

VOA:

WARM WELCOME ACCORDED TO SAARC LEADERS IN BANGALORE

The second summit conference of South Asian countries, in the fold of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, is beginning in the Indian city of Bangalore today. Don Weaver of the VOA reports that citizens of Bangalore accorded a warm welcome yesterday to heads of State of the SAARC member countries. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was himself present at the airport to welcome the Heads of State. Tight security was maintained particularly around the hotels where the leaders will stay and ^{is} the venue of the summit conference.

Most of the media attention was focussed yesterday on the delicate nature talks held between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Jayewardene on the ethnic Tamil dispute. The two leaders will hold another round of talks later today.

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ON AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

A veteran Pakistani political analyst says that contrary to the cautious attitude of Western media, large-scale resistance against Soviet occupation in Afghanistan is still continuing and the recent attempts by Soviet troops have not weakened it. Younus Wasti reads out the report of VOA's Ali Jalali:-

Shafi Gilani has fully shared the studies about the Afghan resistance movement, with other analysts of the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad. According to his assesment, the deadlock in the situation prevailing in Afghanistan is of military nature. He says the two parties are trying to cause heavy losses to each other due to

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which ups and downs are seen in many battles. But he draws the conclusion that on the whole, there had been no particular change in the situation during the last two years.

Mr. Gilani is of the opinion that a few Western journalists who once or twice visited Afghanistan to witness several battles, have through their contradictory reports, created complications for the observers having little information about Afghanistan situation.

Mr. GILANI: During the last one quarter, We have had a respectable journalist who went to Afghanistan and came back and said the resistance is over. Another respectable journalist said on return from Afghanistan that rockets were seen everywhere. The thing we stress is that the Afghan situation should not be assessed through the reports of few journalists.

Ejaz Gilani said that if reviewed in the longer historical background and the Afghan resistance tested on larger geographical scale, it would reveal that there were more or less two hundred war fronts in every nook and corner of Afghanistan. On some fronts several battles were fought while on others few. Mr. Gilani says that on the whole the situation is that resistance is continuing in Afghanistan at very large scale and the Soviet activities are also continuing on larger scale. Ejaz Gilani is of the view that lack of publicity about Mujahideen is partly responsible for some confusion about the strength of Afghan resistance.

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