

emergence of the Bhartiya Janta Party (which takes an extremely anti Pakistan position) as a serious contender for power in India, the Indian government will find it very difficult to reduce defence expenditure significantly. In fact, there is a growing demand for a large increase in military expenditure. Influential defence analysts are demanding an increase in the defence budget. They have warned that unless the defence budget is increased considerably, the armed forces will be unable to perform in a conflict. It is argued that if India wants to maintain the same defence capability it had in the 1980s, it will need to spend up to 5-6% of its GDP on defence.<sup>7</sup> The Bhartiya Janta Party has also criticized the current defence budget as too small.<sup>8</sup>

Governments have resisted this pressure until now. For example, in 1995 the Ministry of Defence had asked for Rs. 29,0000 million but was given only Rs. 25,0000 million.<sup>9</sup> However, as support for a strong defence has become increasingly vocal, this situation is almost certain to change; further cuts in defence are unlikely.

In the case of Pakistan, its determination to maintain some degree of parity with India implies that its military expenditure is also unlikely to come down. Also, Pakistan's policy of supporting anti-Indian activities in Kashmir also suggests that it is prepared to maintain strong defence capabilities. In addition to maintaining conventional defence capabilities, there is a possibility that both India and Pakistan will expand their nuclear and missile programmes. The fact that China is a nuclear power and that Pakistan is reported to be developing nuclear weapons have been fully used by the Indian government and the media to build opinion in favour of India retaining its nuclear options. Similarly, the 1974 nuclear explosion by India has been used by Pakistan to build public opinion in favour of its nuclear programme. Currently, a strong pro-nuclear opinion exists in both countries. India's refusal to sign the CTBT in its present form, for example, has been supported by most political parties. Similarly, Pakistan's refusal to sign the

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<sup>7</sup>Singh Jasjit, "Defence Budget: Not a Notional Increase", Indian Express, New Delhi, July 22, 1996.

<sup>8</sup>Times of India, New Delhi, July 23, 1996

<sup>9</sup>Sunday, Calcutta???April 30-May 6, 1995