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SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Visit to
Iran and Uzbekistan

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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From the Chairman's Desk

The new year was welcomed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with the resolution that the Committee shall exert itself more to meet the aspirations of the constituents and also to further reinforce bilateral relations with friendly countries, in particular the neighbouring states, with which Pakistan has such close bonds of mutual history and cultural affinity, dating back to centuries further cemented with a common religion and heritage.

The visits to Iran and Uzbekistan (January 5 - 15, 2007) were thus an auspicious start and the detailed meetings and interaction with parliamentarians of the two brotherly nations were highly significant. They reaffirmed the continuing relations despite interregnum of 75 years of Soviet rule in Central Asia and the West's domination until Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The meetings covered a large segment of elite of the two societies and the reciprocal visits by them in near future to Pakistan will further promote bilateral friendship and solidarity.

It was indeed a rewarding experience to learn about the close identity of views on major regional and international issues marked by sincerity and esteem. These visits and meetings have laid foundation of close interaction at intellectual and political levels and should prove a strong and multi-dimensional edifice of relations ensuring mutual respect and cooperation.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee draws tremendous satisfaction at the success of its initiative and proposes to follow similar initiatives during this year.

The verbatim record of the discussions highlight the true character and intensity of mutual friendship and respect at all levels. The Report is, thus, a useful document for the researchers to evaluate the prospects of relations in future and their impact on peace and stability in the region.



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Executive Summary

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee visited Iran and Uzbekistan (January 5 - 15, 2007) at the invitation of the Parliaments of these countries; led by its Chairman, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

These visits were highly useful and substantive and on a number of issues misgivings were removed and understanding of mutual constraints and perspectives was developed.

The meetings with Iranian parliamentarians were particularly useful in the context of Iran's nuclear policy and bilateral relations.

The Chairman, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, told his interlocutors that Pakistan supports Iran's peaceful nuclear programme and there should be no pressure from the US on this issue. The nuclear impasse should be resolved under the auspices of IAEA and not under the UN. He also suggested that Iran and Pakistan should develop an institutional arrangement for an annual dialogue on issues of common interest and concern, to further augment the bilateral ties.

Briefing Iranian law makers on the situation in Afghanistan and repeatedly stressed that Afghanistan's security and stability is in the interest of Pakistan itself and the accusations of Pakistan's interference or support to terrorist activities outside Afghanistan were totally wrong.

Referring to the Muslim Ummah, Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that the Ummah was

at a critical juncture of history and the situation was getting worse. The Muslims should talk frankly amongst themselves because a proxy war is developing in Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. There is danger of sectarian strife as the West wants to split the Islamic world and wants to open this new front. He invited Mr. Broujerdi to lead a delegation of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Majlis to Pakistan.

Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, the Chairman of Iranian Committee, in his response agreed that numerous factors bind Pakistan and Iran. The two nations have helped each other in testing times. Pakistan and Iran can have joint military exercises although the United States may not be pleased with that arrangement. The IPI pipeline will be a symbolic monument for strengthening of relations and hoped that parliaments of both the countries will support and speed up the project. He accepted the invitation to visit Pakistan and agreed with the suggestion of institutional arrangement between the Committees of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi maintained that the Iranian nuclear programme was peaceful and its activities were carried out under the supervision of IAEA. Mr. Kofi Anan had conceded to the Iranian President that under Article 4 of IAEA Iran has the right to develop nuclear energy. Before the 1979 Revolution, Iran signed an agreement with France, Germany and the US to produce 23000-KW nuclear electricity. The

US had no objection then to that arrangement and it shows that the US has a political angle to the Iran's nuclear issue.

The delegation also called on Dr. Khatami, former President of Iran. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed invited Dr. Khatami to deliver a keynote address at a Conference to be held in Lahore on 21st April, 2007 on "Iqbal and dialogue among civilizations". He said that the Conference will coincide with three anniversaries falling in 2007 namely, 60th birthday of Pakistan, 100 years of the Muslim League and 150 years of the War of Independence of 1857.

Dr. Khatami accepted the invitation and observed that since 2001 terrorist movements have grown stronger and, therefore, dialogue between civilizations was important. World leaders should not look at Iran as centre of crises and Iran's nuclear programme will not lead to any conflict. He informed that he had been pushing for the IPI pipeline and hoped that it will materialize soon. This project will ease tension between India and Pakistan.

During a meeting with Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran, Senator Mushahid Hussain briefed the Foreign Minister on the delegation's meetings with the former President Khatami and requested the Foreign Minister to take a decision at the highest level to reach an agreement on the IPI pipeline. Pakistan shares with Iran the perspective that Afghanistan should maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan has no interest in supporting any faction in Afghanistan. Iran's nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully as use of force or threat is not acceptable. He assured that Pakistan will not vote against Iran in IAEA as India did under pressure of the US so as to continue with India-US nuclear deal.

Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki stated that both countries need to strengthen economic relations and the Joint Commission has desired to increase trade from \$400 million to \$1 billion. He supported the idea of establishing institutional arrangement between the Foreign Affairs Committees and informed that Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed to hold a tripartite conference. Recently, an Iranian delegation of Commerce visited Pakistan and it was decided to import 4 million tons of rice from Pakistan and to set up a Joint Investment Company. The current situation between Pakistan and Afghanistan has to be overcome as security in Afghanistan impacts on Iran, Pakistan and the region. Iran is willing to start joint initiative with Pakistan for encouraging unity in the Ummah and reference by the Pakistan delegation to activate OIC on the unity issue is a good proposal. He was of the view that the international situation is very fluid, therefore, Pakistan and Iran should be in constant consultation with each other.

Dr. Ali Akbar Aghaee, Chairman, Iran - Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, agreed that the two countries could not develop the potential that exists in the economic field and suggested that this area must be explored, especially the existing trade opportunities.

The delegation visited the Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS) where Senator Mushahid Hussain delivered a lecture on Pakistan and the changing regional scenario. A large gathering comprising of politicians, academics and media personnel attended the session. Senator Mushahid Hussain offered Pakistan's perspective on issues vital to Pakistan and Iran and the emerging challenges in the region. Presenting Pakistan's perspective on issues vital to Pakistan and the region he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the gas

pipeline project and hoped that Iran and Pakistan will resolve the technical issues in the next few months. He reiterated Iran's right to pursue a peaceful nuclear energy programme and hoped for peaceful resolution of the issue through dialogue.

Senator Mushahid, in his address, focused on three topics; Pakistan - India relations, Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, and the emerging regional cooperation.

He said that three recommendations of the Iraq Study Group for Iraq are applicable to Afghanistan as well. Firstly, there is no military solution of the war. Secondly, negotiations should be held with the six neighbors of Afghanistan plus Russia and the US, in order to resolve the issues. Thirdly, talks be held with the insurgents. Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who was on the payroll of American, Iranian, Pakistani and British intelligence agencies, can also be brought into the loop.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also focused on the growing regional cooperation driven primarily by the economic and energy cooperation and termed it as a very positive trend. He referred to the various pipeline projects in the area including Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline (IPI), Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan pipeline (TAP), and the Qatar pipeline. China's role is a factor for peace and stability in Asia. Pakistan and China have very close and strategic relations. Pakistan is giving an energy corridor to China for imports from Africa and Middle East through the Port of Gwadar in Balochistan. Feasibility of a railway line across the Karakoram, linking Pakistan and China, is also under consideration. In addition to this, prospects of a railway line with Iran and Afghanistan are also under consideration and hoped to see some progress on that in a couple of years.

He spoke about three main future challenges being faced by the region. The first challenge is the just and peaceful solution of the Kashmir and Palestine issue which is essential to end the instability, extremism and violence in the region. Secondly, relationship between Islam and the West is a challenge for the region and use of force cannot solve the issues. Western policies against Muslims should be reversed and terrorism should not be linked with the great religion of peace, tolerance and harmony - 'Islam'. He urged cooperation among all Muslim countries of the region to prevent the danger of a new proxy war in the Muslim world. Protection of our national security interest should be the priority in order to preserve and protect our political line.

He termed Middle East as a failure of the Muslim world. Pakistan has been very consistent and historic in supporting Muslim liberation movements in Palestine since 50s till date. Financial and logistic help and training has also been provided to the Palestinians ever since then. He said that Pakistan is very clear and follows the OIC line that as long as Israel does not vacate occupied territory and does not recognize an independent Palestinian State, Pakistan will not recognize the state of Israel. The roadmap given by King Abdullah, of March 2002, or of the OIC, should be followed.

The Foreign Relations Committee also held a meeting with H.E. Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. He said that the IPI pipeline will bring warmth to hearts and homes in Pakistan and will be a symbol of friendship between Pakistan and India. Pakistan and Iran can cooperate on the issues of Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine. He thanked Pakistan for its position on the nuclear energy endeavours of Iran. Senator Mushahid Hussain extended an invitation from Chairman Senate, Mohammedian Soomro, to Dr. Haddad Adel

to visit Pakistan in 2007. The Speaker accepted the invitation.

In the meeting with Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council, Senator Mushahid Hussain said that on the nuclear issue Pakistan is clear that Iran should develop its nuclear programme under the IAEA and there should be no use of force or threat of force to Iran and everything should be decided through dialogue not in the UN but in IAEA. Double standards on the Iranian nuclear issue are not acceptable.

Mr. Larijani stated that Iran looks at Pakistan as a brotherly country and relations between the two countries should be defined at the highest level in all fields. Iran would like to see the IPI pipeline project see the light of the day. Americans are interested in the region for oil and gas and they always find excuses to come to this region. Iran has apprehensions that America will capture the oil fields of Sheikdoms in the Middle East. They have also sown the seeds of sectarian discord by airing Sunni-Shia sentiments. The British are also behind this discord. Movements on Pak-Afghan border are a matter of concern to Iran and he had informed Lt. Gen. Kiyani about this when the latter visited Iran. Iran is a member of IAEA and has signed NPT, therefore, the IAEA inspectors visited Iran. Mr. Solana had informed him that Europe is sensitive about Iran having an enrichment process. It was decided that Iran should hold dialogue with 5+1 but they could not convene as they had left the negotiations. It was not Iran that had abandoned the dialogue process.

Senator Mushahid, responding to Larijani's query, said that free, fair and transparent elections will be held in 2007. The term of the President is also coming to an end. It is going to be a tough election and the Muslim League is preparing a

strategy with coalition partners. Mr. Larijani asked whether the US and Israel will go for a military strike on Iran on the Iranian nuclear issue. Senator Mushahid responded that it will be a costly affair for them.

The delegation also called on Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, former Foreign Minister of Iran and currently the Chairman of the Strategic Council for Foreign Policy. Dr. Kharrazi explained the functions of the Council, stating that it prepares advice for the Rehbar, including long term vision and planning of the region. All activities are concentrated in the Council and not in the Foreign Office. Senator Mushahid raised the issue of IPI pipeline and suggested that Rehbar should intervene and get this project going. He also suggested that Rehbar should call a conference of Ulema of various schools of thought to discuss Shia-Sunni unity in the context of Ummah.

Senator Mushahid told Dr. Kharrazi that the Holocaust Conference organized by Iran was a mistake. Mr. Kharrazi responded that the Europeans pushed Iran to this situation as they do not want Iran to have nuclear energy. The Europeans should give up all preconditions and come to the negotiations table. He assured that Iran will not manufacture a bomb as it does not need one. Senator Mushahid stated that the American presence in Afghanistan is the cause of resurgence of Taliban in that country. If foreign troops leave Afghanistan, the neighbouring countries can do a lot for Afghanistan as they have to live together. Pakistan is not supporting any group and suggested the 6+2 Formula should be revived to settle the Afghan issue.

On Monday, 8th January, 2007 the delegation made a day trip to Mash'had.

Visit to Uzbekistan

The visit to Uzbekistan was equally informative and rewarding. The engagements with the top policy planners and discussions on regional issues were extremely useful.

The delegation met with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan. Mrs. Mukhitdinova termed the visit a continuation of good relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and expressed Uzbekistan's interest in developing relations with Pakistan in the political and economic fields. The foundation of the relations between the two countries was laid by President Musharraf and President Karimov which have strengthened due to agreements to fight against terrorism which was recently ratified by the Uzbek Senate. She also explained the composition and working of the Uzbek Parliament and the Senate.

Senator Mushahid Hussain then explained the working of the Pakistan's Parliament, the Senate and the Committees, to the Vice President. He termed the visit as historic as it was the first visit of a Committee to Uzbekistan. He thanked the Uzbek Government for supporting Pakistan's membership of the SCO. He said that another area which unites the two countries is the fight against extremism and terrorism as both Pakistan and Uzbekistan are victims of terrorism.

The delegation also held a meeting with Mr. Botirjon Hudoyberdiev, Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) and the senior staff of the Institute. The Director explained the objectives and functioning of the Institute which functions directly under the President of Uzbekistan and informed that the Institute had signed an agreement of cooperation with Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Senator Mushahid Hussain gave a perspective on three issues namely; Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations, Pakistan's regional issues in reference to Afghanistan and India, and the war on terror.

Speaking on Pakistan - Uzbekistan relations, Senator Mushahid stressed that both countries have long historic ties based on shared culture, geography and history and people in Pakistan trace their lineage to Samarqand and Bukhara. Uzbekistan supported Pakistan's candidature for Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have cooperated in the war on terror and in the arrest of terrorists. The agreement between IPRI and ISRS would be an additional source of strength between the two countries.

On Pakistan - India relations, Senator Mushahid informed that the process of normalization initiated by President Musharraf is moving on. The dialogue between the two countries focuses on regional security issues, commerce, culture and sports. In April, SAARC Conference will be held in India and the peace process will move further. Pakistan has the biggest stake in the territorial integrity of Afghanistan. Since 1979, Pakistan is hosting about 3.5 million refugees at the peak level. In 2004, Pakistan facilitated the election of President Karzai and Pakistan is not supporting any faction or group in Afghanistan. In fact, terrorism emanates from Afghanistan and they should control the situation.

Speaking on war on terrorism Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that this war has no end. The way out in Afghanistan is not the use of force but of political settlement like the one suggested for Iraq by the Iraq Study Group. The Muslim countries think that the war was directed against their great religion of peace and harmony - 'Islam'. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have special responsibility in the region as whatever happens

in Afghanistan has a fall out in Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Mr. Botirjon shared Senator Mushahid's concern about the threat and challenges faced by the region. He was of the view that both countries have huge potential of cooperation. Unfortunately, while dealing with Afghanistan the interest of Pakistan and Central Asia was not taken into consideration. Uzbekistan will always welcome all initiatives of Pakistan in resolving issues pertaining to Afghanistan and the region.

In a meeting, Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, underlined Uzbekistan desire for expanded trade and economic relations with Pakistan but the main obstacle is the situation in Afghanistan which hampered economic integration with Pakistan. He informed that the Presidents of Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have signed an agreement for transport route between their countries and when Gwadar is complete there will be trade through that Port as well. Drug money is going into terrorism and Uzbekistan is ready to cooperate against terrorism. Mr. Norov also briefed the Committee on the economic progress made by Uzbekistan including the progress on the religious front stating that after independence in 1991 the number of Mosques and Madrassahs have multiplied in Uzbekistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain, recalling that the Bolshevik Revolution had cut off relations between Pakistan and Central Asia, expressed happiness that President Musharraf and President Karimov have laid the foundations of good relations. He thanked the Foreign Minister for supporting Pakistan in joining SCO. Pakistan is not supporting any faction in Afghanistan. The US, NATO and Afghan Government have failed in Afghanistan, therefore, the neighbours of

Afghanistan should be involved in bringing peace to that country. The Foreign Minister reiterated that top priority should be given to Pakistan Uzbekistan economic cooperation and parliamentary cooperation. The airline service between the two countries is giving impetus to our relations.

The delegation also visited the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. The Institute, besides teaching other regional languages, offers a bachelor degree in Urdu language where a large number of Uzbek students are enrolled. Addressing the faculty and students of the Urdu Department Senator Mushahid Hussain said that Urdu as a language was either spoken or understood by almost 500 million people living in the South Asian Sub-Continent as well as all over the world and it could serve as the link language between Pakistan and Uzbekistan as well, since there were 2500 common words in the Urdu and Uzbek languages. He announced formation of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Friendship Society with Senator Talha Mahmood as President and stated that this new Society would organize a conference of friendship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in October, 2007 to mark 60 years both of Pakistan's Independence and Urdu language teaching in Uzbekistan. He also invited a 10-member delegation of scholars and students from the Institute of Oriental Studies to visit Pakistan and participate in this conference. He added that visiting Uzbekistan was like 'home coming' for members of the delegation as a large number of Pakistanis trace their roots and family origin to Uzbekistan.

The delegation also visited Samarqand and Bukhara where they paid their homage to great Islamic saints and visited their shrines. The delegation was received by the respective Governor Generals of those areas. In Samarqand the delegation visited Mausoleum of Imam



Bukhari (RA) where Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq led the Fateha prayers and recited the first and last Hadiths quoted by Imam Bukhari, along with its *tafseer*. The delegation offered Friday prayers in the Mosque of the Mausoleum compound. People in the Mosque were excited to see Pakistani Muslim brethren in their midst. In Bukhara the delegation visited the Mausoleums of Sheikh-ul-Mashaikh, Bahauddin Naqshband (RA), Sheikh Abdul Khaliq (RA) and Madrassah Mir Arab.

The visits to Iran and Uzbekistan were highly significant for Pakistan's standing in these countries. For the first time, parliamentarians of these countries met and their discussions undoubtedly strengthened the bilateral relations.



- **Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Delegation to Iran and Uzbekistan**
- **Summary of Activities**



Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Delegation to Iran and Uzbekistan

January 5 -15, 2007

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee visited Iran and Uzbekistan on the invitation of Iranian and Uzbek Parliaments from 5th to 15th January, 2007 under the leadership of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. The following members formed part of the delegation:-

1. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Chairman of the Committee
2. Senator Wasim Sajjad	Member
3. Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	Member
4. Senator S.M. Zafar	Member
5. Senator Nisar Ahmed Memon	Member
6. Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq	Member
7. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Member
8. Senator Sardar Mahtab Ahmed	Member
9. Senator Naeem Hussain Chatta	Member
10. Mr. Iftikharullah Babar	Additional Secretary (Secretary Committee)
11. Mr. Riaz Ahmed Khan	PS to Chairman

The delegation arrived at Imam Khomeini Airport, Tehran, from Lahore where it was received by Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Chairman, Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy, Mr. Shafkat Saeed, Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran and Mr. Nasrullah Khan, Deputy Head of Mission, Pakistan Embassy, Iran.

Summary of Activities:

The delegation spent busy days in Tehran where it engaged in various meetings and functions listed below:-

- i. Meeting with Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy led by Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Chairman.
- ii. Talks with Dr. Khatami, former President of Iran.
- iii. Meeting with Mr. M. Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iran.
- iv. Meeting with Dr. Ali Akbar Aghaee, Chairman, Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group.

- v. Lecture by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed at the Institute of Political & International Studies (IPIS).
- vi. Meeting with Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.
- vii. Dinner by Mr. Safari, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iran.
- viii. Meeting with Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council.
- ix. Meeting with Senior Journalists and Editors at Pakistan Ambassador's reception.
- x. Meeting with Dr. Kharrazi, Chairman, Strategic Council for Foreign Policy.
- xi. Day trip to Mash'had.

The following meetings were held at Tashkent:-

- i. Meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan.
- ii. Meeting with Mr. Botirjon Hudoyberdiev, Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) headed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- iii. Meeting with Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan.
- iv. Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies.

The delegation also visited Samarqand and Bukhara.



Proceedings of the Meetings (Verbatim Record)

Visit to Iran

January 5 - 9, 2007

- Meeting with Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy led by Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Chairman.
- Talks with Dr. Khatami, former President of Iran.
- Meeting with Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- Meeting with Dr. Ali Akbar Aghaee, Chairman, Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group.
- Institute of Political & International Studies (IPIS) - lecture by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.
- Meeting with Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.
- Meeting with Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council.
- Meeting with Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Chairman, Strategic Council for Foreign Policy.
- Visit to Mash'had.



VISIT OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO IRAN

January 5 - 9, 2007

Proceedings of the Meetings:

(Vebatim Record)

Meeting with Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy led by Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Chairman

Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi welcomed the delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran and termed the visit a great step in the direction of new bilateral relations between the two countries. He said

side. Initiating the talks Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that he would give a broad overview of three issues from Pakistan's perspective:



that it was a privilege to host such a high level delegation from Pakistan. The members of our committee, who work on security issues, fully support this visit. I hop that the talks between the two sides will be fruitful. Thereafter, he introduced the members of his team.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked the hosts for the gracious hospitality. He extended warm greetings of the President of Pakistan, Prime Minister and Chairman Senate and the message from these leaders to extend solidarity and support to friends in Iran. He then introduced the members of his delegation to the Iranian

- i. Pakistan – Iran relations.
- ii. Afghanistan.
- iii. Terrorism & extremism after 9/11, Iraqi invasion and challenges facing the Muslim Ummah.

Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that Pakistan-Iran relations are strong, vibrant and historic and both countries share common history, culture and heritage. The relations are bound on common perspective on issues. These relations will be further cemented by the resolution of the IPI Pipeline issue between Pakistan and Iran. I hope that some bureaucratic problems that exist



will be resolved soon, at least between Pakistan and Iran whether India presses for the resolution of the same or otherwise. I feel that India may not join this project. Pakistan has always maintained that Iran should pursue its peaceful nuclear programme as proclaimed by them and that there should be no pressure on Iran in this regard. We should avoid isolating Iran but Iran should lower its rhetoric on the nuclear issue. The issue should be resolved under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and not under the UN auspices. I invite the Iranian side to institutionalize a parliamentary dialogue at the committees' level alternatively at Islamabad and Tehran. We have invited Mr. Abdur Rab Rasool Sayaf of Afghanistan to visit Islamabad and hopefully in the second phase the three committees can meet periodically to strengthen and institutionalize relations. We will extend an invitation on behalf of the Chairman Senate of Pakistan to Mr. Haddad Adel to visit Pakistan in 2007. We will also invite Dr. Khatami to visit Pakistan to attend a conference in Lahore in April, 2007 on Iqbal and dialogue between the civilizations.

Discussing Afghanistan, Senator Mushahid stated that Pakistan has sacrificed immensely for Afghanistan. Pakistan has strategic stakes in Afghanistan and wants its stability. Pakistan helped in the election of Karzai. If we helped his election why would we destabilize him, therefore, the blame on Pakistan of destabilizing Afghanistan is unwarranted. The problem basically is the incompetence of the United States, the E.U. and President Karzai but Pakistan is being blamed for their mistakes. The fact is that without settling Afghanistan the West started a war in Iraq. Opium production which was insignificant in 2001 has crossed 600,000 tons this year. The responsibility for the same lies with the coalition forces. The way out is that the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group

should also be followed in Afghanistan as they hold for Afghanistan as well. These are:-

- i. The Group has said that the war in Iraq is un-winnable, the same applies in Afghanistan.
- ii. The Group recommended that talks be held with the three neighbours of Iraq. The same applies to Afghanistan where talks between six neighbours and Russia and the US are imminent.
- iii. The Iraq Study Group suggested that talks be held with the insurgents in Iraq including Muqtada Sadr and Mahdi Army. The same applies to Afghanistan where talks may be held with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who was, at one time, the agent of Iran, Pakistan and the United States. It may not be necessary to talk to Mullah Umar.

Referring to the Muslim Ummah, Senator Mushahid stated that we are at a critical juncture in our history and the situation was getting worse. President Chirac of France had said after the Iraqi invasion that the region was unstable and has become unstable by the day. We should talk frankly amongst ourselves because a new proxy war is developing in Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, etc. There is danger of sectarian strife as the West wants to split the Islamic world and we should be concerned about that. The US and the West is on the run in Iraq and want to open this new front of splitting the Ummah. In Iran-Iraq War they said *Arab* versus *Ajam* and now they will say *Shia* versus *Sunni*.

Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi thanked Senator Mushahid Hussain for raising such important issues. I agree that there are so many factors that bind Pakistan and Iran together. The two nations have helped each other in hard times.

During the visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan to Iran there were similar views on all the issues mentioned by your good self. Pakistan and Iran should establish relations like in the past for which a meeting between heads of state, heads of government and military leadership is important. We can have joint military maneuvers like some countries have an

agree to the suggestion of establishing trilateral relations between the Foreign Relations Committees of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan and we will discuss this proposal with Mr. Sayaf when he visits Tehran in the near future. Pakistan and Iran have made a lot of efforts to help Afghanistan, which should be continued. There are more than 3 million Afghan refugees in our



Tehran: January 6, 2007: A group photo of Foreign Relations Committee with the National Security & Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Majlis.

arrangement with the US. The United States may not be pleased with this situation but we should protect our national interest. The IPI Pipeline will be a symbolic monument for strengthening our relations and I hope that parliaments of both the countries will support and speed up the project between the two governments. I accept the invitation to visit Pakistan and also agree with the suggestion about meeting of the two committees every year, alternatively in Islamabad and Tehran. We also

countries which show that we are helping in solving the problem. Despite the many allied forces in Afghanistan the situation in some areas has worsened. The United States and the UK are responsible for their presence in Afghanistan including the production of poppy which has increased manifold. Iran desires that people in Afghanistan should live in tranquility after two decades of civil war and hope that the situation will not continue like this. Many observers believe that the situation is like a fire under the ashes



and the main source of this situation are the Taliban. The recent experience is not good for the Afghans and the people of the region. Afghans believe that some regional countries are involved in creating unrest in their country. We raised this issue with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. It is important that we endeavour for a tranquil and peaceful Afghanistan. The fire may not reach us but the smoke may harm us. In this regard, we must put all our efforts to bring peace and development to Afghanistan and we are supporting this policy. Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that we appreciate your stance on Afghanistan.

Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi continued and stated that there is some propaganda that Iran is concealing some activity pertaining to its nuclear programme although we did many things under the supervision of IAEA. Mr. Kofi Anan told our President that under Article 4 of IAEA Iran has the right to develop nuclear energy. All groups in Iran are supporting the development of nuclear energy. Fifty years ago, Iran agreed with the United States to establish a reactor in Tehran University. Before the 1979 Revolution we agreed with France, Germany and the US to produce 23000 KW nuclear electricity and at that time our population and consumption was half that of today. At that time, the US had no objection which shows that the US has a political angle to this issue. The Americans got \$10 billion from us but after the Revolution they did not give us the money or the fuel. So we should not trust the US nor do we want to fight the West. Dr. Larijani had a good visit to China and I hope the hard road adopted by Iran will pass. We are also concerned about Iraq. The US is responsible for the new Shia - Sunni phenomena in that country. The Iraqis lived peacefully but this is a calculated plot. There was a report that Saudi Arabia played a role in this and provides funds. I hope this is not true as this fire will not help the Ummah.

Senator Mushahid stated that Pakistan had requested for subsidizing the Shia-Sunni problem. Mr. Broujerdi stated that the statements made by Ayatollah Sistani defused this situation. We are respectful of those making speeches in Khorasan advocating unity between Shias and Sunnis. We have two options in Iraq. Firstly, increase the fire and secondly, put it off. We opt for the second. He concluded by saying that we support Sami-ul-Haq's idea of Muslim unity.

Mr. Talaei Nik, Member of the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee added a few words to emphasize cooperation. He said security will lay grounds for future cooperation and there is potential, as is evident from our discussion. In the past year, Iranian labour faced bandits in certain areas. I am thankful that in recent months this situation has settled but I would like to mention this to get your support on security difficulties between Iran and Pakistan. Our Foreign Minister has been questioned in our Parliament on this issue. Senator Mushahid stated that Pakistan is aware of this situation and the Governor of Balochistan and Sistan had a meeting on this issue and with joint collaboration we can resolve this problem.

Dr. Ms. Ameerzadeh welcomed the delegation and said that it was a pleasure to join you in Tehran. I appreciate the speech by Senator Mushahid in the Asia Parliament in favour of Iran's nuclear programme. Apart from political and cultural cooperation, defence cooperation has prime importance. A member of the Committee, a former General, suggested that Ulema of the two countries can also sit together and discuss the Shia - Sunni issue.

Senator Nisar Ahmed Memon, referring to the retired General, stated that as Chairman of the Defence Committee of the Senate I invite you to visit Pakistan. Pakistan and Iran should have

strategic relations but trade relations are also important. Pakistan and Iran should attain \$1 billion trade between them. I invite you to invest in Pakistan's privatization.

The meeting concluded with exchange of mementos.

Talks with Dr. Mohammad Khatami, former President of Iran

In the afternoon the delegation called on Dr. Mohammad Khatami, former President of Iran. Senator Mushahid Hussain initiated the discussion and stated that we have come to pay our respect to a great man and a friend of Pakistan. Dr. Khatami welcomed the delegation

and said that Iran is your second home. Fortunately, no one can take the love of Pakistan out of Iranian hearts. Wise politicians in Pakistan like Mushahid will strengthen these ties further. After the introductory remarks Senator Mushahid introduced his delegation to the host.



Tehran: January 6, 2007: Meeting with Dr. Muhammad Khatami, former President of Iran.

Senator Mushahid stated that we have come to Iran because of two reasons. Firstly, we want to cultivate cooperation between civilizations for which you have played a great role and your September, 2006 speech in Chicago had a tremendous impact. Secondly, we are convening a Conference in Lahore on 21st April, 2007 on

Independence of 1857. Your visit will be an auspicious event and we plan to invite Anwar Ibrahim from Malaysia as well.

Dr. Khatami stated that he was glade to see Senator Mushahid and his delegation. I accept the invitation to visit Lahore as it is an important



Tehran: January 6, 2007: Senator Mushahid Hussain, in an animated conversation with former President of Iran, Dr. Khatami.

“Iqbal and dialogue among civilizations” and we want to invite you for that occasion to deliver the keynote address. We want you to talk on dialogue between civilizations as Iqbal’s message was universal. It is the need of the hour. This initiative will be important for Pakistan-Iran relations. I hope you will accept the invitation. We have three anniversaries in 2007 namely, hundred years of the Muslim League, 60th Birthday of Pakistan and 150 years of War of

issue and initiative. Iqbal was one personality dedicated to the East and Islam. The topic of dialogue between civilizations is also important. The year 2007 is also the year of dialogue between civilizations. He was of the view that the years after 2001 are worse years of history as there has been expansion of the terrorist movements. Today, humanity is ready to hold dialogue on civilizations. It is a good initiative and it will be an honour for me to attend. I have

love for Pakistan and Iqbal. Despite all this, cooperation between the two countries is important. The geographical and historical affinity between Pakistan and Iran cannot be separated.

Our region is sensitive and every moment something is happening somewhere. For this reason, I mention to world leaders that Iran's nuclear programme will not lead to conflict. They should not look at Iran as the centre of crises. We can be seen as controlling crises.

Pakistan and Iran had certain differences but we should not forget our friendship. We should strengthen strategic relations. It is the idea of the supreme leader to strengthen relations particularly with our neighbouring countries. Our peoples are deprived and they will develop if we strengthen our relations. Our parliaments have

important role to play. During 2002 when there was heightened tension between India and Pakistan, I played a role and telephoned President Musharraf. We should avoid things which create trouble in the region. It is a great initiative of President Musharraf to extend hand of friendship to India. I am glade there is no more tension between Pakistan and India. He informed that he has been pushing for the IPI Pipeline but the project could not materialize. He hoped that it will materialize now. It will ease tension between India and Pakistan.

In conclusion, he once again welcomed the delegation and said that it is your home and you are not strangers. We feel the same in Pakistan. He revived the good memories of his visits to Pakistan.

Meeting with Manoucherhr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran

A meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran was held at 1630 hours on 6th January, 2007 at the Iranian Foreign Ministry in Tehran.

Welcoming the delegation the Foreign Minister stated that he was pleased to meet with the Pakistan delegation. He said I fully believe that your visit to this country is similar to taking a big step in strengthening relations. We appreciate the existing bilateral friendly relations between the two parliaments and this visit will allow governments to work harder to strengthen these relations.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed responding to the Foreign Minister's welcoming remarks

said that it was a great privilege to be home again. The deep rooted relations between Pakistan and Iran are enshrined in culture, history and religion. He informed the Foreign Minister that the delegation has taken three decisions on major issues in a meeting with Alaeddin Broujerdi:

- i. Bilateral dialogue between the Foreign Affairs Committees of Iran and Pakistan and if Afghanistan agrees this arrangement it will be expanded to a tripartite one.
- ii. Invitation to Dr. Khatami to attend an International Conference at Lahore on "Iqbal and dialogue among civilizations". This Conference will be beneficial for the Ummah.



Tehran: January 6, 2007: Meeting with Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran.

- iii. Convey Chairman Senate of Pakistan's invitation to H.E. Mr. Haddad Adel to visit Pakistan in 2007.

Senator Mushahid continued and stated that he would speak on three areas:

- i. Pakistan - Iran relations.
- ii. Afghanistan
- iii. Challenges to Ummah.

Speaking on Pakistan-Iran relations Senator Mushahid Hussain said that these were on good track and asked the Foreign Minister to take a decision at the highest level and cut the red tape at the lower level to decide the IPI Pipeline. This project will cement our relations further. We share with Iran the perspective that Afghanistan should maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan has no interest in supporting any faction in Afghanistan and Pakistan is, at times, blamed for the mistakes of the West and the Karzai Government. Poppy cultivation has gone up despite the presence of the US and the E.U. troops. Drugs are a common threat to humanity. Afghanistan needs a similar prescription as the one recommended for Iraq

by the Iraq Study Group. Firstly, military solution is un-winnable and efforts should be made for a political solution. Secondly, talks should be held with Iraq's six neighbours plus the US and Russia. Talks should also be held with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Iran's nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully as use of force or threat is not acceptable. Pakistan will not vote against Iran in IAEA as India did under pressure of the US, so as to continue with India-US nuclear deal. Regarding the Ummah Senator Mushahid said that new dimensions like Lebanon and Syria are emerging and Iran should not fall into the trap. Maulana Fazalur Rehman and Maulana Sami-ul-Haq are preaching Sunni-Shia unity. We want Iran to play the role of a bridge. Whatever happens in Iran or Iraq has repercussions on Pakistan. We have a common vision and heritage.

Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran welcomed the brothers from Pakistan. He stated that in Pakistan we feel like in home, away from home and I am glad you feel the same way. I am also pleased to be in the company of prominent politicians. It will provide us an opportunity to build on that relationship.

26 years ago, I was serving in Majlis and I had a meeting with Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Agha Shahi. I told him both countries have similarities like Persian and Urdu are read and understood in both countries and *Dost* and *Dushman* are both Persian and Urdu words, therefore, our friends and enemies are one and the same. In Iran we do not debate why a brotherly relationship exists between Pakistan and Iran because it is there from the 1st day of creation of Pakistan. If the opposite happens we will debate why it has happened. We might have good political relations and not good economic relations and vice versa with a country but when it comes to Pakistan we have relationship in the cultural, political, economic, defence and security fields. We have to move further to strengthen economic relations.

Three months ago, we had a Commission in Pakistan and in that we said that trade between the two countries should increase from \$400 million to \$1 billion. I expect that target will be achieved before the next meeting of the Commission. In the past, some people would have said that in regional issues Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan compete with each other. We preferred to think we are two partners and we have to consult one another and vote accordingly.

Six months ago, there was a trilateral meeting on my suggestion on the margin of the Baku Conference. During the visit of Foreign Minister Kasuri two weeks ago and my visit to Kabul last month, we agreed to have a tripartite conference. Therefore, the initiative on the part of Foreign Affairs Committees of Pakistan and Iran to hold meetings alternatively at Islamabad and Tehran has our support. I hope Mr. Sayaf of Afghanistan will agree to it. I refer to the exchanges of many delegations and the invitation to Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and visit of our Deputies and invitation to Prime of Pakistan, speak for our

efforts to strengthen the relations. Recently, a delegation of Commerce went to Pakistan and it was decided to import 4 million tons of rice from Pakistan and to set up a Joint Investment Company. Your visit is a good omen as we signed an agreement on this. The head office of this joint investment company will be in Pakistan and Iran. It can invest in Pakistan and Iran and third country. Next week our Minister for Health will be visiting Pakistan and drug companies' representatives will also visit Pakistan.

The Iranian Foreign Minister stated that we share your concern and worries over Afghanistan. We believe that the current situation between Pakistan and Afghanistan has to be overcome as we all appreciate that security in Afghanistan has impacted on Iran, Pakistan and the region. Foreign troops are stationed in Afghanistan for the last five years. It seems to me that some distance will have to be covered before a solution is found. Taliban did not produce a good picture of conduct e.g. the Bamyán Statue issue. Gulbuddin was residing in Iran and I talked to Sayaf and they were supporting some kind of accord. Iran and Pakistan can contribute to such initiative and to dialogue between civilizations to find a solution.

Thanks for extending invitation to Dr. Khatami to address a conference on Iqbal in Lahore. Iran is not opposed to discussing Afghanistan in multilateral meetings. We need to support Karzai Government. Once security returns to Afghanistan a large number of refugees will return.

I agree that we should overcome bureaucratic hurdles and high offices should take a decision on the IPI Pipeline. This Pipeline which is called the friendship Pipeline will be a great joint project which will further strengthen our relations.



I appreciate Pakistan's position on Iran's nuclear programme. If nuclear weapons were effective they would have stopped the downfall of the USSR. Nuclear weapons could have allowed the Zionist regime to crush Lebanon crisis. The latest UN resolution says that Iran can have a peaceful nuclear programme under the IAEA safeguards. We want support on earth and not in heaven. By taking decision in Security Council they think they can bring division in Iranian people. We are ready to negotiate and we believe we can build a bridge .

You have referred to important issues of Islamic Ummah. Iraq demonstrated the fact that the policy of Republicans in that country was very hard. Originally, it was countries of the region who talked about the failure of the US in Iraq. Then the US people gave their verdict on Iraq. The Iraq Study Group had 50 percent to say. Some decisions have been taken, like Rumsfeld has been changed, Khalilzad has been changed and, by the end of the week, Bush will announce new policy for Iraq. There is always a chance that neo conservatives will pressurize the President to continue on the same road. Obviously, the conditions inside Iraq are very depressing. The US should provide security to the Iraqis. We are confident that Iraq would be the best bet to provide security to its people. The US had started portraying the war as Sunni and Shia. They always find new ways to create divisions between the Ummah. We have also tried to talk with our regional friends. Incidentally, we have to sit down and encourage the members of the Ummah to maintain unity. We are ready to start joint initiative with Pakistan for the same end. On Lebanon, I had a meeting with King Abdullah and I told him we have to work together to showcase our unity. On Iraq and Lebanon we should establish our unity. Your reference to OIC getting active on this is a good proposal.

With regard to Palestine, we support unity among various groups. We do not think that something from outside Lebanon should be dictated to them. Negotiations must be given a chance so that a holistic view and decision is taken. In this context, we have talked to some countries. We want that the Lebanese should themselves come to an agreement. In a nutshell we appreciate international situation is very fluid. Therefore, we should be in constant consultations with each other. With such a frame of mind your visit to Iran is greatly appreciated and valued. On Afghanistan, we need to talk in minute detail which will show us the way forward. If both of Pakistan and Iran are worried about the division in Islamic Ummah, we should work together to remove those cracks.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that I am glad we agree to resolve these issues jointly and discussion between regional countries in this regard is important. The turmoil is greater than before. I am happy the Iraq Study Group will help in reversing some decisions. I am glad the Iranian establishment is clear on issues. Foreign Minister Mottaki informed that Russia has established a joint committee on Afghanistan. The Italians, Germans and the Dutch have concerns for Afghanistan. Recently, we talked to Tajikistan and other neighbours and we need to set up a committee.

The Iranian Foreign Minister then asked about India-Pakistan relations. Senator Mushahid Hussain responded that after Iran, we are going to Uzbekistan. The NATO Parliamentarians will visit us in March to discuss Afghanistan. The Dutch Parliamentarians will meet us on 5th March, 2007. On India, President Musharraf has taken major steps and gone the extra mile. There needs to be reciprocity. I tell the Indians that Kashmir is not the issue; the issue is that you do not have a big heart. India has problems with

small countries like Sri Lanka and Nepal, etc. One good thing has happened that Kashmiri leaders have become a factor. Pakistan and India are now talking to Kashmiri leaders. On 17th January, APHC leadership is visiting Pakistan. It is good that we are talking to each other and not talking at each other but some forces from the Indian security establishment are holding Manmohan Singh back. We have discussions at the FM level and back channel diplomacy in Dubai and London. The President men are involved in this exercise and it has reached the status of exchange of papers.

We should not be blamed for others mistakes. We are not supporting any group in Afghanistan. Iran and Pakistan are part of the solution and not the problem. We supported Taliban when everybody was also supporting Taliban. We want a friendly government in Afghanistan. The Afghan Jihad from 1979 onwards was a joint Jihad. \$2.1 billion with matching funds from Saudi Arabia and China were poured in. Osama Bin Laden and Zawahiri were jointly trained. After 1989, the West left Afghanistan and pressed sanctions on Pakistan. In 1991, the US defeated Iraq but allowed Saddam to continue to frighten

Sheikhs and Iran. Kashmir is an indigenous uprising.

Mr. Mottaki suggested that a seminar on Shia-Sunni brotherhood attended by religious scholars can be organized in any country. Imam Khomeini has said that those who create difference between Sunnis and Shias are neither Sunnis nor Shias. What is happening in Iraq is a plan from outside.

Senator Nisar A. Memon stated that your idea concerning Sunni and Shia unity is excellent and your idea about a seminar on this issue is also important. Senator Mushahid is a prominent person of the OIC group and I hope some initiatives will come from there. Pakistan is a Sunni state and Mushahid is a Shia, therefore, a good solution could come from the OIC. The tripartite idea is also very good. Senator Mushahid Hussain suggested that Iran and Saudi Arabia should also sit together for which we are ready to play a role. It is not just an issue between Iran and Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to both sides.

Meeting with Dr. Ali Akbar Aghaee, Chairman, Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group

At the very outset, Mr. Aghaee welcomed the delegation. In response to a question from Senator Mushahid Hussain, he said that he represents the Azeri population in Iran. He informed that there are 10 members in the Pakistan-Iran Friendship Group and the Iranian Parliament has 50 such groups. Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that there are strong sentiments for Iran in Pakistan and strong ties between the two Parliaments. I will invite the

Iranian Speaker, in our meeting tomorrow, to visit Pakistan.

Senator Nisar A. Memon stated that we are pleased to hear that you are representing 24 percent Azeri population. I think there is a lot of potential for development associations for which you should start from Karachi and then Lahore and create chapters which will establish people-to-people contact. There exist trade relations,

so these chapters will further enhance those relations. Iran has a strong presence in Pakistan in the form of *Farhang-e-Iran*, so the proposed associations will be helpful where bilateral and cultural exchanges could not take place. If there is anything that I could do in this regard, I will be pleased to do that.

Mr. Aghaee responded that the Iranian people want to meet Pakistani people. I agree that we could not develop the potential that exist on economic issues between the two countries but now we can do that. Considering our capabilities, we should increase trade on the country level, on the regional level and on the border as well. The Parliamentary exchanges and the IPI Pipeline will also strengthen the economic and trade relations. I do not see any problem in the diplomatic area. On political issues, Pakistan and Iran can play a role. We should do our best to support Islamic democracy as enshrined in our religion. We should be sensitive to the human rights of all countries so that there is no abuse of these rights. The US is creating hindrance for Iran and in future it can do so in the case of Pakistan. So, we should unite for our rights including Islamic rights. Our message would be for peace.

Senator Nisar A. Memon said that there is border trade taking place between Pakistan and Iran and we should consolidate the same. Moreover, Iran can enter China through Pakistan and we can increase border trade. Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that in Balochistan province, electricity is being provided by Iran to areas in Taftan and suggested that it should be extended to Gwadar. It is important for regional cooperation, so development of Gwadar Port is important. Key to emerging partnership will be the IPI project. President Musharraf and the Government and Parliament of Iran are committed to this project but we are concerned

that progress is very slow due to bureaucratic hurdles which should be removed. The Parliamentarians of both countries should push their governments to sign this project. He informed Mr. Aghaee that during the Committee's visit to Iran three substantive outcomes can be seen:

- i. We have decided that every year a bilateral dialogue between the Foreign Affairs Committees of Iran and Pakistan will be held alternatively in Tehran and Islamabad. Afghanistan has been invited to join this arrangement and if it does so it will become a trilateral forum, which will discuss regional issues and bilateral issues. The Iranian side has accepted our invitation to hold a meeting in Islamabad.
- ii. Dr. Khatami has been invited to an International Conference in Lahore scheduled for 21st April, 2007 on Iqbal and the dialogue between civilizations. It will coincide with three events in Pakistan namely, hundred years of Muslim League, secondly, 60 years of Pakistan's independence and thirdly, 150 years of the War of Independence against British which started in 1857.
- iii. We are inviting Iranian Parliament Speaker, H.E. Haddad Adel to visit Pakistan. It will reinforce our friendship between Parliaments and peoples. We hope you will accompany the Speaker to Pakistan.

Mr. Aghaee stated that he was happy to know about that. He once again thanked the Pakistan delegation for their meeting with the Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Lecture at the Institute of Political & International Studies (IPIS) by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

On 7th January 2007 Senator Mushahid delivered a lecture at the Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS). A large gathering, comprising of politicians, academics and media personnel, attended the session.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: *Eid-e-Ghadeer* greetings to you on my behalf and on behalf of the delegation. With your permission, sir, I would like to start by introducing members of our delegation of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On my left is Senator Wasim Sajjad, he is the Leader of the House in the Senate. He is former President of Pakistan, former Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and a very distinguished lawyer. On his left is Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi from the Province of Sindh. He is also a writer on current affairs. On his left is Senator Syed Mohammad Zafar, former Minister for Law, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Human Rights and a leading Constitutional Lawyer of Pakistan. On the right is Senator Nisar Memon, he is Chairman of the Defence Committee of the Senate and former Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Kashmir Affairs. On his right, Mr. Naeem Hussain Chattha, a leading politician from the ruling party, the Pakistan Muslim League. His father was one of the leaders in the freedom struggle for Pakistan. On the extreme right is Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr. Shafqat Saeed and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Iftikharullah Babar, is also here. I would also recognize old friends. It is a pleasure to see Mir Mehmood Mosavi. He was an outstanding Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan and also a very close personal friend and I always saw him as a *danishwar* and I am glad that he has come back to where he really belongs and what he really likes. Syed Rasool Mosavi

sahib, I would also like to say that we had a good meeting last year in Tokyo at the Japan Institute for International Affairs where I addressed their think tank and your colleague Ms. Ziba Farzinnia was there and we had a very good interaction and it is a pleasure to meet her once again.

What I will do is that I will give a broad overview of Pakistan's perspective on issues that are vital to us as Pakistanis and to Pakistan and Iran in the region. I will also focus on some of the emerging challenges which are vital to us because this region where we are located is, today, the most strategic region in the world. It is the center of gravity in terms of issues, policies and developments and now you have, for the first time since the end of the Second World War, the presence of the NATO forces on our door steps in Afghanistan and in Iraq. So, the whole regional scenario has changed and the region has become more unstable, more volatile and this instability is unfortunately likely to increase, not decrease.

First, I would like to start with a brief perspective on Pakistan - Iran relations. We arrived here the day before yesterday and within the last 24 hours of our discussions, I would like to apprise you of three major decisions that we have already arrived at with consensus. First, in our talks with His Excellency, Alaeddin Broujerdi, and members of our counterpart Committee on International Relations of the Majlis, we took the initiative and it was agreed that there should be an institutionalized, annual, bilateral Pakistan - Iran Parliamentary Dialogue between our two Committees, meeting alternately in Tehran and Islamabad and I also proposed that since I have

invited my counterpart in Afghanistan, His Excellency, Abdur Rab Rasool Sayaf, Chairman of the Commission of International Relations of the Afghan Parliament that they should also

Excellency, Dr. Khatami, the former President of Iran and we invited him to be the keynote speaker at an International Conference in Pakistan's city of Lahore or Iqbal-e-Lahori - Dr.



Tehran: January 7, 2007: Senator Mushahid Hussain addressing the Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran.

agree to this arrangement. It can be a tripartite; Pakistan - Iran - Afghanistan Parliamentary Dialogue on regional issues, on issues concerning our three countries because we have a shared heritage, we have common interests and we have a common perspective regarding the region in which we are located. We all three are neighbours of each other.

Secondly, we had a good meeting with His

Muhammad Iqbal, and the theme of the Conference is "Allama Iqbal and the dialogue among civilizations". There can be no better person than His Excellency, Dr. Khatami to be the keynote speaker at this International Conference because he is an expert on Iqbal and he is the exponent of this concept of dialogue among civilizations. The third aspect I would like to focus, in the course of what our visit has achieved, is that later this afternoon we will be

meeting His Excellency, Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, the Speaker of the Majlis and on behalf of the Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, I will be extending an invitation to Dr. Haddad Adel, who is well known in Pakistan and has lots of friends in Pakistan, to visit Pakistan *Insha Allah* in early 2007 for an official visit at the invitation of the Pakistan Parliament.

So, I think that these three initiatives which have already matured would be strong building blocks for sustainable and durable friendship and solidarity which already exists between Pakistan and Iran in different areas of cooperation.

Regarding other aspects of Pakistan - Iran relations, I would like to briefly mention two. One is that we are very keen that the gas pipeline project be underway. President Musharraf has reaffirmed his commitment and I talked to him just before this visit and he said that he is very strongly committed to this project and we hope and expect that the two governments of Iran and Pakistan will resolve some technical issues and we hope that we will cut through and slash through that red tape at the bureaucratic level because this is going to be a major pillar of the new Pakistan - Iran relationship in the years to come and we hope that it will mature in the next few months.

The second aspect I would like to mention is that Pakistan feels that Iran has the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear energy programme which they have been doing under IAEA safeguards and any problem concerning this issue should be resolved through dialogue, through discussion - not through any threat of force, not through any use of force and not through any sanctions and the right forum for resolving this issue is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna and as you know when it came to the vote, when we were

part of the governing board, we did not vote against Iran. We voted with China and Russia and, if I may add, our neighbour India changed its stance under American pressure and voted against Iran because they were threatened by the United States that if they voted with Iran, the US - India Nuclear Deal could be scuttled. So, we hope that this issue should be resolved through negotiations and through dialogue.

I would like to focus on three other areas of interest to Pakistan. One is relations with India the other is relations with Afghanistan and the third is the regional cooperation that is emerging in the region where Pakistan and Iran are located.

As far as India is concerned both sides have taken initiatives to normalize their relations and this normalization process is proceeding on track. President Pervez Musharraf has taken major initiatives, proposing new ideas, giving a perspective on the roadmap for a settlement of the core cause of conflict in South Asia namely, the unresolved dispute of Kashmir, and we hope and expect that in the interest of peace, stability and security in South Asia there would be reciprocity coming from the Indian side as well.

On 13th January, the Indian Foreign Minister is coming to Pakistan. On 17th January we are expecting a delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) from Kashmir, which is the representative body of Kashmiri politicians. You are aware that Iran has a close cultural connection with Kashmir. Syed Ali Hamdani, Shah-e-Hamdan, the Sufi Saint brought Islam via Kashmir to South Asia. Iqbal-e-Lahori, the great poet of the East, whose Farsi verses are well known here, also belongs to Kashmir. So, in April, this year, there will be a Summit in New Delhi of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and President Musharraf will *Insha Allah* attend this Summit. So, there are interactions. The last time the leaders of the



two countries met at Havana in Cuba. President Musharraf and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also met there. President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also met in Havana and they agreed to resume the dialogue which the Indian side had unilaterally reversed in July, and so those talks are proceeding. The foreign secretaries of the two countries will also meet in February 2007 to resume the dialogue on different areas of Pakistan - India cooperation.

Coming to Afghanistan, both Pakistan and Iran are aware of the situation and both have sacrificed a lot. We hosted 3.5 million Afghan refugees of which 2.5 million still remain in Pakistan and we sacrificed in the last 25 years a lot for the cause of Afghanistan. We kept on hosting these refugees even when international assistance stopped. During the jihad years from 1979 to 1989; I call this a joint jihad of the Americans, of the West, of the Muslim countries; there was money coming from the CIA. About 2.1 billion dollars came for weapons in the ten years period then matching funds from Saudi Arabia during the same period and 1 billion dollars from China. So, 5.2 billion dollars were funneled from 1979 to 1989 to train 200,000 Afghan Mujahideen and 30,000 Arab Muslim volunteers, including a gentleman by the name of Mr. Osama Bin Laden, including other gentlemen like Dr. Ayman al Zawahiri and so forth. So, after the Soviet Union was defeated the Red Army went back, Pakistan was rewarded for helping the West win the last battle of the Cold War with the parting kick of sanctions on the nuclear issue in 1990. But we accept this as this is a part of the game because in international politics there are double standards on issues and you are witnessing yourselves those double standards on the nuclear issue.

Pakistan supported the post 9/11 situation along with other countries including Iran, Saudi Arabia

and the US and helped stabilize the Karzai administration. We have helped stabilize the administration because in 2004 when elections were held in Afghanistan, the Afghan refugees in Pakistan voted and I would say that the results assured that the overwhelming majority of them voted for Mr. Karzai because most of them are Pukhtuns and that helped stabilize the Afghan Government. So, we have a strategic stake in the stability, unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and we have not supported any faction after the removal of Taliban because we feel we want to have good relations with Mr. Karzai and his Government. However, we do reject allegations when they are made, that for their failures and incompetence, the incompetence of the Government in Kabul or the failure of the Western or the NATO policies in Afghanistan the blame is put on Pakistan, just as in Iraq when there are problems they put the blame on Iran and Syria. So, the same thing is happening in Afghanistan. For example, poppy cultivation and drugs production has gone up despite the presence of Western forces. Today, Afghanistan is producing 92% of the world's poppy crop which is 6200 metric tons, according to the United Nations figures. This is a threat to us also and threat to Iran also because of this drug smuggling and drug addiction and so forth. We have nothing to do with drug or poppy cultivation. We have no army in Afghanistan. So, the question is that when there is a responsibility to be taken, that responsibility lies squarely inside Afghanistan, for those who are running Afghanistan, those who are responsible for Afghanistan's policies, not any other neighbouring country.

To sum up on Afghanistan, to my mind, the Iraq Study Group which proposed some measures for Iraq, three of these measures can also be applicable for Afghanistan. First, the Iraq Study Group which is a report of the Washington

Establishment, both Democrats and Republicans, says that the war in Iraq is not winnable militarily. The second important recommendation of the Iraq Study Group which also applies to Afghanistan is that to resolve issues in Iraq, they must talk to their neighbours; Iran and Syria. In the case of Afghanistan, there are six neighbours of Afghanistan; Pakistan, Iran, China, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and we can say 6+2; add Russia and the United States of America. So, there should be an international initiative of Afghanistan's neighbours plus Russia and the United States to resolve issues. The third aspect of the Iraq Study Group, which I think is relevant for Afghanistan, is that they say, talk to the resistance, talk to the insurgents. They say, talk to the Bathist holdovers, talk to Muqtada Al Sadr, Mahdi Army, in the case of Iraq. We don't say talk to Mulla Umer but you can talk to somebody else. The resistance is broad. Maybe there is one man who can be talked to; Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. He was, at one time, an agent of the American Intelligence, of the Pakistani Intelligence, of the Iranian Intelligence, of the British Intelligence. He lived in Tehran before he went back to Afghanistan. Before that, he lived in Pakistan. So, he has worked with everybody and everybody knows him and he knows everybody in the region. He knows the Pakistanis, he knows the Iranians, he knows the Americans and He knows the Saudis and the British. So, maybe somebody like that but the argument is - there is no military solution.

The third area on the regional scenario is the very positive trend of growing regional cooperation, which is driven primarily by energy and economic factors and you are seeing the linkage developing in these regions. China is one region and you know China has signed a very major agreement of 16 billion dollars for LNG with Iran. South Asia and Central Asia are

part of the GCC area and Pakistan is a pivotal player in that. China is today an observer of SAARC. Afghanistan is today a member of SAARC. Pakistan and Iran are today observers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Pakistan is now also a dialogue partner of GCC.

In fact, there is talk of pipelines in the region. Iran - Pakistan - India (IPI) Pipeline, although I think the Indians may not be fully on board. Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan (TAP) Pipeline and the Qatar Pipeline in Persian Gulf. So, there is so much talk of pipelines that I was talking to some observers and analysts and I jokingly said that maybe now we will have a *Pipelinistan* in the area because we have Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan. You might even have a *Pipelinistan* because it is all linked together and it will bind different countries for a strategic relationship and I think this is a very major strategic opening. It will bring the region closer together. Pakistan has also offered to China through the Port of Gwader in Balochistan an energy corridor for Chinese imports from Africa and the Middle East and we are examining the feasibility of a railway line across the Karakoram linking Pakistan and China. If they can have a railway line across Tibet which is 16000 feet above sea level why not through the Karakoram, and two firms, one Chinese and one German, are examining the feasibility of this project. Recently, President Hu Jintao was in Pakistan earlier this year and last year President Musharraf was in Beijing. So, we have a very close and strategic relationship with China and we feel that China's role is a factor for peace and stability in Asia.

Coming to some final points, future challenges. I would like to mention three before I conclude. Then we can have a question – answer session. Instability, extremism and violence will not go



away in the region unless the root causes of terrorism and extremism are removed and these are rooted in injustice and oppression and denial of fundamental human rights, especially for the people of Palestine in the Middle East and the people of Kashmir in South Asia. There has to be a resolution acceptable to the people of Palestine and Kashmir to resolve long standing issues and to ensure peace and justice in the region.

Secondly, one of the major issues in the world today is the relationship between Islam and the West and this cannot be resolved through use of force. The use of force has failed in Iraq. It has failed in Lebanon and it is not going to solve the problems of Afghanistan, Palestine or Kashmir. So, it is imperative that the issue be discussed and the issue is not of religion. It is not a question of interfaith harmony or dialogue because for us as Muslims, our faith is incomplete without accepting the Prophets of Judaism and the Prophets of Christianity. So religion is not the issue. The issue is of politics, policies and those policies should be reversed. Terrorism should not be linked with the great religion of peace, tolerance and harmony - Islam, because Islam itself rejects extremism and any attempt to link terrorism with Muslims and Islam will be counterproductive. I think this is extremely important because there is in the Muslim world a sense of Muslim victim hood that the Muslims are being targeted and this impression needs to be dispelled.

So, apart from the resolution of these issues like Palestine and Kashmir, avoiding use of force and relations between Islam and the West, a final point I would like to make, is that we all Muslim countries in the region have to work together to prevent the danger of a new proxy war in the Muslim world. This will split the Muslim Ummah, this will divide the Muslim Ummah along

ethnic lines, along linguistic lines, along sectarian lines and this would be dangerous and devastating. Yesterday, in my discussions with Mr. Mottaki and with Mr. Broujerdi, we proposed that perhaps the OIC can take this initiative of calling a meeting, a conference, a get together of Muslim intellectuals, clergy, experts or analysts, policy makers and specially representatives of Iran and Saudi Arabia to sit across, to discuss this because we cannot afford an action replay of what happened in the 80s when Saddam launched his war of aggression against Iran with the support of other countries and there was a certain divide. I think, what is needed is a healing touch between communities and countries in the region and all of us should try to play a role so that we can work together to resolve our common problems. I am very grateful for your patience and I am open to any comments or questions. Thank you very much.

Dr. Karimi: Thank you Senator. I welcome you and your delegation to Iran. Although you mentioned about the interaction between our two countries but I think it is too late and too less because as two neighbours we have to have interaction on daily basis, on family basis. But with your permission, if you allow me I would like to make a critical question. As a researcher, I am sorry to say that I will not be surprised if I switch on the radio and hear that there is another military coup in Pakistan as it happened in the history of Pakistan and perhaps it may happen again in future. But I would like to put to you the question that India and Pakistan both were created or invented at the same time but why India is more advanced even in the field of foreign policy? You mentioned instability as a challenge to the region but I would like to remind you that Pakistan is sometimes seen as a rival to Iran, sometimes supporting Taliban, sometimes going against Taliban. So, if we are looking for cooperation in future I would like to hear from

you first of all, whether we have the will. I don't want to mention about the gas price or pipeline and all that but I would like you to pay more attention on the political will of the politicians of Pakistan. Thank you very much.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you Dr. Karimi. I will take your questions in two parts and I will humbly beg to differ with your premise about military coups. Yes, we have a history of military coups. It is part of Pakistan's process of development. You had the Shah for 30 - 40 years. Others have kingdoms there. We have military rulers but today in January, 2007 and I can say frankly without fear of contradiction that Pakistan is the freest Muslim democracy. Anybody who comes to Pakistan knows we have a free press, 43 private independent television news channels, vibrant civil society, a very active Parliament which takes independent positions. You go to Pakistan today, Musharraf may be wearing a uniform but he is attacked and criticized everyday. You can't say this about Syria; you can't say this about other countries. Frankly, in a country like Turkey where they have democratic rights for a long time, the Kurdish people did not have their cultural rights till recently. In Pakistan, we have channels in Pashto, in Sindhi, in Balochi, in Punjabi, in all languages. It is a Federation. Yes, we have gone through a period of development but we have learnt from our mistakes and let me assure you Dr. Karimi, there is no chance of another military coup in Pakistan in the near future. So, you can rest assured on that but even if there was a military coup or no military coup, our relations with Iran are not affected which should be your main concern. Your main concern as an Iranian should be, whoever is ruling Pakistan is Pakistan's problem like whoever is ruling Iran is Iran's problem, whether it is the clergy or whether it is the Shah, we are for the interest of the state. So, 20 years ago we had General Zia-ul-Haq. We were close

friends with America then also. We invited Mr. Khamenai to Pakistan for a historic visit because we said our interests with Iran are strong and deep. Today, we have a very close relationship with America but we support the pipeline on Iran. We oppose the war in Iraq. We were the first to welcome the Hamas Government in Pakistan. They came to Pakistan, we gave them three million dollars and unlike your Indian friends who voted with the Americans, who changed their policy and you said that the Indian foreign policy is more advanced than Pakistan foreign policy. I am sorry, I don't agree with you. If more advanced means being the largest buyer of arms from Israel (1.5 billion dollars); if more advance means signing special agreements with America on the nuclear thing; if more advance means doing a U-turn on relations with Iran on Non-Alignment, then we have not done that. We stood by our friend Iran. They did not. So, you should see things according to facts, not pre-conceived notions in the mind.

As far as rivalry is concerned, let us be very frank. We should have coordinated but it takes two to tango. We fought the Afghan Jihad. We bore the brunt. Iran was not an active player and let me tell you, even the Shia resistance in Afghanistan got arms and money from us, for example, Karim Khalili and Ayatollah Mohsini from Qandahar. They were living in Pakistan. They were not getting help from you. We gave them help. We gave help to everybody but after the withdrawal of troops Iran's policy became active and they joined hands with Najibullah and we were not with Najibullah. So, that is where the problem started. There should have been coordination.

Now, I think there is no fundamental conflict of interest. Iran has supported the Northern Alliance. We supported the other side. So, it was not rivalry with Iran. Frankly speaking, it is more to



do with India because India was supporting the Northern Alliance. See, like you have policies where you support Hizbollah or Hamas for your own interest. Because Afghanistan is our neighbour for whom we have sacrificed the most, more than any other country, even the US has not done any sacrifice for Afghanistan like we have done.

So, I think that we have a legitimate interest in ensuring that Afghanistan is stable, Afghanistan is secured and Afghanistan is not used to destabilize Pakistan, just as you would like to ensure that Iraq is not used to destabilize Iran and, after all, in the removal of the Taliban, we were all together - Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, the United States, China, and also in the removal of Saddam. So, the countries take decisions on their foreign policy but we have never taken any anti-Iran decision or initiative. That must be very clear and I gave you the latest example of IAEA. And the country you laud as having the advanced foreign policy, they have done lot of things against Iran and, let me tell you, on the Pipeline, I have my doubts that India will stay the course because of pressure and Dr. Karimi, you are a scholar, let me remind you, on 25th of January, 2006, American Ambassador, Moulfered, in Delhi, said if India goes with Iran on the IAEA, there will be no deal and after that there was a U-turn. We did not do that. Thank you.

Dr. Qadri: I agree, dialogue between civilizations is imperative. Pakistan supports one group while the West supports other groups. What is the policy of Pakistan? Secondly, you said Middle East should be settled through dialogue. It is a broad issue. West wants to dominate the Muslim world. How will you tackle Middle East?

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you very much. There are two questions. I will take the first question first regarding supporting any

group. Like any country, Pakistan has supported groups where it feels its national interests are concerned. We did support, once upon a time, the Taliban, which was one group in Afghanistan. At that time, the West and Saudi Arabia was also supporting them. Iran was supporting another group, the Northern Alliance. It was a civil war and I think it was collective failure of the international community and the Muslim countries that they could not resolve Afghanistan. As of now, Pakistan's policy is very clear. There is no such danger to which you allude to of supporting a group in any other country. We, of course, never interfered in Iran's internal affairs and we always have supported Iranian unity and solidarity but in Afghanistan this was the case in the past, this is no longer the case. So, this should not be a cause of concern right now among our Iranian friends because our policies hopefully should work in closer cooperation.

Regarding the other issue of Middle East, I feel that it is also a failure of the Muslim countries. We blame the West. Yes, the West is responsible for lots of things but what are we as Muslims trying to do to defuse tensions? Everything cannot be and everything should not be, in my view, blamed on an international conspiracy. Yes, there are conspiracies. There have been conspiracies for the last two centuries. But unfortunately, we ourselves because of wrong policies, wrong actions, also contribute to that. In Palestine, the issue of Hamas versus Mehmood Abbas is there, unfortunately.

Since you asked, let me explain Pakistan's policy on Palestine also. I think Pakistan is one country that has been very consistent and historic in supporting liberation movements, Muslim liberation movements, including Palestine. I will just have your indulgence for two or three minutes on this issue.

In the 50s the liberation movements of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco had Pakistan's backing. The Prime Minister of the Algerian Government in exile, Farhat Abbas, traveled on Pakistani Diplomatic Passport, which we provided. The liberation leader of Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba, traveled on a Pakistani Diplomatic Passport, we gave that support.

The first recognition of the PLO under Arafat, as the sole legitimate organization of the Palestinian people, was given in the city of Lahore in Pakistan in April, 1974 at the Islamic Summit. I think Mr. Hovaida was there as the representative of Iran and we did it before the Arabs. Arabs did it later on and since then we have an agreement with the Palestinians. Their military cadets and their naval cadets have been trained in Pakistani military institutions. Even today, two Palestinians are in the Pakistan Military Academy. In 1982, during the battle of Beirut there were only three countries, Pakistan, Iran and Algeria, which offered troops to Palestine, to Arafat when he was attacked by Sharon. We have no direct interest in Palestine. It is not our neighbour but we feel strongly about Palestine. It was *Qibla-e-Awwal* and also it is important as an issue of self-determination. And today also, we are very clear, we follow the OIC line that as long as Israel does not vacate occupied territory and does not recognize an independent Palestinian state, we will not recognize the state of Israel. We have maintained that policy and we feel that we should follow the roadmap which has been given, whether it is the Abdullah roadmap of March 2002 or the OIC roadmap. On Muslim causes, I would like to mention which is something very different.

In 1992, when Bosnia Herzegovina, a European country with which Pakistan had no interests, no economic interests, no political interests, no security interests, no Pakistani living in Bosnia;

when they were threatened, I can proudly say, we were the first country in the world to break the UN arms embargo. We sent arms including anti tank missiles to the Bosnians, to Ali Izzatbegovich. Their Prime Minister came to Pakistan, I met him, I was a journalist then. He said I have tears in my eyes, I have been to rich Arab countries and they have not given me a single penny but a poor country like Pakistan has given us so much. Then Iran, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia did the same thing. And by the way, we also hosted Bosnian refugees in Pakistan. They came to Pakistan to stay free of charge because of Islamic solidarity. So, I think we have a very good track record.

In 2006, Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, the Palestinian Foreign Minister belonging to Hamas, came to Pakistan. I hosted him and we gave him 3 million dollars for help. He met our leadership as well.

Regarding Lebanon, we were among the first countries to send four plane loads of humanitarian goods when Lebanon was attacked by Israel in 2006. I accompanied our Prime Minister to the Summit in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia where President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was there, the President of Indonesia was there, the Prime Ministers of Turkey and Bangladesh were there and the Prime Minister of Malaysia was there but there was nobody else from the Middle East. We were the only countries for the emergency Summit on Lebanon.

On Iraq, the Pakistan Senate took a stand on opposing the war in Iraq because we said the war in Iraq is illegal and immoral. The Senate did not support and the Government policy was the same too. Pakistan did not support it in the UN Security Council and the Americans had to withdraw the resolution.



Madam Shajari: Thank you, Mr. Senator. I would like to first thank you for the excellent and very clear analysis which you have given us. I have three questions which could be developed into three subjects, but first of all, you mentioned the Pipeline issue and the *Pipelinistan*, what you think is the main strategic issue which is making this a problem in the region? The second question is how the Western world can see the peaceful face of the Islamic world and how can this be a way to resist the religious crusade which is trying to be imposed in our region? Thirdly, we have, like a few days ago, seen Saudi Arabia had an arms deal with the UK for good amount of money. In eventual war what would be the position of Pakistan if eventually there was a new war in the region with one of the neighbours, not mentioning Iran? Thank you.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Three good questions, if I may say. We are talking as friends and I do not represent the Government of Pakistan. I am just here as a Member of Parliament with my own views. So, I can speak maybe more frankly. I think the first problem of the Iran pipeline is the Iranian bureaucratic red tape. I think the decision should be taken at the level of the President and please cut through the bureaucratic red tape which is at the middle level or some level of the bureaucracy. It is not a question of 5.2 dollars or 6.3 dollars; it is a very strategic thing. I see that bureaucracies in our countries are very strong. Iran, Turkey, Pakistan and India have very strong bureaucracies and they matter. So, for us the only problem is the Iranian bureaucratic red tape. It should be slashed.

The second question is about the Western world. I have always said in the Urdu language that we have to handle these challenges with "*Danish and Dilairi*" - with wisdom and courage. We should avoid new fronts. I think it is important

that whatever friends you have, and you have friends in the West, they should be mobilized rather than divided. I think that having a conference on the Holocaust was a mistake. Why do we talk about Holocaust today? It is not an issue for us today. The issue for today is to preserve and protect our national security interest, to preserve and protect our political line. What happened in the past is there. We should not dig it out. I am glad Mr. Larijani is in Beijing. Because two years ago, Iran had the support of the European Union, Iran had the support of China and Russia. So, the situation is different today and we should try to bring people together. We have been supporting Iran on the nuclear issue because Iran has the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear energy programme but you can see this world is changing. So, we should work together; Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, even Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, what is their problem? You don't have a fundamental problem. You are not going to invade Egypt and Egypt is not going to invade Iran. I think we defuse fronts and we should work together.

I was member of the OIC Commission of Eminent Persons to suggest reforms and I feel that we Muslims are losing the battle of ideas because the energies are diverted in fighting each other and I think that should be the focus. Our main battle is the Muslim think tanks. We have fought out in London, in Washington, in Brussels and I think there is public opinion today. Yesterday, the President of France, he is not a Muslim, he made the strongest criticism of the Iraq war. Chirac said that the Iraq war has brought more terrorism, more extremism, it was a failure. So these are people who are natural allies of Muslim countries to prevent any clash of civilizations. There are two trends, one Mr. Qadri referred to. There are the Western extremists, the neo conservatives, the neocons who want to have

a battle with Islam and Muslims and then there are Western public opinions. The biggest demonstrations against the war in Iraq were not in Tehran or Islamabad or Istanbul or Jakarta. They were in London, Rome, Washington, Berlin, Paris and Madrid. So, there is a large section of public opinion in the West. They are a part of Washington's establishment. They say, talk to Iran, talk to Syria, Israel should withdraw from the Golan Heights. These are your natural allies. I think we should reach out to them because these are the difficult times for us as Muslims collectively, and for us as Muslim countries. We have been facing pressures and it is not easy. They make a mistake there, they blame us. Oh! You did this and you did that. So, we battle it out, we fight it out.

This month, after Iran we go to Uzbekistan. In the last week of January I am addressing think tanks in London, Paris and Washington on Pakistan because we are also under pressure. But we have to take the battle there, the battle of ideas, to give our point of views and to reach out and influence public opinion.

The last question is that we will never support a war against Iran, if that is the question. So, you should be clear on that and *Insha Allah* there will not be another war against Iran. If the Americans had won the war in Iraq, then they would have, but not any more. This is my analysis as a journalist.

Mr. Presiding Officer: Thank you. We have Mr. Rafi but before he speaks I only want to say a few words. Although the Holocaust issue is the problem of yesterday but Palestinian issue is the problem of today and there is a connection between these two issues. Yes Mr. Rafi.

Mr. Rafi: You referred to "*Danish and Dalairy*". You said it is Urdu but this is also Persian. I

would like to ask you a question about the connection of the Railways between Iran, Pakistan, China and India. What is the progress on this? Did you invest in this project or not because you are talking about these connections for more than two decades now.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: No, the connection is, of course, there because of geography and history but the connection is now maturing. For example, let us take the development in Iran and Pakistan in the last two weeks. For the first time, a Pakistan - Iran Joint Investment Company has been established. It should have been done earlier but we have done it now. As you said, "too little, too late" but I would say, "better late than never". And the second thing is Iran's Commerce Ministry was there last week. They have said we will buy four hundred thousand tons of rice from Pakistan. Last year our trade was 630 million dollars. *Insha Allah*, in 2007-08, it should come to 1 billion dollars. With Afghanistan alone, we have 1.4 billion dollars trade and we say Afghanistan only produces *Pista* and *Badam* but trade with Iran can be in big volume.

So, I think that now it is reaching out and with this pipeline project, I think, that will be a sea change, that will be a fundamental change and the linkages are there. Look at China's energy needs and so of Iran, Pakistan and even India. So, we want to have economic relations. This region is opening up and we are going to Uzbekistan because this port in Gwadar gives them outlet to sea. There can be several outlets for Central Asia. So, we have been slow in this regard but it is time to move on. Even the trade between the Muslim countries, if you see the figures, is very, very minimal. The railway line is still progressing. We are doing that with Iran and also with Afghanistan and that is now working out and we hope that this should mature in the

next one or two years, both with Iran and also with Afghanistan.

Mr. Izzat Dost: My question is about the role of India in relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. There are some facts and rumors and speculations about the interference of the Pakistani officials in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the Indian officials are exaggerating this. How do you see the role of India in destabilizing relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan?

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: This report is similar to the report of Iranian destabilizing Iraq. I will request my colleague Senator Nisar Memon, who is Chairman of the Defence Committee and who is an expert on this issue, to answer this question about India's role in Afghanistan.

Senator Nisar Ahmad Memon: Sir, I would say that the Chairman himself is the expert but he would like me to add some words. I think one of the things that we need to understand is that Pakistanis were very disappointed when President Bush went to India and entrusted India the responsibility to bring democracy in Afghanistan and when he came to Pakistan, he said, "Pakistan should fight terrorism". If you recall the days when 9/11 took place and Pakistan was called upon to join the war on terror. Pakistan thought it was the right thing to do as it was in the interest of Pakistan and the world. It is a menace but we are fighting the war on terror since then on behalf of the humanity. We have suffered and we have given lots of sacrifices. We are internally destabilizing because of that but we are doing it because we believe this is the cost to be paid to bring peace to the world.

After 9/11 India wanted to join the war on terror

but it did not make sense for them to come and fight the war on terror in Afghanistan. Therefore, Pakistan became the frontline state. Now, having done this, it made no sense whatsoever for America to ask another country to come to our borders. Previously, we had engaged them on the eastern border. I recall the times when I was in the Cabinet of General Pervez Musharraf and transition to a civilian government was taking place in 2002, one million Indian forces were on our borders and our sovereignty was threatened but they did not dare attack us. Thank God, we had the right defensive deterrence strategy in place. Having passed that stage, now India comes to the western borders of Pakistan in the garb of bringing democracy in Afghanistan and what did they do? They opened up 9 to 11 Information Centers on the borders of Pakistan in Afghanistan from where they propagate against Pakistan, against the Muslims of Pakistan and this is the role that India has been playing in Afghanistan.

I think it is also now in the interest of Pakistan and Iran to stabilize things in Afghanistan because we have no other objectives but to have peace in the neighbouring countries. Iran can help as it has good relations with India. The Chairman was absolutely right that our foreign policy is not based on interference in any other state. There is no evidence of interference in the past and we will continue with that policy. I would say that India's role should be positive in supporting Pakistan, in supporting Iran, to bring peace in the region. Thank you.

Ms. Afshari: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your clear expression about the problems of the region. I have two questions and I hope you give me some brief and clear answers. One is; as we know the tenure of President Musharraf is coming to end this year, what would be the future of the Islamabad

Government? Secondly, what are the prospects of the US - India nuclear deal? Thank you very much.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: The prospects of the Government in Islamabad depend on the people of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan will go to elections when the term of Parliament expires on 15th November, 2007. I am also Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League which is the ruling party. We are going to fight the elections. *Insha Allah*, we hope to win, God willing. But if the people and Almighty decide otherwise, so be it. We have been in Opposition, we have been in Government. It does not make a difference. So, the decision is to be made by the people of Pakistan and the elections will decide. It is not like the American elections that the Supreme Court will decide like in 2000. It will be the people who will decide.

Secondly, about the US - India Nuclear Deal. I have been opposing this deal for a number of reasons. I oppose it because it creates double standards on the nuclear issue. India has not signed the NPT. It has not signed the CTBT, it has not signed the Fissile Missile Control Regime but it is being rewarded despite that. While other countries who want to pursue their own nuclear programmes are being punished. So, you are creating a double standard. And the second reason why I oppose it because this nuclear deal is not linked to India's nuclear energy needs, in my view. Only 7% of India's energy needs are met through nuclear energy today. In my view, it is an attempt to build India against China for the future. Some people in Washington see China as the long term strategic threat, as the new rising power. They want to promote India to counter China and this is about geo-politics and this will create a new kind of arms race in the region, perhaps even a new kind of cold war and you will see China and Russia are moving

closer together in the region.

The last meeting of the SCO passed a resolution saying that foreign forces should leave Central Asia. As you know Putin is becoming more assertive in the region. So, I think, this is not good for the geo-politics of the region and this also creates new double standards. It also violates American Law - the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. It is a violation of the Symington Amendment of 1978. That is why, they have to change the Law to accommodate India and it allows India to continue with the production of nuclear materials without checks. So, how can you talk of nuclear proliferation now when you have this kind of deal - a special arrangement with one country while you have other standards for other countries, I think it is wrong. I agree with the Massachusetts Congressman, Mr. Ed Markey, who said that the Americans have made a historic mistake by signing this deal. You have opened the gates of proliferation, so it is a mistake. But any way they have the right to do it.

I just want to add one thing. Like General Musharraf I wear several hats. I am also Chairman of a think tank in Pakistan by the name of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and we are ready for any kind of dialogue with the Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS).

Secondly, I would like to take the opportunity to present you a Report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 'The Lebanon Conflict'. When the Lebanon war was taking place, we held a hearing. Senator Nisar Memon and others were there and we took a very strong decision and after that hearing the Government immediately sent a plane load of humanitarian goods to Lebanon. This is the 12th Report of the Committee. With my compliments, I would like

to present it to the Director General and also to mention that these reports are available on our website. Two weeks ago, we had a hearing on Pakistan's Afghanistan policy and we had different experts, people who support the government policy and who oppose the government policy also - Mr. Ahmad Rashid and

Mr. Rahimullah Yousafzai; we called all of them in an open hearing. That report will also come out soon. So, with my compliments, I would like to present this and I will give two other copies for your library and for your researchers, they can also use this, as a small token from our side. Thank you, sir.

Meeting with H.E. Mr. Gholam-Ali Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran

On 7th January, 2007 the Pakistan delegation led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed had a meeting with H.E. Dr. Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Iranian Majlis at 3.00 p.m. in the

Iranian Majlis. In his introductory remarks the Speaker welcomed Pakistan delegation and stated that he was pleased to see brothers from Pakistan. After the introduction of the Committee



Tehran: January 7, 2007: Meeting with Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

members by Senator Mushahid Hussain the Iranian Speaker stated that foreign powers come and intervene in our region but they cannot separate us. The good relations between Pakistan and Iran cannot be changed by any decision in the world. Pakistan and Iran should play their role in the region.

One hundred years ago, Britain changed the geographical map of the world and since then things are not settled. The West is accusing Iran for the Islamic onslaught but Iran is playing a positive role. With Pakistan we have many grounds for cooperation. On Afghanistan, we should consult all parties to reach an amicable solution and we should work for the security and prosperity of Afghanistan. I am glad to hear about the trilateral arrangement that you are trying to put in place. The IPI Pipeline will bring warmth to hearts and homes of both the nations, especially Pakistan, and its passing through Pakistan to India will be a symbol of friendship. In other areas also we should explore our potential. We can have cooperation on the issue of Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine. Thanks for your position on the nuclear energy endeavours of Iran. We are also insisting on our right for the use of nuclear energy.

Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that Robert Fisch talks about the map of the world after the breakup of the Ottoman Empire. Now things have changed and the West cannot change the boundaries of sovereign states. The US had strengthened in intellectual, economic and cultural fields but they have ignored the military side. Pakistan is part of many regional groupings like CAR and SCO, etc. India may back out of the IPI project under American pressure. The delay in the IPI project is the Iranian bureaucracy. Senator Nisar A. Memon stated that Iran can tell India that Pakistan wants to live in peace. Iran nuclear issue should be resolved through dialogue and not through force. President Musharraf has suggested "out of the box" solution and the Indians should respond to it.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said that I bring special greetings from my President and Prime Minister. Chairman Senate, Mohammedmian Soomro, has asked me to invite you to visit Pakistan in the very near future. The Speaker accepted the invitation and thanked the Pakistani side for the same. He said that he would visit Pakistan at the first available opportunity. Concluding the meeting the Speaker wished the Pakistani delegation a happy and fruitful stay in Iran.

Meeting with Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council

The Foreign Relations Committee had a meeting with Mr. Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran on 9th January, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Larijani welcomed the delegation to Iran and stated that relations between Pakistan and Iran are traditional and visits like this would strengthen the bonds further.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed conveyed greetings from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan to Mr. Larijani and thanked him for the meeting despite his busy schedule. Pakistan and Iran have solid and substantial relations and we want to take the relationship forward in political, economic and cultural fields.



Tehran: January 9, 2007: Meeting with Dr. Ali Larjani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran.

We have taken three decisions since our arrival in Tehran. Firstly, establishing of parliamentary contact among Foreign Affairs Committees of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan whereby they will meet annually in Islamabad, Tehran and Kabul. Secondly, we have extended an invitation to Dr. Khatami to visit Lahore for a conference on Allama Iqbal, and thirdly, the invitation to H.E. Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Iranian Majlis, to visit Pakistan.

I am thinking of organizing a conference on regional security in Islamabad and you should be the keynote speaker. The conference is planned for the first half of 2007 which will have speakers from the US, the UK and Europe. You can give your perspective on security issues and the nuclear issue. You should also address the Foreign Relations Committee in Islamabad.

On the nuclear issue Pakistan is clear that Iran should develop its nuclear programme under

the IAEA and there should be no use of force and threat of force to Iran and everything should be decided through dialogue and discussion, not in the UN but in IAEA. Double standards on the Iranian nuclear issue are not acceptable.

Twenty years ago, we were together in the joint Jihad against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. In 1986, President Khamenai was invited and given warm welcome by General Zia in Pakistan. Last year, we invited the Foreign Minister of Palestine to Islamabad who belongs to Hamas, and we donated funds for the Palestinians. Pakistan has got relations with the US but, at the same time, it has good relations with Iran as well. In IAEA, Pakistan voted for Iran while India, under the US pressure, voted against Iran. Religious harmony is important and there should be no cleavage in the Muslim Ummah. Iran and Pakistan should work together for regional and religious harmony.

Dr. Larijani thanked the Pakistan delegation for its visit and said that it was an auspicious occasion. We look at Pakistan as a brotherly country and our relations should be defined at the highest level in all fields. The good relations are since long and visits like this will reinforce the level of relationship as there is lot more room for raising the level.

We would like to see the IPI Pipeline project see the light of the day. The decision of the two governments is already there, only signing the project is left. This project will be a good signal for long term relationship. Culturally, our relationship is in good shape. The conference on Iqbal is a good gesture. It is an area of interest for Dr. Khatami and he would be a good guest. I had told General Kayani that relations at the intelligence level will be very helpful.

The United States pushed Saddam to start a fight with Iran then Iraq attacked Kuwait and now the US attacked Afghanistan and now Iraq. These are the adventures of the US. Americans are interested in the region for oil and gas reserves and they always find excuses to come here. Then they used the name of Taliban and invaded Afghanistan. Then they invaded Lebanon. There was no use of this. We can understand what the reason was. They create crisis and then it gets out of control and then they start something else. Instability in the region is not good. First, the Americans create an imaginary enemy and then they establish alliances to start their adventures. We are afraid that the US will capture the oil fields of sheikhdoms in the Middle East.

The Americans also sow the seeds of sectarian discord. Now they are airing Sunni - Shia sentiments and we have some information that they are behind this. Khalilzad had met different militant groups. British are also behind this.

Unfortunately, some countries are asked to play a role here. The two sects should get together. Hamas is not a Shia group. We want their rights to be restored. I am explaining the tactics of the US. The leaders of Pakistan and Iran should know about these tactics.

Movements on Pak - Afghan border are a matter of concern to us and I have told General Kiyani about this.

You are right, the US has double standards. In the Security Council every country is a nuclear power but they passed a resolution against Iran. We are a member of IAEA and have signed NPT, therefore, IAEA inspectors are in Iran. I am talking to the Europeans for sometime and they say that Iran does not appear to have a nuclear weapon but it has nuclear know how. Mr. Solana told me that they are sensitive about the enrichment process. I told him that article 4 of IAEA allow us to do so. Mr. Solana told me that he knows about article 4 but still does not want every country to have an enrichment process. After long discussion he agreed but then said we are concerned about the future. I asked him under what International Law can you stop Iran and why Iran is being punished before committing a crime? I told him that to prevent rape you tell the woman to cut the penis of the man. Then we came to the conclusion that we should talk with 5+1. They could not convene as they had left the negotiations. Iran did not abandon the talk process. They said Iran should go back to the negotiation table; however, we are not the ones who had left the table. We were told that America is opposing this process. Then they used the negotiations pretext to issue the resolution. We will not allow them to achieve their objective. If they create a situation, they will be responsible for that and the smoke will go to their eyes. I told Mr. Solana that we should have a win - win situation and not a lose - lose

game and that negotiation cannot be done with stick in hand. If they do this they will see the consequences, but we feel that the region cannot see any further crisis.

It is a good idea that Pakistan – Iran - Afghanistan should discuss this and solve the problem. There are 30 thousands NATO troops in Afghanistan and there is still poppy cultivation. That shows that the US does not solve problems. I agree

Mr. Larijani asked about the impending elections in Pakistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain responded that free, fair and transparent elections will be held in 2007. The term of the President is also coming to an end. We have a strong Opposition in Pakistan and in the Foreign Relations Committee as well which has five members from the Opposition and seven from Treasury benches. It is going to be a tough election. We are preparing our strategy with



January 9, 2007: Senator Mushahid Hussain and Dr. Larijani, Iran's Chief Nuclear Negotiator, in a press talk at Tehran.

there have been problems between Iran and Pakistan on the Afghan situation. It created problems for both but conditions are suitable to have tripartite talks but cooperation between intelligence agencies is very important. Security in Afghanistan is beneficial for both Iran and Pakistan. We are the ones who are living in the region and should stabilize the situation. Close cooperation is required in this matter. Iran is fully committed to this. The intelligence services go beyond the diplomatic way and they write down carefully.

coalition partners and hope to have good result. Turnout is the problem but we have given right of vote to every 18 years old in Pakistan.

On the Kashmir issue President Musharraf is reaching out and is flexible. He has given his formula on Kashmir. The main issue is not Kashmir but the issue is that India is a big country with a small heart. India has problems with everyone including Nepal and Sri Lanka. Indian Foreign Minister is coming to Pakistan soon and so are the APHC leaders. Apart from official



Tehran: January 9, 2007: A group photo with Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran.

channel, we have a secret back channel and they meet in Dubai and London. Now India has given us papers in response to our nonpapers. Mr. Larijani commented that it is an important matter for the region. Senator Mushahid responded, that is the reason why we want IPI Pipeline.

Mr. Larijani asked whether the US and Israel will go for a military action on the Iranian nuclear issue. Senator Mushahid responded that it will be costly for them. They have another strategy but we totally do not reject the military option. After Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan, there is no fear of the US in the region. In the US there are a sizeable number of intellectuals who want to reach out to Iran. The recommendation of the Iraq Study Group says that the US should talk to Iran and Israel should vacate Golan Heights. Mr. Larijani commented that this was a plan for

Iraq. In Para 10 they say that Iran should be pressurized. Senator Mushahid responded that the Group recommended that the US should talk to Muqtada Al Sadr and Mahdi Army. He told Larijani to reach out because he is credible. When Iran is under pressure, Pakistan is under pressure too. Pakistan is an ally of the US but we are Muslims also, therefore, we cannot afford another war in the region in our neighborhood.

Senator Mushahid Hussain further stated that Mr. Ryan C. Crocker, the US Ambassador to Pakistan, asked me what is going to happen in the next election and what will happen to the Mullahs? I said you invaded Afghanistan and as a result the Mullahs won in NWFP. If you attack Iran, we the moderates will go and the Mullahs will come in. Mr. Larijani responded that if the US wants to solve this problem it should follow a certain formula. The US should realize that

there is some wisdom here. Double standards create mistrust. They give us a different signal but their deeds are different, which is a reason for distrust. We oppose adventurism. Creating Shia - Sunni divide in Afghanistan is bad. Senator Mushahid stated that the US cannot solve Iraq without involving Iran and Afghanistan without

involving Pakistan. In Afghanistan, the West blames Pakistan and in Iraq, they blame Iran. Mr. Larijani agreed and said that if the West wants to settle Iraq it should talk to Iraq's neighbours. Concluding the meeting, Mr. Larijani thanked the Pakistan delegation for their visit and support on the nuclear issue.

Meeting with Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Chairman, Strategic Council for Foreign Policy

The Pakistan delegation called on Dr. Kharrazi, former Foreign Minister of Iran and currently Chairman of the Strategic Council for Foreign Policy at 8:00 p.m. in his office in Tehran. Mr. Kharrazi welcomed the delegation to Iran. Explaining the functions of his office he said that I prepare advice for the Rehbar, including long term vision and planning of the region. All activities are not concentrated in the Foreign Ministry, so this is a position which consolidates all activities. The Council has five members, including Minister of Commerce, member of the Revolutionary Guards and Mr. Wilayati. There are four Commissions under the Council which look after different ministries. The Council outsources the work of report writing. He then asked about Pakistan delegation's meetings in Tehran.

Senator Mushahid informed that while speaking in the Punjab University in 1979, Dr. Kharrazi had said that the Shah was going and Imam Khomeini was coming. Thereafter, Senator Mushahid informed the host about the three decisions taken in the previous meetings that are:

- i. Bilateral dialogue between the Foreign Affairs Committees of Iran and Pakistan

and if Afghanistan agrees this arrangement could be expanded to a tripartite one.

- ii. Invitation to Dr. Khatami to an International Conference at Lahore on "Iqbal and dialogue among civilizations". This conference will be beneficial for the Ummah.
- iii. Chairman Senate of Pakistan's invitation to H.E. Mr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Iranian Majlis, to visit Pakistan in 2007.

Senator Mushahid Hussain told Mr. Kharrazi that there were some bureaucratic hurdles over pricing of gas regarding the IPI Pipeline. India may back out of the project due to the US pressure but Pakistan will go ahead with the project whether India is on board or otherwise. He suggested that Rehbar should intervene and get it done. Pakistan is planning a railway line to China and also giving energy corridor to that country. We in Pakistan are concerned about Muslim unity. Senator Talha Mehmood and Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman had made speeches in Istanbul on Muslim unity. Rehbar should call a conference of Sunni, Shia, Deobandi and Brailvi Ulema to discuss the situation. Mr. Kharrazi responded that the Rehbar had made

a speech recently saying that Iran is not a Shia state but a Muslim state. Senator Talha Mehmood informed that Haris Zaheri also played a very important role in Istanbul, who had said

strategy is not working. If someone is to be blamed it is the Europeans, particularly the British. Mr. Jack Straw asked for a meeting and I told him that you pushed Iran to the present



Tehran: January 9, 2007: Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, Head of Foreign Policy Advisory Council, receiving Senator Mushahid Hussain, in his office.

that the benefit of Sunni-Shia divide will go to the US. Senator Mushahid stated that Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Olmert, is in China five days after Mr. Larijani visited that country, with one point agenda regarding Iran nuclear situation. In the past, there were differences between Pakistan and Iran on Afghanistan but we are not fighting over control of Afghanistan. We stand with Iran and vice versa.

Senator Mushahid Hussain further stated that the Holocaust Conference organized by Iran was a mistake. Mr. Kharrazi responded that the Europeans pushed Iran to this situation. In March, 2006 we offered more negotiations but they rejected this proposal and we realized that this

situation. Our understanding is that the Europeans did not want Iran to have nuclear energy. They should give up all preconditions and come to the negotiation table. Iran will not make a bomb as we do not need it. The Chinese and the Russians voted with Europe and the US but they made changes in it and the resolution passed by the UN is toothless. If the US is sincere, the situation will be different.

Mr. Kharrazi asked whether Pakistan is concerned about the resurgence of the Taliban or the US presence in Afghanistan. Senator Mushahid responded that the cause of America being in Afghanistan is the resurgence of Taliban. If foreign troops leave, the neighbouring countries



Tehran: January 9, 2007: Senator Mushahid Hussain presenting report and a gift to former Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. Kamal Kharazi.

can do a lot as they have to live together. The 6+2 formula should be revived in Afghanistan. When you were Foreign Minister you followed that formula. Pakistan is not supporting any group. He requested Mr. Kharrazi to take care

of the spiritual side that is Shia - Sunni divide. In conclusion Senator Mushahid and the members of his delegation thanked Dr. Kharrazi for his time and thoughtful talk.

Visit to Mash'had

On Monday, 8th January, 2007 the delegation made a day trip to Mash'had where it was received by the Governor General of Mashhad. The delegation visited the Mausoleum of Imam Ali Raza (RA) and offered Fateha and Nawafil. The delegation also met Ayatollah Hafiz Abbas

Tibrisi, *Motawalli* of the Mausoleum and stayed with him for an hour. At night, the Governor General hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation where elite of the area were present. The delegation returned to Tehran by air around mid night.



Mash'had: January 8, 2007: The Delegation at the Mazar of Hazrat Imam Ali Raza.



Mash'had: January 8, 2007: Meeting with Mutawalli of Mazar of Hazrat Imam Ali Raza.



Proceedings of the Meetings (Verbatim Record)

Visit to Uzbekistan

January 10 - 15, 2007

- Meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan.
- Meeting with Mr. Botirjon Hudoyberdiev, Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies headed by President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- Meeting with Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan.
- Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies.
- Visit to Samarqand and Bukhara.



VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN

January 10 - 15, 2007

Proceedings of the Meetings:

(Vebatim Record)

The delegation of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee arrived in Tashkent from Tehran on 10th January, 2007. The delegation was received at the airport by Mr. Maroof Usmanov, Chairman

Foreign Affairs Committee of the Uzbek Parliament and Mr. Sajjad Kamran, Pakistan Ambassador to Uzbekistan.

Meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan

On 11th January, 2007 the delegation had a meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan. In her introductory remarks Mrs. Mukhitdinova welcomed the distinguished delegation from Pakistan to Uzbekistan and the Uzbek Senate.

She said that we see this visit as a continuation of good relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. We treat Pakistan and its people with respect. We are neighbours and we see the existing relations as good. We are interested in developing relations with Pakistan on the



Tashkent, January 11, 2007: Meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Deputy Chairperson, Senate of Uzbekistan.

political and economic levels. We think that the foundation of the relations was laid by President Musharraf and President Karimov. This visit will give strong impetus to our good relations. We support the anti terrorism policy adopted by President Musharraf. The basis of relations is strengthened by fight against terrorism which was recently ratified by our Senate. We look forward to strengthening parliamentary relations as our people are keen to develop cooperation with the people of Pakistan. This visit of the delegation is the first visit from this part of the world and we want to learn from your experiences.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked the Vice President for her warm welcoming remarks and introduced the members of his delegation.

Mrs. Mukhitdinova stated that the Senate of Uzbekistan is there to establish our statehood. On 21st August, 1991 our President Mr. Islam Karimov announced independence of Uzbekistan. Fifteen years is not long enough in the history of a nation but during the last fifteen years we have managed to achieve goals which can otherwise be reached in hundred years. During these fifteen years we developed all sectors of national life. Had you visited fifteen years ago you would not have recognized our cities today. One of the principles of our reforms, as stipulated in the Constitution of December, 1992, is the establishment of a state which is open for establishing relations. Thirteen years ago we had one Chamber of Parliament. Since the last three years, we have a bicameral Parliament. This idea was initiated by President Karimov. In 2002, we carried out a referendum on that idea. After the approval of our people we worked on laws that would run the House. Certain changes were made in the Constitution and rules were adopted.

Explaining the composition of the Senate Mrs. Mukhitdinova said the Uzbek Senate has 100 members and gives representation to territories or regions. 6 Senators each are elected from 14 regions, who are elected from the people's delegates who represent the local councils in the Senate. These Senators have a dual role of Senators and as well as the local representatives. 16 Senators, who are people of high caliber, are chosen by the President. There are three plenary sessions in one year. 25 members of Parliament are full time workers. They are at the Parliament all the year around. The others go to their constituencies and their field of work.

The Parliament has two main functions. The first is approval of the budget including taxes, determining the foreign and domestic policy and reforms in different sectors. The other power which mainly lies with the Senate is the selection of Judges of the Supreme Court and other courts. The approval of President's decree on appointments of public prosecutor, amnesty granted by the President, appointments and dismissals of diplomats and consideration of reports by prosecutor general and state bank.

As far as the structure is concerned, we presently have six committees and the number cannot go beyond eight. The committees consider laws passed the lower house in the plenary sessions. All the functions are carried out by the committees. Usually, the members of the Committees travel to the regions to monitor the implementation of the laws and check the general condition of the area. Another important function is interaction with delegates of local councils in order to study the situation and development in the region.

Bills cannot be initiated in the Senate, therefore, only those laws passed by the Lower House are sent to the Senate for approval. When there is

dissent between the two Houses we form a Consensus Commission to discuss the law jointly and come to a decision which will satisfy both the Houses. Until now we have had 8 plenary sessions where we passed 86 laws. In order to have constructive dialogue with the legislative chamber we have a Coordinating Council to coordinate issues with the Senate as it is a new structure in the statehood.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that this meeting provided a great learning experience for us. There are great similarities between our two Senates. I must compliment you for the good work by the Senate in institution building and I agree with your President that implementation is important. We have an active committee system including this Committee on Foreign Relations. We hold public hearings and the



Tashkent, January 11, 2007: A group photo with Mrs. Farukha Mukhitdinova, Deputy Chairperson of Uzbekistan Senate.

Initially, we were involved with setting up the institution but now we are involved in serious business and we monitor implementation of laws. Our concern is not only to adopt the law but see its implementation as well.

proceedings of this Committee are published and available on the website.

We in Pakistan have four provinces and two regions. We also have 100 members, of which

17 are women; 57 members from the Treasury benches and 43 from the Opposition benches. In the National Assembly, there are 342 members, of which 73 are women; 201 members belong to the Government parties while 141 belong to the Opposition. Our two parliaments should build this relationship which has been carved out by our Presidents. I am glad this visit is historic because this is the first visit of a committee to Uzbekistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain continued and stated that we have shared historical background as Samarkand and Bukhara are mentioned in our literature and folklore. I have seen remarkable transformation in your country compared to what I saw in 1985 when I visited as a journalist. Again, I visited in 1992 with Rabbani and it was the year when President Karimov and Mr. Rabbani announced the construction of a highway from Tashkent to Termiz to Karachi. In my last visit in 1996, I traveled to Andijon, Fergana and Termiz and things have transformed and Tashkent has become a modern city.

We not only have a common history and culture but a common future as well. Our geographical location, particularly the short distance for Uzbekistan through Pakistan to the warm waters, will benefit not only Uzbekistan but the entire region. I am grateful that Uzbekistan supported Pakistan for membership of Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO). This will further enhance our relationship.

One new area that unites us is the fight against extremism and terrorism. Terrorism has no religion and is different for different nations. Pakistan and Uzbekistan are victims of terrorism. Some Uzbek terrorists were arrested by joint effort and people like Juma Amangani were eliminated. We have stake in the territorial integrity of Afghanistan because that has been the source of extremism, terrorism and drug trafficking.

I want to extend special greetings from Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, to you and your colleagues. Mr. Soomro called from Makkah and asked me to invite you to visit Pakistan with a delegation. On behalf of the Senate Committee I extend an invitation to your Foreign Affairs Committee to visit Pakistan. All these invitations will be extended in writing through the Ambassador of Pakistan in Tashkent.

Concluding the meeting, Mrs. Mukhitdinova stated that she fully agreed with the Pakistan side on the position taken on terrorism and Afghanistan and hoped that there would be meetings between the two parliaments on a regular basis.

Meeting with Mr. Botirjon Hudoyberdiev, Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS), headed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Foreign Relations Committee had a meeting at the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) at 11:15 a.m. on 11th January, 2007. Mr. Botirjon, Director of the Institute,

welcomed the delegation. Explaining the activities of the Institute he informed that ISRS was established in 1994 and has 4 main directions of research:-

- i. Study of international relations and sustainable economic development.
- ii. Studies in the military field.
- iii. Regional studies.
- iv. Social and economic development of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Botirjon stated that our Institute has established cooperation around the world and in October, 2006 has signed an agreement of

stated that I am happy about the agreement with IPRI, of which I am the founder Chairman since 1998. I am glad that the first institutional arrangement of cooperation has been established. We are planning an international conference on security issues in Islamabad in 2007 and we will invite you for that conference. We are coming from Tehran and Mr. Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran has accepted an invitation to this



January 11, 2007: Senator Mushahid Hussain addressing the Institute of Strategic & Regional Studies (ISRS), Tashkent.

cooperation with Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). In February, 2007 we are hosting a conference on security in Asia. We have signed 30 inter-state agreements. Relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan are gradually increasing. Trade between our two countries is \$16 million, which is not much and should increase. I hope during this visit we will be able to discuss this issue and broaden our cooperation. In this context you may like to ask questions.

Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the Director and the staff for the invitation to the Institute. He

conference. It would be a good idea if we can establish a bilateral annual security dialogue alternatively in Islamabad and Tashkent. This interaction on a regular basis will help the two countries to come together and cooperate with each other. I will give you a brief perspective on three issues:-

- a. Pakistan - Uzbekistan relations.
- b. Pakistan's regional issues in reference to Afghanistan and India.
- c. War on terror and how Pakistan sees the situation?



Pakistan and Uzbekistan have long historic ties based on shared culture, geography and history. Most members of our delegation share some lineage to Samarqand and Bukhara. These ties have been reaffirmed by two important visits, one by President Musharraf to Uzbekistan and the other by President Karimov to Pakistan. In 1966, President Ayub Khan, Prime Minister Shastri of India and Prime Minister Kosygin of USSR signed an agreement between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue following the September, 1965 war between the two countries. We thank Uzbekistan for supporting Pakistan's candidature for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). We feel that terrorism has no religion and it is the enemy of humanity. Like Uzbekistan, Pakistan has been a victim of extremism. We have cooperated with Uzbekistan and Juma Amangani was eliminated. So we have multifaceted relations between our two countries. This is the first Parliamentary delegation to visit this country and establish long term cooperation between the two Parliaments. Now the agreement between IPRI and ISRS will be an additional source of strength between our countries and the initiation of 'National Security Dialogue' on an annual basis will establish the relations further.

On Pakistan - India relations Senator Mushahid said there is a process of normalization with India, initiated by President Musharraf. The focus is on the core issue of Kashmir. The dialogue between the two countries focuses on regional security issues as both countries have nuclear arms but commerce, culture and sports are also discussed and this process will be intensified in the next two months. Next month, the Foreign Minister of India will be in Pakistan. On 18th January APHC leaders will be in Islamabad who are opposed to Indian occupation. In February, Indian Foreign Secretary will come to discuss regional issues. In April, SAARC Conference

will be held in India and President Musharraf will attend. In Afghanistan we have the biggest stake in the territorial integrity of Afghanistan. No other country has supported Afghanistan like Pakistan. Since 1979 we are hosting about 3.5 million refugees at the peak level. We are looking after them using our own resources. Terrorism emanates from Afghanistan and they should control the situation. In 2004, Pakistan facilitated President Karazi's election and Pakistan is not supporting any faction or group in Afghanistan. We regret the insinuation by Kabul that Pakistan is responsible for happenings in Afghanistan. In fact, they should be responsible for their failure. 6.1 million metric tons of poppy production is the failure of Afghanistan, the US and the NATO forces. They should not accuse others for their failures. We feel the best way out should be the involvement of all 6 neighbours of Afghanistan as they have stake in Afghanistan's stability. We can involve Russia and the US also. 6+2 was the formula given by the UN as well.

Speaking on the war on terrorism, Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that this is a war with no end. The way out is not the use of force but of political settlement like the one suggested for Iraq by the Iraq Study Group. Immediately after 9/11, the international community was united for protecting mankind against terrorism but it became an ideological agenda coming from neocons. Three strategic mistakes were made by the Western nations. Firstly, without settling Afghanistan, they attacked Iraq, although it had nothing to do with terrorism. It was not sanctioned by the UN, so it was an illegal war. Secondly, the core issue is Palestine and no serious effort has been made to solve that problem. Even the roadmap by Bush and endorsed by the quartet (the US, China, Russia and the UN) is being violated. Thirdly, the Muslim countries think that the war was directed against their great religion of peace and harmony - Islam. The world today,

therefore, is violent and unsafe. We have to restore the primacy of International Law and rule of law to establish peace in the world. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have especial responsibility in the region as both are at the centre of gravity in the region. Anything that happens in Afghanistan has a fall out in Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

I am glad that we are cooperating on regional issues and this cooperation should also be based on economic issues. The future is the convergence of South Asia and Central Asia in world stability. We are building the Port of Gwadar which will provide short route to Central Asia and to the warm waters and energy corridor to China. This, again, will strengthen cooperation in the region. We are optimistic about the future and Pakistan will be a pivot for all this and it will bring prosperity to our peoples.

Mr. Botirjon thanked Senator Mushahid for the warm wishes. He said, I expect that our cooperation will strengthen in future. I share your concerns about the threat and challenges we face today. We have huge potential of cooperation. We are sorry that the situation has not stabilized in 20 years. Unfortunately, while dealing with Afghanistan the interest of Pakistan and Central Asia was not taken into consideration. The NATO forces have not been able to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. You have correctly mentioned that Afghans are cultivating opium. 8 out of 34 provinces are cultivating opium. Drug business feeds various terrorist organizations and its activities. Uzbekistan always welcomed all initiatives of Pakistan in resolving these issues. I am sure we have common opinion and position on drugs and terrorism. We share your concern that no state can guarantee its security on its own. We are glad that we signed contract with IPRI and discussed prospects of cooperation in the future. I propose certain areas for research:

- a. Issues of regional security.
- b. Transport corridor for the region.
- c. Exchange of experts and specialists.
- d. Organize bilateral or multilateral conferences and publish books and articles and papers.
- e. Discuss prospects of fostering SCO in the future.

We hope this cooperation will be a strong factor at various levels and intuitions. In this context our researcher will attend the proposed conference in February, 2007.

Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that two researchers each from Uzbekistan and Pakistan should work in each other country from 3-6 months. The proposal of transport corridor is very important. There should be a joint research conducted by our researchers on this subject. We have done this with China and Uzbekistan can join and then the three countries can conduct research. In SCO we do not want a symbolic presence but want to play a proactive role and are applying for membership. We hope that 2007 will be auspicious for Pakistan - Uzbekistan relations, especially for think tanks. The role of think tanks is important as new ideas emanate from them. I hope there will be a follow up on our discussion. Two researchers can come for follow up report. Give dates at your convenience to the Ambassador. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema will send two researchers.

Mr. Botirjon once again welcomed the members to the Institute and said that it is high time for a dialogue between our two countries. By your visit to Samarqand and Bukhara your spiritual bond with Uzbekistan will strengthen further.

Meeting with Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed held a meeting with Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign

We are proud and happy to look to the future. We want to expand trade and economic relations but the main obstacle is the situation in



January 11, 2007: Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Vladimir Norov, receiving Senator Mushahid Hussain. Senator Wasim Sajjad and Senator Tahir Mashhadi can also be seen.

Minister of Uzbekistan on 11th January, 2007 at the Foreign Ministry in Tashkent.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister welcomed the delegation and termed it the first historical visit. He said, we share history, culture and tradition.

Afghanistan. Therefore, economic integration of Pakistan and Uzbekistan could not take place. In 1924, our borders were closed to the world and we could trade only through Moscow. Before that, it was through Bukhara. Uzbekistan, like Pakistan, is supporting anti terrorism. 11 bridges

from Mazar-e-Sharif to Kabul have been built by Uzbekistan. 16 million tons of humanitarian goods have been sent to Afghanistan. The Presidents of Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have signed an agreement for transport route between their countries and when Gwadar is complete there will be trade through that Port as well. Before independence, I was a Criminal Prosecutor in Bukhara and there were no cases of drugs. Money from drugs is going into terrorism. We, therefore, are ready for cooperation against terrorism and we agree when President Musharraf says that terrorism should not be linked to any religion. In January, 2002, President Musharraf said that Pakistani Madrassahs should be transformed into similar Madrassahs where Ibne Khaldun and Ibne Sina were educated. We are proud that our ancestors made contribution to the cause of education and Aristotle was rejected by these scholars through the Christians. You will see the difference in Naqshbandi and Imam Bukhari Mausoleums before and after independence. Islam came to our country in 8th century A.D.

Mr. Vladimir Norov stated that we are a multi-ethnic country and we have developed our economic and political system. Last year, GDP growth was 7 percent. We produce and supply cotton. Previously, 9 percent was being processed locally and now 40 percent is processed in Uzbekistan. We are the main supplier of cotton to the US. We export minerals, canned food and fruit to different countries. We are also trying to develop tourism. We renovated mosques and mausoleums so that Muslims of the world can come and see our heritage. Before independence, there was only one Madrassah, now we have ten. In the Madrassahs the students study religion and other subjects and they are equipped to work anywhere. I welcome you and your delegation once again and thank the Pakistan Embassy for supporting Uzbekistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the Foreign Minister for his warm welcome. After introducing the members of his delegation he said that there is tremendous potential for developing our relations. The Bolshevik Revolution cut off our relations. President Islam Karimov and President Musharraf have laid the foundations of good relations. When I was a journalist, I remember your President had talked about a highway from Karachi to Termiz. In this short visit we have achieved a few landmarks. I have invited Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan and the Foreign Affairs Committee to visit Pakistan. Secondly, the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) and the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) will cooperate in research and bilateral visits wherein two researchers, each from Uzbekistan and Pakistan, will work in each other's countries. Thank you for supporting Pakistan in joining Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). President Karimov and President Musharraf are now good friends. The Ambassador has briefed me on some problems and we will remove them. Pakistan is not supporting any faction in Afghanistan. The US, NATO and the Afghan Government have failed in Afghanistan. We feel that the neighbours of Afghanistan should be involved in bringing peace to Afghanistan. Terrorism has no religion and it is against humanity. We helped in eliminating Juma Namangani.

Senator Mushahid Hussain further stated that everyone has links to Samarqand and Bukhara. We are going there tomorrow and the feeling is that we are going home. There is so much compatibility. Tosh Mirza has produced a dictionary which has 2500 common words in Urdu and Uzbek. Let us break the bureaucratic tap and establish strong relations. Gwadar will be another important link as Uzbekistan will get access to warm waters. Mr. Maroof Usmanov

is looking after us very well. We owe a lot to you and Taimur and Babar.

Mr. Vladimir Norov said that after passing out from the Academy in 1985, I was serving in Bukhara Police. Gorbachev was ruling USSR and the main language was Russian. Only the religion maintained our identity. We could not go to mosque for prayers. Our ancestors prayed privately and if one was in the Communist Party one could not attend a Nimaz-e-Jinaza. Islam Karimov did a lot for Islam after independence and to give an example, the number of mosques has gone up from 60 to 2000. We had one

and Bible. We know Allah has 100 names. Allah made man like Him and if you have all the qualities of Allah you will be close to Him. Creativity is Allah's characteristic. Therefore, one should be creative. My grandfather was a cleric and taught for 20 years. After his death my mother collected all his books and saved them otherwise one could be sent to Siberia for keeping those books.

For us, security and stability is important. Our aim is democracy, development of economy and respect for human rights. I appreciate your assessment of the drafting of laws in Uzbekistan



Taskent, January 11: Meeting with Uzbek Foreign Minister, Mr. Vladimir Norov at Tashkent.

Madrassah but now we have ten. People contributed money for their construction. People from Chechnya and Azerbaijan come to Uzbekistan to study in these Madrassahs. Previously, Madrassah was considered a place for studying Quran but now we teach every subject in the Madrassah. We have translated the Hadiths of Imam Bukhari in the Uzbek language. We study Quran and recognize Torah

by President Karimov. We are reforming our school system. We are going for 9 years schooling and 3 years professional education. We should give top priority to economic cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and cooperation between parliaments is also very important. We can extend any support that you require. The airline service is giving impetus to our relations.

Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies



Tashkent, January 14: Senator Mushahid Hussain addressing the Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent.

The delegation visited the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies on Sunday, 14th January, 2007 on the invitation of Mr. Tosh Mirza. The Institute, besides other regional languages, offers a bachelor degree in Urdu language. A large number of Uzbek students are enrolled in this programme.

In his speech to the faculty and students of the Urdu Department, Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that Urdu as a language was either spoken or understood by almost 500 million people living in the South Asian Sub-Continent as well as all over the world and it could serve as the link language between Pakistan and Uzbekistan as well since there were 2500 common words in the Urdu and Uzbek languages.

At the meeting Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed announced formation of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Friendship Society with Senator Talha Mahmood as President and stated that this new society would organize a conference of friendship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in October, 2007 to mark 60 years both of Pakistan's independence and Urdu language teaching in Uzbekistan. He also invited a 10 - member delegation of scholars and students from the Institute of Oriental Studies to visit Pakistan and participate in this conference. He added that visiting Uzbekistan was like a 'home coming' for members of the delegation as a large number of Pakistanis trace their roots and family origin to Uzbekistan. Gifts were also exchanged on this occasion.

Visit to Samarqand and Bukhara

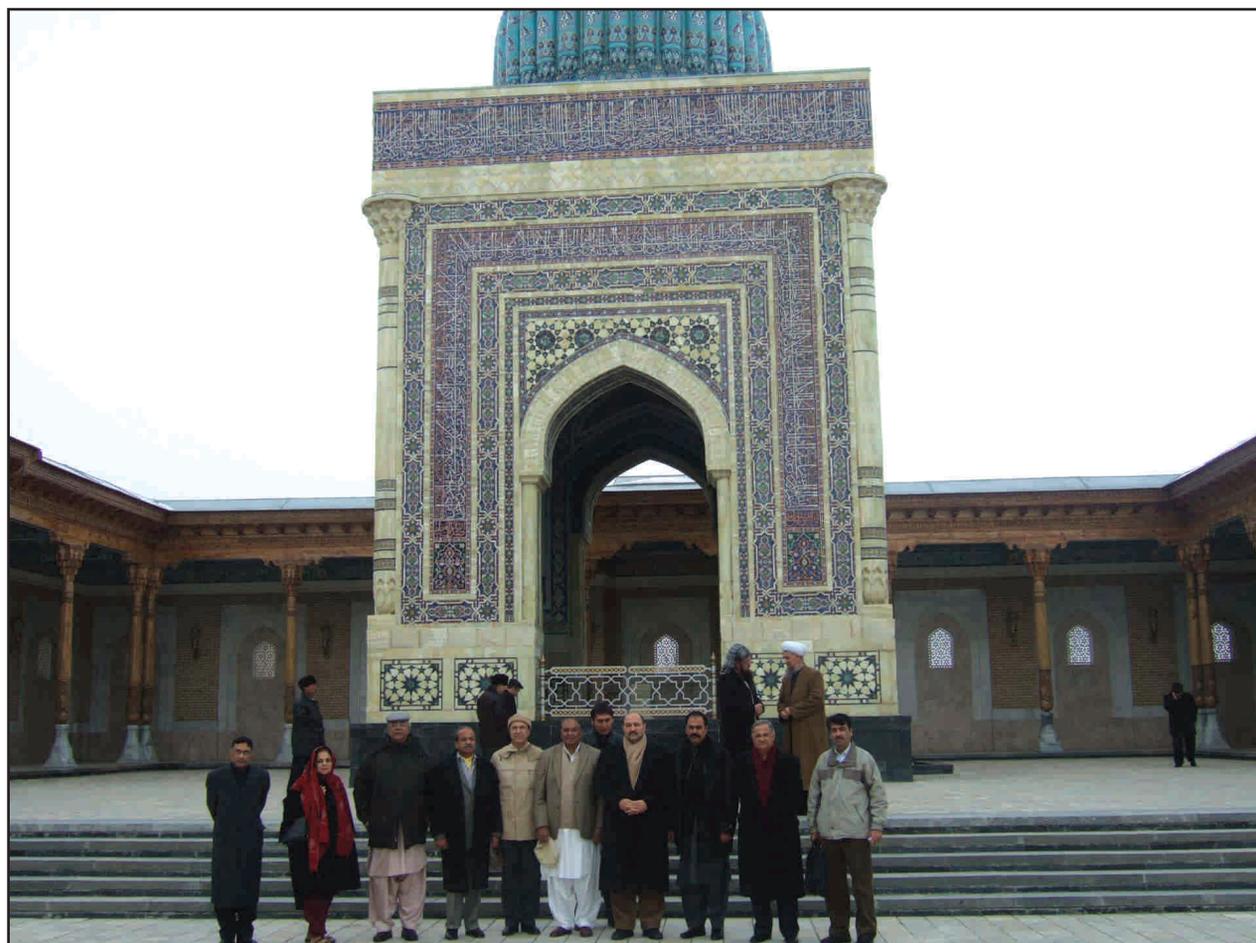
The delegation visited Samarqand and Bukhara. In both the cities the delegation was received by the respective Governor Generals of those areas. In Samarqand the delegation visited Mausoleum of Imam Bukhari (RA) where Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq led the Fateha prayers and recited the first and last Hadiths quoted by Imam Bukhari along with its *Tafseer*. It was Friday, so the delegation offered Juma prayer in the Mosque of the Mausoleum compound.

The people in the Mosque were excited to see Pakistani Muslim brethren in their midst. In Bukhara, the delegation visited the Mausoleums of Sheikh-ul-Mashaikh, Bahauddin Naqshband (RA), Sheikh Abdul Khaliq (RA) and Madrassah Mir Arab.

The delegation returned to Islamabad on 16th January, 2007.



Samarqand, January 13, 2007: Senator Mushahid Hussain, Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, Senator Talha Mahmood, Senator Wasim Sajjad and Mrs. Wasim Sajjad, at the Mazar of Imam Bokhari.



January 13: The delegation at the Mazar of Hazrat Inam Bokhari in Samarqand.



January 13, 2007: The delegation at Madrasa Mir Arab, a famous and historic Madrasa in Bukhara.



January 14, 2007: A group photo at Freedom Park, Tashkent.



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 ruling party, 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 & Parliamentary 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
- Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir.
- Joint Parliamentary Committee on Balochistan.

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Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ex-Officio Member

Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri is a member of the National Assembly from NA-140 (Kasur-III) constituency. He is currently Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Mian Khursheed Mahmud Kasuri graduated with a B.A (Hons.) degree from University of the Punjab in 1961, followed by a tripos degree from Cambridge University and qualified as Barrister-at-Law at Gray's Inn London. During his political career, Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri was elected as First Secretary General of Peoples Democratic Alliance and was appointed Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs in the interim government of Prime Minister Mir Balakh Sher Mazari.

Mr. Kasuri is an ex-officio member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

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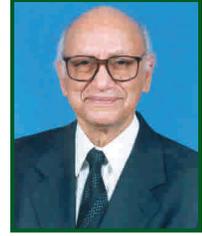
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Senator S. M. Zafar
(PML - Punjab)
Member



Senator S. M. Zafar is a prominent lawyer and former Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan. He is involved with various aworks 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 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 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 Muhammad Ali Durrani
(PML - Punjab)
Member



Senator Muhammad Ali Durrani, 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 Nisar A. Memon
(PML - Sindh)
Member



Senator Nisar A. Memon is the former 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 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

Membership of the Senate Committees

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Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources.

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.

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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 and 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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PROFILES OF THE COMMITTEE OFFICIALS





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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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.

The HSF is pleased to be associated with the production of **Report No.14: "Visit to Iran & Uzbekistan"**, under the auspices of Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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