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## Musharraf in USA



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## No intention to enter into nuclear race: Musharraf

Updated on 2002-03-14 11:21:35

**TOKYO, March 14 (PNS):** President General Pervez Musharraf said Wednesday Pakistan has no intention of entering into a nuclear race with India even though it was aware of New Delhi's regional and international aspirations in these fields. "We are forced to maintain a deterrence capacity against the massive Indian nuclear arsenal," he said while addressing the international media at Japan National Press Club here. President Musharraf was given standing ovation when he arrived to address the media in the Press Club.

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The President said we honor Japan's views and concerns about nuclear issues. "We are not for nuclear escalation. We only want to maintain deterrence."

He said Pakistan did not initiate the race but it was forced by India to maintain deterrence to thwart any threat emanating from the neighboring country.

"We are not entering into any race with India on the nuclear side. We know India has certain regional and international aspirations of its own and developing in the nuclear and missile fields in that direction. We only want the deterrence capability to preserve our honor and dignity."

The President said he also understands Japan's concern about signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) but said, "it is very contentious issue for the people of Pakistan." "We are aware of your concerns and it is also a matter of great concern for Pakistan. We would look into it but Pakistan needs time. Ratification of CTBT is not waiting the signature from Pakistan alone. Time can be afforded to Pakistan," he said.

Talking about tension between India and Pakistan, President Musharraf said the relations between the two countries have never remained good. He said at the moment both the forces are eyeball to eyeball on borders and it is a dangerous situation.

"Pakistan wants peace and stability in South Asia on the basis of sovereign equality, honor and dignity. We will guard our honor and dignity jealously," he said. The President termed Indian reaction to deploy forces on Pakistani borders as immature, knee-jerk, very impulsive and unfortunate.

End.



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