

U.S. to Provide F-16s As Replacement to Pakistan

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military equipment, has been reduced in the case of Pakistan from forecasts of \$290 million, when the current six-year program began in 1988, to an actual level of \$229 million in 1990.

In recent years, the U.S. report points out, the army has focussed on anti-armor modernization. The navy's eight leased Brooke/Garcia frigates will require long-term technical assistance to maintain their advanced systems.

The air force continues to modernize its 37 F-16 fighter aircraft through a logistics support program, it said.

Total U.S. assistance earmarked for Pakistan in fiscal 1992 is \$267 million, some 60 percent of which would be economic assistance and the remaining 40 percent in military aid.

However, the aid to Pakistan has been under suspension since Oct. 1, 1990 for want of certification by President Bush, as required under the Pressler Amendment, that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear device.

The report, however, says the issue remains under discussion between the two countries. The U.S. assistance strengthens the

case against nuclear weapons for Pakistan, primarily by helping to strengthen Pakistan's conventional forces, it adds.

The FMF would support the F-16 program, assist in mechanizing ground forces, provide new artillery and help to maintain U.S.-origin equipment.

It says Pakistan's well-trained military, history of defense cooperation with the Saudis, and its status as an Islamic, non-Arab country, give it the potential to play a significant and greater role in ensuring stability and peace in the Gulf region.

Nat'l Effort to Oppose Burton's Bills

By a Staff Reporter

TARZANA, Calif. — A national campaign is being orchestrated to mobilize Indian American opposition to two anti-India bills introduced into the U.S. Congress by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind.

The National Federation of Indian American Associations is urging members of the Indian community in the U.S. to contact their representative in Congress and Rep. Burton to protest HR 953 and HR 87.

HR 953 seeks a cutoff of \$25 million in U.S. aid to India unless the Indian government permits international organizations to monitor for human rights violations in Punjab (I-W, Feb. 22). HR 87 calls for a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir (I-W, March 29).

NFIA president Inder Singh of Tarzana, Calif., has asked his membership to "act fast" to block the bills from getting passed even at the congressional subcommittee level.

Jiwan Zutsi of Fremont, co-leader of the NFIA campaign against HR87, told India-West that "there is absolutely no

reason for a plebiscite. Kashmir has been an integral part of India for 40 years."

Zutsi, president of the Kashmir Political Action Committee, said that "200,000 Hindus are dying outside Kashmir as refugees." Zutsi said that Pakistan and

other countries are stirring up trouble in the region. "We really don't have a government right now in India. I hope in the future we will have a sensible government (in India) that will (seek relief) in the system for these refugees," he said.

India on UN Gulf Force

NEW YORK (PTI) — India is among the 34 countries that would contribute personnel to the 1,400 strong United Nations military observer mission to monitor the demilitarized zone in Iraq and Kuwait.

The U.N. Security Council members approved the proposal put forward by the secretary general on the composition of the mission which will also have personnel from five permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France — and several of the multinational coalition partners, including Pakistan.

No Arab country is represented

on the mission officially known as the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission.

When asked about the omission, Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar indicated that he was not averse to Arab states' representation on the mission, but either Iraq or Kuwait had a problem with the names suggested.

Major-General Gunther Freindl of Austria was formally appointed April 10 as chief military observer to head the peace-keeping force.

General Greindl, 52, earlier served as commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus for nine years from 1981.