

3. Democracy and good governance: Making shared values effective

The television screen flickered, and the newsreader faded out. The pictures of army manouevres cut like a pop-video to a soundtrack of martial music and patriotic songs could mean only one thing. News began to filter out that the Prime Minister, elected just two years ago, was under 'preventive detention'. Some hours later, the protagonist appeared – the military uniform, the dark glasses, the large flag and the picture of the father of the nation over his shoulder. He sought to reassure 'his' people that "your armed forces have never and shall never let you down". And then the parliament was suspended, the constitution in abeyance, the President told to report to the military leader. It was a textbook *coup d'état* – from an army with more experience in the field than most.

The Pakistan coup was a blow to a strongly democratising Commonwealth. A Commonwealth which had been proud of reducing the numbers of military dictators over the 'nineties down to zero now has General Musharraf very much on its mind.