

General Wesley Clark's Answers to Questions from the India Association of New Hampshire

On Security and Trade Ties:

As President, I will continue to strengthen our relationship with India by encouraging trade and bilateral communication. We are part of a global community, in which trade and jobs are shared by many nations. We need to encourage a global market and free and fair trade. The influx of merchandise, ideas and cultures makes this country vibrant and strong. I support an open global trade system, but believe we need to make sure that all nations play by the rules so that trade does not lead to a race to the bottom, undermining protections for labor and the environment.

I will encourage India and all people of conscience, to work together to ensure global security. This is a task America can not accomplish by itself, and I will welcome all alliances to promote a safer world. It is crucial to work together create a partnership with the global community.

On Outsourcing:

My highest priority is creating good jobs in America. I have proposed a detailed manufacturing and technology policy that would stop rewarding companies that move jobs overseas and start rewarding companies that create jobs in America. But at the same time, the world's economy is dynamic and we need to invest in the knowledge and skills so that American workers can compete in the high-wage, high-tech jobs of the future. In this way we can create policies that are win-win for America and for India.

On Security Council and Relations with Pakistan:

India makes many important contributions to the international system, but it is important that India sign and ratify the treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). India and Pakistan must devote more energy to creating a stable region, particularly as it relates to avoiding a nuclear-armed conflict. My record shows that I have been successful at bringing opposing communities together, and I will encourage dialogue between the two countries in order to advance peaceful negotiations.

On the PATRIOT Act:

Too many people have been hurt by the PATRIOT Act, especially those of South Asian, Arab, Muslim or Sheik origin. We need to review the Patriot Act and set up a system in which racial profiling and discriminatory behavior is not tolerated. John Ashcroft has implemented the Patriot Act in a radical and unfair way. The Attorney General has a responsibility to all

Americans to uphold the principles of democracy and all that this country stands for. He has not lived up to his responsibility. As president, I will protect the civil liberties of all Americans.

On Hate Crimes:

Hate crimes of any sort are unacceptable. As President, I will strengthen federal protections against hate crimes and fight for the civil rights of all Americans. I support legislation to increase the federal government's role in preventing, investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. No one in this country should be the target of violence because of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

On Representation in Government:

We cannot have a great nation without the leadership of our very best – of all backgrounds. A commitment to diversity ensures that future leaders who might otherwise never get a chance are brought to the forefront. That's why Americans – all Americans – benefit from the contributions of Indian Americans. I am a strong believer in the principles of Affirmative Action, and as President, I will make sure that my Cabinet truly reflects America.

Message to Indian American Community:

The relationship between the U.S and India is rooted in our common democratic ideals-- and it grows stronger everyday. As president, I will be committed to addressing the wide range of issues important to the Indian-American community.

It is now less than a year before the American people will elect the next President of the United States. I have faith that the majority of Americans will stand up for civil liberties, a vibrant economy, and global security. Our country cannot endure the effects of the Bush administration for four more years. We must ensure that the greatest number of voters possible participates in the upcoming primaries and in the general election in November 2004. If elected, I know that I will be able to put this country back on the right track for all Americans. I ask for your support in achieving our common goals. Together, we can revive the America of three years ago—one that values prosperity, progress and tolerance. I look forward to working with each of you to achieve this. To become more involved in my campaign, visit my website at www.clark04.com. Across the nation and globe, Clark supporters meet up and discuss the campaign. All the information regarding Meet Ups and other ways you can help and become involved are listed on my website. I also encourage you to sign up on line to our newsletter. This way, you'll be updated on all events and news pertaining to the campaign. I appreciate all the support, and am sincerely grateful for the Indian American community's involvement in my campaign.