

MRS. GANDHI TERMS INDIA 'WHIPPING BOY'

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared in her first interview since Indian atomic blast that "we are not a nuclear-weapons country" and complained that India was "a favorite and convenient whipping boy."

In the interview, published in the new issue of Newsweek magazine, Mrs. Gandhi asserted:

"There is a difference between a nuclear country and a nuclear-weapons country. We are not a nuclear-weapons

country; we don't have any bombs. We don't intend to use this knowledge or this power for any other than peaceful purposes."

The Prime Minister said that her country was often viewed in the wrong light.

"At one moment," she said, "we are described as a soft state and a flabby democracy. But simultaneously we are accused of being ruthless and tough, cynical and power-hungry. Our real achievements usually go unnoticed. Hardly anybody drew attention

to the effort we had to make last year in order to feed 90 million people."

Turning to relations with the United States, she said: "There unfortunately have been some misunderstandings on the part of the United States Administration, but I am very glad that these have been cleared up now. Consequently our relations are improving. We do attach a special importance to friendship with the United States."

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