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Leaders misleading youth in the name of Jihad

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MUMBAI, OCT 28: "The representatives of Jihad movement are not free from corruption as they shamelessly pocket the money meant for Jihad victims after paying mere Rs 15,000 each as ex-gratia to the bereaved as well as broken families of the victims, while the ex-gratia fixed by the Muslim countries, which liberally donate money for Jihad, is Rs 60,000."

These facts were revealed by Sandeep Waslekar, who is director of Peace Initiatives, an international organisation for development of peace, Mumbai, here recently.

In an exclusive interview to Lokmat Times, Waslekar elaborately analysed the background



Waslekar

of America's war on Afghanistan, international politics, relations of India with Pakistan, that of Pakistan with US and Afghanistan, impact of ongoing war on Pakistan and India, Muslim terrorist organisations etc.,

He also drew a vivid picture of India's foreign policy, including diplomatic ties with Pakistan and other nations. He severely criticised Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee for his hope set on US for a solu-

tion to Kashmir. Commenting on the feeble foreign policy of Vajpayee government, he cautioned the citizens to remain concerned and watchful about India's future.

Criticising Muslim fundamentalist policy in the name of Jihad in which lakhs of Muslim youths have been awfully trapped, he condemned the fanaticism in the Muslim leaders who are misleading the young generation and highlighted their future as foreseen in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt and other countries and the impact of the situation in India.

He added that Muslim countries are now realising that their ideology of Jihad

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in the present context would not succeed, and so they have now started toning up the young minds with religious rigidity, strict obedience to Islam at all costs and spreading of Islamic teachings through Madrasas and other training centres.

He also gave the details about how terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and others are squeezing out money from Muslim organisations, governments and NGOs of Muslim world and spending the same for their selfish gains. At the same time they deny rightful payment to victims of Jihad, he added.

According to Waslekar, soon after their attacks on World Trade Center on Sept 11, the terrorists have scattered all over the world to launch other attacks. They are armed with

biological, chemical and radiological weapons. They might not be having nuclear weapons, but they would launch the fissile materials to create radiation. He also cautioned that ultras would not repeat their strategy of attacks by planes and they would use some other method.

In his opinion, while the US has targeted Afghanistan in the first phase of anti-terrorist attacks, in the later phases it might target Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and even Pakistan as well. The war in Afghanistan would continue intermittently, he opined.

Waslekar also blamed former Pakistan Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, for creation of Taliban government in Afghanistan in 1993 and encouragement to the ISI operation.

He also asserted that Pakistan would stand divided in near future due to sectarian

clashes, between Deobandi and Wahabi sects. He also apprehends that even Pakistan Army would get divided into two ideologies. The US, which is more worried about China going ahead of it in the arms race, attached maximum attention to production of missiles and modern nuclear warfares, but it did not upgrade its ground-forces, he said.

Even if all countries extend their support to US in its fight against terrorism, Russia and China would not do so, he said and added that India being a regional power will have to play a careful role in relation to US and see that its economy is not ruined in the process.

He also cautioned India to first take care of its defence capability and economy, rather than showing its generosity to help America which would not like to see India as an emerging regional power in future.