

Press story about India launching airstrikes into Kashmir against infiltrators. I think we have a lot to learn yet about what specifically took place. Those details are sketchy and not coming in at the present time.

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INDIA LAUNCHES AIR STRIKES IN KASHMIR
AGAINST INFILTRATORS

(By Arthur Max)

DRAS, INDIA (AP).—Indian air force jets and helicopters fired on suspected guerrillas in the disputed Kashmir province today, marking the most serious escalation of fighting in the region since India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons last year. Pakistan charged that Indian aircraft bombed its territory in the raids today and an army spokesman said the country is ready for "all eventualities."

"We think it is a very grave escalation and Pakistan armed forces reserves the right to respond," said Brigadier Rashid Quereshi, a military spokesman told The Associated Press. India said the attacks occurred solely on its own territory and that they were aimed at what it called Afghan mercenaries supported by Pakistani forces. The forces had moved into the Indian-controlled Himalayan region earlier this month and posed a threat to Indian supply lines in the Himalayan state, Indian officials said.

"This is the start of operations and they will continue until our defense forces occupy our territories. Any escalation of this conflict will be entirely the responsibility of Pakistan," the Defense Ministry said in a statement in New Delhi.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz said that Pakistan knew nothing about the infiltrators. "No one knows where they come from and who they are," he said.

Quereshi said the army rejected Indian claims. He said the Pakistan army suspects India wants to occupy Pakistan territory in that area.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, which is divided between them by a U.N.-monitored cease-fire line. More than 15,000 people have been killed in fighting between rebels and security forces in Indian-held Kashmir in the last 10 years.

Pakistan and India, which were partitioned when they gained independence from Britain in 1947, tested nuclear weapons in May 1998, prompting fears of a nuclear arms race in the subcontinent. Both countries claim all of Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of sending militants across the border.

A Pakistani army spokesman said the Indian allegations that elite troops were aiding militants was "complete rubbish."

Indian Maj. Gen Joginder Jaswant Singh told reporters in New Delhi that the infiltrators have taken up positions four miles inside India in the Dras, Batalik, Kaksar and Mashkok mountains of northern Kashmir.

Intelligence reports, backed by photos taken by Indian satellites, showed at least 600 infiltrators, Singh said. The reports also said they have anti-aircraft missiles, radar, snowmobiles and sophisticated communications equipment.

The air force joined the operation because the infiltrators had occupied positions at altitudes of up to 16,000 feet, said Air Commodore Subash Bhojwani, director of offensive operations.

In Dras, 100 miles from the state capital of Srinagar, Indian army officers said the target of today's attack was some 70 infiltrators who had entrenched themselves on the slopes

of the snowcapped hills, looking down at Indian army convoys, 2,700 feet below.

Their command of the heights handicapped Indian soldiers trying to evict them, officers told The Associated Press.

Army officers in the area said the infiltrators must have taken months to occupy the posts. They said Indian forces could take three to six months to clear them.

The attacks were carried out within Indian-occupied regions, Indian Brig. Mohan Bhandari said. Troops were expected to take over the intruders' positions once they retreat, officials said.

The exchange of mortar and heavy artillery fire in the Kargil and Dras regions has left at least 160 people dead, Bhandari said. Thousands of residents of the region have fled to safe villages along the Suru River.

The attack came a day after Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said all steps including airstrikes would be taken to push back the infiltrators. Vajpayee said he warned his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, to withdraw the intruders in a telephone conversation Monday.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to simply note again that we held a hearing yesterday on what is taking place in India and on military and political issues. The United States needs to broaden its relationship with India. We have a broad-based relationship with China which has been strained and stressed. China is an authoritarian country. India is a democracy. There are a number of places that we are sanctioning India where we don't sanction China at all. Yet these are comparable-sized countries. One has a democratic tradition, the other an authoritarian. There are a number of problems in China that we aren't experiencing with India.

We need to broaden this relationship with India and with Pakistan. It is just that at the present time, given what has just taken place in the escalating of tension in this subcontinent by Indian military forces, I don't feel comfortable offering this amendment.

I look forward to working in good faith with all of my colleagues to address the United States-South Asian relationship. I note to Members of the Senate that we will be holding hearings in the Foreign Relations Committee to look further into what we need to do in building this stronger relationship.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I have 10 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator may proceed.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR
FORCED LABOR IN AN AMERICAN
COMMONWEALTH

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to call your attention to a scandal in an American commonwealth. It is a scandal that involves forced labor and sex trade workers. It's not a pretty picture. It is a picture of a tropical paradise destroyed by greed and corruption.

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, foreign workers have been imported in mass to assemble goods for export to the United States. Taking advantage of loopholes in our immigration and labor laws, foreign businessmen use the Mariana Islands as a base to export garments to the United States. These foreign businessmen pay no export taxes, and their goods are not subject to textile quotas. Their workers are paid below minimum wage levels, if paid at all, and often live in deplorable conditions.

Women from Asia and Russia are imported with the promise of high paying jobs in the United States only to find themselves marooned with no means of escape, forced to work as prostitutes in the booming Mariana sex trade.

This long-running scandal has been exposed once again by the Global Survival Network. This American-based nongovernmental organization which uncovers human rights violations sent an undercover team to the CNMI to gather evidence on the continued use of forced labor in the commonwealth. They have just issued their report which was the subject of an ABC News segment on "20/20." If you did not see the television broadcast, please read the report which I am sending to every Senator.

Entitled "Trapped: Human Trafficking for Forced Labor in The Commonwealth of The Northern Mariana Islands (a U.S. Territory)," the report demonstrates in disturbing detail the continued trafficking of humans for indentured labor in factories and sex trade emporiums in the Marianas. Implicating organized crime groups from the People's Republic of China, South Asia, and Japan, the report estimates that there are about 40,000 indentured workers in the CNMI, earning about \$160 million in profits for criminal syndicates.

Indentured workers are being used to manufacture ostensibly as "Made in the USA" garments for export to the United States. None of these goods are required to be shipped to the U.S. on U.S.-flag ships in accordance with the Jones Act. This duty-free, quota-free zone in which foreign workers produce high value goods at below minimum wage is an entirely legal scheme for Chinese and other foreign manufacturers to bypass American textile quotas.

The report also graphically details the increasing use of CNMI's loose immigration standards to make this former tropical paradise a major center for the booming Asian sex trade. Women from Asia and Russia are being lured to the Northern Marianas with promises of work opportunities in the United States only to find themselves imprisoned on islands from which there is no escape unless they agree to their employer's demands that they become prostitutes and sex hostesses. This sick trade in prostitution must be stopped.

Loopholes in the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 need to be

plugged as soon as possible. I hope you will join me in ending this deplorable situation in which men and women are being used virtually as slaves on an American commonwealth.

Their report makes many important recommendations. Let me call your attention to four key issues which the Congress could and should act upon this year:

Extend the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI;

Extend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to the CNMI;

Revoke the CNMI's ability to use the "Made in the USA label" unless more than 75 percent of the labor that goes into the manufacture of the garment comes from U.S. citizens and/or aliens lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence, and other appropriately legal individuals; and

Revoke the CNMI's ability to transport textile goods to the United States free of duties and quotas unless the garments meet the above criteria.

This week's report prepared by the Global Survival Network is not the first analysis raising concerns about conditions in the CNMI. In recent years, a chorus of criticism has surfaced about the Commonwealth.

For example, the Immigration and Naturalization Service reports that the CNMI has no reliable records of aliens who have entered the Commonwealth, how long they remain, and when, if ever, they depart. A CNMI official testified that they have "no effective control" over immigration in their island.

The bipartisan Commission on Immigration studied immigration and indentured labor in the CNMI. The Commission called it "antithetical to American values," and announced that no democratic society has an immigration policy like the CNMI. "The closest equivalent is Kuwait," the Commission found.

The Department of Commerce found that the territory has become "a Chinese province" for garment production.

The CNMI garment industry employs 15,000 Chinese workers, some of whom sign contracts that forbid participation in religious or political activities while on U.S. soil. China is exporting its workers, and its human rights policies, to the CNMI. Charges of espionage by China and security lapses in U.S. nuclear weapons labs have justifiably raised serious concerns in Congress. Every Member of Congress should be equally concerned with the imposition of Chinese human rights standards on American soil.

The CNMI is becoming an international embarrassment to the United States. We have received complaints from the Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh about immigration abuses and the treatment of workers.

Despite efforts by the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations to persuade the CNMI to correct these problems, the situation has only deteriorated.

After years of waiting for the CNMI to achieve reform, the time for pa-

tience has ended. Conditions in the CNMI are a looming political embarrassment to our country.

I urge the Senate to respond by enacting S. 1052, bipartisan reform legislation introduced by my colleagues on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Chairman MURKOWSKI and Senator BINGAMAN.

I urge the Senate to move on this measure as quickly as we can.

Ms. COLLINS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1124 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, are we in morning business, and are there time limits?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business until 10:15. The Senator is authorized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. GORTON. I thank the Chair.

MICROSOFT VERSUS DOJ

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, what a difference a year makes. One year ago last week, the United States Government filed a Sherman Antitrust lawsuit against the Microsoft Corporation. This anniversary is a good time to review that lawsuit and to see how radically the universe of competition has changed in just twelve months.

I am not at all unbiased. I believe that the Government was dead wrong in bringing this lawsuit. I believe that the lawsuit is bad for consumers, bad for technological innovation, and bad for a marvelous company that is headquartered in my State.

But even an independent analysis would conclude that the case that the Clinton administration brought twelve months ago bears little resemblance to the case it now argues. Since then the Government's case hasn't been tried in the courthouse as much as on the courthouse steps, bypassing the law and aimed directly at public opinion through a national media that delights in highlighting any Microsoft misstep even though it has no relation to any harm to consumers.

The administration pursues this case for ideological reasons. This administration is filled with people who are offended by anyone or any company that is too successful. They believe that it is fundamentally unfair that Microsoft does so well. Much of the national media seems to share this view.

The administration has, however, miscalculated the views of a majority of Americans. Despite the Government's attempts to turn the public against Microsoft, it continues to be one of the most respected companies in America, and a majority of Americans believe Microsoft is right and the Gov-

ernment is wrong in this current lawsuit.

In a recent poll conducted by Citizens for a Sound Economy, 82% of those polled responded that Microsoft is good for American consumers. This survey also found that seven-out-of-ten American consumers feel that technology companies, not the Federal Government, should determine what features and applications are included in the software that consumers use with their computers.

Most Americans understand the value that Microsoft has brought. Microsoft products make nearly every business in America more competitive. The technology revolution fueled by Microsoft has made Americans secure in their jobs and made more families secure in their future.

Microsoft has also helped usher in the most important change occurring on earth: today the power of information has been taken from a few large centralized institutions and put directly into the hands of people in every town and village across our globe via the Internet.

The explosive growth of the Internet will eventually have a fundamental impact on every aspect of American life. A recent Newsweek article describes what it calls the "New Digital Galaxy" which allows consumers to operate devices from coffee-makers to dishwashers via Internet access. This will introduce a vastly different landscape in high-technology than exists today. Users will not necessarily use stationary Personal Computers to access information, but instead rely on Web phones, palmtop computers and similar technology that is advancing at an exponential rate.

The Internet has had the fastest adoption rate of any new medium in history. Over 50 million users were connected in the first five years. To reach the 50 million user milestone, it took 38 years for radio, 13 years for television, and 10 years for cable. On top of this initial growth, the number of users continues to increase by an astounding 37% per year. It is projected that 200 million people worldwide will be connected to the web in 1999, and half a billion by 2003. To handle the volume, the backbone of the Internet now doubles in capacity every 100 days.

Not only is the number of users increasing exponentially, but the amount of information available to them is also growing at an unprecedented level. The International Data Corporation estimates the number of web pages on the World Wide Web at 829 million at the end of 1998, and projects that the number grow by 75 percent to 1.45 billion by the end of 1999. By 2002, according to IDC, there will be 7.7 billion web pages.

What does this mean to the future of global commerce? Considering that 18 million consumers made purchases on the Internet in 1997, and that number is projected to increase to 128 million by 2002, the possibilities are limitless. In