

For Six Month Period Ending Dec. 31, 2002
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant **Team Eagle** (b) Registration No. **5466**

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant **5847 San Felipe, Suite 3210
Houston, Texas 77057**

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
 - (1) Residence address Yes No
 - (2) Citizenship Yes No
 - (3) Occupation Yes No
- (b) If an organization:
 - (1) Name Yes No
 - (2) Ownership or control Yes No
 - (3) Branch offices Yes No

2003 JAN 31 AM 11:57
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(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.
Stephen Payne is no longer a member of Team Eagle and is not listed in our renewal agreement with the Government of Pakistan so this individual needs to be removed from Team Eagle's FARA Registration. The renewal agreement came into effect on Sept. 1, 2002.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.
Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (a waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Stephen Payne Position Joint Venture Member Date Connection Ended Aug. 31, 02

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Residence Address | Citizenship | Position | Date Assumed |
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

(b) Have any employee or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Position or connection | Date terminated |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Stephen Payne | Principal Member | Aug. 31, 2002 |

(c) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Residence Address | Citizenship | Position | Date Assumed |
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes No

Short Form Registration Statements previously filed and the only change is that Stephen Payne is no longer a member of Team Eagle. If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Did not acquire any new foreign principal and Team Eagle still represents the Government of Pakistan. Team Eagle's Agreement with the Government of Pakistan was renewed for another one year period effective Sept. 1, 2002. See Agreement attached.

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Exhibit A ³ | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | None. |
| Exhibit B ⁴ | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | |

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes No None.

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a)(9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

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11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

The Government of Pakistan - See Narrative response attached.

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12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

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13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government, a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes No

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

| Date | From Whom | Purpose | Amount |
|----------|------------------------|---|------------------|
| 6/18/02 | Government of Pakistan | Contract quarterly retainer payment. Last payment due under Sept. 2001 Contract. | 60,000.00 |
| 9/17/02 | Government of Pakistan | Renewal contract first payment. | 30,000.00 |
| 12/31/02 | Government of Pakistan | 2nd quarterly pymt. | 30,000.00 |
| | | | Total 120,000.00 |

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes No

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name of foreign principal | Date received | Description of thing of value | Purpose |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------|
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------|

^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

We were not engaged to make disbursements on behalf of Foreign Principle under terms of our Agreement.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

| Date | To Whom | Purpose | Amount |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
|------|---------|---------|--------|

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Date disposed | Name of person to whom given | On behalf of what foreign principal | Description of thing of value | Purpose |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|

(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information: Brian Ettinger

| Date | Amount or thing of value | Name of political organization | Name of candidate |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Brian Ettinger: July 2002 | 1,000.00 | Campaign for Senate John Cornyn, Texas | John Cornyn |
| June 2002 | 1,000.00 | Campaign for Senate Candidate Lindsey Graham | Lindsey Graham |
| July 2002 | 50.00 | RNC | |
| Dec. 2002 | 1,000.00 | Republic Jewish Council | |
| June 2002 | 500.00 | Campaign for Congress | Henry Bonilla |
| June 2002 | \$2,000.00 | Govenor Rick Perry | Rick Perry |
| Gary Polland: July 2002 | 1,000.00 | Campaign for Senate John Cornyn, Texas | John Cornyn |
| June 2002 | 1,000.00 | Campaign for Senate | Lindsey Graham |
| June 2002 | 1,000.00 | Campaign for Congress | Henry Bonilla |
| July 2002 | 1,000.00 | Re public Jewish Council | |

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
Yes No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following: N/A Government of Pakistan retained public relations/media firm, The Sterling Group.

- Radio or TV broadcasts
- Magazine or newspaper articles
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups: N/A

- Public Officials
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Legislators
- Editors
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Civic groups or associations
- Nationality groups
- Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:
 English Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes No

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

Jan 29, 03

Brian S. Ettinger
Brian S. Ettinger

Jan 30, 03

Gary Pollard
Gary Pollard

2003 JAN 31 AM 11: 57
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

13 This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
CRIMINAL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials - page 8 of Form CRM-154, formerly Form OBD-64-Supplemental Statement):

YES _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)

Brian Ettinger
Signature

Jan 27, 03
Date

BRIAN ETTINGER

Please type or print name of signatory on the line above

Partner
Title

2003 JAN 31 AM 11:57
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Narrative
For Period October 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002

2003 JAN 31 AM 11: 58
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Team Eagle

Team Eagle previously filed their supplement statement covering the period from October 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002. This will serve as Team Eagle's supplemental statement for the period of July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002.

A. Period: July 1, 2002 to August 31, 2002 – Team Eagle has interacted with representatives of the Government of Pakistan concerning the Human Development Trust Program, education, textile and trade tariff issues. Team Eagle interviewed government relations firms to work on the Human Development Trust Program and media relations firms and conducted research on these firms and conveyed information to the Government of Pakistan.

B. Period: September 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002 – Team Eagle and the Government of Pakistan negotiated and renewed their Agreement. A copy of this Agreement is attached to this supplemental statement. The new Agreement entered into on September 12, 2002 to August 31, 2002 reflects that Team Eagle will receive \$30,000.00 per quarter, a total of \$120,000.00. The previous agreement was for \$45,000.00 per quarter for a total of \$180,000.00.

Since September 1, 2002, Team Eagle has worked through the Government of Pakistan Embassy in Washington and has performed research for the Ambassador and Staff on specific issues. To date, Team Eagle has not been instructed by the Government of Pakistan nor their Embassy to have direct contact with congressional or administrative officials, as their new Ambassador and Embassy staff will conduct such contact.

Team Eagle made recommendations to the Government of Pakistan concerning retaining a Washington government relations firm (Rhoads Weber Shandwick) to work on the Pakistan National Commission on Human Development Trust Program and a media relations firm (The Sterling Group). These two firms were retained on a quarterly basis and have registered under the FARA Registration.

The Government of Pakistan has utilized Team Eagle to give an assessment and provide strategic advice concerning the perception of the Government of Pakistan by the U.S. Government regarding issues ranging from aid, debt, relief, textile tariffs, foreign investment, education and the purchase of equipment (military and non-military equipment).

Enclosed are Team Eagle's financial statements for September 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002 reflecting the funds received and disbursements.

Stephen Payne resigned his membership with Team Eagle effective August 31, 2002 and is no longer a member or involved with Team Eagle.

Team Eagle's review of information for the client is attached.

TEAM EAGLE
BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2002

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----------|
| 00 | CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| | CASH | \$ | 2,638.23 |
| | TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | \$ | 2,638.23 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | 2,638.23 |

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|------------|
| | EQUITY | | |
| 58 | RETAINED EARNINGS | \$ | 11,072.88 |
| 97 | CURRENT EARNINGS/LOSS | | (8,434.65) |
| | TOTAL EQUITY | \$ | 2,638.23 |
| | TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | \$ | 2,638.23 |

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TEAM EAGLE
BALANCE SHEET
SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 31, 2002

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 00 | CASH | | |
| 01 | CHASE BANK-OPERATING ACCT | \$ | 2,638.23 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | <u>2,638.23</u> |

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TEAM EAGLE
STATEMENT OF INCOME
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

| | <u>Current</u> | | <u>Year to Date</u> | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | Actual | Percent | Actual | Percent |
| REVENUE | | | | |
| REVENUES | \$ 29,980.00 | 100.0 | \$ 197,631.40 | 100.0 |
| * TOTAL REVENUE | <u>29,980.00</u> | <u>100.0</u> | <u>197,631.40</u> | <u>100.0</u> |
| * | 29,980.00 | 100.0 | 197,631.40 | 100.0 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | |
| ACCOUNTING & TAX | 370.00 | 1.2 | 1,990.00 | 1.0 |
| BANK CHARGES | 43.54 | 0.1 | 92.86 | 0.0 |
| PROFESSIONAL FEES | | | 13,500.00 | 6.8 |
| GUARANTEED PAYMENTS | 22,000.00 | 73.4 | 159,500.00 | 80.7 |
| LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL | | | 305.00 | 0.2 |
| RENTAL | 6,000.00 | 20.0 | 6,000.00 | 3.0 |
| TRAVEL | | | 24,678.19 | 12.5 |
| * TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | <u>28,413.54</u> | <u>94.8</u> | <u>206,066.05</u> | <u>104.3</u> |
| * NET OPERATING PFT/LOSS | <u>1,566.46</u> | <u>5.2</u> | <u>(8,434.65)</u> | <u>(4.3)</u> |
| * NET PROFIT/LOSS | <u>\$ 1,566.46</u> | <u>5.2</u> | <u>\$ (8,434.65)</u> | <u>(4.3)</u> |

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TEAM EAGLE
STATEMENT OF INCOME
SUBSIDIARY SCHEDULE
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

| | <u>Current</u> | | <u>Year to Date</u> | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------|---------------------|------|
| | Actual Percent | | Actual Percent | |
| | | | | |
| GUARANTEED PAYMENTS | | | | |
| 00 GUARANTEED PAYMENT-PAYNE | | | \$ 40,000.00 | 20.2 |
| 00 GUARANTEED PAY-POLLAND | \$ 10,000.00 | 33.4 | 47,500.00 | 24.0 |
| 00 GUARANTEED PAY-ETTINGER | 12,000.00 | 40.0 | 72,000.00 | 36.4 |
| | | | | |
| * TOTAL | \$ 22,000.00 | 73.4 | \$ 159,500.00 | 80.7 |
| | | | | |
| TRAVEL | | | | |
| 00 AIR FARE | | | \$ 15,935.10 | 8.1 |
| 00 HOTEL | | | 5,277.33 | 2.7 |
| 00 MEALS | | | 3,005.96 | 1.5 |
| 00 TAXI & LIMO | | | 459.80 | 0.2 |
| | | | | |
| * TOTAL | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 24,678.19 | 12.5 |

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TEAM EAGLE
STATEMENT OF INCOME
SUBSIDIARY SCHEDULE
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

| | <u>Current</u> <u>Actual Percent</u> | | <u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual Percent</u> | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 867 GUARANTEED PAYMENTS | | | | |
| 86800 GUARANTEED PAYMENT-PAYNE | | | \$ 40,000.00 | 23.9 |
| 86900 GUARANTEED PAY-POLLAND | \$ 10,000.00 | 33.4 | 37,500.00 | 22.4 |
| 87000 GUARANTEED PAY-ETTINGER | 20,000.00 | 66.7 | 60,000.00 | 35.8 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| * TOTAL | \$ 30,000.00 | 100.1 | \$ 137,500.00 | 82.0 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| 941 TRAVEL | | | | |
| 94300 AIR FARE | \$ 6,900.00 | 23.0 | \$ 15,935.10 | 9.5 |
| 94400 HOTEL | 1,400.00 | 4.7 | 5,277.33 | 3.1 |
| 94500 MEALS | 454.55 | 1.5 | 3,005.96 | 1.8 |
| 94600 TAXI & LIMO | | | 459.80 | 0.3 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| * TOTAL | \$ 8,754.55 | 29.2 | \$ 24,678.19 | 14.7 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

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TEAM EAGLE
BALANCE SHEET
SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 100 | CASH | | |
| 101 | CHASE BANK-OPERATING ACCT | \$ | 1,071.77 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | <u>1,071.77</u> |

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TEAM EAGLE
BALANCE SHEET
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----|-------------|
| 100 | CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| | CASH | \$ | 1,071.77 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | \$ | 1,071.77 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | TOTAL | \$ | 1,071.77 |
| | | | <hr/> <hr/> |

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|----|-------------|
| | EQUITY | | |
| 558 | RETAINED EARNINGS | \$ | 11,072.88 |
| 597 | CURRENT EARNINGS/LOSS | | (10,001.11) |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | TOTAL EQUITY | \$ | 1,071.77 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | \$ | 1,071.77 |
| | | | <hr/> <hr/> |

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Exhibit "A"

- Brian S. ETTINGER
- Gary M. POLLAND

2003 JAN 31 AM 11: 59
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Dan Pero

From: Matt Davis
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2002 3:19 PM
To: Dan Pero
Subject: Ziring published

2003 JAN 31 AM 11:59
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http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/xml/story.ssf/html_standard.xsl?base/columns-0/1040062803106420.xml

There's the link. Here's the text:

Pakistani elections and the illusive pursuit of democracy

Monday, December 16, 2002

BY LAWRENCE ZIRING

Americans often assume the answer to problems in foreign nations is the implementation of elections and other institutions of democracy. Elections in Pakistan, however, are no panacea. The first national election was held in 1970, approximately 23 years after Pakistan's birth from the partition of British India. This election had been delayed by the failure of repeated civilian administrations, followed by 10 years of essentially military governance. In fact, it was under army rule that the 1970 election was eventually conducted. The failure to accept the results of that election precipitated a conflict, internationalized by India, which forced the secession of East Pakistan.

Another national election was conducted in 1977 by the civilian successor to the previous military government. It, too, produced tragic results. Then-prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was accused of electoral fraud, and in the midst of riots following the counting of the ballots, the army again asserted power. Bhutto's subsequent arrest and trial for the alleged murder of a political rival ended with his hanging.

Thus began the 11-year rule of General Zia ul-Haq, who attempted to establish an Islamicized political system. But Zia's 1988 death in an aircraft explosion prevented his overseeing a return to elected civilian government. Elections for a new government brought Benazir Bhutto, Zulfikar's daughter, to the helm of Pakistan. Not two years into her term she was forced from office on grounds of corruption. New elections favored her Punjabi rival, Nawaz Sharif, but he too was unable to complete his term. Still another election saw Benazir again become prime minister, but she was again not allowed to continue and was removed by the military. Sharif won another parliamentary majority in 1997, but his term was cut short when General Pervez Musharraf assumed power in 1999 to root out corruption and institute reform.

12/23/2002

Given this history, the elections of October 2002 are perceived with considerable skepticism. President Musharraf spoke at length about his desire to get Pakistan back on democratic rails, and to allow the people's chosen representatives to frame policy and bring in a new age of inspired national unity. Under pressure to demonstrate his democratic credentials, the October 2002 elections were held on schedule despite the atmosphere of a nation at war with itself. Indeed, the United States' war on terrorism has impacted Pakistan more than any other country except Afghanistan. American operations in Afghanistan were mounted with Musharraf support, but pro-Taliban Pakistanis condemned the military government for yielding to American demands.

A coalition of Islamist parties known as Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal targeted Musharraf. Powerful in the frontier regions bordering Afghanistan and linked to violence-prone jihadi organizations, they used the open election process to express their sentiments against Musharraf's policies and in favor of the Taliban. Advocating an end to secular democracy, proponents of the Islamic state nevertheless used the democratic process to their advantage. Islamist parties had never done well in previous elections, but the coalition assumed new significance with its consistent anti-American and pro-Taliban platform. When the votes were counted the Islamists had moved into the front rank of Pakistan's political parties. Moreover, they won the right to form governments in two frontier provinces -- where the war on terrorism is concentrated.

Musharraf's policies denied Benazir and Sharif a direct role in the elections due to their previous misdeeds. This weakened the secular parties, and the resulting vacuum was filled in part by the coalition. Consequently, no party could form a government in parliament. The pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League (Q) had won the most seats (118 of 342), but could not find sufficient support to establish the government. Given the impasse, Musharraf postponed convening the parliament and considered calling yet another election. Meanwhile the other parties, notably Benazir's Pakistan People's Party with 81 seats, and the coalition with 60, jockeyed for advantage. Finally, six weeks after the election, a coalition of the PML (Q), defectors from the PPP, and minor parties, elected a pro-democracy prime minister over the coalition's choice, a Muslim cleric opposed to Musharraf and the West.

Ironically, the institutions of democracy very nearly led to the unprecedented election of an anti-democracy Islamist as the head of Pakistan government. This paradox underscores the need for nations unaccustomed to true democracy to transition over time, if necessary with the assistance of unelected regimes acting in the long-term interest of the country's democratic future. History has amply demonstrated that democracy borne of military rule is preferable to popularly elected fascism.

Lawrence Ziring of Western Michigan University is the Arnold E. Schneider professor of political science.

The Washington Times

www.washtimes.com

Valued helping hand in terror war

Frank Anderson

Published 11/27/2002

Mir Amal Kasi died more than a week ago in a Virginia execution chamber, rather than surviving to gloat over his murder of CIA officers outside the Agency's headquarters compound. Ramzi Yusuf, the mastermind of the first terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, lives in the Metropolitan Corrections Center in New York City, rather than being free to plot more mayhem. Senior al Qaeda leaders Abu Zubaydah and Ramzi bin Al-Shibh and hundreds of their subordinates are in U.S. custody, rather than planning for more terror. The government in Afghanistan is friendly to the United States and does not harbor terrorist organizations dedicated to our destruction. More strategically important, the Soviet Union no longer exists as a threat to our very existence.

These are all unquestionably welcome developments that share a common characteristic. None of them would now be true were it not for the efforts of a little-known and less appreciated foreign intelligence organization, Pakistan's Interservices Intelligence Directorate, "ISI."

We can't fight the war on terrorism by ourselves. Countering terrorism requires forces in practically every nation in the world. These forces must have intimate knowledge of local society and the kind of deep penetration of population that only local police and intelligence organizations can develop. So, it is no surprise that all the successes in the first year of our worldwide struggle against terrorism have involved the effective and often courageous operations of the intelligence and security services of other nations.

It is also no surprise that our cooperation with these services has aroused controversy.

We Americans have a deep suspicion of "secret services" anywhere. International cooperation, inevitably, involves engagement with states that are the rivals or enemies of other nations that are also friendly to us. Greek-Americans or Armenian-Americans are disturbed when we work closely with Turkey. Supporters of Israel are uneasy about close ties between U.S. intelligence and the intelligence services of any Arab states. American friends of India are made uncomfortable by our cooperation with Pakistan.

There is no relationship in the war on terror that is more representative of these uncomfortable realities than that between the ISI and U.S. intelligence and military services. ISI is an intelligence service that is not subject to the kind of open oversight that we have come to expect over the CIA in the United States. ISI has supported violence against India, as have the Indian intelligence services supported violence in Pakistan.

Pakistan and India have been at war (sometimes declared, sometimes undeclared, but always war) since the two nations were formed more than 50 years ago. Some directors of ISI have had distinctly negative attitudes about the U.S. It is certainly the case that ISI has never succeeded in winning friends in the international journalist community. Yet, it is hard to identify an organization anywhere in the world that has more positively contributed to U.S. aims in both the Cold War against Soviet communism and, now, the war on terrorism.

ISI did the heavy lifting in our program to support the Afghans in their long war to expel the Red Army from their country. That greatly accelerated the collapse of the Soviet Union and of its evil empire.

ISI played crucial roles in the apprehension of Mir Amal Kasi and Ramzi Yusuf. ISI provided critical support in the effort against Osama bin Laden and, after September 11, in the destruction of the Taliban regime. ISI is now vitally important to the ongoing fight against al Qaeda and Pakistani extremists who support or shelter them.

Nevertheless, ISI is widely described as having favored extremists among the Afghan fighters during the war against the Soviets, as being "rogue state within a state" that supports extreme elements in Pakistan, as having been the "creator of the Taliban."

None of these negative charges is, in fact, true. ISI, working with and closely monitored by the U.S. during the war against the Soviets, distributed arms and other support to Afghan groups on a roughly per capita basis. Afghan groups received support in proportion to their size, not their ideology. ISI, rather than being a "state within a state", is and always was led by officers who came from and returned to the regular Pakistani military, whose orders ISI always followed. The

Valued helping hand in terror war

Taliban, to the extent that they were set up by any foreign element, were not the creatures of ISI, but rather of Harvard alumna Benazir Bhutto, her civilian police chief and financial backers in the Pakistani trucking industry, who used the Taliban to secure shipping across Afghanistan.

One reason for ISI's negative image is, perhaps, their own reluctance to engage the world press and present their "side of the story." As a result, journalists and even U.S. and other diplomats get their "information" on ISI from sources who are frequently hostile to ISI and always lack direct knowledge about the organization and its activities.

Whatever the cause, it is important for continued success in the war on terrorism and for the development of democracy in Pakistan that a more accurate picture of ISI emerge.

ISI is one of the most competent and least corrupt institutions in South Asia. We have to work effectively with it. That will be difficult if ISI's current image isn't corrected and improved.

Frank Anderson is the former chief of the Central Intelligence Agency's Near East Division.

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Return to the article



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S. Asif Alam: Give Musharraf a chance - Democracy's progress in Pakistan

11/29/2002

HARRISON, N.J.

WHEN PAKISTAN'S President Pervez Musharraf assumed control of the country in 1999, the reaction among its citizens was one of relief instead of rebellion -- toppling a series of corrupt yet democratically elected governments was preferable to enduring more of their abuses of power.

In the West, though, Musharraf's move was seen as an affront to the principle of democracy itself, regardless of his pledge to return the country to civilian government within three years.

Confounding his critics, the general-turned-president has done just that: transferring power within the past few weeks to an elected civilian government (Pakistan has a parliamentary form of government, similar to that of Britain).

For American interests, building a viable, progressive and democratic society in Pakistan is enormously important for several reasons.

Pakistan is the locus for the U.S.-led war on terror. Its law-enforcement and intelligence agencies can penetrate terrorist organizations that American and European agencies cannot. Indeed, several top al-Qaida leaders and hundreds of their minions are in U.S. custody as a direct result of Pakistan's assistance.

Pakistan's strategic location is important to U.S. interests. It is between Iran, Afghanistan, China and India -- a vast region experiencing rapid change. A stable Pakistan, a moderate Muslim country with strong institutions and promising economy, helps to stabilize this potentially volatile region. Turmoil and lawlessness, on the other hand, can send shock waves to the whole region.

And as trade partners, Pakistan and the United States can enjoy greater accession to wealth when the channels of commerce are open and protected from militancy and despotism. For example, a proposed oil

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pipeline from the Caucasus would terminate in Pakistan's major port city Karachi, thus opening up more energy sources for the West. This can also help solve problems of the rapidly expanding but energy-strapped Indian economy to the south.

All of these are objectives the Pakistanis hope to realize or maintain. Through their free election of a new moderate and pro-Western government, they have spoken and appear to be ready to move forward and lift the country out of despair.

Despite such progress, however, many Western voices are still being raised against the new government and against Musharraf. They complain that he will remain as president for the next five years, and that he is backed by the military, and would presumably use his power to dismantle the civilian government if it veered from the progressive path.

To these critics, no true democracy can exist under such circumstances. If what passes for democracy in Pakistan seems strange or intolerable to those in the West, then it is because of Westerners' failure to understand both the long, tortured history of self-governance in Pakistan and the hard lessons learned as this relatively new nation has struggled to fully join the family of democratic nations.

Pakistan has not failed to experiment with conventional, Western-style democracy; rather, that brand of democracy has failed to do for Pakistan and its people what was promised: to promote the health, safety and prosperity of the people.

It is precisely for this reason that Musharraf and the military-civilian hybrid form of government now in place should be given an opportunity to lead -- however unorthodox it is to some Western thinkers.

The limited appeal of Western-style governance in Pakistan can be traced directly to its failure to lift Pakistanis out of poverty. The Pakistani economy that performed well in the '80s took a nose dive in the 1990s under the corrupt -- albeit democratic -- governments of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. While their attention was devoted to the exclusive task of enriching themselves and their cronies, the people of Pakistan spiraled into a poverty they had never seen before.

Ironically, this was the period when other economies in the region, including neighboring India, took off.

In fact, thousands of Pakistani parents were so desperate for schools that could teach reading and writing that they sent their sons to the only ones that could: the madrassahs. These schools taught a fundamentalist form of Islam -- and antipathy for the West, Americans in particular.

Neither Pakistan nor the world can afford to return to such negligence in government, nor its consequences. Musharraf himself most certainly is not the despot that his political rivals would have us believe. He is the man who would rather not be king, coming to power only after Prime Minister Sharif attempted to have him kidnapped and possibly murdered. He has proven, in all of his dealings with Presidents Clinton

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and Bush, to be an honorable man, very similar to Secretary of State Colin Powell -- a general turned statesman.

If the world is to enjoy long-term peace and a diminished threat of nuclear conflict, then part of the puzzle must be a stable Pakistan, and that will happen only if the Pakistani government and President Musharraf are given a chance to succeed in modernizing Pakistan, making it a secular society whose people enjoy fundamental freedoms.

At a bare minimum, given the progress so far, they will fare much better than under leaders of the past.

S. Asif Alam is president of the Association of Pakistani Professionals, a New York-based think tank.

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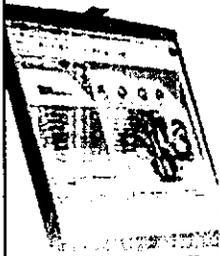
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Oct. 24, 2002

RHOADS-WEBER SHANDWICK RAISES SCHOOL MONEY

Rhoads-Weber Shandwick Government Relations is lobbying on behalf of the Pakistan Human Development Fund, which was formed by President General Pervez Musharaf, in June to improve the nation's educational system and living standards by encouraging private/public sector partnership.

Musharaf, who lost ground to fundamentalist groups in the recent election, is "patron-in-chief" of the Fund. Pakistan provided \$32 million in "seed money" and has received another \$2.5 million from local and expatriate Pakistanis. The Interpublic unit is trying to round up U.S. government money for the program.

A key goal of the Fund is to assist the Government in setting up government run schools in areas in which they do not exist. Religious schools (madrasses) in Pakistan are said to be "incubators" for the spread of radical Islam.

The country also plans to unleash a grassroots effort of 100,000 volunteers to improve social conditions in Pakistan. Musharaf made that point at the United Nations last month.

Country pays \$600K for media work

As previously reported by this website, Pakistan is paying \$50,000 a-month for media relations to Sterling International Consulting Corp., which was recently formed by Weber Shandwick alumnus Dan Pero.

SICC's Lansing, Mich.-base was among reasons why the firm got the account, Pero told this website. "Michigan has a large Muslim population," he said, "so we were able to secure a presentation." Pero said Pakistan wanted a smaller PR firm that was located in the heartland. "We have a very different perspective from those living inside the Beltway," he added.

Pero is to develop a "media calendar," and roll out various themes/concepts throughout the year to create a favorable image for the country that is a vital ally



image for the country, and to a visit by
in President Bush's war on terror. He is
to root out negative stories, and provide
the writer with "background, response
and clarification," according to SICC's
contract with Pakistan.



Dan Pero

Pero is to seek out members of the
Pakistani-American community who would speak out on
behalf of Pakistan. Those "message surrogates" will be
given talking points and media training by SICC. Pero's firm
will stimulate a grassroots campaign via e-mails, letters-to-
the editor, one-on-one communications and newsletters.

Pero was a managing director in the Interpublic unit's
Southfield, Mich., office. He has counseled General Motors,
Amway, ACDelco, and the Detroit Institute of the Arts.

Pero previously worked as VP-PA at Eckerd Corp., the drug
store chain; ran former Tennessee Governor Lamar
Alexander's 1996 Presidential campaign, and served as
chief of staff to Michigan Governor John Engler.

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Tell O'Dwyer's what you think

(Responses should include your name and affiliation, which will be
withheld at writer's request)

Responses:

Jamie Springer (10/25):

Sounds like you want to represent a terrorist nation like Pakistan
without due respect for how much they hate us as a people and as a
nation.

I suppose anything for a buck.

PR Scrooge (10/24):

Iraq is a threat to world security because it MAY get the bomb and it
MAY become unstable. Pakistan DOES have the bomb and it IS
unstable. Best of all, Pakistan has a government composed of Taliban
and al-Qaeda supporters concerned with destroying non-believers
while Iraq's government is composed of a secular, military junta
concerned with its own survival. As long as we have our priorities
straight...

**Comments Regarding 10/9 O'Dwyer's story on Sterling
International Consulting Corp. handling media work for
Pakistan:**

Not fooled by PR spins (10/25):

Shahrukh: The only blood that Pakistan has spilled is that of
Americans, not to mention Indians, Russians, Afghans and others. See
this (<http://prohosters.com/pearl/>) to understand. See also poster
Chris' comments about how every terrorist has a Pakistan link.

As for your State Dept. figures comment, please provide a link or

As for your State Dept. figures comment, please provide a link or proof as to how the USSR or India killed Pakistanis between 1980 and 1987. If you are talking about the Afghan conflict, then see my previous post. Moreover, I don't see how India came into the picture there.

The whole world agrees that Pakistan is neck deep in terrorism, exporting it to countries as near as India and to countries as far as the USA, including Afghanistan, Russia, the CAR states, and China's Xinjiang province to name a few. Musharraf has twice gone on your TV to say (to lie) that he will stop sending terrorists into India. If this is not an admission of Pakistan's complicity, I don't know what else is. Yeah, yeah, you say they are freedom fighters. Then you will also say that Mohammed Atta and his 19 goons were holy warriors. You will also say that if we had only restrained Israel, if we had only not set up bases in Saudi, if we had only not gone to the moon, if we had only not been this rich, then those poor blokes wouldn't have had to hurt us. Look what we did!

This is what UPI hears..

<http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20021024-124527-4670r>

"... For \$600,000 a year, Islamabad hopes that the Sterling International Consulting Corporation can make Americans feel warm and friendly to the country that bred and supported the Taliban, harbors al Qaeda (and possibly Osama bin Laden himself), and sold North Korea the equipment to enter the nuclear race..."

Pakistan's hostile actions towards us far far outnumber the few good things that it has done to us during the past. It has deceived us once before by posing as a ally. We shall be deceived no longer.

Indian American (10/25):

After reading some of the postings here, I'm like.. Whoa Whoa Whoa. Wait a minute here. It's Pakistan's image that has taken a beating here in the U.S., in spite of all the free positive publicity that it got from Christian Amanpour on CNN and Pamela Constable at the *Washington Post*.

Pakistan now has hired a PR firm to refurbish it's image sullied with the terrorist tag. Why drag India into it? Don't tell me the Indians have that kind of an influence on the American public!

Arvinder (10/25):

Pakistan needs help with PR; but at home and not in the United States.

Shahrukh (10/25):

It is ingratitude and shameless lies such as those posted here that breeds anti-Americanism in Pakistan and elsewhere.

The Soviet Union was no danger to Pakistan, all Pakistan had to do was to accept its supremacy in the region, as its neighbor India did, and it would have faced no hostility from USSR. However Pakistan did not do so, rather it stood with the U.S. and helped it become the sole superpower that it is today.

As per State Department figures, over a thousand Pakistanis were killed between 1980 and 1987 as a direct result of the Soviet Union and its client state India's terrorist acts in Pakistan. How many Americans have died for Pakistan's battles? The answer is zero. In fact

America has always pulled a disappearing act when Pakistan needed help.

Dishing out money is not the help Pakistan needs (most of this money is returned by Pakistan with interest). Pakistan needs help with its security environment which has been under constant attack from the day Pakistan came into existence, and Pakistan deserves this help from America because Pakistanis have contributed with their blood to help America become the strongest power today.

Pakistan's help to the U.S. predates the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Pakistan has consistently followed a strong pro-western foreign policy since its independence. Pakistan joined American led security systems designed to contain Soviet communism as far back as the 1950s and 1960s, which all contributed towards American victory in the cold war.

American presidents continually take pride in America's superior moral values; let America prove them right by securing a country that has literally spilled its blood to guarantee American security and supremacy. America indeed has a moral obligation to ensure Pakistan enjoys the same security that it has helped America achieve for its self. It is time for the U.S. to honor its IOUs to Pakistan.

Sukhdev (10/24):

Why is everyone saying India is OK? Please check out the facts before spewing the Bharty Janta Party's fascist policies.

<http://www.dalitstan.org/holocaust/index.html>

<http://www.dalitstan.org/christian/>

<http://indianterrorism.mybravenet.com/index.htm>

Sandeep Khurana (10/24):

Here is a country:

- Which has attacked its big neighbor 3 times (4 times if you include Kargil).
- Realizing that it will never be able to win direct war with India it started a proxy war by training and arming terrorists in Punjab and then in Kashmir.
- While India exports river water to Pakistan, which is the lifeline of the Pakistani economy, Pakistan exports terrorism to India.
- While Indian politics are based on secularism, Pakistani politics are based on hatred towards India and non-Muslims.
- When Indians were debating the issues related to their economy and were training people in computer software and biosciences and liberalizing their markets, Pakistanis were busy fostering the Taliban and bin Ladens.
- While Muslim population in India has increased exponentially, Hindu population in Pakistan has decreased 90%.
- India has a Muslim president, while in Pakistan it's beyond imagination to think of any Hindu even becoming a minister.
- The Muslim language Urdu is prospering in India, while the Hindu language Hindi is dead in Pakistan.

In spite of all this, India is still willing to talk to Pakistan if they stop cross border terrorism. Is this a big thing to ask?

I don't think this useless PR exercise will achieve any result.

Chris K (10/24):

What's interesting to note is that almost every single terrorist accounted for has a Pakistani connection. And this is true right from the days of Ramzi Yousef who first bombed the WTC in 1994.

Then there is Omar Sheikh involved with Daniel Pearle's beheading.

And that Khalid Muhammed guy who the FBI says is the number 2 in Al-Qaeda. This Kuwaiti citizen of Pakistani descent was disowned by both the countries. But there is no denying the fact that he received training in Pakistan.

The 6 men of a terror cell arrested in Buffalo, NY had all been to Pakistan.

Johnny Walker Lindh went to Pakistan, had a homosexual relationship with a mullah there and then went to join the Taliban. Nothing wrong with having a homosexual relationship with the mullah but joining the Taliban???

So the bottom line is that people left to themselves in their home environs are fine and dandy. They set one foot in Pakistan and boom! they become brainwashed zombies.

This PR firm sure has one herculean task ahead and \$600K is a pittance for the job.

Not fooled by PR spins (10/24):

No country does anything without its self-interests being met. The same is more than true with respect to Pakistan during its much touted days as an American cold-war ally.

Pakistan needed us more than we needed them. It was in Pakistan's interests to pretend to be our friend in order to save itself from the USSR on the west (in Afghanistan) and India on the east. And for all the refugees that Pakistan took during the USSR war in Afghanistan, it gained a lot more than it could ask for. It gained a lot of our financial assistance, it funneled arms and ammunitions meant for the Afghan mujahideens, it funneled aid resources and money meant for Afghan refugees and it gained strategic depth after the Soviets left. So harping on, "we were your friend" shouldn't fool us anymore.

In an article titled, "On the Frontier of Apocalypse" (<http://terror-threats.netfirms.com/article5.htm>) Christopher Hitchens writes, "In the 1980s, Pakistan got a blank check from the U.S. to combat the Russians, and spent much of the check in building up the Taliban. Now it is getting another check and a brand-new interest-free mortgage in order to pretend that the Taliban are its enemy. It just doesn't get any better than this. I think the roots of the all-pervasive anti-Americanism spring exactly from this mendicant's-begging-bowl arrangement. Pakistanis know that they are bought and paid for, and so the way to assert pride is to spit in the face of those who have owned and used them. "

And as for the current on going war against terrorism, the less said about this front-line ally (nice name, "al-lie"), the better. In his TV address to the Pakistanis, Musharraf reminded them of Muhammed

having to make truce with the Jews of Mecca until he found a more favorable time to defeat them. He said he had to do the same and thus was forced to join the front.

Next, Pakistan had no choice, especially after one of our Senators threatened to bomb it back to the stone-age.

And even after joining the war, Pakistan has only put a lot of impediments in the way. The 3 missions that Musharraf sent to supposedly negotiate a surrender with the Taliban actually discussed shoring up the Taliban defenses and retreat strategies. These missions were by ISI officials who actually created the Taliban in the first place.

For this show of sham friendship, Pakistan got its debt rescheduled, undisclosed amounts of aid money and we literally pulled it out of a debt trap.

And finally, only the army and the military dictatorship in Pakistan wants us as their friend. Why? Because it pays them by means of sophisticated defense technology (they almost got the F-16s), renewed military exercises and thus a greater hold on the people of their country.

There is no friendship here and definitely no altruism. The common man there, barring a handful of educated elites, hates us. So with a friend like this, who needs enemies?

Arnold Beichman (10/24):

Pakistan, like Saudi Arabia, needs more than just good PR. They are nuclear armed and just elected a bin Laden ally to power. First, they should bring themselves into the 21st century, then they should cull their spy agency and stop sponsoring Islamic terrorists.

Then the PR will take care of itself.

Thinker (10/24):

'Devils Advocate' is what comes to mind.

Al Goldman (10/24):

Once more Pakistan is out to fool the American public. The difference this time is that they have the help of an American PR firm.

S. Davis (10/24):

It goes to show that money talks...everyone has a price. That goes for Pakistan (our 'al-lie') and Sterling International Consulting Corp.

Chris Osborne (10/24):

Pakistan, its policies and its dictatorial and hypocritical leaders suck. Pakistan is directly responsible for 9/11 on our soil. This is the conclusion I have come to after reading newspapers worldwide.

Ahmed (10/23):

Jeff Goldman has a selective view of South Asian issues. India has an issue with all its neighbors and this is precisely the reason why Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh have formed such a cooperative relationship.

Secondly, it is not only the Kashmir issue, were they is "militancy" or "freedom" struggles, whatever you may call it, but 12 or more states

freedom struggles, whatever you may call it, but 12 of more states within Indian are involve in armed rebellion.

As for India being a liberal democracy, it was only this year that 2,000 Muslims were killed and Christian missionaries from Australia were burned alive.

Finally, Mr. Goldman and others state Pakistan has not been a "recent" ally of the USA. Which country was is that Gary Powell flew out of on his ill fated mission over the USSR? Which country became a staging ground for the USA's battle against the USSR in Afghanistan? Which country was it that facilitated Henry Kissinger's meeting with the Chinese? Need I go on, for those not too sure, it ISN'T INDIA.

Jeff Goldman (10/23):

To Malik Khan: The biggest problem Pakistanis have is that they start pointing fingers at India for all their woes instead of accepting the truth. I have a graduate degree in South Asian Studies. I have been following the events in South Asia for the last forty years and have visited all of the countries in that region except Bhutan and Maldives. It is easy for you to fool fellow Americans who may be unaware of the facts, not me.

Calling India as "Epicenter of Terrorism" is a big joke. India has been suffering for the last 20 years because of the cross-border terrorism by Pakistan. They have lost close to 100,000 lives, most of them civilians. Not even a single Indian has been found to be associated with Taliban or Al-Qaeda and the world knows very well what goes on in Pakistan. When Pakistan gained independence, it had large number of minorities. They have been persecuted and forcibly converted to Islam and their number dwindled to few thousands only. India has more Muslims than the population of Pakistan and their numbers have increased since 1947.

A book published in 1981, *The Islamic Bomb* by Steve Weissman (Time Books) http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/081290978X/qid=1035382315/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/104-9703882-6407951?v=glance clearly states the Nuclear program of Pakistan is being financed by Saudi Arabia, Libya and Iraq. Gen Zia-ul-Haq, the military dictator in the 1970s went to these countries flush with oil money after the oil shock (1973) and Yom Kippur war asking for funding for the N-Bomb to counter Israel, whereas in reality it was aimed at India.

Pakistan supported the U.S. only after India had offered unconditional support and military bases to United States. If you recollect, Bush and Powell threatened Gen. Musharraf, "Either you are with us or with them (Taliban)." Only then did Pakistan become a U.S. ally. Even after 9/11, Pakistani army regulars were in Afghanistan training Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighting U.S. troops and had to be evacuated from Mazar-i-Sharif.

It is not my assessment that Pakistan traded N-technology for missiles with North Korea but that of *The New York Times* and State Department officials.

Even during the recent stand-off between Indian and Pakistan, it was Gen. Musharraf who was threatening the use of N-weapons not India.

Pakistan should come out clean by giving up terrorism, handing over all missiles and making peace with India.

all criminals and making peace with India.

Indian-American (10/23):

To Malik Khan: Why should India should be labeled as terrorist state? It is Pakistan who supported and breed al Qaeda. It is Pakistan who is supporting and breeding terrorism in Kashmir and other parts of India. BJP is a democratically elected government.

Muslims and Christians are living a 1,000 times safer life in India than minorities in Pakistan. Show me any country in the world where the majority is not trying to suppress the minority. I know there are isolated incidents, but the Indian Constitution has several provisions to protect minorities. Does Pakistan offer any security for minorities?

Deep (10/23):

To Malik Khan: Whatever help Pakistan is providing to America, is only to save its own skin. Everybody knows which country is the "Epicenter of Terrorism." If you don't know, let me enlighten you, it is "PAKISTAN."

It was Pakistan's terror chief whom you call "President" that was the architect of the "Kargil War" with India. It is this same person who controlled the terror organization during that time and was the director of one of the trusts that collected money to export terror to other countries.

Name any terrorist activity in the world and you will find Pakistan involved in some way or the other. India is being forced to defend itself because of your country's endless supply of terrorists.

Lawman (10/23):

This is a good step in the right direction. Pakistan has consistently helped America in its struggles, from opposing the Soviet Union, to fighting fanatic muslims. It was Pakistan's crucial help in liberating Afghanistan from Soviet occupation that contributed to the disintegration of the Soviet empire. Had Pakistan not helped, the Soviets would probably be controlling the Middle East oil supplies; imagine what that would have done for America's freedom.

Even when America has been hostile to Pakistan, Pakistani governments have bent over backwards to help America. For example, in Somalia, Pakistani troops died rescuing American troops from Somali warlords, at a time when U.S. had imposed multiple layers of sanctions damaging Pakistan's security and economy.

Additionally, Pakistan has been helping America bring to justice militant's long before the horrors of 9/11. Pakistan's help was critical in the capture of Yousuf Ramzi, who tried to blow up the Trade Centers in in 1993. This help was extended again at a time when Pakistan was suffering under U.S. sanctions.

No other country would have lifted a finger to help America, had they received treatment similar to Pakistan's. Yet Pakistan, time and again, stood with the U.S. America has no better example of a loyal friend than Pakistan, and it's time Pakistan's contribution to preservation of American values and freedom is recognized and rewarded.

Gary Elbein (10/22):

Time and again Pakistan has shown to be abetting terrorists who threaten peace loving nations all over the world. However Pakistan

has managed to survive and escape American wrath. The web and media around the world prove this.

It is time that America cut off the main supply line for Islamic terrorism, which is based in Pakistan and has been consistently supported by respective Pakistani governments.

Analyst (10/22):

It's great that Pakistan is finally paying attention to the media, and I hope Dan Pero and Sterling International Consulting Corp. all the best with this.

Malik Khan (10/22):

Mr. Crusader: Pakistan has played a huge role in the "War on Terror" by providing air force bases and protecting American troops in Afghanistan by providing logistics support.

Mr. Jeff Goldman: I beg to differ with you. The North Korea nuclear weapons program is much older than Pakistan and probably more sophisticated. I disagree with your assessment that Pakistan provided North Korea with nuclear technology.

The American government knew about Iraq's nuclear program throughout the 70s and 80s. The American government even knew that Saudi Arabia was financing the Iraq nuclear program and that Brazil was helping Iraq in acquiring equipment to build/test nuclear devices, but kept quiet.

During the Iraq-Iran war the American government not only provided both chemical/biological weapons but also helped Iraq use chemical weapons against Iranian troops.

I agree that Pakistan has supported the Taliban (mainly ISI, Inter-Service Intelligence). I am critical of many governments that foster the radical Taliban.

India is no ally to any country. India should be labeled as the "Epicenter of Terrorism." The racist Bharatiya Janatha Party (BJP) is the Hindu nationalist coalition government. Since the group came to power there has been an increase in persecution and opposition of minorities, especially Christians and Muslims.

An observer (10/21):

In spite of various propaganda to hoodwink the U.S. and the western world, the truth is coming out that Pakistan is assisting North Korea in building nuclear weapons in return for ICBMs. However, certain propaganda prevents Pakistan from being called a terrorist state as they have supported the Taliban and al Qaeda for a decade.

Crusader (10/21):

Time and again the paki's have betrayed us, whether it is terrorism against us through Osama or supporting North Korea!!!

Only Israel and India are our allies against these terrorists!!

Jeff Goldman (10/21):

Pakistan has emerged as the epicenter of terrorism. It exports terrorists not only to India to harm civilians, disrupt democratic processes with intentions of grabbing Kashmir but also trains and

shelters terrorists e.g. Richard Reid, bin Laden, bin-Saleih, Jose Padelia, John Walker Lindh. Now we know that Pakistan traded nuclear technology with missile technology with North Korea. Throughout the 1980s & 90s, it kept stealing N-technology and developing bombs while successive U.S. administrations kept mum and acted as a dumb person. Today's U.S. administration labels Iraq as a heretic state whereas it glosses over Pakistan. It should attack Pakistan for our safety not Iraq. As of today, we have no Richard Reids or John Walker Lindhs from Iraq.

Tony Medrano (10/20):

With so many terrorist lovers in our nation, no wonder we are making no headway on the war on terror. It seems we have already been paying Pakistan billions for what - sheltering al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The war on terror needs to first start in Pakistan, rather than Iraq.

Anti-bigot (10/20):

To Ashamed and American PR: Did you two read the part where it says "Pakistan is a vital ally in war against terror" Pakistan has been an American ally for close to fifty years now.

Ashamed To Be In Same Room With Some Folks (10/14):

I agree with American PR... Why don't you just don your Keffiyah (with your corporate logo, of course), and leave the US! There are a LOT of "friends" of yours in other countries.

American PRI (10/13):

Sell your soul buddy -- along with selling the rest of America out. We don't need an APR in this industry. We need people with ethics and morals. Duty, honor, country. I hear the Bin Ladin account is up for bid, too.



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Dow Jones Business News

US Congress May Permit \$1B Pakistan Debt Write-Off - Envoy

Thursday January 23, 7:09 am ET

KARACHI (Dow Jones)--The U.S. Congress might approve a request by the Bush Administration in the current budget to write-off \$1 billion of debt owed by Pakistan, U.S. Ambassador Nancy Powell said Thursday.

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"We are working hard to have this substantial debt forgiveness included by Congress in the current budget," Powell told executives of U.S. companies in Karachi.

She said President George W. Bush had promised President Pervez Musharraf in February last year that he would work with Congress on the debt relief to help ease Pakistan's debt burden.

Powell said the U.S. Administration has already rescheduled payments on \$3 billion in bilateral debt to provide Pakistan "a significant cash flow relief in the short-run."

She said the U.S. government

sees a long-term political and economic relationship with Pakistan, as relations strengthened after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

"The U.S. government has begun implementing a multi-billion dollar package focused on promoting the development of Pakistan's economy, security and human relations," she said.

Powell said the economic development programs include significant grants and debt relief, financial support for child education and farming.

Thursday, Powell also signed a \$287,480 grant agreement with Karachi Port Trust on behalf of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency to partially fund a feasibility study for a proposed 25 million gallons a day desalination plant in Karachi.

Powell said her government is also providing financial support to Pakistan to improve its security and praised Islamabad for its staunch support in the war against terror.

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"Let me say that the United States remains fully satisfied and appreciative of Pakistan's unstinting support in the war against terrorism," she said

Powell said Pakistan must stay on the course of structural reforms, continue prudent economic policy and ensure effective management of the macro-economic environment.

"This continuity is a key to sustaining a welcoming investment climate for foreign and domestic capital that Pakistan needs to strengthen the foundation for sustained and robust growth," she said.

She praised the new government of Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali for inducting professional economic policy-makers in his government.

But Powell said new investment will only come if the elected government offers some very strong signals that it will ensure the reforms undertaken over the last few years.

Investors have praised the military-led government headed by President Pervez Musharraf for providing a semblance of economic stability.

-By Saeed Azhar, Dow Jones Newswires; 92-21-5872854; saeed.azhar@dowjones.com

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"Musharraf Winning His Campaign for Freedom"

Pakistan is fighting the war on terrorism because it cannot exist as a modern, progressive democracy while stateless killers of the innocent take refuge within its borders or prey upon its allies abroad.

Yet some in the west have questioned President Pervez Musharraf's alliance with the United States and its allies, claiming that he was merely going along in order not to get in the way.

Not until one understands what lies ahead for Pakistan can one understand its present role as an American ally.

Upon taking office in October, 1999, Musharraf said in his first speech: "Islam teaches tolerance, not hatred; universal brotherhood, not enmity; peace, and not violence. . . . I urge (religious leaders) to curb elements which are exploiting religion for vested interests and bringing a bad name to our faith."

A full two years *before* the terror attacks in America by al Qaeda, Musharraf was warning those who would listen about Islamic fundamentalism and laying out a framework for religious tolerance in Pakistan.

Musharraf did not contain his efforts to frustrate terrorism by words alone.

In February, 2001, the Anti-Weaponization Ordinance was promulgated. The goal of the new law was to get small arms out of the hands of Pakistanis. A very dangerous threat to the future of Pakistan would be to allow the "Kalishnakov culture" to flourish in older generations – and have it become a way of life for younger generations.

On August 14, 2001, several known organizations were officially banned from Pakistan, including Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Sipah-e-Muhammad, for their ties to extremists. Two other groups were placed under close observation.

All of these steps were taken because Musharraf recognized what the Islamic fundamentalists to the north in Afghanistan, the Taliban, had done to that country – eliminating any freedom that conflicted with their own hard-line views, especially those views on religious tolerance, democracy and women's rights.

He saw the Taliban not as a challenge to his role in Pakistan, but, rather, as a menace to the future of the country, which he wants so desperately to modernize.

No clearer lens on Musharraf's true intentions exists than in the broadcast address he gave to the nation, on Jan. 12, 2002, after he had pledged Pakistan's commitment to the war.

2003 JAN 31 PM 12:01
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Musharraf and Freedom

Page 2

He told his fellow Pakistanis: "Let us honestly analyze what the religious extremists have attempted to do to Pakistan and Islam. . . . Pakistan's international image was tarnished, and we were projected by the international media as ignorant and backward. Our economy suffered. A number of export orders already placed with Pakistani industry were cancelled and no new orders materialized. This led to closure of some factories and unemployment. The poor daily wage earners lost their livelihood."

It was the laborers' wages that concerned Musharraf as much as spiritual salvation. In the same speech, he said: "Have we ever thought about waging (holy war) against illiteracy, poverty, backwardness and hunger?"

Such a view is consistent with developing and maintaining a framework for democracy in Pakistan – a modern democracy where the most important subjects in school are math, science and civics; where the rights of everyone, including women and minorities, are protected; and where Pakistan is second to no nation in following the mandate of its people, rather than of its most recent head of state.

Thus, the war on terrorism has, for Pakistan, nothing to do with mollifying western powers, or necessarily of avenging those Pakistani citizens who were killed in the Sept. 11 attacks. It has everything to do with joining other freedom-loving countries in defending freedom against terror and its operatives.

Since joining the worldwide anti-terror campaign, Pakistan's police and military forces have been instrumental in hunting down al Qaeda and Taliban members as well as breaking up terror networks inside the country. Most recently, in Karachi, Pakistan police apprehended Ramzi Binalshibh and four other al Qaeda suspects.

All of them were handed over to U.S. officials for questioning. American investigators consider Binalshibh the most significant player in the New York and Washington terror attacks to be captured. In all, since the declaration of war on terrorism, more than 440 suspected terrorists have been rounded up by Pakistan and handed over to American investigators.

Pakistan is using its police, armed forces and intelligence units to break up terror cells and pursue al Qaeda and their associates to the fullest extent of our abilities. No terrorist should be able to rest, and none should get any refuge from any Pakistani. The hunt will continue and the battle will be waged until the community of nations can work peacefully to build freedom and prosperity for all people.

(Need to identify author)

"The Pakistan Elections: Democracy in Action"

When voters in Pakistan enter their polling places on Oct. 10, much more than democracy's most basic exercise will be underway.

Certainly, President Pervez Musharraf's promise of restoring Pakistan to popular governance will get its acid test. The vote is the seminal point in the 55-year-old country's latest attempt to build and maintain a viable democratic system.

And the fact that anyone is voting at all will be a feat that some geo-political commentators thought would be impossible. Musharraf, who became the head of state in October, 1999, has been criticized in the west lately because of his moves to change the country's constitution – moves he made seemingly alone.

There are also two historic challenges to sewing the seed of freedom in Pakistan.

Previous civilian governments have been nothing but stark failures, in large part due to the abuses of power and the outright corruption by those who led them. Most recently, the administrations of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif turned out to be mockeries of government. Coming from the highest levels of the elite class of landowners, both premiers sought to rule the public rather than to serve it.

There looms, too, the specter (to many in the west) of Islam itself. Pakistan, Musharraf hopes, will join Turkey as a predominantly Muslim country that elects its leaders and supports a system in which political power is shared in different branches of government. But Turkey, and to a somewhat lesser degree, Egypt, have few peers in the Muslim world, where princes and kings are more typical than bureaucrats and elected lawmakers.

Besides, the plan itself is ambitious not only for the fact that it overhauls Pakistan's former structure so thoroughly, but also because it seeks to "devolve power" from Islamabad to the provinces – a struggle not unlike the 226-year-old tussle in the United States between those who view the 50 states as subordinate to Washington, and those who view the federal and state systems as equals.

The war against terrorism is yet another wrinkle that could play havoc with the vote. It is in the best interests of terrorists, such as al Qaeda, to stymie the establishment of viable democracies. A democratic, prosperous Pakistan would host few sympathizers and have little quarter for them.

Against such obstacles, Musharraf has unveiled a plan that is profoundly ambitious. In the three echelons of government (to use the American model as an example, think of them as local, state and federal), the plan seeks not only devolution, but also that a substantial portion of legislative seats be reserved for women, minorities and the poor.

No democracy in the west, including those of France, Britain and the United States, was founded with such clear goals of decentralization of power and constitutionally mandated empowerment for persons who held little or no political clout.

Pakistan Elections

Page 2

As an example: In the United States, the issue of women's suffrage and equal rights covered all of three centuries – from the ratification of the Constitution in 1789, to the Seneca Falls convention in 1848 and finally to the 19th Amendment, which was ratified in 1920, and recognized the right of women to vote. Some might argue that, given the levels of pay today for salaried positions, American women have still some ways to go.

Musharraf's plan would split Pakistan's Union Councils equally among men and women, with eight "general" seats for both. The councils would also have four female and four male representatives who are workers or who are poor; and the councils would have one female and one male representative who are minorities.

In District Assemblies the 66 seats break down this way: 50 general seats (for anyone who can get elected to one of them); 10 seats reserved for women; three seats for workers/poor; and three seats for minorities.

The Union and District assemblies are new. They are envisioned as a means of testing neophyte lawmakers who would aspire to the National Assembly, giving lower-level officeholders experience in the democratic process.

The National Assembly will reserve 60 seats for women. It has been estimated, along with the possibilities for women to win general, unreserved seats, that approximately 75 women could be seated in the next assembly. Besides their numbers in the assembly as a whole, their presence will be felt in various committees and subcommittees, where democratic legislatures do the vast majority of their work.

Other provisions include: Lowering the voting age from 21 to 18, so that Pakistan's youth begin to take responsibility for the future of their country; mandating that elections at the District and Union levels be done on a non-partisan basis; and computerizing the electoral rolls, to help ensure accuracy (even the most prominent democracies can experience logistical problems in the voting booth).

The judiciary, too, is being re-worked and will be affected by the elections.

Several Conciliatory Courts will be created as a means to pre-empting litigation and offering alternative dispute resolution; courts, in general, will be increased in number, thus allowing for a greater number of cases to flow more quickly through the system; and special courts will be created to address crimes against women, bringing, for example, assailants more quickly to justice, thereby establishing great public safety.

There are numerous other revisions of Pakistan's government underway, in such areas as public education, health care and adult literacy.

Pakistan Elections**Page 3**

If Musharraf's plan succeeds, Pakistan will have developed in a mere 55 years the social, political and economic systems that have taken western countries far more time to obtain. All this, while Pakistan provides itself as America's most conspicuous ally in the war on terrorism, and as it lobbies the world to liberate its historical and cultural brethren in Kashmir.

Oct. 10 doesn't just represent hope for the people of Pakistan. It is nothing less than a modern-day version of Lexington Green, with ballots, not bullets, that will be heard throughout the Muslim and non-Muslim world.

(Need to identify the author)

“Building a Peaceful, Prosperous and Democratic Pakistan”

The crescent and star on the flag of Pakistan are symbolic of our country's commitment to Islam. But by no means are they a declaration of our conceit for Islam or contempt for the faith of others.

Indeed, it is often because of past divisions between faiths, and sometimes among them, that bloodshed has occurred throughout the world. Such conflicts continue today because, along with the faith, the hope and the dreams of our mothers and fathers, we have also imported their feelings of ill will toward other people.

As with other countries, a new generation of Pakistanis is poised to inherit the land of their forebears. These young men and women will be engineers, craftspeople, physicians and involved in countless other occupations.

Above all they will be the new stewards of Pakistan. They will become fathers and mothers. They will train their children in the culture of our country. And they will pick up where the current generation of leaders, as well as those before them, have left off.

Exactly what, though, will they inherit from us?

My dream is for Pakistan's future Muslim generations to maintain their unshakable faith in Islam, while at the same time tolerating those citizens of our country who freely exercise their own religions. The father of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, said in his speech upon secession:

“You are free: you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this state of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed – that has nothing to do with the business of the state.”

Tolerance among Pashtun, Punjabi, Sindhi, Baloch and Muhajir Pakistanis must also be kept strong and spread further. Not coincidentally it is the faith of Islam that binds the vast majority of our peoples, in much the same way that Catholics from Dublin to Warsaw to Madrid might be bound if they lived within the same state borders. Islam, here, creates a peaceful fraternity.

But tolerance is only one of the universally held values that I want future Pakistanis to hold dear.

Economic mobility must be a dream within the grasp of every Pakistani who is willing to take the steps necessary to contribute to, and prosper from, a growing economy. We have tremendous natural resources, including cotton, rice and petroleum. Our trade partners – including China, the United Kingdom and the United States – will also assist in our growth because of their purchasing power.

The rule of law, too, must be another cornerstone of the future.

Building
Page 2

Too often in Pakistan's history have laws been broken by leaders. We need look no further than the administrations of Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto for stunning examples of people whose interests rarely went beyond their family circles. Bhutto was able to build – by deceit and corruption – the considerable wealth that she had inherited from her father into a fortune that is opulent by any standard. At the same time, she turned a blind eye to the misery of her own people and the contempt for the world – especially the west – that was bred.

Bhutto was so contemptuous of Pakistan that she thought nothing of appointing her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, Investment Minister (reporting only to her). Aside from the millions they looted from the country, they inflicted little cuts, too: The playboy aristocratically leveled 11 acres of protected woodlands for a polo field, stables and a parking lot.

Bhutto, who claims to be in "self-imposed exile," is, in fact, a fugitive from justice, convicted of numerous crimes long before I came to office. No civilization in the world would permit a fugitive to run for office. Zardari is in prison, where justice demands he should be and her as well.

Sharif was little better. Like Bhutto, he was part of a land-owning class accustomed to rule. Being rich is no crime, of course, but enriching oneself by hiding assets and scoffing at tax payments is the worst kind of betrayal of the public's trust.

And because we are willing to follow the rule of law, we should not need to beg that others do the same: The people of Kashmir must be allowed self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions, the first of which is more than 50 years old. God willing, our future generations will not have to work for such a result.

World conflicts based upon past divisions and fought with modern weapons leads us into a darkening future. There is no better or permanent way to avoid that blackness than to sew now the seeds of prosperity and peace. Through diplomacy, through trade and through our own resolve to invest ourselves in our country, our children and their children will be able to say, as Mr. Jinnah had envisioned so long ago, that Pakistan is one of the world's great countries.

President Pervez Musharraf

“Education Reforms: Pakistan’s Path to Peace and Prosperity”

A government’s greatest obligation is to educate, protect and provide for the welfare of its people, and to do so should be proportionate to the degree of how badly the people are dispossessed of any one of these: The greater the need, the greater must be government’s effort to fulfill its obligation.

For too long, Pakistanis have been deprived of all three, and, for too long, Pakistan’s democratically elected governments failed miserably to provide for their citizens’ needs.

While Americans accumulated wealth and continued to enjoy prosperity through their ingenuity and hard work in the decade of the 1990s, Pakistanis were largely ignored by their government. Even though they were democratically elected, the regimes of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif were anything but progressive in their treatment of Pakistan’s poorest citizens.

Examples of their callous neglect abound, but one of the most troubling in terms of the future of Pakistan is the glaring lack of educational programs that maintained or even established high academic achievement for the children of Pakistan.

The literacy rate of Pakistan (defined as those 15-years-old and older who can read and write) is approximately 42.7 percent overall. For women, it is an abysmal 29 percent. How can a young woman of little material means expect to advance in the world economy if she cannot read or write?

Moreover, formal, secular education, so prevalent in the west, was surrendered in the 1990s to the madrassahs, schools that teach a fundamentalist form of Islam. This teaching, which excludes all modern math, science and civics lessons as well as female students, is also pointedly anti-western.

The result: Pakistan has hundreds of thousands, perhaps a few million, young men and boys whose sole educational experience has been the Koran. The madrassahs teach little more, although some reportedly teach medicine from an 11th-century text and Euclidian geometry.

What mother or father would allow their son to attend one of the madrassahs, and imperil the lives of those boys who would pick up a Kalishnakov or build a bomb and fight against the world? The answer is: Parents in a country where poverty and ignorance are common, and who are desperate for *any* type of education for their children so that they might live better lives. Thus, extremism filled, under the watch of Bhutto and Sharif, the educational vacuum they ignored.

Since becoming head of state in October, 1999, the government of President Pervez Musharraf has moved decisively to fill the vacuum and alleviate the poverty of the Pakistani people. He has also sought to modernize the curriculum of the madrassahs,

Education Reforms

Page 2

developing and introducing courses on Pakistan studies, modern math, science and English (the official language of Pakistan).

In his address to the nation in January, 2002, President Musharraf said: "If a child studying at a madrassah does not wish to be a prayer leader, and he wants to be a bank official or seek employment elsewhere, he should be facilitated. It would mean that the students . . . should be brought to the mainstream through a better education system."

Besides reforming the madrassahs, another major achievement has been the establishment of the National Commission for Human Development.

The commission – a public-private partnership between the Pakistani government and philanthropic people from around the world – will implement community-based programs in a number of areas including: literacy, skills training, health care, population growth, infant mortality, maternal mortality and malnutrition.

The education of young women and girls will be given a top priority. Besides programs to assist in universal primary education, the curriculum will include programs that promote religious tolerance, social harmony and respect for others.

In all, the plan envisions 3,500 schools for children ages 5 to 9 where no other government schools exist. There will be 17,000 additional learning centers for older children, with some classes for young adults up to age 34.

The goal is to achieve 100 percent net enrollment in all government schools for children ages 5 to 9 as well as reduce to less than 20 percent the drop-out rate in formal schools.

The commission also seeks to: cut the infant mortality rate in half; the maternal mortality rate by 25 percent; reduce malnutrition in women and children by 50 percent; and keep population growth below 2 percent.

The commission will also oversee the creation and activity of the National Volunteer Corps., a domestic version of America's Peace Corps. These volunteers would perform a wide variety of functions, including: Assisting in school enrollment, counseling students who consider dropping out of school, assist in literacy and promotion of health, help monitor schools to ensure quality training, teaching and delivery of services.

Pakistan is poised to become not just a modern, progressive Islamic republic, in which all children are nurtured and provided with world-class educations. It is preparing to take its place among the world's great democracies, defending freedom with its allies and, above all, providing succor to its neediest of citizens.

Nasim Ashraf, MD
Chairman
National Commission for Human Development

"Kashmir Elections: India's Bullets Shoot Down One-Person One-Vote"

There are laws in the United States that forbid campaigning within a certain distance of a polling location, the idea being that citizens should be free to exercise their right to vote without having to navigate through swarms of literature-bearing campaign workers. Without such unfettered access, voters might be dissuaded from voting or, perhaps worse, intimidated by cheering or jeering mobs into voting for a certain candidate.

Those laws are but a sliver of the rules – and more importantly, of the culture – that Americans enjoy when practicing democracy. Such blessings exist because the 226-year-old republic has endured its own stormy growth – a revolutionary founding, a brutal civil war, inter- and intra-continental conflicts ... and struggles within, perhaps most notably with regard to voting rights during the 1950s and 1960s, in the Jim Crow south.

In Kashmir, where a four-part election started Sept. 16, voters must navigate through obstacles of a far more menacing nature – armored personnel carriers that prowl the roads, machinegun nests that bristle with automatic weapons and the constant threat of arrest and detainment without procedural safeguards. These formidable barriers exist in addition to the practice by Indian soldiers of rousting citizens from their homes and being told, at gunpoint, to go and vote.

If Americans take such care to protect the integrity of their elections, is it any wonder that the outcome of the Kashmir elections, which conclude on Oct. 8, is already being viewed with skepticism?

Had the world paid more attention – and had the United Nations enforced its own decrees – then Kashmir, and the Muslim majority living there, would not be living under the abject coercion of Indian military forces. UN Resolution 122 of Jan. 24, 1957, is unambiguous:

"[T]he final disposition of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a *free and impartial plebiscite* conducted under the auspices of the United Nations." (Emphasis added.)

Nowhere in the document, nor in any since, does the UN allow for an election – even one in which forced voting does not occur – to be a substitute for the plebiscite. Not only has India ignored the resolution, it has decreed that no international observers, including those from the UN, would be allowed to witness the latest round of its gun-tote democracy.

It is both sad and unforgivable that Kashmir's latest fit and start toward democracy has had to acquire the shroud of illegitimacy. In 1996, India tried the same strategy: Hold an election, claim the result as valid and tell the world that Kashmir was free at last. The world, of course, saw through the ruse. For the next six years, Kashmiris subdued their desires for freedom to the sycophantic National Conference, a family of Muslim elites,

Kashmir Elections

Page 2

anointed by New Delhi, who have become an entire party unto themselves. The Bush and Kennedy families might be dynasties in America, but they are hardly *sine qua non* of the Republican and Democratic parties.

Yet it is under such a Soprano-family regime that, all too predictably, the next phase of India's slow-motion acquisition of Kashmir will take place. Real democracy will be thwarted. A modern-day *anschluss* will have occurred.

Of course, not until India and Pakistan are pointing nuclear-tipped missiles at each other does the world awaken to the fact that what happens in Kashmir is deadly serious to both countries. Each country has made a "no first use" pledge regarding its nuclear weapons, but that does not eliminate absolutely their presence or, by extension, their threat.

Pakistan believes that real democracy – one person, one vote – is vital to the long-term stability and prosperity of all the parties involved, including India. Enforcing the language of the resolution – to hold an internationally observed plebiscite – would deliver self-determination to the troubled land and, in the future, foster a more positive relationship between nuclear neighbors.

Resolving the Kashmir conflict would also allow a democratic Pakistan to turn its attention toward economic development for its people and bring it more firmly to the table of nations whose aims are peace and prosperity.

Given the language of the resolution, and the newfound resolve of the UN to enforce its decrees in Iraq, it would seem that Kashmir might be the place to look if the world wants to avoid the use of weapons of mass destruction. After waiting 45 years, and with the region on the precipice of nuclear war, such consideration is long overdue.

(Need to Identify an Author)

"Musharraf Empowers Women"

There is an historic social change occurring in Pakistan today which, given the televised images of South Asian women in burkhas that people around the world are accustomed to seeing, will probably come as a tremendous jolt to most Americans.

In overhauling a government that has for decades neglected its people, President Pervez Musharraf has unveiled a plan that mandates educational, economic and political equality for women. In classrooms, business offices and government bodies, women in Pakistan are standing on the verge of achieving in a few years what has taken women in other countries decades, and often centuries, to obtain.

"It is through political empowerment that women can emancipate themselves," Musharraf told an audience earlier this year, when discussing his plans for the reconstruction of the country. "[I]t is you, yourselves, through your own merit, through your own determination, through your own courage that you will get emancipated, and you will rise."

Musharraf recently changed the country's laws to allow for 188 seats in the National and Provincial assemblies to be reserved for women, representing roughly a third of the total number of seats available. These seats are in addition to those that will be won by women in other contested races (whether against men or other women). On top of that, Musharraf said his goal would be to have 50 percent representation in the assemblies as more social, economic and educational changes take place.

As Musharraf noted, speaking to the same audience: "This is a substantial jump from the zero level of the past."

Women in many countries have had to march, work and die to secure the same kind of liberty. In other countries, women still have yet to taste such fruits of freedom as they are considered chattels.

Significant changes, too, are occurring for the social liberation of women in Pakistan.

Family planning, long a taboo subject in Islamic societies, is being openly discussed by the president, both in terms of its impact on society and upon woman.

"Pakistan's maternal mortality rate is unacceptably high," he said. "The nation cannot let more than 35,000 mothers die each year from pregnancy-related causes."

Through adoption and training in family planning – and through the empowerment of women, giving them economic and political parity with their husbands – Pakistan hopes to achieve the goal of having no child too early, too late or too many.

Musharraf Empowers Women

Page 2

Formal education for girls and young women, too, has become a major theme of this administration. The education reform strategy, in fact, gives priority to the education of girls and young women.

More than 2,500 schools for girls have been established. With the literacy rate (those 15 and older who can read and write) at 29 percent for female Pakistanis, the schools are aimed at building fundamental skills and preparing students for more advanced learning.

Women are also getting preferential hiring as teachers, providing them with employment and giving all students daily, visual reminders of women as professional role models. Nutrition programs for students, too, are being added at schools as Pakistani girls have historically been under nourished.

While the political and educational efforts, once fully implemented, will bring Pakistan into parity with many other democracies in the world, it is the economic program that is perhaps the most progressive – even more so than in many western countries, including the United States.

In a recently signed law, the government plans on turning “the principal of equal pay for equal work into a reality,” Musharraf said.

Pakistan is working with several banks to establish more female-owned enterprises. There are also government grants being disbursed throughout Pakistan to women who will start their own businesses.

Pakistan, in existence for a mere 55 years, is poised to accomplish what many other countries have taken years to do: Guarantee the equal rights of women, equal in pay, equal in education and equal in opportunity.

Musharraf sees the country on the right path.

“We have a long way to go. You have a long way to go,” he said. “Let us pledge that, together, we shall liberate women from the crippling handicaps of illiteracy, poverty, deprivation and powerlessness. Let us pledge to create a society which recognizes dignity and honor for every girl and woman of Pakistan.”

Dr. Attiya Anayatullah
Minister for Women Development