

PREFACE

Barack Obama assuming American presidency in January 2009 gave a new impetus to nuclear disarmament not only in the United States but also throughout globally. The fervour in favour of nuclear disarmament assumed extra strength because his predecessor, George W. Bush had nothing but pure contempt for the policy of nuclear disarmament. In his administration Bush spoke, advocated and pushed for usable nuclear weapons like bunker buster bomb, capable of destroying deeply buried targets rather than 200 kilotonne nuclear weapons.

In this backdrop VPM's Centre for International Studies (VPM's CIS) held a three-day international seminar from 20 to 22 December 2010. We were fortunate that MEA under an action-oriented Joint Secretary, Dr. S. K. Behera, IFS saw that minimum required funding was provided to the VPM's CIS. We also had good fortune in Israeli Consul General in Mumbai Ms. Orna Sagiv enabling us to get an eminent Israeli Professor from The Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv to participate in the seminar. We are indebted to Chairman, Shri N. B. H. Kulkarni for using his long standing Israeli connections.

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P. M. Kamath
Volume Editor