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	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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IRAN

1. "IRAN'S TACTICS PAY OFF IN NUCLEAR STANDOFF," analysis in June 17 left-of-center THE HINDU by Atul Aneja. "IRAN'S SKILLED nuclear diplomacy has forced the United States to think afresh, and opened the door for a sustained round of negotiations with the West that could have far-reaching consequences. There was a sense of hard-earned success in the Iranian establishment after the European Union foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, concluded his visit to Teheran on June 6 ... Solana presented Iran with a full package of incentives. For the Iranians, the content of the package was of lesser importance. The seeming turnaround in the approach of the Americans and the Europeans towards the crisis revolving around its nuclear programme was the key. After a gap of two-and-a-half decades, the Americans were showing a willingness to talk directly to Teheran - a significant departure from the past ... Notwithstanding their gains, the Iranians have been restrained in their response. They have made two key observations that could set the tone for future negotiations. First, they have signaled that the West recognize it no longer holds the initiative in its nuclear diplomacy with Iran. Speaking in Shanghai on the sidelines of the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared that Mr. Solana's June 6 offer was a "positive step." However, he stressed that Iran would respond to the proposals in "due time." Secondly, the Iranians have made it clear that the West must learn to treat them with respect. At a recent meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran's representative, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, emphasized that, 'in the case of Iran, humiliation and the use of language of threat of referring the nuclear dossier to the U.N. Security Council ... have had serious impact on mutual trust and confidence on parties involved and thus the process of negotiations.' Realizing that they were bogged down in Iraq and aware of the Iranian influence there, the Americans began seriously to debate approaching Teheran for a bailout ... the Iranian establishment has emerged far more cohesive after Mr. Ahmadinejad assumed office ... Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also appear well disposed towards Mr. Ahmadinejad. With dissonance in the system reduced considerably, the Iranians have been able to coordinate their diplomacy in dealing with the nuclear crisis more effectively than before."

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SRI LANKA

2. "VIOLENCE ERUPTS AGAIN IN SRI LANKA: IS THIS THE END OF CEASEFIRE?" editorial in the June 17, 2006, Mumbai edition of the centrist Gujarati daily GUJARATMITRA. "The attack on a bus in Southern Sri Lanka killing 64 people is an indication that violence is on the rise in this island nation. Norway's chief negotiator, Erik Solheim, has issued warnings to the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE to observe the ceasefire. Despite a ceasefire which was agreed upon by the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE in 2002, there have been intermittent clashes between the two. Thursday's gruesome incident of an attack by the LTTE on a

bus has crossed all limits of humanity. As a retaliatory measure, the Sri Lankan government has bombarded LTTE hideouts. The LTTE has described this as a dangerous move that could affect the ceasefire agreement. On the other hand, India will also have to be vigilant about the developments in Sri Lanka, as they could have direct impact on the southern Indian states. The rising tension between the government and the LTTE there is not a healthy sign for India, either. Even a leading nation like the U.S. needs to keep a close watch on the developments in Sri Lanka."

3. "FROM ANURADHAPURA TO ANURADHAPURA," editorial in June 17 left-of-center THE HINDU. "On May 14, 1985, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam carried out a massacre in Anuradhapura, gunning down 146 civilians as they prayed at a Buddhist shrine. That bestial act was a turning point in the

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conflict in Sri Lanka. It told the world that in the lexicon of the LTTE's 'liberation' ideology, there is no place for humane conduct. Almost to the day 21 years later, as if to mark the anniversary of that attack, the LTTE has carried out another horrific massacre in Anuradhapura. Inevitably, there will be those who argue that it was the European Union ban that drove the LTTE to carry out this claymore mine attack on a bus carrying innocent men, women, and children. They must pause to think that had V. Prabhakaran's organization been a sincere partner in the attempt to find a negotiated, peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict, its effort would have been to tell the world after the European ban how wrong and misled this group of 25 countries was in judging its character ... But instead of Geneva 2, the LTTE served up Anuradhapura 2. That should be enough to banish the last lingering doubts about the wisdom of the EU ban. In

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the two decades that separate the two massacres, the LTTE has shown on countless occasions that it revels in violence and terrorism as "political strategy," wearing this proudly as a badge of honor ... Whether a war can be averted at this stage is uncertain. But under no circumstance must the Rajapakse Government get provoked into a conflict in which the worst sufferers will be the people of Sri Lanka. India and the world must express their firm solidarity with Sri Lanka during this time of troubles."

 HAMAS

4. "HAMAS AND ISRAEL", editorial in the June 16, 2006 centrist Urdu daily, 'RASHTRIYA SAHARA', New Delhi: " On Tuesday, Israel launched one of the most barbaric assaults of this year in the north Gaza province of Israel, taking a toll of nearly eleven people including two children. In reality, this complicated issue cannot be resolved by means of brute force or a military attack. The only solution to this fiasco is to meet the genuine needs and aspirations of the people of Palestine. The most glaring example of such a dispute is that of UK and Irish republic. So far as the British forces tried to subdue the Irish republic army by means of force, violence kept on escalating each day. However, the sooner it tried to resolve the issue through negotiations, violence took a downward trend on its own. In this context, the US should also play a mediator's role and persuade Israel through negotiations to resolve the complicated issue."

 GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

5. "THREAT TO WORLD PEACE", editorial in the June 16, 2006, Islamist Urdu daily. 'DAWAT', New Delhi: "After the death of the three Arab prisoners under suspicious conditions in Guantanamo prison, there seems to be an increasing pressure on the US for closing down this torture cell. This incident has once again drawn the world attention towards Guantanamo prison and voices are beginning to be raise demanding the closure of such prisons, since they are not only a black spot for the entire humanity but also a serious threat to world peace. As per another reliable information, a group has warned all the countries where movements are being launched against terrorism, that they would have to bear the consequences if the movements prevail. They claim that these

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movements have been launched to establish peace and stability in the world but it is most likely that outcome shall be contradictory to the declared objectives. The biggest casualty shall be peace and amity in the long run."

6. "IS THE 'WAR ON TERROR' GOING OUT OF CONTROL?," analysis in the June 17 left-of-center THE HINDU by Hasan Suroor."

a. "... When, in the wake of 9/11, President Bush declared that there could be no halfway measures and the world was either with America or against it in its campaign against terrorism he got a lot of flak for it. But less than five years later, the idea that any criticism of anti-terror laws or tactics amounts, ipso facto, to covert support for extremists has seeped into the conventional discourse. There is a growing liberal consensus - at least in the West - that fighting terrorism takes priority over ethical or moral sensitivities about the means by which it is done. I do not belong to the Amnesty school of human rights. I accept that there are situations in which rights of an individual may be compromised in the process of protecting the security of the nation and the society as a whole. I also concede that where there is a consistent pattern of terrorists/extremists coming from a particular ethnic group or religious community that group or community will inevitably come under greater scrutiny than others. In other words, the anti-terror campaign is a necessary evil and, like it or not, there will be "collateral" damage to human rights and, occasionally, innocent people will get hurt. Having said that, governments, especially western liberal democracies with their supposedly more enlightened "values," are expected to get the balance between national security and individual liberties right while pursuing terrorists. Unfortunately, it is hard to escape the sense that this is not happening and there is a widespread sense that the 'war on terror' is in danger of descending into a form of state terror.

b. "There is a catalogue of events, ranging from the conduct of British and American troops in Iraq to incidents involving security agencies at home, which suggests that the anti-terror strategy is going out of control. Add to this a plethora of harsh laws that most governments, notably Britain and America, have brought in to fight terrorism - not to mention the climate of fear and suspicion all this

had generated - and it would seem as though they are at war with their own citizens. The pace at which governments are acquiring increasingly intrusive powers, such as covert phone-tapping of millions of ordinary Americans ordered by President Bush, threatens the very notion of individual

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privacy. Big Brother is already here eavesdropping on your private phone calls and prying into your private emails and is getting more threatening with every new law. Mistakes will, of course, be made but when mistaken shootings, and bungled raids begin to affect the credibility of security services and threaten to alienate the very people whose support is critical in winning the battle against extremists, it is time to ask some hard questions both about the quality of intelligence and police tactics. More, crucially, the question that needs to be asked is: where is the 'war on terror' going? That a 17th century dark tale of hysteria and intolerance should still be seen to have resonance for our times is not, exactly, a happy sign."

7. "DEATH OF ZARQAWI & VIOLENCE IN IRAQ", weekly supplement in the June 18, 2006 centrist Urdu daily 'RASHTRIYA SAHARA', New Delhi: "It is quite possible that Al Zarqawi's organization breaks apart and its fighters join the ranks of other organization, thus continuing their tirade against the American domination. In this context, some declarations have been made on the Al-Qaida website. In one of the statements, Abu Adil Rahmanul says that, we want to give the world the message about the martyrdom of Abu Maasib. Further, the declaration urges people to continue fighting the holy war against dominant and imperialist forces of the world. In other words, there has been no visible change in the prevailing situation in Iraq after the death of Zarqawi, that is perhaps why the US seems more perturbed. It is in a virtual fix to be sure whether it would continue to have friendly relations with the new government in Baghdad or not. Or Iraq would always be gripped by a situation marked by uncertainty. Such issues are bothering the policy makers in Washington like never before."

8. "IT'S GONE TOO FAR," analysis in the June 19 nationalist THE HINDUSTAN TIMES by Prem Shankar Jha. "... The truth is that a new wave of terrorism has begun, whose only purpose is to cut all links between the valley and India ... I have written innumerable times about what the failure of the current dialogue on Kashmir will mean for Kashmir and for communal harmony on the subcontinent. But Pakistanis too need to think, with hardheaded realism, about what it will mean for them ... The alternative, to withdraw from the American 'war on terror', will also be much easier if Pakistan makes its peace with India and has its support. Thus no matter how we look at it, Pakistan has as much at stake in the peace process as India. The ball, therefore, is in its court."

9. "NEPAL MARCHES ON," editorial in the June 19 left-of-center THE HINDU. "The agreement signed on June 16 is remarkable by any standards ... With the eight-point accord, the Maoist have no reason at all to suspect the intentions of their partners. But the agreement is not one sided ...

The decision to seek help from the United Nations "in the management of arms and armed personnel of both the sides" the state forces and the People's Liberation Army and to monitor the process so that elections to the constituent assembly can be conducted in "a free and fair manner" is sound under the circumstances ... thus far it has been a dream run for Nepal's popular revolution. India, which has wisely committed major resources to helping its neighbor meet its immediate economic challenges, must be with it all the way."

INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

10. "AMERICA'S SLIPPING IMAGE IN INDIA," analysis in June 17 centrist THE ASIAN AGE and Secunderabad-based left-of-center English daily DECCAN CHRONICLE by Brahma Chellaney.

a. "A true Indo-US partnership can lead to a wider geopolitical realignment conducive to the building of long-term stability, order and equilibrium in Asia. Such a partnership could play a role in shaping and anchoring a new, post-Cold War global order ... A true partnership, however, can emerge only on the basis of a tangible strategic shift in policy towards one another, backed by strong public support in each country. The 2005 global-opinion poll by the Washington-based Pew Research Centre had dropped a bombshell: more respondents in India expressed a positive view of America than in any other nation surveyed, including in states closely aligned with the United States, such as Britain ... The 2006 Pew opinion poll, released this week, comes with an equally stunning revelation: America's positive rating has plummeted 15 points in India ... In India's adversarial neighbours, China and Pakistan, America's image actually has improved between 2005 and 2006.

The striking fall in America's rating in this country has occurred in a 12-month period in which Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has taken India into far-reaching strategic ventures with the US (or "coalitions of the willing," in President George W. Bush's parlance), including the "Global

Democracy Initiative" and the military-to-military "Disaster Response Initiative." In addition, New Delhi has pledged to participate in US-led "multinational operations," to uphold the US-driven non-proliferation regime and to share intelligence with Washington ... Indian public has always been pro-western, given this country's liberal, secular, pluralistic ethos ... And despite Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, Haditha and other potent symbols of abuse, Bush is better rated in India than in any other country, including his own ... On the other hand, the warmth of Indians towards the American people is not equally reciprocated in US attitudes towards India or Indians.

b. "The pounding America's image has suffered in India raises a legitimate question whether it represents a backlash against an overtly pro-US Indian foreign policy, whose contours were formalized through the June 28, 2005, defense-framework accord and the July 18, 2005, joint statement incorporating a treacherous nuclear 'deal' with Washington. In other words, is India's nominated PM out of sync with public opinion at home? ... India is certainly undergoing a tectonic tilt towards the US. This began under

the Vajpayee government and has noticeably accelerated under Dr Singh. Eagerly doubling up as foreign minister, Dr Singh has enlarged the strategic shift by ceding space to the US in India's own backyard and bringing Indian policy broadly into line with the US on some subjects. This is best illustrated by the alacrity with which New Delhi welcomed the recent US-backed, six-power package of incentives to Iran to stop uranium enrichment (even though the full details of the offer have yet to be revealed) while keeping quiet on America's decision to sell "key ally" Pakistan \$370 million worth of deadly anti-ship Harpoon missiles of three types ... While Dr Singh is reorienting Indian foreign policy fundamentally, is there a corresponding strategic shift in US policy towards India? In a world of rapid change and new emerging powers, India's strategic importance to US policymakers is obvious, with Bush himself pointing out during his India visit that 'the partnership between our free nations has the power to transform the world.' US businesses are enthralled by India's large market and the growing commercial opportunities they see ... Two factors, however, complicate America's relations with India. One, the US, used to dictating to its allies, expects a new partner to toe its line. In a 21st-century world, Washington is unlikely to get a major new partner willing to be a Japan or Germany to the US. The independence streak remains deeply entrenched in Indian thinking, and despite the obsequiousness of the current crop of Indian policymakers,

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it is unlikely that India will become America's junior partner.

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c. "Two, the US wishes to seize the strategic and commercial opportunities in India without making the necessary commitment that a partnership entails, including being sensitive to each other's security concerns and interests ... Far from adding momentum to Indo-US ties, the "deal" has injected new controversy when the direction of the relationship had already been set - towards closer engagement. Indeed, the "deal" could end up terminally poisoning the strategic relationship. Against this backdrop, it is hardly a surprise that America's image has improved in China and Pakistan at the expense of its rating ... What is salient about the 15-point fall in America's reputation in India is that the polling was conducted after the Bush visit, which was hailed by many as opening new vistas of cooperation ... Rather than periodically massage India's ego, the US can easily translate its words into deeds by bringing India into the Security Council and the G-8. Why not lift dual-use technology controls against India that require no congressional action? Also, how can Washington profess a desire to help India emerge as a world power when its policy seeks to tie it down through sub continental 'balance'? ... While desirous of building a true partnership with the US, India is likely to underpin its interests by retaining its strategic autonomy. As it moves from non-alignment to a contemporary, globalized practicality, India can avail of multiple options. That means from being non-aligned, it is likely to become multi-aligned, forging different partnerships with varied players to pursue a variety of interests in diverse settings. A multi-aligned India would be better positioned to advance its interests in the changed world."

INDO-U.S. NUCLEAR DEAL

11. "WHY SUSPECTING PEACE-LOVING INDIA'S NUCLEAR INITIATIVES," op-ed, 'in special arrangement with THE WASHINGTON POST,' by Mohamed El Baradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in June 17 Hyderabad-based independent Telugu daily EENADU.

a. "In regard to nuclear proliferation and arms control, the fundamental problem is clear: Either we begin finding creative, outside-the-box solutions or the international nuclear safeguards regime will become obsolete. For this

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reason, I have been calling for new approaches in a number of areas. First, a recommitment to disarmament -- a move away from national security strategies that rely on nuclear weapons, which serve as a constant stimulus for other nations to acquire them. Second, tightened controls on the proliferation-sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle. By bringing multinational control to any operation that

Q enriches uranium or separates plutonium, we can lower the risk of these materials being diverted to weapons. A parallel step would be to create a mechanism to ensure a reliable supply of reactor fuel to bona fide users, including a fuel bank under control of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The third area has been more problematic: how to deal creatively with the three countries that remain outside the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): Pakistan and India, both holders of nuclear arsenals, and Israel, which maintains an official policy of ambiguity but is believed to be nuclear-weapons-capable. However fervently we might wish it, none of these three is likely to give up its nuclear weapons or the nuclear weapons option outside of a global or regional arms control framework. Our traditional strategy -- of treating such states as outsiders -- is no longer a realistic method of bringing these last few countries into the fold. Which brings us to a current controversy -- the recent agreement between President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh regarding the exchange of nuclear technology between the United States and India. Some insist that the deal will primarily enable India to divert more uranium to produce more weapons -- that it rewards India for having developed nuclear weapons and legitimizes its status as a nuclear weapons state. By contrast, some in India argue that it will bring the downfall of India's nuclear weapons program, because of new restrictions on moving equipment and expertise between civilian and military facilities.

b. "Clearly, this is a complex issue on which intelligent people can disagree. Ultimately, perhaps, it comes down to a balance of judgment. But to this array of opinions, I would offer the following: First, under the NPT, there is no such thing as a "legitimate" or "illegitimate" nuclear weapons state. The fact that five states are recognized in the treaty as holders of nuclear weapons was regarded as a matter of transition; the treaty does not in any sense confer permanent status on those states as weapons holders. Moreover, the U.S.-India deal is neutral on this point -- it does not add to or detract from India's nuclear weapons program, nor does it confer any "status," legal or otherwise, on India as a possessor of nuclear weapons. India

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legal commitment, and it has never encouraged nuclear weapons proliferation. Also, it is important to consider the implications of denying this exchange of peaceful nuclear technology. As a country with one-sixth of the world's population, India has an enormous appetite for energy -- and the fastest-growing civilian nuclear energy program in the world. With this anticipated growth, it is important that India have access to the safest and most advanced technology. India clearly enjoys close cooperation with the United States and many other countries in a number of areas of technology and security. It is treated as a valued partner, a trusted contributor to international peace and security. It is difficult to understand the logic that would continue to carve out civil nuclear energy as the single area for non-cooperation. Under the agreement, India commits to following the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, an organization of states that regulates access to nuclear material and technology. India would bring its civilian nuclear facilities under international safeguards. India has voiced its support for the conclusion of a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. The strong support of India and the United States -- as well as all other nuclear weapons states -- is sorely needed to make this treaty a reality. The U.S.-India agreement is a creative break with the past that, handled properly, will be a first step forward for both India and the international community. India will get safe and modern technology to help lift more than 500 million people from poverty, and it will be part of the international effort to combat nuclear terrorism and rid our world of nuclear weapons. As we face the future, other strategies must be found to enlist Pakistan and Israel as partners in nuclear arms control and nonproliferation. Whatever form those solutions take, they will need to address not only nuclear weapons but also the much broader range of security concerns facing each country. No one ever said controlling nuclear weapons was going to be easy. It will take courage and tenacity in large doses, a great deal more outside-of-the-box thinking, and a sense of realism. And it will be worth the effort."

UNITED NATIONS

12. "THAROOR'S TIME," editorial in June 17 centrist THE TIMES OF INDIA. "Shashi Tharoor's name had been doing the rounds for the UN's top job, which will fall vacant when Kofi Annan steps down at the end of this year. Now the MEA

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has confirmed that New Delhi will officially back Tharoor. This is welcome news. With a Security Council seat unlikely in the near future, an Indian as UN chief would enhance the country's international standing. There is an informal consensus that it is Asia's turn to get the secretary-general's post ... India as the world's largest democracy is a natural choice for filling the UN's top slot. In Tharoor, New Delhi has a strong candidate ... Tharoor will, however, have his task cut out in beating the other nominees ... The key factor will be getting the US on board Tharoor's candidacy. If that happens, France, Britain and Russia would probably fall in line ... but Tharoor's closeness to Annan, who is no favorite of US Republicans, could be a problem. The other stumbling block is likely to be China, which might back Sathirathai ... Tharoor will also have to contend with

history. All former secretary-generals have come from relatively less powerful nations ... India's size and growing economic clout could stand in the way of Tharoor making it. Finally, if rumors are to be believed Bill Clinton and Tony Blair have thrown their hat in the ring. Notwithstanding the considerable obstacles, New Delhi should pull out all stops to get Tharoor the UN chief's job. He has more than an even chance of making it."

13. "INDIA'S COMPROMISE FORMULA: SETTLE FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL'S POST IN LIEU OF SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT" editorial in the June 17, 2006, Mumbai-based centrist Gujarati daily GUJARATMITRA. "The race for the possible successor to the United Nations incumbent Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has gained momentum with non-resident Indian Shashi Tharoor's name doing the rounds for the post. Tharoor, presently Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, has been with the UN for the last 25 years. Observers feel that India has thrown all its weight behind Tharoor's candidature as a possible compromise against its persistent demand for a permanent membership of United Nations Security Council, which seems to be a distant possibility. Despite a proposal for UN reforms that has already been mooted, the P-5 nations (the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany and China) have not shown much enthusiasm towards its implementation. Under such circumstances, it will be difficult for India to gain a permanent seat on the UNSC. Keeping this in mind, India seems to have worked out a compromise formula of getting at least a UN Secretary-General's post, if not a membership on the Security Council.

However, even the procedure of electing a UN Secretary-General is difficult, as the P-5 nations have the power to veto any candidate. Hence, it cannot be said with certainty that Tharoor will make it to the top slot."

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14. "TROUBLING NEIGHBORS" editorial in the June 19, 2006, Mumbai edition of centrist Marathi daily NAVASHAKTI. "It is quite clear that India's neighboring countries will challenge India's nomination of Shashi Tharoor for the UN Secretary General's post. Pakistan is, of course, on the verge of fielding a candidate. Sri Lanka, Thailand and Korea have also announced their candidates. Given the rotation scheme for the post of Secretary General, it is Asia's turn to nominate its candidate for the UN top job. Shashi Tharoor's diplomatic track record makes him an ideal candidate. Considering India's emerging international status, an Indian deserves to lead the world body at this juncture. In fact, Tharoor's appointment will not just benefit India, but it will also be a positive development for all nations supporting democracy and freedom of expression. Little wonder that Pakistan has struck a discordant note by challenging India's nominee. It feels that Tharoor's appointment will strengthen India's chances of getting a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. And Pakistan certainly does not want India to become an important permanent member of the UNSC. It is another fact that UNSC membership and the election of the UN Secretary General post are two unrelated issues. It is unfortunate that it is not just Pakistan but even the other neighbors that are also not supporting India, whereas India has often risked its own security and helped its neighbors."

15. "ANOTHER GREAT INDIAN NOVEL?" op-ed article by columnist

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K Subrahmanyam in the June 19, 2006, Mumbai edition of centrist English daily DNA. ". Tharoor's credentials to occupy the post are very impressive. If elected, he will follow the model of the present incumbent, Annan, who also rose from within the organization to reach the top. The previous six incumbents came from the national delegations to the United Nations. Till now the secretary-generals have come from Norway, Sweden, Burma, Austria, Peru, Egypt and Ghana-all medium level nations. Tharoor hails from the second most populous country, a nuclear weapon state, recognized as one of the six balancers of power in the international system, an aspirant to a permanent seat in the Security Council and an invitee to G-8 summit. In earlier cases the merits of the candidate dominated over his nationality. When people like U Thant, Peres De Cuellar, Boutros Ghali and Kofi Annan were chosen, the records of the countries of their origin and their roles in international politics were not given too much attention. That is not likely to happen in the case of Tharoor. Therefore, even

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while putting in maximum effort for the election of Tharoor, we must carefully calculate the chances of his election in the light of the current international political environment. Tharoor's election will hence be determined by India's popularity in the international community. That in turn will not be on objective considerations but political ones. There are reports that the US is in favour of an East European candidate. This may be part of its drive to project that the former Communist countries have turned democratic. Till now out of seven Secretary-Generals, three have been from Europe, two from Africa, one from Asia and one from Latin America. There is a general demand that this is the turn of Asia since the last Asian SG retired 34 years ago. Whether such a demand will prevail or not depends on the unity of the Asian, African and Latin American countries on the issue. On the other hand, an Eastern European candidate may get the support of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has four out of five permanent SC members. The US, UK and France may also be able to influence many countries in Latin America and former colonies in Africa and the South Pacific. The Nonaligned Summit is to be held in Havana in September and Manmohan Singh will be attending the conference. That Conference may also indicate how much support there is for an Indian to become the SG."

 A POLITICAL PARTY BY MUSLIMS CLERICS

16. "The Fanatics," edit page article by Seema Mustafa in June 17 Secunderabad-based left-of-center English daily DECCAN CHRONICLE: "A whole bunch of Muslim clerics have come together to float a political party. The Muslim clerics have no doubt been encouraged this time by the large crowds that attended rallies to denounce the Danish cartoons and against the United States. Misreading this as a Muslim reaction to Muslim issues, they have decided to politically exploit the sentiment. It is true that the West and the Prime Minister's Office here have tried to give the protests a religious color, but in India, the story has not been quite the same as in other countries. The protests against the Danish cartoons, for instance, were not as political and as

widespread as against the visit of US President George W. Bush in this country. And here the crowds were mixed, as all religions and castes converged on the streets of India to register their protest against the policies of the Bush administration... The Muslims, outside the Left-ruled states, are not traditional voters of the Left parties, but

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showed no hesitation in joining the Left protests against the US for one basic reason: there has been a conscious decision here to reject the "Muslims being beaten" argument of the clerics for the political and secular arguments being offered by the mainstream political parties against the Bush policies...It is...time for the political parties who claim to be secular to not just wake up - although even that will be a mighty exercise - but to sit together and first assess the situation, two, understand it, three, act on it. Difficult for present day politicians, but necessary if the words secular and democratic in the Constitution are to work in not just the letter, but in the field. A beginning can be made in Gujarat by ensuring the defeat of the Ugly Indian Narendra Modi. This will be the biggest defeat for the maulanas."

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