



# CYBERNOTES

## India-U.S. Nuclear Pact a Done Deal

On Oct. 3, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in New Delhi, where she and Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee celebrated completion of the U.S.-India Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy that was signed into law by President Bush after House and Senate approval.

The new agreement lifts the international sanctions on India, making the country eligible to access nuclear power technology and fuel from the international market for the first time in more than 35 years. New Delhi has never signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and maintains an independent nuclear weapons program. But unlike some signatories to the NPT, New Delhi's nonproliferation record is spotless.

Arguably one of the most significant accomplishments of the Bush administration, the pact in effect ends what former Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh called the "nuclear apartheid regime" and acknowledges India as the world's sixth nuclear power. However, opponents of the agreement, such as the Arms Control Association ([www.armscontrol.org](http://www.armscontrol.org)), argue that it will prove to be a setback, if not a body blow to nonproliferation efforts.

"I look forward to a new strategic partnership with India that will provide global leadership in the years ahead," Rice said in an Oct. 2 statement. The agreement "reflects a recognition of India's emergence on

**W**e have before us a great [economic] opportunity. We have ample reason to be optimistic. Today's uncertainties will pass. The challenges before us are our creation. Therefore we can solve them, together. By acting wisely and responsibly, we will set the stage for a new era of global prosperity, more widely and equitably shared.

— United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Sept. 23, [www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statements\\_full.asp?statID=322](http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statements_full.asp?statID=322)

the global stage," she said, adding that it "will also enhance our global nonproliferation efforts."

"This is part of a transforming world order, which we want to shape to our advantage," Ashley Tellis, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who has been closely involved with the nuclear deal since its inception, explained in a Sept. 28 interview with the *Wall Street Journal* ([www.livemint.com/2008/09/28220522/De-facto-not-de-jure--India.html](http://www.livemint.com/2008/09/28220522/De-facto-not-de-jure--India.html)).

The deal was finally completed after years of delay and debate in both New Delhi and Washington — including the near-collapse of the Manmo-

han Singh government when opponents withdrew their support in July. In July, the International Atomic Energy Agency approved India's inspection plan for its civilian reactors. And in September, following intense lobbying and an attempt by China to derail it, the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group waived the ban on India, paving the way for U.S. congressional approval of the deal and opening the way for major business opportunities.

For background, see the Web site of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace ([www.carnegieendowment.org/](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/)) and BBC News ([http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7647689.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7647689.stm)). For a chronology of the twists and turns the deal took, see Reuters ([www.alertnet.org/the\\_news/newsdesk/SP308692.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/the_news/newsdesk/SP308692.htm)). The Arms Control Association has a collection of documents and reports at <http://legacy.armscontrol.org/projects/india/>.

## Think-Tanks in the Middle East and North Africa

Of the 214 think-tanks in the 21-nation region of the Middle East and North Africa, nearly half are located in Israel, Egypt and Turkey. But while in Israel and Turkey security-related think-tanks make up 28-30 percent of all such organizations, in Egypt only one out of a total of 23 focuses on security. The most common areas of research for the region's think-tanks are domestic and international economics, trailed slightly by security studies. By contrast, health, education and women's studies do not appear to



be widely covered.

These are some of the findings in “Middle East and North Africa Think-Tanks,” the latest product of the Foreign Policy Research Institute’s Think-Tanks and Civil Societies Program ([www.fpri.org/research/thinktanks](http://www.fpri.org/research/thinktanks)). The groups were studied over a two-year period through surveys and Web-site analyses that sought to determine their structural orientation, areas of research, research priorities and methods of operation.

This FPRI program aims to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge, information and associational energy that exists in public policy research organizations so that it can support self-sustaining economic, social and political progress.

For the past six years, the program has worked to lay the basis for a collaborative effort to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy-making and strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

Look for the program’s “2008 Global Go-To Think-Tanks Report” in the January-February 2009 issue of *Foreign Policy* magazine ([www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com)).

### A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World

A new report, “Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World,” that recommends an overhaul of American strategy toward the Muslim world to reverse the spread of terrorism and extremism is making its way through Congress and political circles in Washington ([www.sfcg.org/Programmes/us/us\\_engagement.html](http://www.sfcg.org/Programmes/us/us_engagement.html)).

Significantly, after 18 months of work, the diverse, nonpartisan group of American leaders who examined the deterioration of relations between

### 50 Years Ago...

Last year I made quite a lengthy report on the status of the proposed television series on the Foreign Service, which I indicated might actually be on the air in 1958. Unfortunately, there have been many delays. ... The pilot film is only now being produced, in Europe. Then negotiations will begin to sign up a commercial sponsor. In short, we still do not know for sure whether there is to be a series of this kind or not.

Aside from these practical difficulties, there is the continuing problem of reconciling the commercial TV standard of entertainment with a fair picture of what actually goes on in the Foreign Service.

—E. Allan Lightner Jr., Annual Report of AFSA, presented to the association’s general meeting on Oct. 2, 1958; November 1958 *FSJ*



Washington and the Muslim world during the Bush administration concluded that the negative perceptions were generated more by U.S. policies than by Muslim religious or cultural beliefs. If policies shift, perceptions are likely to change, too, the report says.

The U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project was supported by Search for Common Ground ([www.sfcg.org](http://www.sfcg.org)) and the Consensus Building Institute ([www.cbuilt.org](http://www.cbuilt.org)), two organizations that specialize in building consensus on controversial public issues. It included Democrats like former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and two former Republican congressmen, Vin Weber and Steve Bartlett, as well as Thomas Dine, a former executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and Ingrid Mattson, president of the Islamic Society of North America.

The group made four basic recommendations: first, rely on diplomacy as the “primary tool”; second, promote better governance in authoritarian Muslim countries that are American allies, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt; third, help create jobs and economic development in Muslim countries; and, fourth, foster exchange programs to educate people in the Muslim world about the United States, and vice versa.

The report also calls on the next president to use his inaugural address to signal a shift in approach, immediately renouncing the use of torture and appointing a special envoy within the first three months to jump-start negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Members of Congress and the two presidential campaigns have been briefed on the report, and Senator Richard Lugar, R-Ind., has sent it to his colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee with a letter saying it contains “constructive recommendations on how we can approach this pressing concern in a bipartisan framework.”

### RAND/AAD: A Blueprint for Building U.S. Soft Power

In preparing for possible future military interventions, the U.S. needs to substantially increase resources for the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development, and military-civilian efforts must be integrated from top to bottom, according to a new report by a high-level panel of 67 veteran military, Foreign Service, Civil Service and private-sector leaders.

Sponsored by the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit research organization, and the American Academy of Diplomacy, “Integrating Instruments of



Power and Influence: Lessons Learned and Best Practices” was issued on Oct. 2 ([www.rand.org/pubs/conf\\_proceedings/2008/RAND\\_CF251.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2008/RAND_CF251.pdf)). The 79-page comprehensive report defines the problem and presents detailed proposals that — except for the call to increase funding for nonmilitary national security activities — can be implemented without either changing the National Security Act or enacting major legislation.

“These recommendations offer practical guidelines for the nation’s next administration to deal effectively with the kinds of U.S. military interventions — and their aftermath — that have become prevalent,” said Robert Hunter, former U.S. ambassador to NATO, the report’s lead author and a senior adviser at RAND. Hunter adds that the report also serves as a blueprint for implementing proposals made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to create civilian capabilities that are sufficiently robust to help offset the need for military force.

Co-chairing the study with Hunter

were Edward W. Gnehm Jr., a retired FSO and former ambassador who now teaches at the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University, and General George Joulwan, former commander, U.S. Europe Command and NATO’s 11th Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Besides calling for Foreign Service positions at State and USAID to be increased well beyond the 1,100 called for in the Bush administration’s FY 09 budget request, the report recommends balancing the skewed 17:1 ratio of military spending to nonmilitary spending for national security. It also recommends delegating spending authority to the field level, requiring that civilians and military officers gain extensive cross-agency experience in one another’s disciplines and radically enhancing training for both military and civilian personnel in foreign cultures, history and languages. ■

*This edition of Cybernotes was compiled by Senior Editor Susan Brady Maitra.*

**Site of the Month: [www.whyfiles.org](http://www.whyfiles.org)**

With interactive fun for kids and resources for teachers (and parents), *The Why Files* explores the science, math and technology underlying the news of the day, and presents these topics in a clear, accessible and accurate manner. Recent posts addressed the facts behind the toxic baby-formula crisis in China, the role of testosterone in the stock market and research on lie detection (How can you tell if a politician is lying?).

Besides a new story each week, there is a biweekly column by science reporter Tom Siegfried, a series of interactive science animations, “Cool Science Images” and a series of Teacher Activity Pages linked to the national science standards. Kids with more questions are directed to the five Web sites that entertain individual questions. The site’s archive is a gold mine, as well.

Based at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, *The Why Files* was launched in 1996 as part of the National Institute for Science Education, with funding from the National Science Foundation. Since 1998, it has been supported through the university’s graduate school. The site has been used by researchers to study Web use and learning in science, and has won numerous awards for excellence in science journalism and achievement in online and broadband motion picture production.

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