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**4 PUZZLES PEACE**

Suggested Solution

Get around to it

Presented By

**FREE THE CHILDREN**  
Children helping children through education

PUZZLE ON P2

# India wants to join the Nonproliferation Treaty—with weapons

Likely opposition aside, will India's membership strengthen the treaty?

By DAVID P. FIDLER & SUMIT GANGULY

Continued disturbing revelations about Iran's nuclear programs escalate the dangers the world faces from nuclear proliferation. The mounting peril threatens to overwhelm President Obama's quest for a world free of nuclear weapons, a quest he will pursue at a summit on nuclear security in April and at a meeting in May to review the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

While NPT membership is nearly universal, the refusal of India, Pakistan, and Israel to join, North Korea's proliferation and withdrawal from, and Iran's violations of, the treaty have placed severe stress on the nonproliferation regime. Can the NPT, which is the centerpiece of the global nonproliferation effort, be righted such that the world can take steps toward Obama's vision of a nuclear-free world?

Into this environment comes an unexpected development. On Nov. 29, 2009, Manmohan Singh, India's prime minister, stated on Fared Zakaria's GPS show that India wants to join the NPT as a nuclear-weapons state (NWS) and become the sixth NPT-recognized nuclear power. Although Indian diplomats have raised this idea in private in years past, Singh's statement represents the first public announcement by a high-ranking official that India wants to be a NWS within the NPT. Indian press reports indicate that Singh is serious about this proposal, despite opposition within India.

Not only does this statement depart from India's historic NPT opposition, but it also could agitate nuclear diplomacy in 2010. India's willingness to join the NPT contains the potential to strengthen the NPT, which places a premium on how existing NPT members respond to India's policy shift. Bringing India within the NPT as a NWS would be controversial, but to exclude a nuclear-armed but non-proliferating India when it is now willing to join would not strengthen efforts against nuclear proliferation.



**NUCLEAR ELITE:** The former director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohamed ElBaradei (R) gestures as he speaks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. RAVEENDRAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

India has long criticized the treaty and maintained it would not join because the NPT discriminated against states not possessing nuclear weapons on Jan. 1, 1967; it increased the difficulties for states wishing to develop nuclear energy; and it did not contain serious disarmament obligations for existing nuclear powers.

India presented its position as one of principle, but it had security interests in having nuclear weapons to deter perceived threats from China. India again caused consternation in 2008 when it concluded an accord with the United States under which India could access nuclear technologies and materials in return for placing its civilian nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Critics complained that the accord rewarded India's NPT defiance and weakened efforts to strengthen nonproliferation.

By switching course, India forces

the nonproliferation community to confront India's criticisms of the treaty, which overlap with worries about the NPT's weaknesses.

By all accounts, India has been a responsible nuclear power. Its exclusion from the NPT would be a function of an arbitrary date rather than its behavior. India has not fostered proliferation, unlike China and Pakistan. It has a small nuclear arsenal for deterrence, unlike some recognized NWS that have massive stockpiles despite NPT obligations to engage in disarmament.

Through the U.S.-Indian nuclear accord, India has accepted IAEA oversight of its civilian nuclear facilities, and India has performed better in this regard than Libya, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Syria, which joined the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states but violated, or are suspected of violating, the NPT.

In short, India is not undermin-

ing the nonproliferation system, rather, the NPT system has been undermined by its own flaws and the countries that agreed to abide by, but flouted, its rules. India is now willing to join the NPT and bring its legitimacy as a democratic nuclear power and its growing influence to bear on shoring up the NPT's objectives.

All that is required is an amendment to the treaty's cutoff date for recognition as a NWS. Existing NPT members can accept India's desire to help strengthen the NPT, or they can reject India's interest, which does not improve the NPT's prospects. Which way will NPT members go?

**RESOLUTION 1887**

If NPT members follow the U.N. Security Council, they will reject India's overture. As part of President Obama's effort to advance the cause of a nuclear-free world, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1887 on Sept. 24, 2009, which "calls upon all States that are not parties to the NPT to accede ... as non-nuclear-weapon states." NPT members could hide behind this resolution and avoid addressing India's new position. However, such a response simply avoids a policy question that deserves attention on its merits.

The key states will be the NPT's existing NWS, especially China, Russia, and the United States, because all NWS must approve the amendment needed to permit India to join as a NWS. Neither China nor Russia faces additional strategic risks from allowing India to join the NPT because India is already a nuclear-armed power, and supporting Indian accession could be a way to improve relations with the country as its regional and global influence grows.

The United States is caught between recognizing India as a democratic, responsible nuclear power (e.g., the U.S.-India nuclear accord) and the policy of the Obama administration that nonparties to the NPT should join only as non-nuclear-weapons states (e.g., Resolution 1887). Given India's NPT shift,

the United States cannot reconcile these positions, meaning it must make a choice that contains no room for dissembling. The U.S. choice will likely determine how European nations and Japan respond, as happened with the U.S.-India nuclear accord.

Importantly, opposing India's desire to join the NPT as a NWS on the basis of Resolution 1887 or narrow national interests will do nothing to strengthen the NPT. If a more robust NPT is vital for making progress toward a nuclear-free world, then bringing India into the treaty, especially when it is emerging as a great power, makes more sense than believing that India will disarm unilaterally simply to join the NPT.

Indian participation in the NPT will not, by itself, eliminate the problems the NPT now confronts, especially those caused by North Korea, Iran, and the potential of nuclear terrorism. But, with India supporting the regime, the world would finally have all nuclear-armed great powers committed to the same rules—an unprecedented convergence that could reinvigorate nonproliferation politics in a manner more meaningful than the distant vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

India's NPT move adds complexity to the nuclear diplomacy that will unfold in 2010, and, shrewdly, it elevates Indian interests, influence, and ideas. Whether India succeeds or fails, its manoeuvre highlights problems with the NPT, creates challenges for India's allies and rivals, and forces nonproliferation advocates to rethink how to strengthen their efforts.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR B.C. LUMBER FOR HAITI?

An altruistic gesture from the people of British Columbia to the people of Haiti who's houses were shattered by the earthquake would be a shipload of B.C. lumber to rebuild

their houses with. There is no sense in sending them money since their stores were also flattened.

When wood-framed houses are in an earthquake, they don't

shatter and crush the occupants as those made of un-reinforced cement and stone do. Wood-framed construction bends and the plaster cracks. Watch how a house is demolished here.

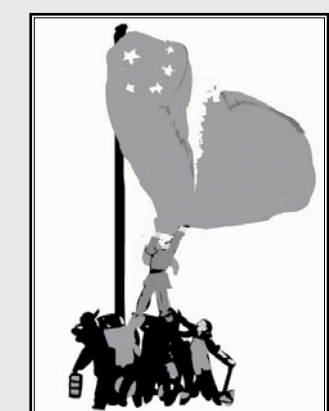
You can't bang a wood framed house with an excavator and have it fall down in a heap.

We have more wood here than we know what to do with. Let's do something useful with it.

Norbert Kaysser  
Western Log Sort and Salvage  
Port Coquitlam B.C.



## QUITTING THE CCP



Inspired by the 'Nine Commentaries,' as of February 10, at 7:45 p.m.

68,390,002

Chinese people have announced their intentions to quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations on a special Web site established by The Epoch Times. Many others, unable to break through the Chinese Internet blockade, have posted their withdrawal statements on poles or buildings. Others have written them on Chinese currency. Read recent statements of Chinese quitting the Party, the latest news on the "Nine Commentaries," and more at <http://www.NineCommentaries.com>

The 'Nine Commentaries' is the book that is disintegrating the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and changing China. This award-winning Epoch Times editorial series discloses the true history and nature of the CCP. Now it is serialized here.

# Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party

## Commentary Nine (cont.)

On the unscrupulous nature of the Chinese Communist Party

**HOLDING OVER ONE BILLION PEOPLE HOSTAGE**

Imagine that a licentious criminal broke into a home and raped a girl. At the trial, this criminal defends himself by arguing that he did not kill the victim; he only raped her. Because killing is worse than raping, he argues that he is innocent and should be released immediately. He says that people should also praise him for only raping but not killing.

This logic sounds ridiculous. However, the CCP's logic in defense of its Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4, 1989 is exactly the same as that of the criminal. The CCP has argued that the "suppression of students" avoided

a potential "internal disorder" in China. In order to prevent "internal disorder," the suppression of students was thus justified.

"Raping or killing, which one is better?" The asking of such a question in court to a judge would reveal a criminal's shamelessness. Similarly, in the issue of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the CCP and its cohorts did not reflect on whether it was guilty of killing. Instead, they asked society which one is better—"Suppression of students or internal disorder that may lead to civil war?"

The CCP is in control of the entire state machine and all means of propaganda. In other words, the 1.3 billion Chinese people are held hostage by the CCP. With 1.3 billion hostages in hand, the CCP can always argue its "hostage theory": if it does not suppress a certain group of people, the whole nation will be in turmoil or disaster. Using this as an excuse, the CCP could suppress any individual or group at will, and its suppression could always be justified.

The CCP argues that if it does not suppress a certain group of people, the whole nation will be in turmoil or disaster.

Given such deceitful arguments and fallacious reasoning, is there any criminal more shameless in the world than the CCP?

The Carrot and the Stick—from Bestowing "Freedom" to Escalating Suppression

Many Chinese people feel that they enjoy more "freedom" now than before, so they hold out hope for the prospect of the CCP's improvement. As a matter of fact, the degree of freedom "bestowed" upon people depends on the CCP's sense of crisis. The CCP would do anything to main-

tain the collective interests of the Party, including giving so-called democracy, freedom, or human rights to the people.

However, under the CCP's leadership, the so-called "freedom" bestowed by the CCP is not protected by any legislation. Such "freedom" is purely a tool to deceive and control people amidst the international trend toward democracy. In essence, this "freedom" is in irreconcilable conflict with the CCP's dictatorship. Once such a conflict is beyond the CCP's tolerance level, the CCP could take

back all the "freedom" instantly. In the history of the CCP, there were several periods during which speech was relatively free, with each one followed by a period of strict control. Such cyclical patterns occur throughout the history of the CCP, demonstrating the CCP's iniquitous nature.



## Letters to the Editor



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