treaty, unless India does the same, has popular support in that country.

When the new government was installed in India earlier this year, interest was shown by both countries in starting negotiations to normalize relations. However, the initial enthusiasm has not been followed up by concrete measures.[10] In fact, both sides are now saying that negotiations are unlikely to be held in the near future. The Indian observers I have talked to say that normalization of relations with Pakistan in the near future is unlikely. This pessimistic view was confirmed recently by the chief of the Indian army, General Roy Chowdhury, who said that relations between the two countries are unlikely to improve unless something drastic happens.[11]

While the governments in both countries pay lip service to the need to normalize relations, neither takes a realistic view of the situation. The fact that a long term solution acceptable to both countries would necessitate some degree of compromise is completely ignored by both sides.[12]

To conclude, the south Asia region has seen an increase in tension during the 1990s. There is a growing support for strong defence, especially in India and Pakistan. In view of this, a significant reduction in military expenditure in the region is unlikely.

Linking Aid to Military Expenditure

Can development aid be used to put pressure on the countries in the region to reduce their military expenditure? A number of factors restrict the effectiveness of development aid as an instrument of pressure.

Broadly speaking, there are two types of development aid; bilateral and multilateral.

---

[10]The only exception is India's announcement to liberalize the issue of Indian visas to Pakistani nationals. At present both countries limit the issue of visas. *Times of India*, New Delhi, July 2, 1996.

[11]*Times of India*, New Delhi, August 4, 1996.

[12]The situation is different in the case of the dispute between India and China. Not constrained by emotions, both sides are more pragmatic in their dealings with each other.