An Appeal To The Prime Minister Of India On The Issue Of Jammu-Kashmir

By The Front For The Trilateral Resolution Of Jammu-Kasmir Problem

1. The Front for the Trilateral Resolution of Jammu-Kashmir problem offers its hearty greetings on your current (April 18, 2003) visit to Jammu-Kashmir state.

2. The Front is of the view that your visit is raking place at an appropriate moment—a moment when a new social reality has emerged in the world. That is, the emergence of US as the supreme world power with its one-point agenda which is to act as the sole policeman of the world. This new international context has naturally induced US to take a modified position on all world problems, including that of Jammu-Kashmir.

3. The Front believes that all concerned might have taken note of the US foreign minister's recent statement in which he has reiterated that Jammu-Kashmir is a disputed issue and that the US will help in sorting it out between the contending parties immediately after the completion of its military task in Iraq. Retrospectively, the earlier US stand on Jammu-Kashmir had been that it (i.e., the US) will undertake this task only when approached by the contending parties.

4. The Front maintains that, taking into account the new US unilateralism and belligerence, it will be totally unrealistic for anyone (including India, Pakistan and Jammu-Kashmir people) to rely on the past US assurances and positions. The latest events (the split in the NATO and between the US and the EU) fully confirm that the US is only devoted to its own corporate interests, with no consideration for any 'near and dear' one.

5. The Front holds that, in the newly-emerged world scenario, the best course for India, Pakistan and Jammu-Kashmir people is to firmly take the route of dialogue for resolving Jammu-Kashmir problem and reject the path of military solution for good.

6. Taking into account the above facts, the front considers the present occasion as a suitable time for starting a dialogue between the related parties. The opening, whether bilateral or trilateral, may be decided by two big parties, India and Pakistan.

7. The responsibility to initiate the peace process morally falls on New Delhi, having been the main party in the dispute. Here, a three-fold initiative taken by New Delhi, i.e., to declare a unilateral cease-fire for one month; reduce the level of violence and human rights violations in the state; and sanction additional funds for the development of Jammu-Kashmir, may help in breaking the log-jam between the parties concerned.

8. The front makes an appeal to all sides that they may please undergo a serious review of their respective stand-points and policies which have brought heavy losses to them and terrible sufferings to Jammu-Kashmir people, especially the Kashmiris. Giving up the 1947- perspective of getting the whole of Jammu-Kashmir for their respective units, they should now adopt a nature-human centric viewpoint that seeks to establish a partnership between India, Pakistan Jammu-Kashmir people. India should prepare itself to abandon its rigid position which hold Jammu-Kashmir as an integral part of India, while Pakistan should get ready to give up its traditional slogan of getting the problem resolved on the basis of 1948-49 UN resolutions. The people in the state should adjust themselves to the Jammu-Kashmir reality that this state is a multi-ethnic state in which no single ethnic community enjoys an absolute majority and hence the slogans of self-determination and plebiscite have no relevance in this case. Should all change in the respective mindsets of the three parties concerned can work wonders for South Asia and consequently the world.

9. The Front further underlines the three-fold social truth, i.e., (a) the people of India, Pakistan and Jammu-Kashmir are historically one people, with a common genetic code and ancestry and speak the same languages and follow the same culture, habits, norms and forms; (b) in the present era, they are, despite having been two nations, confronted with similar problems, i.e., the criminalisaiton of politics, violation of the rule of law, miscarriage of justice, increasing crime, lawlessness and

violence, back-breaking corruption, inequality, poverty, unemployment, houselessness, degenering cultural norms, worsening environmental resources like air and water pollution, decreasing the availability of drinking water, land degradation, deforestation, threat to bio-diversity, etc. Even in this scientific age, India and Pakistan remain among the poorest countries of the world and, financially, both are in ruins whose fiscal deficits have risen to mounting proportions; (c) And now they have entered the phase of a common future with SAARC as their newly-emerging social identity.

10. Taking into account the above facts, the Front firmly upholds that a just and rational solution to Jammu-Kashmir problem resides in a formula that reconciles the interests of all parties concerned. In its opinion, the following three-point proposal well serves the aspirations and interests of all, i.e., India, Pakistan, Jammu-Kashmir people and the world community.

a. The respective national aspirations and interests of India and Pakistan be balanced by jointly entrusting to them Jammu-Kashmir's sovereignty in the constitutional form of Indo-Pak condominium in regard to Jammu-Kashmir's defence & foreign affairs.

b. The regional aspirations and interests of Jammu-Kashmir people, especially Kashmiris, be met by constitutionally accepting Jammu-Kashmir as an independent state, enjoying sovereign powers in all matters, except defence and foreign affairs.

c. The ethnic aspirations and interests of Jammu-Kashmir's different ethno-regional communities be accommodated by giving maximum-possible constitutional autonomy to each of them. Jammu-Kashmir state level matters may include: the head of state, high court, election commission, human development commission, environmental commission, planning commission, etc.

11. Apart from satisfying the urges of the three parties concerned, the above formula further offers the former (that is, the three parties concerned) and the world human community new development prospects. It delivers to them in many other ways. It suits the world community by defusing one of the most dangerous global flash-points. It benefits the South Asian community by removing the blockades to its socio-economic development, common market, a joint defence etc.

12. It further serves India, Pakistan and the people of Jammu-Kashmir by making them equal partners in economic development in which each India and Pakistan provides an equal amount of finances, while Jammu-Kashmir state contributes its share in the form of natural resources. Also, Jammu-Kashmir's people get additional advantage by virtue of their becoming the citizen of the two countries and obtaining the facility of trading with them.

With great regards and thanking you in anticipation.

April, 2OO3