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RAJINDER PURI

Ekla Chalo!

Is there any point talking to President Hu after the recent claims by the Chinese ambassador? Or is it time to make the recent bhai-bhai to bye-bye China?

INDO-US

And Now, The Vote

The United States Senate is expected to debate and vote this week on a bill that would permit civilian nuclear cooperation with India. Would Dame Luck smile on the deal in the lame-duck session?

ASHISH KUMAR SEN

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WASHINGTON

The United States Senate is expected to debate and vote this week on a bill that would permit civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

Congressional and diplomatic sources told this correspondent the long-awaited vote could take place on Wednesday or Thursday. The United States Congress commenced its lame-duck session on Monday and the U.S.-India nuclear deal features prominently on the agenda.

The members of Congress will go on a two-week Thanksgiving recess at the end of this week and will reconvene on December 4 to take up unfinished business. While the "second" lame duck session is expected to last until December 8, sources say this could well be extended, fueling hope for passage of the nuclear deal by the end of the session.

On Monday, both Republicans as well as Democrats indicated their intention to take up the India nuclear deal in the lame duck session. But before that they will vote on a bill that makes permanent trade relations with Vietnam.

In his remarks Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Republican, said, "This week, the Senate agenda will focus on completing the remaining appropriations bills. And in the days and weeks ahead, we'll also need to consider the nomination of Bob Gates as Secretary of Defence, Vietnam trade legislation, and the U.S.- India civilian nuclear technology bill, among others."

Mr. Frist's Democratic counterpart, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, said, "We have our mind on concluding the appropriations bills and the very important nuclear agreement with the largest democracy in the world, India, and we also want to do for a number of reasons, not the least of which the



B. RAMAN

The Sounds Of Silence

Why is there no squeak out of the Al Qaeda or Dr Ayman al-Zawahiri on the air strike in Chenagai in the Bajaur Agency and the retaliatory suicide attack in Dargai?



SEEMA SIROHI

The Reluctant Diplomat

Sonia led the gathering in a minute of silence but her silence continued through the evening. Why this austere aura and a refusal to speak to the people?



NAVTEJ SARNA

Déjà Vu Revisited

The formal dialogue process resumes after the

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short disruption due to Mumbai terror attacks in July, marked by the strong insistence by India to focus on terrorism, and the equally predictable response. Official briefing. [Updates](#)

The Seduction Of Process

The Maoist objective in Nepal is not the sharing of power. It is the seizure of power. This is the reality that will crystallize over the coming months and years.

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President is leaving in a few days to Vietnam, we would like to see that completed with the minimum amount of debate and amendments."

Once the Senate passes the nuclear bill it will be sent to conference -- a process in which differences between the House and Senate versions of the bills are reconciled. The leadership of the two chambers of Congress appoints conferees from committees which have jurisdiction over the legislation - in this case the House International Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Conferees would then get together and look at parts of the bill that are not identical and decide on which competing provisions will be accepted. This will be followed by an up or down vote in the House and the Senate and if approved, the final bill will be sent to the president to be signed into law.

Lawmakers have a packed lame duck agenda. They are expected to hold confirmation hearings on President George W. Bush's Defence Secretary nominee Robert Gates, and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, John R. Bolton. The latter faces stiff opposition from congressional Democrats and some prominent Republicans. According to reliable sources, the White House is aware it faces an uphill battle with Mr. Bolton's confirmation and has approached Zalmay Khalilzad, currently the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, to consider taking up the U.N. post.

Meanwhile, the Indian American Security Leadership Council, a bipartisan organization created to encourage closer ties between the U.S. and India, called on Senators to pass the bill, a similar version of which was approved overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives in July.

"Now is the time for the U.S. Senate to take the steps necessary to pass this crucial legislation," said Ramesh V. Kapur, founder and president of the IASLC. "We believe that India, the world's largest democracy, with over half a century of electoral stability, is a growing military and economic force in the region, and can help safeguard American security in a way that no other country in the region can."

On Wednesday, the IASLC plans to run a full-page advertisement in Roll Call, a congressional newspaper, urging the Senate to pass the bill without any killer amendments. The advertisement will be signed by IASLC supporters from national veterans organizations. "We have been overwhelmed by the support we received from veterans organizations, Indo-American leaders and other Americans who are concerned about U.S. national security and have expressed to their Senators the need to have this bill passed before the 109th Congress adjourns," said Mr. Kapur.

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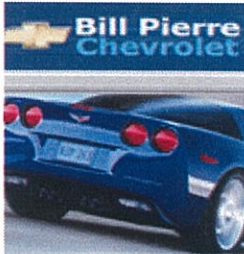
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Indian American Security Leadership Council Calls on U.S. Senate to Pass Senate Bill 2429 during 'Lame Duck' Session



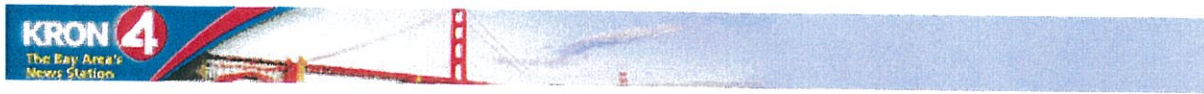
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Indian American Security Leadership Council Calls on U.S. Senate to Pass Senate Bill 2429 during 'Lame Duck' Session

11.13.06, 12:29 PM ET

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SOURCE Indian American Security Leadership Council -0- 11/13/2006 /CONTACT: Holly Johnson, +1-617-226-7193, or Alex Schaufler, +1-617-226-7192, both of Bell Pottinger USA, for The Indian American Security Leadership Council / /Photo: NewsCom: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20061113/NEM049> AP Archive: <http://photoarchive.ap.org> PRN Photo Desk, photodesk@prnewswire.com / /Web site: <http://www.indianamericansecurityleadershipcouncil.org> / CO: Indian American Security Leadership Council ST: District of Columbia, India IN: POL SU: CPN FOR LEG AH-CP -- NEM049 -- 9931 11/13/2006 12:28 EST <http://www.prnewswire.com>

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Press Release

Source: Indian American Security Leadership Council

Indian American Security Leadership Council Calls on U.S. Senate to Pass Senate Bill 2429 during 'Lame Duck' Session

Monday November 13, 12:28 pm ET

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Source: Indian American Security Leadership Council

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No dame luck for lame duck session

Chidanand Rajghatta

[12 Nov, 2006 01:05hrs IST TIMES NEWS NETWORK]

WASHINGTON: Indian-American pressure groups and US lobbyists don't want to depend on dame luck to get the deal through the lame duck session of Congress.

Both sides have resumed full scale lobbying, convening meetings, conferences, and seeking appointments with k ensure its passage in a narrow window afforded by a session which lawmakers find anathema.

The bipartisan Coalition for Partnership with India is hosting a policy luncheon on November 14 to discuss the nu which members will head to the Hill to press lawmakers for movement.

Separately, the US-India Business Council and other interest groups have also resumed lobbying efforts.

Indian-American Democrats, who had been gradually sidelined over the past decade by the emergence of Indian Republicans, have also resurfaced to add muscle to lobbying chanteyns.

"For now we are all Indians and none of us are chiefs. If this bill goes through, not just India but Indian-Americans benefit," said Ramesh Kapur, a Massachusetts Democrat who has worked closely with Democratic Party for man is heading a five-state initiative to drum up support for the deal.

The lobbying effort resumed even as Bush, for the second time in two days, identified the India deal as one of the intended to push through the lame duck session.

In talks with the incoming Democratic leadership, Bush sought their help in getting the deal through. The State D identified the nuke deal as one of the priorities of the administration in the lame duck session.

Democrats have agreed in principle to put the nuclear deal legislation on the agenda, but the question is in what : they will pass it.

Many lawmakers want the deal to be tightened with amendments that will result in greater oversight on India's nu to the extent that may be unacceptable to New Delhi.

The pressure groups are trying to forestall that. "You have to remember that non-proliferation has been on the party's platform going back to 1974. It is not easy to overcome this overnight. We have to work hard to bring c resistance," said Kapur of Massachusetts.

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Garnering support for the U.S. & India Nuclear Cooperation

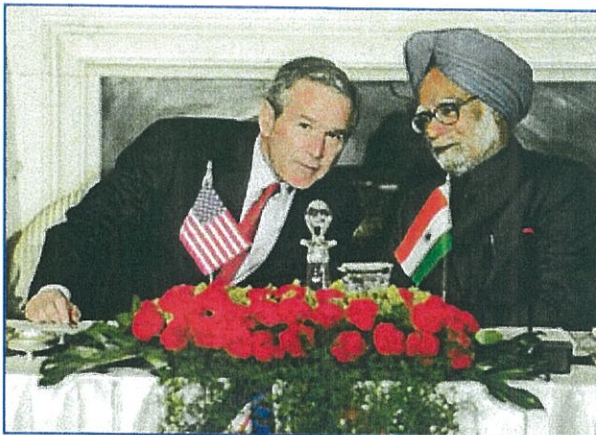
WorldNews.com, Fri 3 Nov 2006

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Article by IASLC, Alex Schaffler.

The Indian American Security Leadership Council (IASLC), a bi-partisan organization created to encourage closer ties between India and America, announced that they are expanding their grassroots efforts to educate five key U.S. states on the U.S. & India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act.



Garnering support for the U.S. & India Nuclear Cooperation

This extended campaign is an effort to educate local organizations and community leaders and encourage support for approval on Senate Bill 2429

before the end of the 2006 legislative session. To date the IASLC has the support of national veterans organizations representing over 3 million U.S. veterans across the country.

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"We believe that India, the world's largest democracy with over half a century of electoral stability, is a growing military and economic force in the region, and can help safeguard American security in a way that no other country in the region can," said Ramesh V. Kapur, Founder and President of the organization. "To that end, we are now taking our message to states that have Senators key to making this national security issue a priority before the end of the year."

The IASLC has garnered support from groups representing thousands of American veterans urging Congress to support the pending Indian American nuclear agreement. Aiming to educate similar organizations on the local level, the IASLC will target its campaign in five states; California, Michigan, Illinois, New Mexico and Nevada.

Groups currently supporting the IASLC campaign include the Veterans of Foreign Reserve Officers Association, Reserve Enlisted Association, Korean War Veterans, American Military Society, Armed Forces Top Enlisted Association, Retired Enlisted Association and Gold Star Wives of America.

"We are confident that veterans organizations, Indian-American leaders and those who are concerned about U.S. national security in these states will find this issue compelling and worthy of support," said Kapur. "When these groups proclaim their support for this issue, their elected representatives in the Senate will listen and promote this legislation."



Contributor: PR Newswire New York
Wednesday, November 01 2006 - 02:08

Country for I

▶ Indian American Security Leadership Council Takes Campaign for Support of Leg to Battleground States

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 /PRNewswire-AsiaNet/ --

Goal is to garner support for the U.S. & India
Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act

The Indian American Security Leadership Council (IASLC), a bi-partisan organization created to encourage closer ties between India and America, announced today that they are expanding their grassroots efforts to educate five key U.S. states on the U.S. & India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act.

This extended campaign is an effort to educate local organizations and community leaders and encourage support for approval on Senate Bill 2429 before the end of the 2006 legislative session. To date the IASLC has the support of national veterans organizations representing over 3 million U.S. veterans across the country.

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Retired Enlisted Association and Gold Star Wives of America.

The Indian American Security Leadership Council (IASLC) a bi-partisan organization, was created to encourage closer ties between India and America, and to promote the idea that America's future security would be greatly enhanced by working closely with India. India, the world's largest democracy with over half a century of electoral stability, is a growing military and economic force in the region, and can help safeguard American security in a way that no other country in the region can. The IASLC is funded entirely by the personal contributions of American citizens that share the Council's position. The IASLC was founded by its president Ramesh V. Kapur and its vice-president Krishna V. Srinivasa. Additional information about the IASLC can be found at <http://www.indianamericansecurityleadershipcouncil.org>

SOURCE: The Indian American Security Leadership Council

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Thursday, November 02, 2006

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World

'Accord top priority to Indo-US nuke deal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, November 1: Amidst concerns that various legislations competing for floor time will squeeze out the Indo-US nuclear bill during the lame-duck session of the US Senate next week, an Indo-American organisation has said the White House should demonstrate its commitment to the deal by according it top priority.

The Coalition for Partnership with India has identified two "immediate hurdles" to getting floor time in the Senate and suggested that the Republicans and Democrats work together to clear the bill.

"Democratic leaders particularly Senator Harry Reid and Senator Joseph Biden and their staffs must identify, analyse, and eliminate duplicates among the 18 amendments proposed to date by Members on their side of the aisle.

"The Democratic leaders and their staffs must work with their Republican counterparts to identify amendments that are non-controversial and can be adopted without debate. Once the number of amendments is reduced to a certain, manageable number, a meaningful discussion for floor time must commence with Senator Frist," the Coalition said in a statement.

It said the White House must signal that the India is a priority.

"We are concerned that other legislation competing for floor time will squeeze ours off the calendar. Ten appropriations bills are on the agenda. It is critical that the White House demonstrate its commitment to the India bill by making it a top priority," the Coalition said urging all supporters of the deal to make sure their voices are heard.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has assured the External Affairs Minister that the administration would try its best to get Congressional approval for the nuclear deal. Efforts are also on to get the assistance of the Office of the Vice President.

A recent meeting took place between Dr Jaishankar, Joint Secretary in the Americas Division of the Ministry of External Affairs and Samantha Ravich, the Vice President Dick Cheney's deputy national security adviser.

Meanwhile, the Indian American Security Leadership Council, a bi-partisan organisation created to encourage closer ties between India and America, has announced that it is expanding their grassroots efforts to educate five key US states on the US & India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act; and to try and get the Senate Bill out of the way prior to the end of the 2006 legislative session.

"We believe that India, the world's largest democracy with over half a century of electoral stability, is a growing military and economic force in the region, and can help safeguard American security in a way that no other country in the region can," Ramesh Kapur, Founder and President of the organisation, said in a statement.

"To that end, we are now taking our message to states that have Senators key to making this national security issue a priority before the end of the year." The Leadership Council is planning its activities in the states of California, Michigan, Illinois, New Mexico and Nevada.

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White House urged to accord top priority to Indo-US deal

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Bureau Report

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Tuesday, November 07, 2006

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WORLD

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Press Trust of India

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