Danish Prime Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, told the Indian parliament, a fellow nuclear power, ignores the fact it is that the U.S. is a false friend and tar him as a U.S. dominated leader.

As for Pakistan, the F-16 sale may also pay off in the longer run and be beneficial to Mr. Musharraf's domestic politics in the run up to the presidential elections this summer. It cannot be said that the U.S. goal is to provide Pakistan with a defense system that will be effective and efficient. The F-16 sale may be more of a symbolic gesture than a practical one, but it is a good public relations move.

That is why President Bush's decision to create a new council of countries in the region, as he did at thestart of his trip, will be seen as a step in the right direction. The council will include representatives from all three states and will be an important step forward in the process of reconciliation.

The F-16 sale will also bolster Mr. Musharraf's prospects for re-election. The sale has already been approved by the Pakistani parliament and will be a major victory for the president of America, one of the very few countries that can be relied on to provide the political and economic support necessary to the stability of the region.

In conclusion, the F-16 sale is a positive step towards the achievement of peace and stability in the region. It is a symbol of the growing partnership between the U.S. and Pakistan, and a move towards a more peaceful and prosperous future for the region.