

Israeli incursion continues unabated: US must rein in Sharon



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ripened yet for Chairman Arafat's departure for Beirut. Sharon was so arrogant that he defied even the US State Department as reportedly Secretary Powell himself telephoned Sharon to let Arafat attend Arab Summit and also ensure Arafat's return to the Palestinian territory. The same Summit was set to endorse the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's peace plan that envisaged full peace and normalization of relation with Israel against Israel's full withdrawal from the land occupied in 1967 war. Later considering the situation as dangerous Arafat decided not to leave for Beirut as it was almost certain that Sharon will prevent Arafat from returning to West bank or Gaza. He, however, addressed the Summit next day, though after some initial trouble, through Al Zazira Television network. The Summit fully endorsed the Saudi peace plan but it seemed that Sharon did not even bother about it as he is not interested in withdrawing from the occupied land.

Interestingly, despite virtual house arrest of Arafat, Palestinians continued to discuss security matters under Zinni's initiative and supervision. Zinni met Arafat some two three times in Ramallah, but surprisingly he did not and, may be, could not arrange Arafat's release from Ramallah. Arafat and his advisors continued to work with Zinni. According to the US Administration, Zinni was very close to a cease fire. This was confirmed by Saeb Erekat who said that Palestinian Authority agreed to the Tenet and Mitchell plan without any pre-conditions. This meant Arafat cooperated fully with Zinni for achieving the cease fire, but still Arafat was not allowed to attend the Beirut summit. A great opportunity was lost.

Moreover, there was no let up in the killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces and no relaxation in the siege of the Palestinian areas. Under all these difficult conditions, rational behaviour could not be expected from the people under constant siege and perpetual occupation and the suicide bombings appear to be results of such a terrible situation created by Israel. It is ironic that

Israel boasts of democracy and civilized behaviour, but today Israel is the only occupying country on earth. Nobody condones suicide bombing, but what the people under siege and occupation and without any military power can do? Though Islam prohibits suicide, some radicals go for it and that also in the name of Islam as they find no other alternative. They are indeed determined to resist illegal occupation and hence the suicide bombings as they explain.

Still more unfortunate is the behaviour of Israeli authorities. The

food and medicines are all reportedly exhausted.

The world is yet not devoid of good people. It was encouraging to see in the US television that a group of international peace activists went to meet Arafat even risking their lives. The group consisted of Europeans, Americans, and people of other nationalities. It also had one lady from Israel who spoke openly against Sharon. Arafat was naturally very happy to meet them and told them of the destruction that he and his people have been facing under Sharon. Next day the peace activ-

sentatives. In the past, Arafat also visited the White House several times and met President Clinton. Unfortunately President Bush did not deal with him at all. President Bush did not even telephone him let alone invite him to meet him though he saw Sharon several times. As the US has declared itself as the honest broker, it was a mistake on the part of Bush Administration to totally ignore Arafat -- a partner in the peace process in which the US is the main sponsor. Had President Bush tried to take Arafat into confidence, the situation today would

would have already been back on the track. But this was totally against Sharon's interest. Therefore he took advantage of the suicide bombing and torpedoed the peace effort of the Saudi Prince. Otherwise, there was no justification to suddenly brand Arafat as a terrorist and go after his blood.

The Clinton Administration was not a naive one not to understand the behaviour of Arafat; it dealt with Arafat fairly well, though it could not close the deal. Unfortunately, Bush Administration took a stand that was apparently based on domestic

unholy visit to the Al-Aqsa compound about 18 months ago in September 2000. The Palestinians also behaved wrongly by angrily protesting the visit. They could have very well ignored it, and that would have saved so many lives. It's time for the US Administration and the Congress to look back and take a stock of what has happened so far and why. Nobody is asking the US to abandon Israel. Everybody is aware of Jewish influence in the USA, in all areas -- politics, media, business etc. But it is also a matter of concern to others that Jewish influence is bringing serious insecurity to the ordinary US citizens, in the USA and elsewhere. Why should the citizens of the USA and its interest be the targets for terrorist attacks? All these are also making US Administration jittery about political happenings abroad. Its entire approach to the foreign policy is getting blurred due to the fact that it has to keep in view the interest of the Jewish state in the forefront while formulating its policies.

Today, the US media is busy with the issues like -- America at war, war against terrorism, Taliban, Al-Qaida and bin Laden, Saddam, axis of evil and what not. The US being the superpower, militarily and also economically, should normally be engaged in helping people and nations around the world. But why has America been facing all these problems? It's time to reconsider the basic issues that shape its domestic as well as foreign policies.

Sharon called Arafat Israel's bin Laden and he earlier declared him "irrelevant" and now branded him as "Israel's enemy." He also said Arafat should be "isolated", expelled or even killed. The latest is that he has asked Arafat to leave his Ramallah compound and Palestinian territories only with one-way ticket. One would not be surprised if Sharon orders his army to lift him physically and put him somewhere outside the Palestinian territories. In the process he might even be killed. This is being widely feared now. So it is

quite clear that Sharon's personal enmity with Arafat has made the people of Palestine and Israel the hostage and along with those of the US too.

Egypt has already downgraded its diplomatic link with Israel, and so has Jordan. Protests against Israel and the US have been taking place in practically all Arab capitals. The U.S. administration has reportedly been receiving a series of telephone calls from Europe and the Arab world. Thus, the Bush Administration is under real push now to do something immediately to stop the madness in the region. There is a growing demand that Secretary Powell visit the area immediately and help stop Israeli atrocities, otherwise it is strongly believed that American interest in the region will continue to suffer.

Even now the US is in a position to retrieve the situation. Leaving things to Anthony Zinni alone has not worked and will not work. Sharon thinks he is a bigger general. Zinni needs more political support. Secretary Colin Powell should fly out to the region immediately and meet the leaders of both sides and particularly Arafat and his colleagues. He should prevail upon Sharon to implement the UNSC resolution 1402 on withdrawal immediately and fully. He should also prevail on Arafat to rein in Palestinian radicals. A direct word from Secretary Powell should induce him to 'do more' as wanted by the US. Once Israeli forces withdrew, Tenet and Mitchell plan should be implemented together as cease-fire agreement alone will not work without a road map for the ultimate goal -- the Palestinian State.

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SPOTLIGHT ON MIDDLE EAST

Arafat has been rendered completely powerless by Sharon. An elected leader of the Palestinian nation has been spending his days under direct threat to his life. The whole world has been watching Sharon's terrorism against Arafat and his people. Several cities and towns within the Palestinian territories have been reoccupied by Israeli forces and dozens of innocent civilians have already been killed. This is undoubtedly a bigger crime than the suicide bombing. Israel has been continuing its military atrocities despite the UNSC resolution 1402 which called for withdrawal of Israeli forces.

bombings are done by the radicals. Though they are the Palestinians they are neither under the control of the Palestinian Authority (PA) nor do they take orders from PA leaders. Only one group -- Al-Aqsa Brigade -- is the splinter group of Arafat's Fatah Movement but it is certainly a dissident group which do not take orders from Fatah; it works under different leadership. Though it originally belonged to Fatah, it is certainly not under Fatah now. Therefore, any bombing carried out by Al-Aqsa Brigade should not be linked to Arafat.

It is madness to say that Arafat gives orders to suicide bombers to go for bombings. Arafat has been holed up in three rooms of his devastated headquarters in Ramallah for the last five days. But six suicide bombings took place in the last five days. Now who gives orders to suicide bombings? Is it Arafat? No, it is the madness of Sharon that is responsible for the suicide bombings.

Israel is a formidable military power. Why can't it stop suicide bombers from entering Israel? Its army could watch and guard all vulnerable places but instead it sends the army to the Palestinian areas to maintain occupation. When Israel with such large army cannot stop suicide bombers, how could Arafat be expected to watch 3.5 million Palestinians as any one of them could walk into Israel and carry out a suicide bombing. The time has come for the US to ask Israel to explain this before it lends further support to Israel.

The real matter is something different. Sharon is a 'life-long terrorist' as said by Palestinian chief representative to the US. Sharon has been responsible for massacre of thousands of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatilla. He was under scrutiny for his war crimes in a Belgian court. This person has personal revulsion against Arafat and he is on record that he wanted to kill Arafat in 80s in Lebanon. This he said only a couple of weeks ago. Despite all these, the US Administration gives practically unqualified support to this man who has carried out savage devastation of Palestinian areas and particularly the headquarters of Palestinian Authority and holed up Arafat there.

Is it not terrorism for a most modern well-equipped army to wage a war against unarmed people? Sharon sent in hundreds of tanks and many armoured carriers to the Palestinian areas. Dozens of tanks demolished Arafat's headquarters boundaries, entered into his compound and razed to ground seven of the buildings in the headquarters complex. Later, attack was launched against Arafat's own building by demolishing a large part of the wall. Repeated shelling by Israeli tanks practically destroyed the building leaving only three rooms where Arafat and some of his advisors were huddled in. Entire complex appears devastated as shown by the electronic media. The electricity, running water, telephone lines etc have been cut off and his

ists wanted to bring some food and medicine to the people of Ramallah, but they were tear-gassed and

have been certainly different. Because Bush Administration completely ignored Arafat and

political dynamics and went virtually against what Clinton Administration did. It took its hands off the M-E affairs. This allowed Sharon to take charge of the situation there. Bush Administration, as it seems, could not gauge the devilish motive of Sharon who has been having personal enmity with Arafat since 80s. He wanted to finish Arafat and along with it he also damaged the US interest in the area. If Bush Administration had pursued M-E policy at least around what remained of the last Camp David, things would have been different today. Just because the US missed one major opportunity in the Middle East, the situation has turned so hostile today for the US. Terrorism has erupted all over and it seems that everything is against the US. In fact, today, the US stands to suffer for the evil design of Sharon.

Indeed, it is Sharon who created the mess for everyone by making an



PHOTO: AFP

Israeli tanks further moving in West Bank Palestinian areas driven away by Israeli forces.

Arafat has been talking to some of the world leaders over cellular phone which also did not have recharging facilities as electricity connection was totally snapped. When Arafat was fighting for his own survival against Israeli attacks, President Bush asked him to 'do more to stop terrorism'. This is good in a way as he considers Arafat as the 'central leader' whom the world can work with. He also insisted that Chairman Arafat should 'denounce terrorism and ask his people in Arabic to stop terrorism'. But how? Arafat stands confined in three small rooms in the devastated building without electricity and running water. Is it possible for him to address his people by cellular phone?

Arafat has been rendered completely powerless by Sharon. An elected leader of the Palestinian nation has been spending his days under direct threat to his life. The whole world has been watching Sharon's terrorism against Arafat and his people. Several cities and towns within the Palestinian territories have been reoccupied by Israeli forces and dozens of innocent civilians have already been killed. This is undoubtedly a bigger crime than the suicide bombing. Israel has been continuing its military atrocities despite the UNSC resolution 1402 which called for withdrawal of Israeli forces. The worst thing is that Israel has been showing its thumb to the world because it knows that the US Administration is not really putting any pressure on Sharon to withdraw. The Administration's support for the UNSC resolution is being diluted because there are contradictory signals from the US side. This has been pointed out by several commentators and Congressmen.

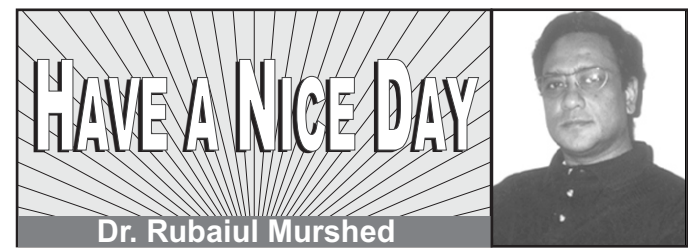
Indeed, Sharon has called him a terrorist and has been treating him as a terrorist though according to President Bush, Arafat is not a terrorist as he already agreed to the peace process and has been negotiating with the US and Israeli repre-

favoured Sharon, the latter took it as a green signal for his mad adventures in the area. Sharon has indeed brought the situation to a point of no return.

It is true that President Bush's personal envoy Anthony Zinni is trying for the third time to do something in terms of the cease-fire, but Zinni, a fine person, is not the right level to deal with such a serious and indeed a dangerous affair. Moreover, his mission was not even supported by any higher level officials in the Administration. President Dick Cheney also did not meet him though he was in the Jerusalem, a couple of miles away from Ramallah where Arafat was holed up. He met Sharon though it was the general feeling that Sharon deliberately undermined Vice President's visit to the Arab world as any success of such a visit could have led to Israeli withdrawal to 1967 border.

Indeed, the present debacle was deliberately created by Sharon as Zinni was so close to a cease-fire deal. Of course, the suicide bombing was aimed at disrupting the cease-fire, but this was the work of Hamas which is an extremist organization and opposed to PA. Indeed, when Arafat condemned the suicide bombing, Israel should have joined hands with Arafat to chase the person responsible for ordering such a suicide attack. Instead Sharon started blaming Arafat for the bombing. This was deliberately done to create a situation that would undermine the efforts of the Arab Summit, which the US and other world leaders were favourably looking forward to. Indeed, if Arafat was allowed to attend the Summit, the peace plan of Saudi Prince Abdullah would have got a real boost and with the support of the US and Europe the peace process

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All health information to keep you up to date

Water

Just as it is the most abundant material on earth, water is the most abundant substance in the human body, making up one half to two thirds of body weight. Roughly three quarters of the brain and muscles are made up of water. Even bone is 20 per cent water.

The percentage of water in the body varies from person to person depending on such factors as body composition, age and gender. For example, men have more water in their bodies than women because they have a higher content of lean muscle. Muscle holds more water than fat tissue.

Every part of the body, from the individual cell to the entire circulation system, depends upon water to function. Water is needed for:

- * transporting nutrients and oxygen to all parts of the body via the blood and lymphatic system;
- * helping maintain body temperature (heat is released when you sweat, which helps to cool you down);
- * lubricating the joints to keep them moving freely;
- * removing body waste materials;
- * serving as a medium for thousands of reactions that need to take place in the body daily to sustain life;
- * maintaining blood volume.

Signs of dehydration

Mild	Moderate	Severe
Thirst	Rapid heart rate	Muscle spasms
Headache	Dizziness	Swollen tongue
Fatigue	Low blood pressure	Poor blood circulation
Flushed skin	Weakness and lack of energy	Increased weakness
Dry mouth and throat	Highly concentrated urine	Failing kidney function
	but low in volume	

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