

For Six Month Period Ending OCT 31 1999
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No. 5016

Washington World Group, Ltd.

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

2120 L Street, NW
Suite 208
Washington, DC 20037

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
 - (1) Residence address Yes No
 - (2) Citizenship Yes No
 - (3) Occupation Yes No

- (b) If an organization:
 - (1) Name Yes No
 - (2) Ownership or control Yes No
 - (3) Branch offices Yes No

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

N/A

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CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.
Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

N/A

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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N/A

- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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N/A

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

N/A

- (b) Have any employee or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
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N/A

- (c) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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N/A

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes No N/A

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?
 Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

Gov't of the State of Bahrain

5/22/99

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?
 Yes No

If yes, furnish following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

Embassy of India

4/26/99

2107 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20008

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

The Gov't of the Gambia

10. EXHIBITS A AND B

- (a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A³ Yes No
 Exhibit B⁴ Yes No

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? N/A Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

India - continued press outreach

Gambia - continued strategic consulting and media relations

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

N/A

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

N/A

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government, a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes No

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
5/26/99	Go'vt of the State of Bahrain	Consulting	\$15,000.00
8/26/99	Embassy of India	Consulting	10,000.00
			<u>\$25,000.00</u>
			Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes No N/A

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____ N/A

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
N/A			

^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

N/A

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
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N/A

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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N/A

(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
5/12/99	\$1,000.00	Democrat-SC	James E. Clyburn
5/21/99	1,000.00	Democrat-SC	James E. Clyburn
5/12/99	1,000.00	Democrat-MS	Bennie G. Thompson
5/21/99	1,000.00	Democrat-MS	Bennie G. Thompson
5/26/99	2,000.00	Hoosier PAC	Dan Burton
7/12/99	1,000.00	Democrat-CA	Barbara Lee
7/13/99	1,500.00	Republican-FL	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
9/21/99	1,000.00	Democratic-CA	Tom Lantos

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
Yes No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Gov't of the Republic of the Gambia
Embassy of India

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts
- Magazine or newspaper articles
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public Officials
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Legislators
- Editors
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Civic groups or associations
- Nationality groups
- Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:
 English Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No
(See attachments)

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes No N/A

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

March 14 2003

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

Edward T. von Kloberg

13 This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

The Herald



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNE

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1999

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Kashmir: First, Put Pressure on Pakistan to Pull Back

By Selig S. Harrison

WASHINGTON — On May 1, Pakistan launched a military offensive in Kashmir that has triggered an increasingly dangerous conflict with India. On May 24, the IMF, backed by the United States, disbursed \$51 million to Islamabad, the latest installment in a \$1.56 billion bailout package. Another \$100 million is scheduled to be released next month.

This business-as-usual policy makes no sense while the danger of escalation to a nuclear war is growing on the battlefield. It is time for the United States and the international aid agencies to recognize that uninterrupted economic assistance during a crisis of this magnitude subsidizes military adventurism and undermines diplomatic efforts to defuse the conflict.

Publicly, the United States and other aid donors should make clear that they put the blame on Pakistan for disrupting the peace. Privately, they should warn Islamabad that they will urge the international aid agencies to freeze further economic aid until Pakistan pulls back its forces inside Kashmir.

Nor is it merely another one of the cross-border skirmishes and artillery exchanges that have become commonplace along the cease-fire line. This time Pakistan is trying to alter the border forcibly by seizing and holding territory on the Indian side of the line. When Indian Foreign Secretary Jaswant Singh told his Pakistani counterpart, Sartaj Aziz, on June 12 that Islamabad should pull back its forces, Mr. Aziz responded that the border was "unclear" and needed to be renegotiated. Yet Pakistan formally agreed to the present border in an annex to its 1971 Simla agreement with India.

The principal reason advanced to justify uninterrupted economic aid is that without it Pakistan would fall into economic and political chaos, and that would open the way for the return of military rule, possibly under the control of Islamic fundamentalist elements in the officer corps. Washington used the same rationale to justify giving

Pakistan more lenient treatment than India in the application of economic sanctions after the nuclear tests conducted by the two countries in May last year. This rationale ignores the fact that Islamic fundamentalist groups have already infiltrated the top echelons of the Pakistani armed forces and intelligence agencies and have thus been able to push Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif into supporting the current Kashmir adventure.

The Pakistani journalist Ahmed Rashid has powerfully documented the penetration of the armed forces leadership by the extremist Lashkar-e-Taiba in the Far Eastern Economic Review. Recent information makes clear that the newly installed army chief of staff, General Pervez Musharraf, has long-standing links with several Islamic fundamentalist groups.

American officials privately acknowledge that India scored an intelligence coup when it intercepted a May 29 international telephone conversation between General Musharraf and the chief of the general staff

in Islamabad, Lieutenant General Mohammed Aziz. A transcript of the conversation leaves little doubt as to the authenticity of the intercept. It is replete with evidence indicating the grip of the armed forces over civilian politicians in Pakistan and the "freedom fighters." In one conversation General Aziz tells General Musharraf of an exchange in which an adviser to the prime minister expressed concern that the Islamic militants in the Kar-gil operation might force an escalation of the war. "We made clear," said General Aziz, "that there need be no such fear, since we have them by the scruff of the neck."

The immediate problem before the international community is not how to prevent an Islamic fundamentalist takeover but how to give Mr. Sharif leverage in intermeum policy conflicts with the fundamentalists over ending the war.

A credible threat of freezing economic aid would provide such leverage, especially since Islamabad has failed to meet

key economic performance targets and its IMF support is already hanging by a thread. Crony capitalism has burdened Pakistan's banking institutions with \$3.13 billion in bad debts. A freeze on multilateral economic aid should be accompanied by a continued freeze on U.S. military sales.

Looking beyond the immediate crisis, Pakistan and India should take steps to set the stage for an enduring settlement. Both should agree to convert the UN-demarcated cease-fire line into a permanent boundary.

India, for its part, must show Pakistan and the international community that it is prepared to deal more sensitively with Kashmiri aspirations than in the past, by negotiating increased autonomy in accordance with the recommendations of the study recently conducted under the aegis of Kashmiri Prime Minister Farooq Abdullah.

Only after these preconditions have been met would it be possible to pursue more ambitious proposals for a settlement that envisage withdrawal of Indian and Pakistani armed forces from both sides of the cease-fire line.

The writer, a fellow of The Century Foundation and a former South Asia correspondent for The Washington Post, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Los Angeles Times

Commentary

SUNDAY, JUN 20, 1999

PERSPECTIVE ON PAKISTAN

Use Economic Aid as Leverage for Cease-Fire



The U.S. and world aid agencies must pressure Islamabad to end its reckless clash with India.

By SELIG S. HARRISON

When fighting broke out between India and Pakistan in Kashmir six weeks ago, the United States reacted with pleas for dialogue and carefully avoided pinning blame on either side for disturbing the peace. But the evidence is now overwhelming that Islamabad has launched a long-planned military offensive designed to alter the strategic balance in the disputed Himalayan state.

As the danger of escalation to a nuclear confrontation grows, it is no longer enough for the United States to wring its hands. The time has come for the Clinton administration and the U.S.-backed international aid agencies that are financially propping up the Nawaz Sharif regime to apply determined diplomatic and economic pressures designed to get Islamabad to abandon its reckless adventure.

Privately, American officials acknowledge that the 600 "freedom fighters" who seized a network of strategic positions along the key Kargil sector of the Kashmir cease-fire line were organized and equipped by Pakistani intelligence agencies and consist primarily of Pakistani-trained Afghan mercenaries under the command of Pakistani military personnel.

What makes the present crisis so alarming is that it is not merely another one of the cross-border skirmishes and artillery exchanges that have become commonplace along the cease-fire line. This time, Pakistan is trying to alter the border forcibly by seizing and holding territory on the Indian side of the line in order to cut off a key road that gives India access to Ladakh and to Indian outposts in the tense Siachen Glacier region.

The Pakistani press is hailing the chief of the Pakistani general staff, Lt. Gen. Mohammed Azizuddin, as the master strategist who conceived the Kargil invasion plan during his tenure as commander of a Pakistani brigade in Kashmir in 1985. After becoming chief of staff last year, reported the weekly *Takbeer*, it was Azizuddin who lined up the military high command behind the plan and then confronted Prime Minister Sharif at the last minute with a virtual fait accompli.

India scored an intelligence coup when it intercepted a May 29 international telephone conversation be-

tween Azizuddin and the army chief of staff, Gen. Pervaiz Musharraf, then in Beijing. A transcript of the conversation is replete with evidence indicating the grip of the armed forces over both civilian politicians in Pakistan and the Kashmir "freedom fighters." In one conversation,

Azizuddin tells Musharraf of an exchange in which an advisor to the prime minister expressed concern that the Islamic militants in the Kargil operation might force an escalation of the war. "We made clear," said Azizuddin, "that there need be no such fear, since we have them by the scruff of the neck, and that whenever desired, we can regulate the situation."

Despite the growing intensity of the fighting, the U.S. and the international aid agencies have continued economic aid. On May 24, three weeks after the start of the conflict, the International Monetary Fund, backed by the United States, disbursed \$51 million in aid. Another \$100 million is scheduled to be released next month.

The principal argument advanced to justify this business-as-usual policy is that without continuing aid, Pakistan would fall into economic and political chaos, opening the way for the return of military rule, possibly under the control of Islamic fundamentalists. This rationale ignores the fact that Islamic fundamentalist groups have already infiltrated the top echelons of the Pakistani armed forces and intelligence agencies and have been able to push Sharif into supporting the current Kashmir adventure. Pakistani journalist Ahmed Rashid has documented the penetration of the armed forces leadership by the extremist Lashkar-e-Toiba.

The immediate problem before the international community is not how to prevent an Islamic fundamentalist takeover in Islamabad, but how to give Sharif leverage in internecine policy conflicts with the fundamentalists over ending the war. The most effective leverage would be a credible threat by the United States and the international aid agencies to freeze economic aid until Pakistan pulls back its forces from the Indian side of the cease-fire line.

Pakistan is in no position to ignore such a threat because it has failed to meet key economic performance targets and its IMF support is already hanging by a thread.

Selig S. Harrison, a fellow of The Century Foundation, is a former South Asia bureau chief for the Washington Post and the author of five books on South Asia and U.S. relations with the region.

The Washington Times

All quiet in Kashmir

By Viola Herms Drath

The guns may be silent along the military Line of Control that separates the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan-administered Azad Kashmir. Still, the confidence-building measures envisioned in the Lahore Agreement of February are stuck in traditional, negative patterns. Momentarily defused by President Clinton's call for the withdrawal of Pakistani Islamic fundamentalist militants from Indian territory, the Kashmir problem nevertheless is

here to stay. Though the specter of a nuclear confrontation scared both of South Asia's newest nuclear powers, the tension between the two countries continues to manifest itself in Indo-Pakistani military competition that is heightened by China's threat to India's security. With both sides conditioning talks on a number of demands, a solution of the Kashmir issue for now remains out of sight. Until confidence is restored in Islamabad's good will, India maintains there can be no negotiations. A contributing factor is India's upcoming elections, scheduled from Sept. 4 to Oct. 1 when dozens of political parties will vie for the support of more than 600 million voters. The issues will be jobs, bread and socioeconomic reforms, rather than the

status of restive Kashmir.

Unlike Islamabad, which seems to wish to internationalize the Kashmir issue, New Delhi clings to a bilateral concept based on the Simla Agreement of 1972. While the Lahore Summit established "a framework for bilateral cooperation and reconciliation," high officials admit that the leadership in either country — for domestic political reasons — is unable to deliver. Held in check by Muslim rebels linked to the Taliban ready to fight over Kashmir, the hands of Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are politically tied. And until the new parliament is sworn in, India's Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee serves merely as a caretaker. The upcoming elections in India are the third and the new government will be the sixth within the last three years.

As a starting point for future negotiations Indian diplomats refer to the status quo ante. Yet there is flexibility in that stance. India's leadership

recognizes that certain adjustments will have to be made, and surely, after nearly 52 years of uprisings, two wars, untold thousands of Kashmiris who perished and streams of refugees, the time has come to consider alternative pragmatic political solutions. One vaguely remembers a suggestion made by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to grant Kashmir "anything short of independence" and thereafter the prospect of "maximum autonomy," a term used by Prime Minister Deve Gowda.

Based on these concepts and the diffusion of political power, Indian diplomats anticipate a dialogue with Islamabad along the lines of the Lahore Declaration. But new ways will have to be explored. In preparation for the restoration of communication, Indian insiders hope to pave the way to a "people to people" dialogue on all levels as a continuation of Lahore's "bus diplomacy."

This means exchanges of journalists, students, workers, scientists,

artists and tourists to foster contacts on a grand scale. One of the aims is to stop the accentuation of the negative on both sides.

Such an approach requires carefully calibrated measures; any rush to action could be a mistake. An example is the stalled talks about the price of electricity supplied by Pakistan to India. Bilateral consultations on security, disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation — as well as discussions about a weapons-free zone along the Line of Control in Kashmir and the subject of demilitarization — should not be delayed. Also unaddressed are the political options and compromises for a lasting Kashmir settlement.

The international community should recognize that defusing today's military crisis is only part of a larger problem that threatens the security of the whole region. Many interpret the West's benign neglect of South Asia's volatile subcontinent as an attitude linked to the fact that

Pakistan is a Muslim nation and the Kashmir dispute an Islamic problem. Consequently India's fear of a "Talibanization" of Kashmir remains widely ignored by the U.S. Congress.

In this context President Clinton's postponed visit to this troubled region, cancelled over India's proclamation as a nuclear weapons state (followed by Pakistan's similar declaration), bears more than symbolic significance.

Issues that need to be explored include the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which India has promised to sign — coupled with export controls of sensitive materials and technologies for mass destruction. Washington's wish list also includes an Indo-Pakistani dialogue. In order to stay clear of the the Kashmir fracas, Washington surprisingly views Kashmir as a bilateral issue. Should India, as is expected, sign the CTBT, it would be as much a testimony to Mr. Clinton's diplomatic skills as to India's power play.

Viola Herms Drath is a member of the executive committee of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy.

Viewpoint

Don't trust Pakistan to keep the promises it has made

By Arthur H. Davis
United States Ambassador (ret.)

This week, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan committed his government to withdrawing Islamic forces from Indian-held Kashmir. Until now, Pakistan has steadfastly maintained to support these forces only "morally and politically." After months of prevaricating over whether his government organized and participated in the most recent attack across the Line of Control in India, Mr. Sharif has suddenly claimed responsibility for and control over these rebel insurgents. They consist of Pakistani Army regulars and Islamic fundamentalists from all over the region. In the wake of these promises of peace, the question remains: who holds the reigns of power in Pakistan? Does Mr. Sharif have the political power and will to force his military to stand down? Skepticism abounds. For this reason, the government of India has rightly continued its efforts to drive this insurgency back across the Line of Control. To his credit, President Clinton has withheld the administration's full support of this initiative until this border is again respected. Implicit in the Clinton-Sharif joint statement is a respect for the 1972 Simla agreement, the bilateral agreement which designated the present boundary and which has governed relations in Kashmir ever since.

Standing in the way of an eventual ceasefire agreement is the seeming rogue leadership of the Pakistani army officer corps. Evidence now indicates that the general staff was secretly planning this assault just as Mr. Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee were seeking political and diplomatic reconciliation at their historic meeting in Lahore. Recently released intercepts between Pakistan's chief of the General Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Mohammed Aziz and Gen. Musharaf, tell of an exchange where an adviser to the prime minister expressed concern that the Islamic militants fighting in Kargil might force an escalation of the war. "We made clear," Aziz is recorded as saying, "that there need be no such fear, since we have

Guest Commentary

them by the scruff of the neck, and that whenever desired, we can regulate the situation." This excerpt and others are replete with evidence indicating the grip of the armed forces over both civilian authorities in Islamabad and Islamic militants operating in India-controlled Kashmir. As a result, Mr. Sharif's recent pronouncements can only be viewed as unreliable until he is able to produce positive results of withdrawal.

Mr. Sharif's tenuous position of power at home thwarts hopes of any significant de-escalation by Pakistani forces in the near future and helps explain his government's recent search for support from throughout the world. In a country where military authorities have continuously usurped civilian controls in times of crisis, Pakistan's government, and what remain of its democratic institutions, desperately needs the support of the West. However, efforts to "internationalize" this conflict politically, by bringing in international mediation to enforce a new status quo in the region, have fallen on deaf ears from Beijing to London.

Support of such a cause would condone Pakistan's use of force and terrorism in Kashmir. However, if the West ignores these calls for assistance, it risks engendering a full military overthrow of civilian government, thereby increasing the threat of a "Talibanization" of Pakistan and Kashmir. To avoid this scenario, and its frightening security implications, the international community must balance its stance by calling for an unqualified Pakistani withdrawal of Indian territory while encouraging both sides to find a definitive political settlement to the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Political solutions, however, must

come from those involved. The 1972 Simla agreement set the basis for discussions. This year's Lahore Declaration began to set the mood for those discussions. Before new talks can begin, however, the hostilities must end. Pakistan must cease support for the small, indigenous movement in Kashmir and must stop funneling foreign troops into the region if it expects to be seen as an interlocutor in good faith. The West should support and encourage Mr. Sharif's efforts to quiet the militant fundamentalist voices in his government and army. India, too, must begin the withdrawal of its large army presence in Kashmir and Jammu if any real de-escalation is to occur and confidence building is to begin.

Senator Sam Brownback's amendment to the Arms Export Control Act would lift the remaining sanctions against the two countries, put in place as a result of their nuclear tests last year. This legislation should be held out as a possible relief measure to encourage a new round of bilateral political talks. Enforced application of the Pressler amendment, which has denied military assistance to these two countries, should be continued while hostilities persist and until the Pakistani government demonstrates control over all its internal factions. In the end, if the people of Kashmir are ever to return and prosper on their once pristine land, the two sides must commit themselves to real political solutions applied in earnest.

Arthur Davis was twice ambassador under Ronald Reagan and later an advisor to the U.S. Mission to the 40th General Assembly of the United Nations.

India, Pakistan 'close to the edge'

Clinton can't halt Kashmir fighting

By Ben Barber
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Fighting in Kashmir raged unabated yesterday in spite of President Clinton's intervention on the weekend, and analysts say the peacemaking effort may have served only to destabilize the government in nuclear-armed Pakistan.

"The crisis has only just begun," said Stephen Cohen, a former White House official and expert on Pakistan's military who is currently with the Brookings Institution.

"Pakistan's army thinks that having nuclear weapons equalizes its relations [with the larger and more powerful India] and therefore they can push and poke the Indians without a full war breaking out.

"They are dancing close to the edge."

By pledging to Mr. Clinton Sunday at Blair House that he would withdraw 700 Islamic fighters from Indian-held territory, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has ignited fierce criticism at home and raised the perennial question of whether the government controls the army or vice-versa.

In Washington, Pakistan Embassy spokesman Malik Zahoor Ahmad obliquely raised the specter of nuclear war yesterday, saying Mr. Sharif's visit had been intended to "eliminate the risk of a fourth war between India and Pakistan."

"As nuclear powers, both [India and Pakistan] have a responsibility to resolve all disputes and not slide into a conflict that could have dangerous consequences for both countries," he said in an interview.

Mr. Cohen and many other observers of Pakistan say its British-style army remains a power independent of the civilian government. They also note that the more restrained army chief of staff,

Gen. Jehangir Karamat, was replaced in October with Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a former special forces officer with a more aggressive attitude.

Mr. Ahmad, however, insisted the army was under civilian control. He also denied that Pakistan had control over the militant invaders and rejected Indian claims that they included Pakistani troops.

The Indians "have not proved anything," he said, insisting that the fighters who are holed up and resisting fierce Indian air, artillery and infantry attacks were mainly native Kashmiris. He said Mr. Sharif would try to withdraw any Pakistani militants among them.

Pakistan's army chief was quoted in a Pakistani newspaper yesterday as saying the government would ask the 1,500 to 2,000 "Kashmiri freedom fighters" to withdraw, but that the final decision would be theirs.

"It still has to be seen what their answer will be," Gen. Musharraf told the Urdu-language Jang newspaper.

Indian army spokesman Col. Bikram Singh said yesterday there were "no indications on the ground" that any of the infiltrators were withdrawing.

Instead, a hail of artillery fire from Pakistan thundered over the 16,000-foot peaks along the Line of Control dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

An oil tanker truck was hit and exploded while plying the steep zig-zagging road through the evacuated town of Kargil, on its way to supply isolated towns and army posts as remote as Ladakh, Indian officials said.

The attack halted a 4-mile-long column of supply trucks. India needs to bring fuel, food and other supplies to the remote region during the few summer months when the road is free of snow.

If India was stymied in its efforts to oust the Muslim fighters from their caves and bunkers atop the ridges overlooking Kargil, Pakistan was feeling instability from the region's fighting.

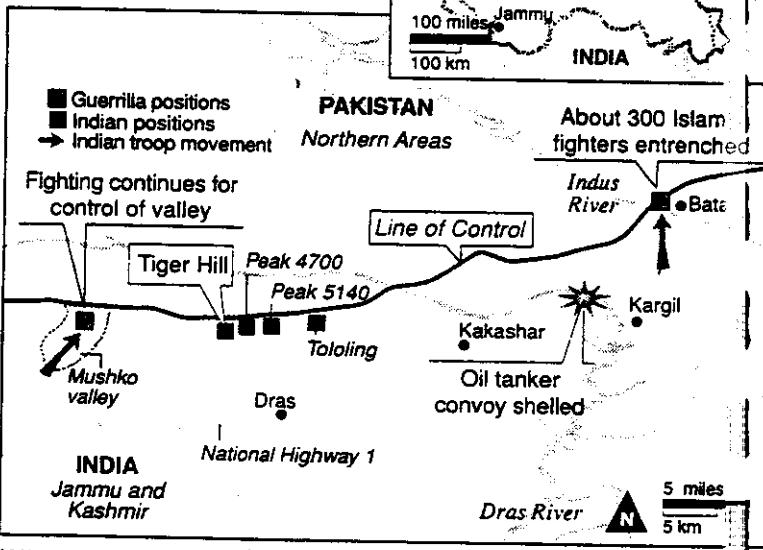
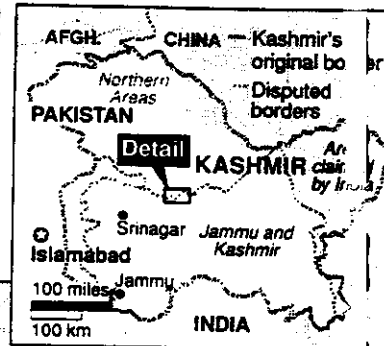
The major Islamic fundamen-

The Washington Times

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1999

WAR IN KASHMIR

Islamic rebels and Indian troops continued to battle in the Himalayas yesterday, two days after a meeting between President Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif aimed at ending the two-month-old battle.



MAY	JUNE	JULY
First week of May: Islamic rebels launch military ground attacks.	May 26: India starts air strikes near Tiger Hill.	June 13 - 29: India recaptures mountain peaks overlooking Dras.
		July 3 - 4: India recaptures Tiger Hill.
		July 6: Rebels shell oil tanker convoy.

talist party, Jamaat-I-Islami, called for street protests yesterday to oppose Mr. Sharif's pledge to Mr. Clinton to end the fighting and to reject any withdrawal from Kashmir.

The party, which has no seats in parliament, failed to muster large crowds, but analysts said Pakistan's civilian government may face a bigger threat from its own army.

Mr. Cohen said he believed the Pakistan army sparked the fighting because it wanted to force India to discuss Kashmir at meetings such as a February summit in Lahore.

A prominent South Asian diplomat agreed, saying, "This fighting

will show that unless we discuss Kashmir, nothing can be achieved."

The fighting in Kashmir began in early May when India launched a massive military operation to evict armed militias who had crossed the disputed border and set up heavily armed mountain bunkers on the Indian side.

U.S. efforts to defuse the situation have been "too little, too late," said Mr. Cohen.

"It's crisis diplomacy. We should have been involved earlier. Instead, we were too involved in treaties and the [Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty] while President Clinton was distracted with other events."

San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1999

Pakistani Military Coup Reinforces Spreading Threat of Jihad

By Mervyn Dymally

THE LATEST THREAT from Osama bin Laden is not to be taken lightly. The Saudi millionaire, now a guest of the Taliban in Afghanistan, called for "jihad" against the United States and India, just as officials of the two countries began discussions on possible coordination in counter-terrorism measures. "Our biggest enemies are the United States and India and we should target them using the best of our efforts," Bin Laden announced, urging terrorist groups in Pakistan to join hands in targeting the two countries.

There already was a clear connection between bin Laden and fundamentalist groups indigenous to and operating in Pakistan. Last week's military coup in that country will only serve to reinforce that insidious bond and, in so doing, should raise the fear and suspicion among U.S. and Indian policymakers.

The religious-militant atmosphere promoted by self-seeking fundamentalist leaders like the late President/General Zia-ul-Haq and the leader of last week's coup d'etat, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has helped attract Arab terrorists to Pakistan. It has also infected the indigenous groups with wild ambitions which could run out of control on an international scale.

It is unlikely that the threat from terrorism will end with the capture or elimination of Osama bin Laden. While it is true to a significant extent that he is responsible for building a collegium of terrorists with an international agenda of "jihad," there are now "dozens of bin Ladens" burning with equal "jehadi" fervor in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Former cricket player turned politician, Imran Khan, revealed in Washington last month that there are 100,000 trained militant Islamic fighters in Pakistan, about 17,000 of whom are armed.

The dubious honor of inflicting religious militancy upon Pakistan must go to Zia, who sent his democratically elected predecessor Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the gallows after a short kangaroo trial. Facing the rising popularity of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and its new leader Benazir Bhutto, daughter of the slain former president, Zia resorted to religious extremism to counter her growing populist appeal. One of Zia's early maneuvers, as a devout Sunni Muslim, was to gain control of the Pakistani army through the instrument of religion. The subsequent recruitment of a



DEAN ROHMER / Special to The Chronicle

large number of clergy-recommended recruits, not only into the army but also in police and civilian services, began a resurgence of fundamentalism throughout Pakistani society. Today, that influence risks provoking a "Talibanization" through civilian and government institutions.

Zia's legacy in Pakistan is being expanded by Pakistan's newest military strongman, former army chief of staff Musharraf. Early in their relationship, Zia, who preferred devout Muslims in positions of importance, assigned Musharraf to training mercenaries recruited by Islamic extremist groups for fighting in Afghanistan. Intelligence sources claim that it was during this assignment that Musharraf became acquainted with Osama bin Laden and his terrorist associates. The relationship has grown into a strong bond of friendship that still remains. Speaking at an open forum in Karachi last April, Musharraf advocated that "Pakistan should back the Taliban" regardless of U.S. pressure and sanctions against that regime.

Despite recent reports to the contrary, Musharraf's overtures to the West are hardly impressive. In his official biography, released at the time of his appointment as chief of the army, the general listed no trips to the United States among his career travels. In fact, Musharraf recently canceled a long-scheduled trip to Washington this spring to meet with State and Defense Department officials under the pretense of having to receive a small Chinese delegation in Islamabad.

Of increasing concern, however, is the general's visceral hostility toward neighboring India. When Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee made his historic bus trip to Lahore last winter, Western observers hoped that this would initiate a process of detente and peace between the two arch rivals. Musharraf and his cabal of military loyalists boycotted the meeting, declaring that they "would not salute the leader of an enemy country." Even more prophetic was the fact that Musharraf and his army, aided in their efforts by a bin Laden terrorist cell, were engaged at this time in planning and

implementing a secret, fundamentalist invasion of Indian-held Kashmir. The resulting border war generated by this act of impunity has effectively thwarted the peace process which Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif boldly tried to begin. With his ouster last week by these fundamentalist forces, peace in this region does not bode well.

Little is known of the intentions of this new military regime. With this in mind, the Clinton administration has cautiously spoken out only in favor of "civilian rule and democratic principles." Regardless of whether Musharraf seeks to consolidate power under himself and his cronies, or chooses to install a civilian government (moves last week imply that he has opted for the former) there is no doubt that he intends to maintain ultimate control over Pakistan.

This poses an alarming problem for the United States and those states in the region. Having lost all appreciable leverage economic or political, over Pakistan, the United States must continue to press for responsible governance in that country while attempting to construct a united anti-terrorist front with allies in the region. A strong India is therefore in the U.S. national interest, acting as a foil to Islamic elements to the West and as a balance to Chinese power in the East.

This friendship, however, between the United States and India comes with a price: That is that the ill-disguised attempt by Pakistani intelligence to have India projected as a willing U.S. surrogate would put India onto the bin Laden hit list. The U.S. Congress' misguided response to this threat is spelled out in a pending amendment sponsored by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., that would allow a five-year presidential waiver to the military sanctions in place against India and Pakistan. India has rightly rejected this solution, arguing that more weapons will only fuel fires in the region. What is needed, rather, is greater intelligence sharing and cooperation between the world's largest democracy and its most advanced. Without such cooperation, terror in the region may soon become a global menace.

Mervyn Dymally formerly represented the Los Angeles area in Congress. For 12 years he was a member of the House International Relations Committee.

The River Gambia, from which the country takes its name, meanders 300 kms through the entire length of the country and passes by 17 local African villages in the continents interior and River banks lined with tropical forest bamboo and mangrove swamps. The impressive river is the main artery of the country and also the sight of historic trading posts; it was once used to transport slaves out of Africa. An annual festival, the *Roots Homecoming Festival* named for the bestseller *Roots* by Alex Haley who highlighted the slave trade from the area, is held every June in Juffureh as a celebration of Gambian culture. Although the authentic

West Africa, as a peaceful, democratic republic. Gambia, the oldest English speaking country in the world. In 1996, a new constitution was written for the country which established the British in the interest of controlling the River. Portuguese, the Germans, the French and the claims on The Gambia were made by the names which designate the streets. Colonial Portuguese in the 19th century and the English such as the State House buildings built by the everywhere are signs of the city's colonial ties. The city is one of the world's safest, which is unusual for a port, and industry for the country. The city represents a major rice, cement and textiles, represents a major wharves and jetties will confirm even to casual ton. A walk along Wellington Street past the

dock and is, in reality, the lifeblood of the nation. Banjul is a deep water port with a bustling

LIFEBLOOD OF THE NATION
 the capital city and across Banjul island. museum and coffee shop and restaurant with a superior views from the museum balconies of Excellence Yajja Jammeh. The arch contains a Jawara ousted by new government of His saw the government of Sir Dawda Karaba less coup of July 22, 1994 when The Gambia city gate designed to commemorate the blood- the country's capital, Banjul, is Arch 22, the francophone Senegal. Welcoming visitors to interior of the country and to neighboring tourism has translated into trips to the lush recent years, the development of up-country country's yearly visitors hail from the U.K. In are on repeat visits to the area and half of the colony. Senegal. 25% of visitors to The Gambia North, South and East by the former French defence in 1965. The Gambia is bordered on the A British colony until it won its independence in 1965. The Gambia is bordered on the

ON THE STREETS OF BANJUL
 Banjul and head further inland. in the colony. Nowadays, river cruises begin in French and became the main point of defense Island Fortress which was destroyed by the to the river and Banjul to replace the James British 200 years ago to cover the approaches mouth, is home to Fort Ballen, built by the main attraction. Barra Point, at the river's

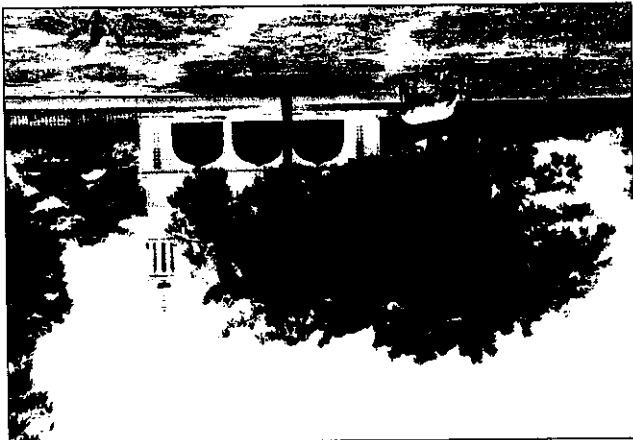
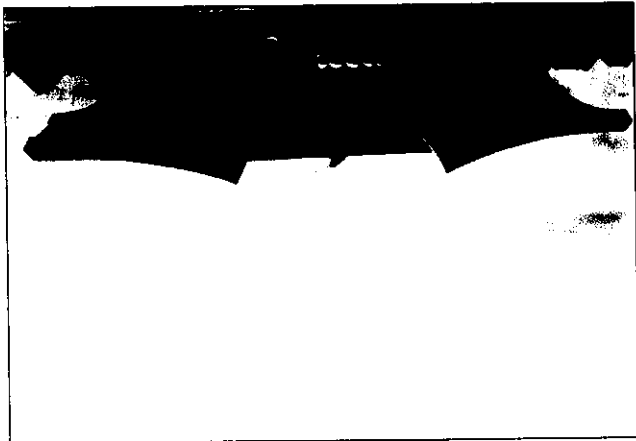
river worthwhile and the river is the country's of their feathers. This alone makes a trip up come alive with bird calls and the vibrant colors birds. Daily, the shores of the River Gambia species of The Gambia's beautifully plummed watch, admire and photograph the varied years, bird lovers have come to the area to world's smallest kingfishers. Over the past the world. Among their number are the habitat and no longer migrate to other parts of grounds have found the reserve to be an ideal than 200 species of birds who live on the On the Abuko Nature Reserve alone the more birds. The Gambia is an ornithologist's paradise. Endowed with more than 500 species of

PACK YOUR BINOCULARS!
 of Africa. beautiful place to glimpse some of the majesty and wildlife in the interior. The Gambia is a shore and vibrant tropical forests full of birds palm trees and easy living on the country's the accuracy of the name. With ocean beaches, coast and repeat tourism to the area attests to earned the country the nickname 'the smiling The friendliness of native Gambians has Europeans escaping cold Northern winters.

A ribbon of land lying on both sides of the majestic River Gambia, The Gambia is an ideal place to visit at any time of year. In the sixties, Scandinavians were the first tourists to the country and since then The Gambia has become a popular spot for

West Africa's Smiling Coast

THE GAMBIA



AND THEIR "NO PROBLEM" ATTITUDE.

SITUATED BETWEEN THE EQUATOR AND THE TROPIC OF CANCER, THE GAMBIA IS THE SMALLEST INDEPENDENT COUNTRY IN AFRICA, NEVER MORE THAN 30 MILES WIDE, WHOSE CHARM IS OBVIOUS YEAR ROUND ON ITS PALM FRINGED BEACHES, TROPICAL GARDENS AND NATURE RESERVES. THE GAMBIA THANKS ITS NICKNAME 'THE SMILING COAST' TO THE FRIENDLINESS OF ITS PEOPLE

SPECIAL FEATURE



of Haley's ancestral claims have been questioned, there is much that is valuable about the book and the festival is one of the many events which sheds light on the abuses of the former slave trade. The Gambia has not covered up the horrors of the past but instead seeks to reconcile them with its vision for the future and invites tourists to do the same. Watch the sights pass slowly by on any of the two and three day boat trips available as far as Basse, which is almost as far as you can go into the country.

FURTHER ASHORE

In Basse the change from coastal palm trees, farmlands and mangroves into the lush green that characterizes central Africa begins to be visible. Here the River Gambia cuts through beautiful gorges. Dolphins have been spotted as far up river as Albreda. The trees, shrubs, bird life and the terrain are all different from the coastal strip and the lower reaches of the river. For hikers and explorers, Basse is the starting point for any trip to the interior. Handsome trading houses built at the turn of the century can be seen here. Night stops along the way to Basse are usually at tourist camps in Tendaba and Janjangbureh (Georgetown). The latter was the 'second city' of British colonial Gambia and remains an important trading center today. River excursions, in combination with treks into the interior and to area villages, give European visitors insight into the

ethno-cultural diversity of The Gambia and a better idea of the Gambian people's way of life at a grass-roots level.

LIVING WITH HISTORY

Modern hotels and friendly service characterize The Gambia's tourist industry but those visitors who have come to Africa for more than just an escape will find themselves fascinated by The Gambia's diverse African cultural heritage, visible in archaeological sites such as the Stone Circles, which have been recently identified as ancient burial mounds dating back 1,200 years. The standing stones are made of hewn lacerite and scores of them dot the landscape at Wassu. The Gambia boasts an enormous amount history which belies its size. There are many historical monuments to explore like the old French trading post at Albreda and James Island Fort, built by the Germans in 1651 and captured by the British 10 years later. Standing on a tiny island in the center of the river, the ruins act as a stark reminder of the struggle to dominate the slave trade and other trade in the region. Old slave markets at Janjangbureh (Georgetown), the Old English Fort (Fort Bullen) at Barra and the Mungo Park monument at Karantaba. URD are just a few of the attractions.

Eight different ethnic groups, each with their own distinct language and culture, live harmoniously in The Gambia and the friendliness and warmth which binds them together

is naturally extended to the country's visitors. The Mandinkas, the Fulas and Wolof are just three of the many ethnic groups which have made The Gambia a melting pot of West African cultures. With 92 people per square kilometer, The Gambia is densely populated by African standards, and the various cultures have managed to live peacefully with both themselves and each other.

COME RAIN OR SHINE

During the summer, The Gambia is transformed into a blaze of greens and tropical flowering trees by the brief but heavy rains which give relief from the hot tropical sun. This period is also known as the Gambian farming season and temperatures can reach as high as 42 degrees. There are usually five full hours of sunshine even at the season's height. With considerably less rainfall here than further along the coast, the rains usually fall at night and tropical rainfall in the daytime is an unforgettable sight. Heavy rains can last for hours at which point the sky clears, leaving the air fresh and cool. During the rest of the year, The Gambia enjoys virtually uninterrupted sunshine and almost no rainfall from October through May. The best clothes to take are casual and loose fitting, preferably cotton for comfort, and a broad rimmed hat is recommended for protection against strong midday sun. Visitors should note that The Gambia is a predominately Muslim country and should

in recent years in light of The Gambia's change in government and the resulting stability in the country. The Gambia's first five star hotel, The Karaba Beach (see 'High Life' in this issue), was opened in 1990 and, in the same year, the Kombo Beach Hotel was refurbished. Hotels have been designed to fit in with the landscape of the area and are generally unobtrusive with gardens and trees lining hotel grounds. Most hotels are geared primarily to package tours. The high point of the tourist season lasts from November to May though the country's climate makes it a good choice at any time of year, especially when the hotels are not packed with other guests. The Gambia has no official standard of classification for its hotels and, generally speaking, the room fittings are adequate rather than luxurious. Outside the boundaries of the hotels, tourists usually encounter the local enterprise culture and, especially in Banjul, beautiful Batik, silver filigree jewelry, beaded belts and crafts which dazzle the eye. In shops, bargaining is the name of the game for everything from shoes to elaborate wood carvings. Swapping or exchanging goods, such as watches for local goods, is also a normal transaction. Many handcrafted items, made of straw leather and cloth are found in markets and make for cherished souvenirs. Gambian tailors are also known for making anything to order with delightful results and at a very reasonable cost. The markets at Serrekunda and Bakau are excellent for bargaining and for people watching.

Discover what many still call feelings of genuine warmth and friendliness from the Gambian people in an environment of peace and tranquility typical only of this special country. See the ruins of past colonialism at the fort at James Island or, while on safari, spy into the laughing mouth of a hyena. Let tropical rainfall on your roof awaken you in the night, count the birds on the shore as you drift down the River Gambia or take in village life which has grown out of the varied and ancient cultures of Africa. Small, hospitable and exotic, visitors to the country should find enjoying themselves, to borrow a local expression, "No problem".

For more information, contact:
 The Gambia National Tourist Office
 Ministry of Tourism and Culture
 The Quadrangle, Banjul, The Gambia
 Telephone: (220) 229563, 227593, 228496, 227881



THE GAMBIA

The number of hotels has greatly increased most visitors have probably only seen in cages. The gazes of animals in their natural habitats who through the lenses of their binoculars to meet 155 kms from Banjul. Visitors can peer wildlife and can be reached by river or road safari style camp. is a popular spot to enjoy staying for dancing and drumming, Tendaba, a meal there, talking to children or elders, and appreciate village life by cooking and eating a school project, allowing time for tourists to at a village and school to view an ongoing or tree and shrubs, and usually involve a stop are made into areas known for birds, monkeys depending on what visitors want to see. Trips grounds. Safaris are widely available and vary rivers and four lions, all of whom live on the has several species of monkey and baboon, chimpanzee rehabilitation program which also popoam and crocilles. On the reserve is a

take into consideration all that this implies, especially when it comes to photographing Gambians and when considering how to dress. Long, loose skirts or pants are recommended for women when going into town. On beaches, visitors can dress as they would for a trip to the beach in their home country while enjoying some of the 35 miles of ocean which the river feeds into.

NATURAL HERITAGE

The Abuko Nature Reserve, opened in 1977 to help protect and preserve Gambia's flora and fauna for future generations, lies on the Western side of the farmac road from Banjul to Yundum Airport. About 24 kms from the capital, the area of fairly dense woodland and near impenetrable jungle lives up to its promise as the best place for visitors can see wild pigs, monkeys, hyenas, jackals, antelope, hip-

Development projects and programs for women at the top of the list

Interview with Mrs. Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice President of The Gambia

In her most recent position before being appointed as Vice President of The Gambia's Second Republic, Mrs. Isatou Njie-Saidy held a position as the Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs. With a long history of addressing issues that affect women in The Gambia, the Vice President brings this awareness to the top layers of government along with recommendations on how to improve the situation for The Gambia's women.

Mrs. Isatou Njie-Saidy's studies have taken her to The Netherlands, The Philippines, the U.S. and the U.K. to concentrate on management training and rural development. Development projects and programs for women are at the top of Mrs. Njie-Saidy's list and her appointment to the position of Vice President affords her a more influential position from which to address policy formulation and implementation in addition to gender issues.

You've studied in a number of countries outside of The Gambia. Has this helped you forge an international outlook and, if so, how do you see The Gambia's position in relationship both to Africa and to the rest of the world?

Having studied in the Netherlands, the Philippines, the United States and Great Britain has helped me acquire an international outlook. I see The Gambia continuing to cooperate with all friendly countries and playing its part in promoting peace and development in Africa and the world.

You began teaching at the Brikanua Secondary Technical School to eventually become The Gambia's Vice-President. Can you tell me more about what led you to your current position in government?

After a year as an unqualified teacher, in 1970, I went to The Gambia College to train in the profession. At the end of three years' training, I went back to the same school to teach for two years before moving in 1976 to the Indigenous Business Advisory Services (IBAS).

Much of your former research centered around issues which affected women. Could you tell us about the position of women in present-day The Gambia?

Women in The Gambia continue to make steady progress in the drive for full participation in national life. Economic and social empowerment of women has, in recent years, received great impetus. However, there are still problems arising out of traditional concepts, or social background.

What is your greatest challenge in your role as Vice President?

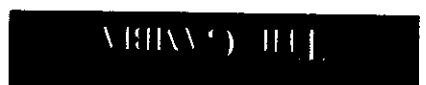
My greatest challenge is having to cope with the job in the second most important position in the state. As a woman in a male-dominated set up, I take the challenge of proving that women can measure up to any public capacity if given the chance. But, in the race of Gambian and African peculiarities, one has to strive to perform independently, without bias, and in the interest of all, regardless of sex, ethnicity or social background.

What is your former research centered around issues which affected women. Could you tell us about the position of women in present-day The Gambia?

Much of your former research centered around issues which affected women. Could you tell us about the position of women in present-day The Gambia?

You have shown a great interest in the work of Catholic Relief Services. Can you describe how CRS works in The Gambia? What other organizations like CRS are important to The Gambia?

CRS has been known to have contributed positively to Gambian development since its establishment in the country. It has been particularly active in rural areas, where emphasis has been on equipping people so that they will, in turn, help themselves. CRS has specifically helped in agriculture by undertaking the cultivation of seedlings of economic trees and making them widely available at affordable prices. Also, CRS has encouraged the expanded cultivation and marketing of sesame, which is fast becoming an important cash crop in the country. It helps other NGOs, GAFNA for example. As a result of the CRS success story in The Gambia, certain organizations in the West Africa sub-region are eager to have similar programs implemented in their countries. Other non-government organizations such as Action Aid, CCF (Christian Children's Fund), CARITAS, VSO (Voluntary Aid Overseas), AFPO and Irish Aid are playing an equally important role in The Gambia. In the domain of education and agriculture, Action Aid has also played a significant role establishing schools where there were none and managing them for a considerable period before handing them over to state control.





Mrs. Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice President of The Gambia