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From the Chairman's Desk

I am delighted to present the 5th Report of the year 2007 on the activities of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The emergence of 6 independent Muslim states in Central Asia in the last century was an event of enormous significance. It transformed the political landscape, creating new geo-strategic factors and enhancing the importance of Central Asia. The availability of huge sources of energy and small population renders this region an object of intense diplomatic interest. The creation of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an illustration of this.

Pakistan has enjoyed very special relations with these neighbouring countries. Besides having joined SCO as an observer, Pakistan has also set up resident diplomatic missions in all the capitals and has pursued policy of forging closer economic and political relations. There have been close rapport between the leadership of these countries and Pakistan.

The visit of a 5-member Parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan Parliament to Islamabad in December, 2006 and discussions with them reinforced these relations through better understanding of mutual perspective on the issues both in bilateral and international context. The discussions were highly rewarding and laid the basis of further deepening the cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

I trust this Report will be well received and would be a useful document in understanding the political and geo-strategic issues facing the region.



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Executive Summary

A 5-member delegation of the Milli Mejlis (National Assembly), Republic of Azerbaijan headed by Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov, Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Commission on Agrarian Policy visited Pakistan from November 29 to December 3, 2006 on invitation of the Senate of Pakistan. A meeting between the visiting delegation and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by its Chairman, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, was held on November 29, 2006 to discuss “Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations and the regional scenario”.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed made three basic points in his presentation, namely; Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations, regional economic cooperation, and regional strategic and political scenario with reference to issues of extremism and terrorism. On Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations he stated that the two countries enjoy a very close, cooperative and fraternal relationship which is strengthened by the bonds of history, religion, culture and geography. He recalled the visit of President General Pervez Musharraf to Azerbaijan in 2004, the visit of Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan to Pakistan in April, 2005 and the visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to Baku for the ECO Summit in May, 2006. Both countries have adopted principled positions to support each other on major issues.

On the regional scenario, Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that Pakistan is a strong partner of the international community in the campaign against terrorism and extremism. It is among the leading countries which have sacrificed immensely for the maintenance of regional peace, security and stability and for promoting the cause of anti-terrorism. The situation in the region has been complicated and destabilized

by the invasion and occupation of Iraq in violation of the International Law.

Senator Mushahid Hussain further stated that as a Muslim country Pakistan is deeply perturbed and concerned when attempts are made to link the issue of terrorism or extremism with Islam, which is a religion of peace, tolerance and harmony. Terrorism has no religion. Therefore, by linking terrorism with Islam the Muslims perceive the campaign against terrorism as a war against Islam and a war against Muslims.

Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov recalled his two visits to Pakistan in 1996 and 2005 when a number of agreements were signed in the economic, cultural, sports and other spheres, which helped in promoting relations between the two countries. He appreciated the valuable role of Pakistan in adoption of 4 UN resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh. He also reminded the Pakistani side of the continuing support of Azerbaijan to Pakistan on the Kashmir situation. He suggested that political parties of the two countries should also establish relationship among themselves. He delivered an invitation from Mr. Samad Seyidov, Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Commission on Foreign Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations, to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed to visit Azerbaijan at any convenient time along with a delegation of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Hadi Rajabli recounted the many similarities and parallels between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Pakistan and Azerbaijan face double standard in international relations but the two countries are together and support each other. He suggested that the two countries should move closer in the context of globalization.



Ms. Rabiyyat Aslanova stated that she has been teaching the poetry of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal at the University for the last many years but she had never thought that one day she will be in his land of birth. Allama Iqbal and Jamaluddin Afghani invited the Muslim world to unite but unfortunately that could not be achieved and this is the reason that Islam and terrorism are being equated today. This is the reason that the Islamic world is on defensive. Referring to her research pertaining to Islam, her conclusion was that the Muslims have to align in tandem to the changing world scenario.

Mr. Asim Mollazada stated that Azeris share the ideas of enlightened moderation and reforms enunciated by President Musharraf of Pakistan. He said, “we support him because extremism and terrorism are not a Muslim’s trait”. Pakistan and Azerbaijan are on a path of development, education and high technology as is required of any country.

Mr. Isa Habibbayli highlighted similarities between the two countries and stated that Pakistan is considered to be the ancient cultural civilization in South Asia while Azerbaijan has confirmed a similar position in Central Asia. Azerbaijan has the Caucasus Mountains while Pakistan has the Himalayas. He stated that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Heydar Aliyev and President Pervez Musharraf are held in high esteem in Azerbaijan. He suggested that an Azeri corner should be established in the Lok Virsa Museum in Islamabad. He also stated that an agreement between the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad and Nakhchivan University, Azerbaijan would be signed during this visit which will further strengthen relations between the two countries.

Senator Nisar A. Memon welcomed the delegation. He thanked the visiting delegation

for the support that was provided by Azerbaijan during the earthquake of October 8, 2005 and for the consistent and continued support of Azerbaijan on the Kashmir issue in the United Nations. He invited the Defence Committee of the Azerbaijan Parliament to visit Pakistan and suggested that the arms requirement of Azerbaijan can be met by Pakistan as it is producing most of the hardware required by that country.

Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq stated that the Muslim Ummah is one body, but the world powers have separated them from one another. He said, “the Muslim countries must unite. There is no concept of terrorism in Islam nor do the seminaries preach terrorism”.

Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmed stressed the importance of enhancing relationship between the two countries at the political, economic, educational and media levels. He said the agreements between the two countries should be effectively implemented. Since the Muslims believe in Islamic unity it will come with the Muslim civilization and the Islamic identity. In this age of globalization, Muslims cannot live in isolation. There has to be dialogue while maintaining Muslim identity. The Muslim countries should join hands to seek final liberation from colonialism. Instead of following the agenda given by America the Muslims should have their own agenda and they should co-exist in such a manner that all are benefited.

Concluding the meeting, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that he was heartened to learn that the philosophical and intellectual impact of the great national poet and philosopher, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, is felt not just in South Asia but in the Central Asia, the Arab world, Iran, Turkey and wherever there is thinking about the orient. “The discussion of today has

strengthened relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and the parliaments of the two countries. However, cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in energy, economy, security, politics and defence is equally important. The root cause of instability in the region is the use of military might. The use of force has resulted in occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh by Armenia, the Indian occupation of Kashmir, the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and Palestine and the Western occupation of Iraq and also the use of force in Afghanistan. The basic lesson from this scenario is that all countries, big or small, have to defend themselves with their own means”.



Pakistan - Azerbaijan Relations and the Regional Scenario

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting with the delegation of
the Milli Mejlis (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

November 29, 2006

- **Participants of the meeting**
- **Proceeding of the Meeting**
(Verbatim Record)



Participants of the Meeting

Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting with the delegation of the Milli Mejlis (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan

November 29, 2006

A delegation of the Milli Mejlis (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan headed by Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov, Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Commission on Agrarian Policy, visited Pakistan from November 29 to December 3, 2006 on invitation of the Senate of Pakistan. A meeting between the Azeri delegation and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee headed by its Chairman, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2006 at the Parliament House, Islamabad to discuss "Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations and the regional scenario".

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

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|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed | Chairman |
| 2. Senator Nisar A. Memon | Member |
| 3. Senator Gulshan Saeed | Member |
| 4. Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq | Member |
| 5. Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad | Member |



Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who attended the meeting.



The Azeri delegation included the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov | Leader of the Delegation |
| 2. Mrs. Rabiyyat Aslanova | Member |
| 3. Mr. Isa Habibbayli | Member |
| 4. Mr. Hadi M. Rajabli | Member |
| 5. Mr. Asim Mollazada | Member |
| 6. H.E. Mr. Eynulla Madatli | Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan |



Delegation of the Milli Mejlis (National Assembly) of Azerbaijan.

Pakistan - Azerbaijan Relations and the Regional Scenario

Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting with the delegation of the
Milli Mejlis (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan

November 29, 2006

Proceedings of the meeting

Vebatim Record

Introduction of the meeting participants:

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: I warmly welcome the delegation of Azerbaijan and hope that you have had a good flight and that you are now well settled in Islamabad. You have come at a very good time in terms of weather and generally otherwise also. Let me first introduce the members of my Committee. On my left is Senator Nisar Memon, he is Chairman of the

Senate Defence Committee and is also a former Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas. On my right is Senator Gulshan Saeed, Chairperson of the Senate Ports and Shipping Committee. She is a prominent activist and leader of the ruling party, Pakistan Muslim League. Prof. Khurshid Ahmad is an honourable member of the Committee from the Opposition's



A warm welcome to H.E. Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov, Leader of the Delegation of Milli Mejlis (National Assembly) of Azerbaijan.



religious parties alliance – the MMA and is a leading intellectual, thinker and economist and the former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as well. Maulana Sami-ul-Haq is also from the Opposition's religious parties alliance (MMA) and he heads a very famous seminary (Madrassah) in the Frontier Province. He is a good friend of mine and I always refer to him as a friendly fundamentalist.

First of all, I would request you, Excellency, to introduce the members of your delegation and the format would be that I will make a few opening remarks and then we can have a discussion.

Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov: I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the kind invitation to visit your country and also for sharing with us your valuable time. Unfortunately, the Chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Commission on Foreign Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Mr. Samad Seyidov was not in a position to visit your country but has sent a letter which I will later submit. And as you are aware, I will replace him here as the Chairman of the Pakistani-Azerbaijani Working Parliamentary Group. I am also Chairman of the Agrarian Policy Committee of the National Assembly and Chairman of the Social Policy Committee. I will also like to mention that very influential and honourable persons are included in our Parliamentary delegation.

My honourable colleague, Mrs. Rabiyyat Aslanova, is Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights and Professor of Philosophy. Mr. Isa Habibbayli is a member of the Standing Parliamentary Commission on Science and Education. He is also an academician at the National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan and also a Rector of Nakhchivan State University. You are well aware of Mr. Eynulla Madatli, our honourable Ambassador, who is well-known for his activities.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: He is a good friend of the people of Pakistan.

Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov: Mr. Hadi Rabiyyat is a member of the Parliamentary Commission on Social Policy. He holds a Doctorate in politics. The next colleague is Mr. Asim Mollazada. He is a member of the Standing Parliamentary Commission on International Inter-Parliamentary Relations. He is also a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Council of Europe. He is also a Doctor of Medicine.

Discussion on agenda of the meeting:

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you, Excellency, and friends from Azerbaijan. It is indeed a privilege and pleasure for all of us to interact with you. I would like to make three basic points in my presentation. The first would be on Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations, the second would be on regional economic cooperation and the third would be on the regional strategic and political scenario as we see it in Pakistan – with reference to issues of extremism and terrorism.

On Pakistan – Azerbaijan relations, we are happy to say that the two countries enjoy a very close, cooperative and fraternal relationship which is strengthened by the bonds of history, religion, culture and geography. President Mr. Ilham Aliyev is personally known to the people of Pakistan and to the leadership of Pakistan, specially President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and he is held in high esteem as a young, dynamic and articulate leader of the region. We have fond memories of his visit to Pakistan in April, 2005 and of course Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was in Baku for the ECO Summit in May, 2006. Both countries have adopted principled positions to support



Members of the delegation in discussion with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

each other on major issues – Azerbaijan on the issue of Kashmir and Pakistan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. This relationship has been reinforced in the field of security as well because Pakistan is training members of the Azeri armed forces in Pakistan and I hope you know that Pakistan has no diplomatic relations with Armenia.

On the second aspect of economic and regional cooperation, we have a Joint Economic Commission which has met three times. We are both members of the OIC and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). We are also very keen to join TRACECA, the straight corridor between Europe, Caucasus and Asia, because this would be reviving the old Silk Route. We hope that Azerbaijan will support Pakistan's membership of this organization because it will be another instrument to strengthen our good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation. We are well aware of the pivotal role that Azerbaijan plays on the issues of energy, oil and gas, especially with the new pipeline from Baku to Jeyhan in Turkey via Tbilisi.

The third area, I would like to briefly focus on, is the regional scenario. We feel that the regional scenario has become complicated because of the recurrence of the use of force especially in Iraq and Lebanon. Pakistan is a strong partner of the international community in the campaign against terrorism and extremism and perhaps I would say without any shadow of doubt that we are among the leading countries which have sacrificed a lot for the maintenance of regional peace, security and stability and to further the cause of anti-terrorism. We feel that the invasion and occupation of Iraq, which was a violation of the International Law, has contributed to destabilizing this region. Similarly, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon also contributed to the destabilization of the region. We feel that, because of the situation in Iraq, Afghanistan was again neglected as it was in the past. Pakistan, which has played a pivotal role to stabilize Afghanistan, was further undermined because attention was drawn away from Afghanistan to Iraq. We also feel that in Afghanistan, as in Iraq, there is need for opening a political dialogue and this use of force should be avoided and



there should be a resolution of issues through dialogue, debate and discussion, including dialogue with those who are in the resistance.

Another point that I would like to mention is that, as a Muslim country, we are very concerned when attempts are made to link the issue of terrorism or extremism with the great faith of peace, tolerance and harmony – Islam. Terrorism has no religion and is a universal enemy of mankind. If there is an attempt to link terrorism with Islam then the Muslims will perceive this campaign against terrorism as a war against Islam and as war against Muslims. So, we have always been warning our friends in the West to avoid and to desist from this linkage because this linkage does not exist.

A final point: in the imagination of most people in South Asia and in our literature in Urdu or in Persian (Farsi), there are a lot of references to *Koh Qaff* (the Caucasus) and especially the '*Koh-Qaff ki Pariyan*', – the fairies of Caucasus or the beauty of the Caucasus. It is good that you have brought this beauty here to Islamabad also, a great pleasure.

Thank you, Excellency, and may I request you to say a few words before we open the floor for discussion. If there are any comments or questions or whatever from your side, you are always welcome.

Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov: Thank you very much Mr. Mushahid, for your statement. I would like to add something to it. Let me point out that this meeting of today is routed through 1996 when our national leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Heydar Aliyev visited Pakistan. I was honoured to accompany him during his visit. I should mention that during that visit, 8 agreements were signed in economic, cultural, sports and other spheres, which are further

promoting relations in all spheres. I was honoured again in April last year to accompany our President Mr. Ilham Aliyev. During these meetings we also signed some documents which are of benefit for our countries. I should also mention the visit of the President of Pakistan in 2004 to Azerbaijan as well as his speech delivered at the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, and his valuable thoughts regarding the Karabakh conflict.

I am honoured to underline that the friendly and sincere relations between the President of Pakistan, Mr. Pervez Musharraf, and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, are so deep that they trickled down to the people of Azerbaijan. It so happened that both nations, Pakistan and Azerbaijan, have similar problems. Pakistan has the Kashmir problem and Azerbaijan has the Karabakh problem. Pakistan has always been supporting the position of Azerbaijan on that issue. We have always appreciated the valuable role of Pakistan in the adoption of UN Resolutions No.822, 853, 884 and 874 during the presidency of Pakistan in the United Nations, and no doubt as a Muslim country we have always been supporting Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue and we are always together with the Pakistani people.

Let me remind that in the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, our President Mr. Ilham Aliyev made a phone call to the President of Pakistan, Mr. Pervez Musharraf, to offer assistance and condole with Pakistan. Azerbaijan also sent assisting staff to Pakistan. I do not want to underline our support in this regard because we are both Muslim countries and it is normal for Muslim brothers to be close to each other during difficult moments.

Now that you have touched upon the theme of

terrorism, I would like to mention the terrorism of Armenia which has occupied 20% of the Azerbaijan territory and, at the moment, we have more than one million refugees and internal displaced persons. Being a victim of the terrorism, we have always been condemning terrorism, but now the political, economic and other spheres are clear for everyone. The meeting between Pakistani Senators and the MPs of Azerbaijan, both representing their peoples, will bring the two countries closer on these issues. Both being Muslim countries, I see our force in unity and we can respond to terrorism and to other problems that we face only when we are united. As far as I know or as far as I was informed, you are a leading figure in the ruling party in Pakistan. I myself and majority of my colleagues are representing a new Azerbaijan party and this is a party which was established by the national leader, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, in 1991. We were among the founders of this party, and taking this opportunity, I would like to express my views that in the future we can also establish an inter-party relationship. A few weeks ago we participated in the congress of the ruling party in Turkey. I invite you to establish more close cooperation on the party level to deepen our relations further.

And finally, I will stop because my colleagues also want to make some points. I am pleased to convey the best regards of the Chairman of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ogtay Asadov to you. As I mentioned before, I will convey a letter of my colleague Mr. Samad Seyidov to you. This is an invitation to visit Azerbaijan at any convenient time and it is not just an invitation, we kindly request you to please accept this.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you.

Mr. Hadi Rajabli: Thank you very much, Mr. Ibrahimov. I just want to point out that I am very interested in Pakistan and Azerbaijan relations and as a assistance. I am following all news in this regard.

There are many similarities and parallels in relations between the two countries. Pakistan experienced a very difficult situation and I will mention just the Kashmir problem with, of course, many refugees and internal displaced persons (IDPs). Similarly, Azerbaijan experienced the Nagorno-Karabakh problem where, out of a population of eight million, one million are refugees. Azerbaijan suffered seventeen thousand casualties in these wars and today we have seventeen thousand victim families.

Azerbaijan appreciates the moral and financial support to our country rendered by Pakistan. Like Pakistan, we also faced double standards and, maybe, like Pakistan, we were given a push to the corner. But one thing is true that today, Pakistan and Azerbaijan are close to each other and they support each other. As far as I know the leadership of your Parliament as well as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr. Mushahid Hussain, always supports position of Azerbaijan at international institutions. We feel that it is necessary to be closer to each other in the context of globalization. Apart from other Muslim countries, we always feel the closer position of Pakistan and its support to Azerbaijan. I again want to express my sincere gratitude to the Pakistani leadership and I hope that we can promise to do our best to strengthen and to deepen mutual relations.

Ms. Rabiyyat Aslanova: Thank you. I am happy to be here today. Long ago, when I taught the poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, I never thought that some day I will be in his land. I think that Muhammad Iqbal and Jamaluddin Afghani



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed hosted a banquet in honour of the Parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan.

invited the Muslim world to be closer to each other. Unfortunately, today we are not in a position to unite the Muslim world, which is the reason for our warning regarding Islam and terrorism today. We in the Islamic world are blamed for every step and we are always in a defensive position.

I devoted 30 years of my activities to the Islamic works. My research and my books are devoted to this theme and I came to the conclusion that we have to keep aligned to the changing world. Therefore, we have to change together with the global changes. Today, we can strengthen our close relations as close relations between nations start from the close relations between the presidents and the ruling circles of the two countries. So, it is the obligation of everyone to do his best with regard to close relations. Today we feel some kind of threat from the Christian world. That threat is rooted in the immigration

towards the West. It is like being diminished in respect of the Islamic morality. It is some kind of a threat to the Islamic intellectuals. The most sensitive point today in the West is Central Asia. From one side, it is rich in gold and on the other side there is poverty. I think that today we have to do our best to establish unity among Muslim Ummah as well as aim to protect rights and to give no way to violation of rights of anyone.

I will also mention that all my life is devoted to the protection of human rights. I wish to express my best wishes to Pakistani people through you and I hope and I wish prosperity to the Pakistani people and I hope that relations between our two countries will deepen further.

Mr. Asim Mollazada: Thank you for giving me the floor. Yes, it is true we are in opposition, but fundamentally in democratic opposition. I am Chairman of the Democratic Reforms and our

goal is democratic reform in Azerbaijan and we have a little similarity with ideas which we heard from President Musharraf. We share his ideas of enlightened moderation, of combating extremism and of reforms which he expressed during his speech in the Azerbaijan Parliament. Believe me, respect for him is bipartisan. Like the ruling party, our opposition party also has big respect for his ideas. We strongly support it because we think that extremism and terrorism are not a Muslim's trait because our high level moralities are based on human situation. What Muslim countries should do for development, education, high knowledge and high technology, Pakistan is on that path. Azerbaijan is on that path too. We are a very small country with some energy resources but we think that the most important resource for us is the human resource. We have to invest all the profits from oil and gas in the development of our citizens and their education. We have to give them the opportunity to develop since that is the only way we will be stronger and able to bring to world our Muslim morality and our values which are the basic human values.

I think that the best form of system for a country is democracy and we have great respect for the steps initiated by President Pervez Musharraf who is moving on the path of democracy for Pakistan which will make Pakistan strong. This path will bring prosperity to the people of Pakistan and your country will be one of the best and respectable countries in the world and trusted by any force which values humanity and civilization. My name is Mollah and I am from one of the oldest Mullah families in Azerbaijan. My great grandfather established an Islamic university over 200 years ago and the people of Azerbaijan hold his values which we can bring to the world.

Azerbaijan was the first Muslim secular state in

the world. First symphony, first ballet, first opera, first multi-party Parliament and the first university were opened in Baku. We are proud of all these values and we believe that this situation will give a chance to us to be together with our Muslim brothers in the war against corruption and in the war against terrorism and extremism. I believe our people are close to each other. We have roots in culture and we have a lot of things in common. I believe our future lies in accepting and creating Muslim civilization which will be based on our religious values. Thank you very much.

Mr. Isa Habibbayli: Thank you very much for this opportunity. I share the views of my colleagues. Irrespective of the distance between our countries, we have many similarities. Pakistan is considered to be the ancient cultural civilization in South Asia and Azerbaijan has confirmed itself in the same in Central Asia. We are also similar from the geographical point of view. I should mention the Caucasus Mountains, the highest mountains in Azerbaijan, and Himalayas, the highest mountains in Pakistan. We are also related by the historic Silk Route. The route from Pakistan to Turkey passes through Azerbaijan and the Caucasus and the travelers from Azerbaijan to China, move especially from Pakistan on these routes.

The point which is remembered from folklore is related to Cashmere scarf. We have reason in our tales. According to our folklore tale, to win the heart of the beloved lady, her lover should bring a cashmere scarf for her. It was a very strong character for a man to bring a cashmere scarf for his lady and even today men manage to get these cashmere scarves for their mothers and sisters in Azerbaijan. Cashmere scarves have some kind of common morality of our countries and we are also common to each other from the point of view of political leadership.



Among many Muslim personalities in the world only a few are the popular ones. I would like to specially mention three of them; Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Heydar Aliyev and Pervez Musharraf. So, we have commonalities between our nations from the point of view of leadership and today the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev follows in true spirit the qualities of these three personalities. As a result of that, we have the bright example of the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

We also have a common point about the defence forces which have joined the fight against terrorism. The construction of Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan project will be an example for Pakistan. There is another project in Azerbaijan which is headed by the President of our country and that is the Kars-Akhalkalaki-Baku Railway. This project will

connect Europe and Asia. It will increase our economic relations.

We have also managed to get some success in cultural spheres as well. I will mention the concert by our violinists who performed in Pakistan. Moreover, our relations can come closer by the opening of an Azeri corner in one of the museums of Pakistan (Lok Virsa, Islamabad).

The valuable example of our cooperation indicates the level which we reached in the close relations between the Parliaments of Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Tomorrow, we hope to sign an agreement between the National University of Modern Languages and our Nakhchivan State University. So the relationship is going to move further and I hope that the visit of the Pakistani delegation to Azerbaijan will add additional value



Senator Mushahid Hussain addressing participants of the banquet.

to the close relations between our countries. I wish you all success in your activities directed at further development of our relations.

Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov: Thank you very much for the opportunity to share our views and our position. I think that we have expressed our thoughts to you. You have mentioned the TRACECA project and wish of Pakistan to join this project. I am sure Pakistan will join this project soon. I believe that it was a topic of negotiations of last year's meetings with our President. So, we support the idea of Pakistan joining this project and I hope that apart from these projects Pakistan will join some other projects like BTC, Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan Project and some other projects related to energy issues. I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude on behalf of the delegation and on my behalf personally for giving us the opportunity to visit Pakistan. Thank you.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you very much and I think it has been a very useful exercise. We have learnt a lot and the basic fact is that there is a lot that unites us and the commonalities are striking between the two countries. I share your sentiment of close camaraderie between the two ruling parties of Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Now I would like to pass on to my colleagues, starting with Senator Nisar A. Memon who, as I mentioned before, is also Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee and also, if I may say so, the Additional Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: Excellencies, let me also take this opportunity to welcome you. I especially welcome the fact that, in addition to your good self, there is one other member in your delegation from the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Inter Parliamentary Working Group. I am overwhelmed with the thought that each member

of your delegation mentioned commonalities between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. I would like to thank you for the support that you have consistently extended in the United Nations and other forums on Kashmir. We have not forgotten the support of US\$ 1.5 million that you provided during the earthquake of 8th October, 2005.

I would not like to repeat the similarities that bind us but would like to add some more to the list. We have observed that you, as a country, believe in peaceful negotiated settlement of the issues which is evident when you sorted out your border issues with Russia and Kazakhstan and you continue to seek negotiations with Iran and Turkmenistan on the Caspian Sea border.

Like Pakistan, Azerbaijan is also striving to develop its human resource. While you have a population of 8 million our population is 160 million. I think it is a great challenge but given your resources like oil which is one of the largest reserves of oil in the world, it is possible to finance human resource development. We developed nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We have yet another commonality which I would like to mention and that is our close bond with Turkey which is similar to your relationship with Turkey. In spite of your relationship with Greek Cyprus you also developed your relationship with the TRNC. We also have trade relationship with TRNC.

You have developed a very good relationship with the United States of America and Pakistan also today has a good relationship with the USA. Your leader has been saying that he will develop the economy, we are also doing the same but our challenges are also common. Apart from international terrorism, we recognize that about 20% of your territory is occupied. We believe that Kashmiris and Azeris are scarifying their lives for the independence of their people. We



Senator Mushahid Hussain introducing Senator Mir Naseer Mengal to H.E. Eldar Ibrahimov.

also see that you are steadfast on road to democracy and you have this 125-member National Assembly. Similarly, we also have our institutions, democratic institutions, working and functioning at the Local Government level, at the Provincial Government level and at the Federal Government level.

We are happy that you are also developing your media and it is now open to private sector, like in Pakistan. I will also add that while we have developed nuclear energy, we believe in nuclear non-proliferation. Pakistan, under the leadership of General Pervez Musharraf, has established an effective command and control system in this regard.

I will like to close by inviting through you, the Security and Defense Commission of your Parliament to visit Pakistan. We understand that you have increased your defence budget from 300 million dollars to one billion dollars. Pakistan is following a policy of deterrence. We are peaceful but defend our motherland just like you do. Defence is one area where the two countries can cooperate because I see that you are buying battle tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery systems and Pakistan is producing these and can supply the same. Your Ambassador is not just your Ambassador; he is our Ambassador to your country as well because he is so close to us. In addition to what you have mentioned about the concerts, we also appreciated Aziza Mustafa and the jazz that she played. I think she is from

Koh Qaff – the Caucasus. Thank you so much indeed.

Senator Gulshan Saeed: As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I welcome you all. I feel very happy and share the sentiments of my colleagues when they said that they value your visit and also value Azerbaijan. We were delighted when your President visited Pakistan in 2005 and we expect the relationship to grow strong. We appreciate your support for Kashmir and we condemn the illegal occupation of your land by Armenia. One thing I want to mention is that trade between the two countries is not growing at a fast pace because very few visas are issued by your Embassy. As you have referred to Cashmere scarves in the folklore, we can export scarves to your country. If our trade increases we will have strong relationship and we will be close to each other as Islamic countries. I will again say welcome to you. Thank you very much.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed:

Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq would like to say a few words. He will speak in Urdu and I will translate in English and then you will translate from English to Azeri.

Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq: In the name of the Almighty, the Lord of all mankind, the Most Compassionate and the Most Merciful. I warmly welcome the delegation from the brotherly country of Azerbaijan. The Muslim Ummah is one body. The Muslim world is just like a body but big powers have disintegrated us from each other. Our most near and dear Muslim countries of Central Asia have been kept away from us for about 75 years or three fourth of a century. Most pertinent thing was that we have been kept away from our culture and beacon of knowledge – Quran and Sunnah.

After the independence of Muslims of Central Asia, it was most important that facilities should have been provided to meet and contact each other so that loneliness could be removed but we could not do this duty. After the downfall of Soviet Union, we saw that hundreds of thousands of young people of our neighbouring countries like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan longed to reach Pakistan and other Islamic countries to gain Islamic knowledge. They have been coming in great numbers but after 9/11, the international scenario changed and our cruel enemies do not want to continue this flow of immigrants so that we should not be close to each other.

I understand that terrorism is a tool of propaganda against the Muslims and our enemies want to instill fear in our minds so that we could not get united. We have discussed commerce and other important issues which are very essential but the most important thing is that it is our obligation that we should teach Islamic ethics to our new generations. There is no concept of terrorism in Islam nor do the seminaries preach terrorism. Islam is a religion of peace. If there was no outside pressure on us we were ready to welcome or accept hundreds and thousands of youngsters from your region to teach them religious and temporal knowledge so you could meet your requirements in this respect, which you are lacking owing to the present restrictions.

You should trust Allah and should not be scared as our knowledge, culture, Fiqh, Shariah and mysticism has traveled to us from your part of the world i.e. Central Asia. Pray to Allah that our difficulties come to an end and we are able to meet each other's requirements and that geographical boundaries do not become hindrance between us.

Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmed: First of all, I would like to join all my colleagues in welcoming



the delegation and we hope *Insha-Allah* the relationship between the members of the parliaments of Pakistan and Azerbaijan would increase manifold. I think all the important points have been made, so my contribution would be to sum up what I think would be the message of our today's meeting.

First, it is important that we increase our relationships at the political, economic, educational and media levels. Secondly, we should go beyond formal relationships and courtesies and ensure that whatever agreements are made, whatever programmes are made there is effective arrangement for its implementation. We do not lack in agreements, we lack in implementation.

Thirdly, we all believe in Islamic unity, the Muslim civilization and its development. So it should be clear that there cannot be Islamic unity without Islam, the Muslim civilization and the Islamic identity. That aspect has to be strengthened. But we are living in an era where the world has become one global city so we cannot live in isolation. There has to be dialogue, there has to be give-and-take; but this should be authentic i.e. we maintain our identity and then have friendship with other cultures, civilizations and regions. That is the relationship we should build. In a word, our vision of the future should be global but with multi-civilization and plurality so that the hegemony of one particular culture or political entity is not there. Instead there is genuine authentic plurality and all religions, civilizations and nations can co-exist with honour and cooperation.

And finally, I would humbly submit that we all have to build a new world order. Actually, the colonialism and the imperialism have receded, not finished. These are assuming new forms. So, I think it is very important that Pakistan, Azerbaijan and all the Muslim countries, which

are being exploited today, should join hands and try to seek what I call, a final liberation from colonialism. The message is that instead of following the agenda given to us by America, the time has come, we should have our own agenda – that we should define ourselves and co-exist in such a manner that all benefit from that. Thank you very much.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you very much. I just want to add that in this discussion, we were also very heartened to learn that the philosophical and intellectual impact of our great national poet and philosopher, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, is felt not just in South Asia but in the Caucasus in Central Asia, in the broader Arab world, in Iran and Turkey and wherever there is thinking about the orient. His impact is there as an outstanding literary figure, intellectual with visionary.

Finally, the discussion which we have had was a very constructive and very positive one and it has strengthened relations between our two peoples and our two parliaments. One thing is very clear that the root cause of instability in this region where Azerbaijan and Pakistan are located is the use of force – the military might. The use of force has resulted in occupation and in aggression and there has been a response of resistance. So we see Armenian occupation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Indian occupation in Kashmir, the Israeli occupation in Lebanon and Palestine or the Western occupation in Iraq, and also use of force in Afghanistan. That is why we have learned this basic lesson that all countries, big or small, have to defend themselves with their own means whether it is Azerbaijan or Pakistan. Hence cooperation between us in energy, economy, security, politics and defence is equally important. And before we go for dinner, I would have the pleasure of presenting you some small mementos from our Senate.



Photo Gallery of the meetings held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- **July 28, 2007:** Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting on the issue of “Recent US statements and the Campaign against Terror”.
- **June 20, 2007:** Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting with the Delegation of the Algerian Parliament.
- **April 5, 2007:** Meeting of the Foreign Relations Committees of the Senate and the National Assembly with H.E. Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran.
- **March 5, 2007:** Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting with the delegation of the Dutch Foreign Affairs Committee.



**Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting on the issue of
“Recent US statements and the Campaign against Terror”.**

July 28, 2007





**Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting with the
Delegation of the Algerian Parliament.**

June 20, 2007













**Meeting of the Foreign Relations Committees of the Senate and
the National Assembly with H.E. Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad Adel,
Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran.**

April 5, 2007















Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting with the delegation of the Dutch Foreign Affairs Committee.

March 5, 2007











Profiles of the Chairman and Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee





Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

(PML - Federal Capital)
Chairman

Mushahid Hussain Sayed is currently a Senator and Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. He is also Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League. He has been a Cabinet Minister, Journalist, university teacher and political analyst. As Information Minister from 1997 to 1999, Mushahid Hussain was the country's principal spokesman and appeared frequently on international television and radio channels to present Pakistan's position on issues ranging from nuclear weapons to Islam and foreign policy. He was also Leader of Pakistan's Delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission at Geneva in 1993.

After October 12, 1999, Mushahid Hussain was held without any charges as a political prisoner for four-hundred and forty (440) days, including a period in solitary imprisonment. The world's leading human rights organization, Amnesty International, declared him a 'Prisoner of Conscience' making him the first such Pakistani to be honoured for the year 2000.

Mushahid Hussain has a Master's degree from the School of Foreign Services in Georgetown University at Washington. While studying in the US, he was President of the Pakistan Students Association and was awarded a Congressional Internship to work in the United States Congress. After completion of studies in the United States, he returned to Pakistan and became Member, Directing Staff of the country's prestigious training institution for civil servants, the Pakistan Administrative Staff College, training new diplomats. He then joined Pakistan's oldest seat of learning, the Punjab University, as Lecturer on International Relations in the Political Science Department, from where he along with three other teachers was removed on political grounds during Martial Law.

In 1982, at age 29, he became the youngest Editor of national English daily, 'The Muslim', published from capital Islamabad, which was respected for its independent positions.

As a specialist on international political and strategic issues, he has lectured widely and his articles have been published in various national and international publications including 'The New York Times', 'The Washington Post', 'International Herald Tribune', and 'Middle East International'. He was elected Co-Chairman of the NAM Media Conference of 100 countries, held in New Delhi in December 1983 and he is the first Pakistani journalist to have started a syndicated column in the Indian media, writing regularly in the 'Times of India' and the 'Hindustan Times' in 1989.

Mr. Mushahid Hussain is the author of three books. He is also Chairman of the Board of Governors of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), a leading Think Tank.

He is also the Vice President of the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) Asia – Pacific Chapter. On January 27, 2006, he was awarded Congressional Medal of Achievement by the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines. He served as Pakistan's Representative to the 15-member Commission of Eminent Persons of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) tasked with preparing a Plan of Action & Reforms for the Muslim World by the Summit of Islamic Leaders held in Malaysia in October, 2003.

Membership of the Senate Committees:

- Committee on Foreign Relations, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (**Chairman**)
- Committee on Defence and Defence Production.
- Functional Committee on Government Assurances.
- Functional Committee on Human Rights.
- Finance Committee

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Senator Wasim Sajjad
(PML - Federal Capital)
Member



Mr. Wasim Sajjad was born on 30th March, 1941. He went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1964 from where he obtained the Degrees of M.A. (Jurisprudence) and B.C.L. He is a Barrister-at-Law from the Inner Temple London and an Honorary Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford.

He has a highly distinguished career in politics and public service and has held the office of :-

President of Pakistan (July to November, 1993 and December, 1997 to January, 1998).

Chairman, Senate of Pakistan (24th December, 1988 to 12th October, 1999). Elected in 1988 and re-elected in 1991, 1994 and 1997.

Federal Minister for Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs (September, 1986 to December 1988). Has also held the portfolio of the Federal Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control.

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan, 1988.

Elected as Senator from Punjab on a technocrat seat in 1985. Re-elected in 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2003. Presently he is the Leader of the House in the Senate of Pakistan and is a Member of the Pakistan Muslim League.

As a Lawyer by profession, he is presently heading his own law firm (Sajjad Law Associates) having its Head Office in Islamabad.

He is the President of the Foundation for Advancement of Science & Technology and Chancellor of the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences.

He has travelled extensively and visited over fifty countries. He is married and has three children.

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Senator S. M. Zafar
(PML - Punjab)
Member

Senator S. M. Zafar is a prominent lawyer and former Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan. He is involved with various works and is Chairman of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency - PILDAT's Board of Advisors, Chairman of the Human Rights Society of Pakistan as well as of the Senate Committee on Human Rights. He was President of the High Court Bar Association Lahore (1975) and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (1979). He is also Chairman of the Cultural Association of Pakistan. Senator Zafar has visited the US, Canada, UK, France and Germany. He enjoys farming and has three sons and a daughter.

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Senator Muhammad Ali Durrani
(PML - Punjab)
Member

Senator Muhammad Ali Durrani, former Minister for Information and Broadcasting, is a leading political activist and grass roots organizer of his party who founded the youth movement "Pasban". He was Secretary General of the National Alliance, a coalition partner of the ruling party. He is also the President of the Wise Education Society and Women Welfare Society. He is the Founder of the Institute of Afghan Affairs (1985) and Education for All (EFA). He has launched campaigns for the Kashmir cause, free employment (1997), Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust Hospital, collective marriage ceremony, true freedom (2000), and for relief on foreign debt (2001). He played a leading role in the establishment of IJI (1988), Millat Party, National Alliance and the Grand National Alliance. Senator Durrani has visited Europe, Asia and Africa and is married with three sons and a daughter.

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Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad
(MMA - NWFP)
Member



A world renowned research scholar, an educationist, an economist, a versatile writer and a preacher of Islam, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad was born on March 23, 1932 at Delhi, India. He holds a Bachelors degree in Law and Jurisprudence, Masters degrees in Economics and Islamic Studies and an Honorary Doctorate (Ph.D) in Education. Prof. Khurshid Ahmad has held the portfolio of the Federal Minister of Planning and Development and has been Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in the Government of Pakistan from 1978 to 1979. He has written around 30 books in English, over 20 in Urdu and contributed to a large number of magazines. Senator Ahmed was elected as member of the Senate in February, 2003, and is a member of the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Affairs. He previously served as member of the Senate from March 1985 till March 1997. During that tenure he was also Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs from 1991 till March, 1997. He is Vice President (Naib Ameer) of Jama'at-e-Islami Pakistan and Founder and Chairman of both Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad and the Islamic Foundation, Leicestershire, UK.

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Senator Nisar A. Memon
(PML - Sindh)
Member



Senator Nisar A. Memon is the Minister for Information and the former Chief Executive of the IBM Pakistan. He is also Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence & Defence Production. He previously served as Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting twice (1993 and 2002); as President of the Overseas investors chamber of Commerce & Industry Pakistan (1994); and as Chairman Board of Directors, Engro Chemicals Limited, Pakistan (2001-2002). He is a Syndicate member of Karachi University and President of The Reformers. Senator Memon has visited Europe, USA, Canada, Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. He is married with two daughters and enjoys reading and playing Golf.

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Senator Sardar Mahtab Ahmed Abbasi
(PML-N - NWFP)
Member

Senator Sardar Mahtab Ahmed Abbasi is former Chief Minister of the NWFP and a Federal Minister. He is an experienced politician and one of the prominent leaders of the PML-N.

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Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq
(MMA - NWFP)
Member

Senator Sami-ul-Haq completed education from Jamia Darul Uloom Haqqania Akora Khattak, and received a degree in Tafseer from spiritual leader Maulana Ahmad Ali Lahori. He was awarded an honorary degree from Darululoom Deoband India and Jamia Makka Muazzama, serving as Chancellor and Teacher of Hadith. Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq is a central leader of MMA and runs Dar ul Uloom Haqqania, a religious seminary at Akora Khattak, NWFP. He is also the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Religious Affairs and Minorities Affairs, and has been serving in the Senate of Pakistan since 1985. Senator Sami-ul-Haq is the Secretary General of the JUI-S, and Senior Vice President of the Islamic Democratic Alliance. He is Founder and Secretary General of the National Uniformity council (A common council of all religious political parties). He is the also the founder of the monthly Jamia Haqqania Al-Haq, and has authored several religio-political books in Urdu.

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Senator Sardar M. Latif Khan Khosa
(PPPP - Punjab)
Member



Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa is one of the country's leading lawyers who has actively defended constitutional and political cases of his party leadership. He was President of the High Court Bar Association thrice (1981-82, 1987-88, 1995-96), Member Pakistan Bar Council since 1995, Chairman Executive Committee P.B.C. (1995-96), Chairman Appeal Committee Punjab-1 (1996-2000) and Member Tribunal P.B.C. (1995-2000). He is a Life Member of the High Court Bars of Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi. He is also Life Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and Chairman of Khosa Law Chambers. Senator Khosa has visited the USA, Canada, France, UK, China, Ireland, Dubai and Saudi Arabia. He is married with four sons and two daughters and enjoys cricket, debating and music.

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Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood Aryan
(MMA - NWFP)
Member



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Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources.

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Senator Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussan Mashhadi
(MQM - Sindh)

Education:

- BSC (Hons)
- PSC (Command and Staff Course Quetta)

Achievements:

- Ex-Chairman, District Karachi East.
- Ex-Town Nazim, Jamshed Town, Karachi.
- Columnist, Political Analyst, articles frequently appear in leading English language newspapers and periodicals.
- Retired Army Officer.

Membership of Senate Committees:

- Committee on Rules of Procedures and Privileges. **(Chairman Committee)**
- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.
- Standing Committee on Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs and Tourism.
- Standing Committee on Education and Science and Technology.
- Standing Committee on Interior.

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Senator Gulshan Saeed
(PML - Punjab)
Member

Senator Gulshan Saeed, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping, is a long-standing political activist and she runs an NGO called Roshan Pakistan. She was a member of the Punjab Social Welfare Board from 1998-2002. She has visited the UK, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, France, Holland and USA. Senator Gulshan Saeed is married with two sons and two daughters.

She is currently the Vice President of the Women's Wing of Pakistan Muslim League, and member of its General Council. She has held assignments of Punjab Social Welfare Board, Bait-ul-Mal Punjab and Chairman Zakat Committee Lahore.

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Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar
Secretary Committee

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar is Additional Secretary at the Senate of Pakistan and is currently working with the Parliamentary Committees of the Senate.

Mr. Babar completed his Secondary School and Higher Secondary School from Burn Hall School Abbottabad and Abbottabad Public School respectively. He attended Edwardes College Peshawar for his Bachelor's Degree and University of Peshawar for a Master's Degree in Economics. He also holds a Master's Degree in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Mr. Babar attended the 13th Advance Management and Development course at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Peshawar and the 76th National Management Course at the Pakistan Administrative Staff College (PASC) Lahore.

Mr. Babar has authored a number of research articles on wide ranging topics namely, the Eighth Constitutional Amendment, Research support to Parliamentarians, the Parliamentary Committee System in Pakistan and Parliament and Financial Control. He has written numerous reports for the Committees, which were presented in the Senate.

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SENATE OF PAKISTAN
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE



Mr. Tayyab Siddiqui

Consultant
Ambassador (R)

Mr. Tayyab Siddiqui joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1967 and served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Zimbabwe (1986-1990), with concurrent accreditation to Zambia, Botswana and Namibia; to Indonesia (1992-1996), with concurrent accreditation to Papua New Guinea; to Egypt (1997-1999); and to Switzerland (1999-2003), and also to the Holy See and Liechtenstein.

In a 35 - year career as a diplomat, he also served in Pakistan missions in Amman, Beirut, Colombo, Berlin (GDR), Athens, Dhaka and Washington D.C. He was a member of Pakistan delegation to the UNGA for four years (1977-1980).

Ambassador Siddiqui is currently a regular analyst on international affairs with Radio Pakistan and PTV and other private channels. He is a regular contributor to English dailies - 'Dawn', 'The Nation' and 'The Post' on current international issues. He also contributes a regular column entitled "Harf-e-Haq" to the Urdu daily, 'Ausaf'. The selection of his columns was published in March, 2005.

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About the Hanns Seidel Foundation

The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a non-profit organization established in 1967 with its headquarters in Munich. Its activities, financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, by the Free State of Bavaria, and by private donations, are organized through four main departments, the Academy for Politics and Current Affairs, the Institute for Adult Civic Education, the Scholarship organization and the Institute for International Contact and Cooperation.

In accordance with the overall mission statement of the HSF, the Institute for International Contact and Cooperation is working in the service of peace, democracy and development with projects in currently 60 countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. In Pakistan the HSF has established and supported Technical Training Centers in the province of Balochistan from 1983 to 1999. Since 1993, when an office of the HSF was opened in Islamabad, its activities have included technical support and staff training for the Secretariats of both houses of the Parliament and cooperation with a number of Institutes, Think Tanks and University Departments, all of which are doing research mainly on issues of current international and regional politics. HSF has assisted in the organization of hundreds of public seminars with its partners in Pakistan, as well as non-public dialogue forums on foreign policy and security matters with experts from neighbouring and European countries.

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SENATE OF PAKISTAN

Foreign Relations Committee

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