to the post of vice-president on account of his statements in 2008 in which he stated that Iran is a "friend of the Israeli people."³⁵

³¹ "Myanmar criticizes Clinton following ASEAN Meeting," *The Jakarta Post*, July 26, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/07/26/myanmar-criticizes-clinton-following-asean-meeting.html>

³² "Junta beefs up military presence in Kachin state," *Burma News International*, July 20, 2009, at <http://www.bnionline.net/news/mizzima/6695-junta-beefs-up-military-presence-in-kachin-state.html>

³³ "APEC Trade Ministers Meet to Tackle Economic Woes," *Bernama.com*, July 21, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=426862

³⁴ "India will not bow to pressure on Iran gas pipeline," *Tehran Times*, July 21, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=199204

³⁵ "President writes to Leader on first VP resignation," *Tehran Times*, July 26, 2009, at http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=199553

Ahead of the formation of the new government, Mr. Ahmadinejad also sacked four ministers. These included the Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad-Hossein Saffar-Harandi, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Mohammad Jahromi, Health Minister Kamran Baqeri Lankarani and Intelligence Minister Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei.³⁶

In other developments, US Secretary of State Clinton asserted that Iran would not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon and reiterated Washington's commitment to protect Israel from any threat posed by Tehran. Clinton's remarks on extending a "defense umbrella" over the region in case Iran went nuclear also annoyed Israel. She reiterated that Washington was committed to a "diplomatic path" in dealing with Iran.³⁷

IRAQ

- **Emergency declared in Ramadi after two successive bomb attacks; al-Maliki expresses unhappiness over alleged meeting of US officials with Iraqi insurgent groups in Istanbul in March 2008; Ruling party leads in Kurdish election**

Authorities in Iraq's western city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province declared a state of emergency and imposed a vehicle ban after two successive bomb attacks in the city killed three people and wounded 13 others. A vehicle ban was also imposed in Falluja, Anbar's second biggest city.³⁸

Reports noted that PM al-Maliki expressed his unhappiness to President Obama regarding an alleged meeting of US officials with representatives of the 'Iraqi resistance movement' in March 2008 in Istanbul. Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told reporters in Washington that the Iraqi government found it "shocking" that US officials met with these people and added that Baghdad was investigating the issue. A State Department spokesman confirmed that the Istanbul meeting had taken place with Baghdad's knowledge, and was part of reconciliation efforts between Shiite and Sunni insurgents.³⁹

In other developments, over 80 per cent of eligible voters participated in the July 25 parliamentary and presidential elections in Iraqi Kurdistan. Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) stated that the preliminary results would be announced by July 27. The ruling parties – the Kurdish

³⁶ "Ahmadinejad sacks four Iran ministers," *Khaleej Times*, July 26, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July594.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁷ "Iran's nuclear pursuit is 'futile': Clinton," *Khaleej Times*, July 26, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July595.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁸ "Emergency declared in Iraq's Ramadi," *Khaleej Times*, July 21, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July466.xml§ion=middleeast

³⁹ "Maliki upset at US contacts with Iraqi insurgents," *Khaleej Times*, July 24, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July525.xml§ion=middleeast

Democratic Party (KDP), led by Kurdish President Masoud Barzani, and the Democratic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani – competed against alliances of smaller parties. The opposition parties on their part charged that voting irregularities will hurt their chances.⁴⁰

II. MISSILES, SPACE, AND NUCLEAR REVIEW

MISSILES AND SPACE

▪ **TSA signed during Clinton’s visit**

During the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, agreements enhancing increased cooperation in space arena were agreed upon. These included the Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA), which allows ISRO to launch satellites with American components. The agreement is seen as the first step towards facilitating the launch of satellites owned by the US government or academic institutions and satellites owned by space agencies owned by third countries.⁴¹

The agreement requires India to accept end-use and monitoring of spacecraft with American components. TSA however does not allow ISRO to launch US-built commercial satellites or commercial satellites built by third countries with US components. The launch of the latter set of satellites requires a separate agreement called the Commercial Space Launch Agreement (CSLA).

NUCLEAR REVIEW

▪ **PM launches INS Arihant in Visakhapatnam**

PM Manmohan Singh launched India’s indigenously-built nuclear-powered submarine 'INS Arihant' during the week. The 6000-tonne submarine will first be put on sea trials for two years before being commissioned into full service. With this launch, India has joined the exclusive club of countries like the US, Russia, China, France and the UK with similar capabilities. Reports noted that the launch of the submarine is a vital component of India’s nuclear triad as New Delhi has already declared a ‘no first use’ doctrine.⁴²

⁴⁰ “First results due Monday in Iraqi Kurd election,” *Khaleej Times*, July 26, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2009/July/middleeast_July_596.xml§ion=middleeast

⁴¹ “Space agreement to help launch ‘India-U.S. 3.0,’” *The Hindu*, July 20, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/20/stories/2009072057530100.htm>

⁴² “PM launches INS Arihant in Visakhapatnam,” July 26, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/City/Hyderabad/PM-launches-INS-Arihant-in-Visakhapatnam/articleshow/4820660.cms>

III. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEW

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **P. Chidambaram: Govt. will be alert against the menace of terrorism**

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, replying to a discussion in the Lok Sabha on July 22, stated that the government will be alert against the menace of terrorism emanating from across the border. He added that India's objectives were three-fold - raise the level of preparedness to meet any terror threat; respond swiftly and decisively to any terror threat or any terror attack; and guard against terror.

On Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Chidambaram stated that the Army would continue to be deployed whenever there was a terrorist threat. He clarified that he had never made any statement implying that the Army should be withdrawn. On the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, he stated that the government would revisit the issue at an appropriate time.⁴³

NORTHEAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Reports: Maoists have trained ULFA insurgents; Security forces seize explosives from ULFA hideout; Manipur CM: More than 30 militant groups operating in state**

Reports indicated that the Assam police have issued an alert about the plans of a 300-member group to sneak into the State and carry out subversive activities after undergoing training by the Maoists in Jharkhand. A government official stated that these members, most of them belonging to an organisation ostensibly espousing the cause of farmers (and also believed to be a frontal organisation of ULFA), were from Golaghat and Nagaon districts of the state. The official admitted that there were reports of ULFA striking a deal with the Maoists.⁴⁴

Security forces meanwhile seized a detailed sketch of Dibrugarh airport, along with a large quantity of explosives, from an ULFA hideout in a dense jungle in Assam's Dibrugarh district on July 20. Some other sketches, of bridges and oil and gas pipelines, were also seized at the hideout at Seesabil under Tingkhong police station.⁴⁵

Manipur chief minister O. Ibobi Singh informed the State Assembly on July 20 that there were more than 30 militants groups in Manipur, including the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Liberation Army (PLA), Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), and People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), among other outfits.⁴⁶

⁴³ "Army to stay in J&K: PC," *Daily Excelsior*, July 23, 2009, at <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09july23/news1.htm#3>

⁴⁴ "Alert on ULFA-Maoist nexus," *Telegraph*, July 26, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090725/jsp/northeast/story_11278363.jsp

⁴⁵ "Forces bust ULFA, NSCN attack plans," *Telegraph*, July 21, 2009, at http://telegraphindia.com/1090721/jsp/northeast/story_11259708.jsp

⁴⁶ "30 UG groups, 10 KCP factions : CM," *Sangai Express*, July 21, 2009, at http://thesangaexpress.com/News_pages/Local_page-05.html