

We are very keen that the mandate given to the coalition forces should not be exceeded during these operations and there should be no violation of the mandate given. The prohibition on the use of chemical weaponry was emphasized, and we also found absolute unanimity on the question of nuclear weapons, which we all said was a crime against humanity, and a warning should be sounded that nobody should ever think in terms of using these weapons of mass destruction.

The question of various consequences of war, and the extent of bad effects on the countries who have gathered here was also discussed, and it was evident that the main thrust of the discussion was how to ensure the vacation of aggression and cessation of hostilities which should be a simultaneous process, it cannot be otherwise, this is what emerged from the deliberations.

Apart from this immediate need for vacation of aggression and cessation of hostilities, there is also a need to immediately start a process of durable peace in West Asia, and also to see that the peace that is established is not disturbed in the future, and that a peace conference under U.N. auspices takes place which should discuss particularly the question of Palestine and the difficulties that Palestinian people have been facing for long, long years. This also was an unanimous point, that was taken up. . . .

The doubt that had been expressed by several quarters, that in a unipolar world, the Non-Aligned Movement would lose its relevance—the meeting today proved that not only has the Movement not lost its relevance, but its effectiveness and need has been more effectively felt, and it is certainly going to play a very decisive role in bringing peace to West Asia.

Interview: Vidyacharan Shukla

North-South wars a matter of grave concern

During a meeting with several journalists in Belgrade, among them Hartmut Cramer and Mary Burdman from EIR, Indian Foreign Minister Vidyacharan Shukla answered the following questions on Feb. 13.

EIR: Was there any discussion of the much talked-about but so far undefined “new world order”? What is your personal opinion of the new world order stipulated by President Bush?

Shukla: I do not think that there was any particular mention of the new world order as such, but the post-crisis scenario was mentioned by some of us. I, for instance, said that we must pay attention, after the war is over, to what kind of situation is going to be created and how to deal with it.

On behalf of India, I emphasized two points: First, a

reasonable security setup, and then a peace conference on West Asian questions, including the Palestinian question. We did not go into economic reconstruction. I also mentioned various points on the huge destruction that has taken place in Iraq and Kuwait, who are both important members of the Non-Aligned Movement, and that destruction dictates for them to rebuild and bring them back to their former shape. This was what was discussed on the future of the area, but the new world order was not mentioned by anybody.

UPI: Was there a disagreement among participants in the meeting regarding the roots of the crisis itself, and on the question of whether a peace formula should be preceded by an Iraqi agreement to withdraw, or should be begun by an immediate cease-fire?

Shukla: Actually, most of the debate took place yesterday on these two points. Today, there was total unanimity on these points. The root cause of the crisis was identified as Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, and there was also total unanimity that there should be simultaneous declaration of intent to withdraw, and a cease-fire and cessation of hostilities.

EIR: Was there any proposal that the Non-Aligned Movement as a whole or the individual members should try to convoke a General Assembly meeting of the U.N., which would push for an immediate cease-fire?

Shukla: That was not discussed. What was discussed was, how should we proceed after this meeting, and the idea was, informally. There should be a Bureau meeting at the Ministers' level as soon as possible.

BBC: What will be the next steps?

Shukla: We hope that peace will be established in West Asia; the main and immediate task is to establish peace in West Asia. Then there will be an effort to set up a peacekeeping force under the auspices of the U.N. and the peace conference under U.N. auspices. These are the next steps to be taken.

EIR: Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark was just in Baghdad, and he said that the carpet bombing is causing a tragedy. King Hussein of Jordan gave a speech Feb. 6 saying that what is happening in Iraq could spill over not only to the whole region, but to the entire Third World. More and more it is being argued that this war could be the prelude to a North-South war, directed against the entire South. Do you see that this could happen?

Shukla: During such tragedies, all kinds of fears are expressed and various apprehensions come out. There is no doubt that damage to civilian life and property has been caused by this war, and it is a matter of very, very great regret to all people of the world. We are hoping that this will be stopped as quickly as possible.

This particular matter has to be looked into further. When

the mandate was given to the coalition forces to go and get the aggression vacated from Kuwait, it was specifically for that purpose only. If you say, "all other means," or "other means," that couldn't mean the destruction of civilian property or huge amounts of civilians: women, children, old people, helpless people who are trapped there, including a large number of Palestinians and Egyptians and others who are working in Iraq and Kuwait in addition to the local people. It is a matter of grave concern that it shouldn't take the shape that you are mentioning.

Interview: Ali Alatas

Non-Aligned new order different from Bush's

Hartmut Cramer and Mary Burdman of EIR interviewed Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on Feb. 13 in Belgrade, after the ministerial meeting of 15 countries of the Non-Aligned Movement.

EIR: Mr. Alatas, are you satisfied with the outcome of this meeting?

Alatas: Yes, I am satisfied with the outcome. As you know, it was an informal meeting, an action oriented meeting. And therefore I am satisfied with the results.

EIR: Did your country have its own proposal?

Alatas: Yes, we had our own proposal, as other countries had their proposals; and these have been discussed of course.

EIR: How do you explain the fact that there was no formal statement made at the end?

Alatas: As I said, this was an informal meeting, and there was no necessity for it. But the results will be acted upon.

EIR: The chairman of this meeting, Yugoslavian Foreign Minister Loncar, said yesterday that the new world order, as stipulated by U.S. President George Bush, was not discussed at this meeting. Now, because it seems obvious that Mr. Bush's new world order is totally different from the concept of a just new world economic order for which the Non-Aligned Movement has fought for so long. . . .

Alatas: Yes, oh yes, we are talking about two different things. . . .

EIR: Wouldn't it therefore be appropriate for the Non-Aligned Movement to say clearly what it thinks about the

new world order of Mr. Bush?

Alatas: We have already spoken out, especially since the Belgrade conference [of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1989], for a new world order in which each country could make its contributions. But I think this war, which is a tragic war, has changed all that.

Interview: James Herat

Gulf war an economic disaster for Non-Aligned

Mary Burdman and Hartmut Cramer interviewed Sri Lankan Foreign Minister James Herat in Belgrade on Feb. 13.

EIR: How do you view the way U.S. President George Bush is conducting this war?

Herat: The issue is not what the United States does, it is what the United Nations can do about the crisis.

EIR: Can you tell us what has been the economic effects of this war on the Non-Aligned nations?

Herat: Disastrous! Disastrous! Specifically, for Sri Lanka, it has affected us immensely, in the sense that all our nationals have to get back. We had 100,000 nationals there, who were sending back a great deal of foreign exchange, and the sanctions have stopped all our trade with Iraq.

EIR: Was the economic issue discussed by the Non-Aligned at this meeting?

Herat: No, the economic crisis never came up as such, as an issue. The only thing is that we want to bring peace to the region.

EIR: Do you think that the Non-Aligned will be taking the issue up?

Herat: Yes.

EIR: For there to be peace in the Middle East, there must be an economic solution—

Herat: Political, political solution.

EIR: What is your view of George Bush's new world order? Is this completely different from what the Non-Aligned Movement has been fighting for the just new economic order?

Herat: It has to be a just economic order.

EIR: What about Bush's new world order?

Herat: Well, let us see if that will come.