



SENATE OF PAKISTAN

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**For the Period from
MARCH, 2012 to MARCH 2015**

**Presented by
Senator HAJI MOHAMMAD ADEEL
Chairman**

**Prepared by
DR. SYED PERVAIZ ABBAS
Additional Secretary/Secretary Committee**

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Chairman's note



As Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, I am pleased to present the report of Foreign Affairs Committee regarding its activities from March 2012 to March 2015. The committee in the meetings discussed and examined issues relating to roles, functions and responsibilities of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The sole purpose of the Foreign Affairs Committee is to serve the best interests of the country. The prestigious committee always prefers to focus on matters that are pertinent to the interest of the nation. Pakistan is situated in an extremely volatile region of the world. It is in our best interest to manage cooperative relations not only with our neighbours but also with other states on the basis of equality and self-respect. It is also made sure that core interests of the country were never compromised at any cost and should remain top priority of the institutions responsible.

Pakistan being a responsible Nuclear Power and member of the international society makes sure that the foreign policy is enshrined on the principles that were laid by the founding father of the country. The country is riding a tide of troubles therefore the need of the hour is that the foreign policy and the domestic policy should be coherent and consistent to cope with the challenges.

I am thankful to my colleagues, the senators who took keen interest in the issues and actively participated in the meetings. I owe the achievements accomplished by the committee to them, because without their diligence and cooperation it would not have been possible to run the committee effectively. I would also like to thank Advisor to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz and Foreign Secretary Mr. AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY for attending the committee meetings on preferential basis.

The committee remained determined to play its active role, by highlighting the matters of national interest and give their best input to the relevant ministry.

I would like to thank Successive Secretaries of Committee including Mr. Amjed Pervez presently Secretary Senate and Dr.Syed Pervaiz Abbas, Additional Secretary for their contributions towards the committee. I would also like to bring on record my appreciations for Mr. Amjad Ali, Director (Staff) for his tireless efforts and contributions to run the Foreign Affairs Committee efficiently and effectively.

Sd/-

Haji Mohammad Adeel
Nishan-e-Imtiaz
Chairman

Executive Summary

Foreign Affairs committee strived for a stable, effective and significant foreign policy of Pakistan. The committee always tried to highlight matters that were of immense importance to the national interest and security. The hallmark of the committee was that it deemed it necessary to help formulise a foreign policy for the country not only in accordance with the national interests but also coherent with international norms. Despite having affiliations with different parties the members of the committee always put national interests supreme and above party lines.

Committee, during last 3 years discussed almost all the important matters that were relevant to the foreign relations of the country. Committee held in camera, as well as opens meetings on various subjects.

The committee received briefings regarding the performance of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Briefings were also given to the committee regarding relations with NATO/USA and Chicago summit in June 2012.

Standing committee on Foreign Affairs highlighted the irregularities in the appointment of the Trade Officers in the Pakistani missions abroad. Committee tried to keep a check on appointments in Foreign Office and asked for the details of recruitment and appointments in foreign office and details of regularization of employees of foreign office.

Committee held several meetings to discuss war on terror, situation in Afghanistan and in the region. Pakistan-Afghan relations were also discussed and the committee suggested ways forward to stabilize the region and to improve relations with neighbouring countries. A public hearing was also organized by the Committee on 05 June 2014 on the subject of "Policy Options

for Pakistan concerning peace in Afghanistan and the region in light of the post 2014 withdrawal of NATO Forces”. Tension on Pakistan-Iran border was also given due consideration and Foreign Office was advised to resolve the issue on priority bases.

Situation on Line of Control and working boundary on the eastern border was also discussed. Committee also directed the Foreign Office to sign an agreement with Saudi Arabia for the shifting of prisoners confined in each other's jail. The issue of detained Pakistanis abroad especially in Middle East was highlighted in the committee meetings. Committee also tried to help the Pakistani inmates detained in Indian jails and kept on highlighting the issue.

Committee discussed in detail, Pakistan's relations with SAARC countries and came up with a way forward to improve the relations. A public hearing was also organized by the committee on 05 March 2013 on the subject of “Future of SAARC in context of Pakistan – India Relations”.

Committee also discussed the outcome of the Prime Minister's visit to USA, UK and other countries. The visit of the Premier to China, Germany and UK; the visit of Afghan President to Pakistan; and SAARC conference held in Nepal – all these matters were discussed comprehensively in the meeting of the committee and briefed by the Foreign Office.

The unfortunate abduction of two female Czech Republic citizens was also highlighted in the committee meetings and it was frequently emphasized on the Foreign Office and concerned agencies to help find the abductees.

The crisis in Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea by Russia was also discussed in a committee meeting and the position of Pakistan was discussed in this matter.

PROFILE OF THE **COMMITTEE**

Haji Mohammad Adeel



Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: ANP
Tenure March 2009 to March 2015
Gender: Male
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Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Address: Office No.25, Senate Committees
Building, Attar Avenue, Sector G-5/1,
Islamabad.

Committee(s): Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs (**Chairman Committee**)
Senate Finance Committee
Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and
Privatization
Standing Committee on Defence
Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges
Parliamentary Committee for appointment of Judges
Parliamentary Committee for appointment of members of Election Commission
of Pakistan

Details: Tenure = March 2009 to March 2015

Achievements:B.A

Haji Mohammad Adeel s/o Hakim Abdul Jalil (Hakeem Sahib) was actively involved in the non violence movement against the British Empire in the Sub continent and was the president of All India National Congress Committee Peshawar District and a close colleague of Bacha Khan and Mahatama Gandhi, & Member of Central working committee of Congress, in 1919 jailed at INDEMAN (Kala Pani) for three years.

Current Position:

- i. Senator
- ii. Parliamentary Leader of ANP in Senate of Pakistan
- iii. Ex- President, Awami National Party (ANP) Pakistan.
- iv. Chairman Election Commission of ANP.
- v. Member Central & Provincial Executive Committees of ANP.
- vi. Member of Parliamentary Committees for 18th, 19th & 20th Constitutional amendments.

vii. Member, National Executive Committee, Pakistan India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy.

viii. Member of National Steering Committee INSA (Imagine a New South Asia).

Previous Positions held:

i. Acting President of ANP, Pakistan

ii. Member of Provincial Assembly in 1990, 1993, and 1997.

iii. Minister Finance in NWFP Provincial Cabinet in 1993.

iv. Deputy Speaker NWFP Assembly in 1997-1999.

v. Deputy Parliamentary Leader of ANP in Provincial Assembly.

vi. Vice President o ANP, Pakistan.

vii. Additional, General Secretary ANP.

viii. Information Secretary of ANP/NDP, Pakistan.

ix. President ANP/NDP/NAP City District, Peshawar.

x. Chaired Special/Standing Committee in Provincial Assembly on Education, Procuring Rules of Business, Industry, C&W, Health Task Force.

xi. Remained Member of Public Accounts (1993-97,99) Committee, Finance Committee and Law Reform Committee.

xii. Senior positions in various organizations like:

a. Vice President, Abaseen Arts Council

b. Secretary General, Edwards College Student Council Peshawar.

c. President Fine Arts Society, Edwards College.

d. Chairman Frontier Ghee Manufacturers Group.

e. Member Managing Committee All Pakistan Ghee Manufacturers Association.

f. Executive Member of Zonal Committee, Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pakistan.

g. Executive Member, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

h. Founder Director of :

a. Khyber Eye Foundation.

b. Ittafaq Kidney Centre.

c. Children rehabilitation Centre.

d. Anti diabetics society.

xiii. Man of the year Award (1997) by American Biographical Institute USA.

xiv. Country visited (Afghanistan, Brazil, Iran, India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Greece, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Germany, France, UK, Canada, USA, Japan, Uzbekistan, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Czech Republic, China, Azerbaijan, Palestine etc).

Profiles of Members of the Committee



Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq (Leader of the House)

Position:	Senator
Party Affiliation	PML(N)
Tenure:	March 2009 to March 2015
Gender:	Male
Phone:	051-2891515,2891414
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Province:	Punjab
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Committee(s)	Standing Committee on Defense Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Standing Committee on Law and Justice Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senate Finance Committee

Qualification

M.A (Political Science) from Punjab University

L.L.B from Punjab Law College 1958

B.A from Government College, Lahore in 1956

Other Information

Born in November 1935.

* Graduated from, Government College, Lahore in 1956.

* Master Degree in Political Science from Punjab University.

* LL.B from Punjab Law College 1958.

* Practised Law from 1958 to 1981 and from 1987 to-date as Advocate Supreme Court.

* Elected President Rawalpindi Bar Association 1977-78. Elected Vice President High Court Bar 1981

* Placed on the Panel of Experts for Pakistan Law Commission

** Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Religious Affairs 1981-85.

** Served Ambassador of Pakistan to Egypt 1985-86.

- * Political Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan with the status of a Federal Minister 1986-87.
- * Represented Pakistan in the United Nations General Assembly in the 45th Session in 1990-91.
- * Elected Member of Pakistan Senate in 1991 for a term of six years.
- * Elected Chairman, Standing Committee on Law and Religious Affairs of the Senate 1991-94.
- * Appointed Member Board of Trustees, Islamic International University, Islamabad in 1992-97.
- * Elected Secretary General, Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islam (World Muslim Congress) in 1992. The oldest International Organization of Muslims, established in 1926 which is a Class-I Consultative Status Observer with the UN and its allied bodies and Observer Status with the O.I.C.
- * Elected Leader of the Opposition, Senate of Pakistan from May 1994-1996.
- * Elected Leader of the House, Senate of Pakistan in 1997-99.
- ** Appointed Federal Minister for Religious Affairs in July 1997-October 99.
- * Re-elected Secretary General, Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami in 1997-2002.
- * Elected Chairman, Pakistan Muslim League (N) 2000-todate.
- * Again elected Secretary General, Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami in December 2002 for another five years.
- * Re-elected Secretary General of Motamar 2007-2012.
- * Elected Member of the Senate 2009-2015 term.
- * Elected Leader of the (Six Parties) Independent Opposition Group 2009.

Aitzaz Ahsan (Leader of the Opposition)

Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: PPP-P
Gender: Male
Province: Punjab



Committee(s): [Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)
[Standing Committee on Law & Justice](#)
[Standing Committee on Water and Power](#)
[Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges](#)

Details: Tenure = March 2012 to March 2018

Qualification: B.A. LLB

Other Information:

Born on September 27, 1945 at Murree, District Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Barrister Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan comes from a background steeped in politics, being the third generation from his family to serve as an elected member of a legislative assembly. Married, he is the father of two daughters and a son. After his early education at Aitcheson College and the Government College in Lahore, he studied law at Cambridge and was called to the bar at Grays' Inn in 1967.

Upon his return from Cambridge, he appeared for and topped the prestigious Central Superior Services examination. He started his political career in the 1970s when he held the portfolio of Punjab information planning & development minister during Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government in 1970s.

A senior PPP leader, he has served as the minister for law, justice, interior and education in the federal government between 1988 and 1993.

Elected to the Senate of Pakistan in 1994, he was successively the leader of the house and the leader of the opposition between the years 1996 and 1999. He was jailed several times as a political prisoner without trial for active participation in the Movement for Restoration of Democracy.

He is a senior advocate in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He is also an indefatigable human rights activist and a founder vice-president of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. He has been incarcerated under arbitrary detention laws many times by military and authoritarian regimes. During one such prolonged detention, he wrote 'The Indus Saga and the Making of Pakistan' and its Urdu translation, 'Sindh Sagar Aur Qayam-e-Pakistan' which present the cultural history of Pakistan.

Elected Member of National Assembly thrice on a PPP ticket, he is one of the country's most respected politicians for his eloquent and articulate speeches on the floor of the assembly and his knowledge of the law. He also made legal history of sorts by having defended two opposing prime ministers in the court of law. Having previously fought cases in defence of PPP Chairman Benazir Bhutto in 2001, he took up a case in defence of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

He also represented Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry when the then President General Pervez Musharif filed a reference against him with the Supreme Judicial Council. This may be the most remarkable thing in his life.

In October 2007, he was elected president of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Areas of his legislative interest include constitutional remedies, corporate reform and human rights. He has been member of the National Assembly's standing committees on interior and public accounts.

A bitter critic of General Musharif, Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan was among the first few persons arrested immediately after imposition of the state of emergency by Musharif on November 3, 2007. He was released in February and started whirlwind tour of the country successfully leading the movement of lawyers for reinstatement of the deposed judges. The movement also led to the ouster of General Musharif and the restoration of democratic rule. In March 2012 he was again elected to the Senate.

By leading the Movement for restoration of Democracy against General Zia(1980-1984) and the Lawyer's Movement against General Musharif (2007-2009), barrister Aitzaz Ahsan has become a sign of resistance to anti-democratic moves. His eloquent speeches and his command over Pakistani law make him one of the most recognizable politicians of today. Aitzaz Ahsan is also an active member of Pakistan Peoples' Party.

Mushahid Hussain Sayed



Position: Senator
Party Affiliation PML
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Gender: Male
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Committee(s)

Standing Committee on Defense (**Chairman Committee**)

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

Standing Committee on Rules of Procedures and Privileges

Senate Finance Committee

Functional Committee on Human Rights

Education:

- Bachelor of Arts from Forman Christian College, Lahore.
- Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) from School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

Organizations:

- President, Punjab University International Affairs Society, 1973.
- President, Pakistan Students Association in America, 1974-75.
- Co-Chairman, Conference of the Non-Aligned Media (NAMEDIA), 1993.
- Member of Federal Cabinet, served as Minister for Information and Culture, 1997-1999.
- Founder/Chairman, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), 1998.

- Member, Commission of Eminent Persons, Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), one of 15 persons nominated by their respective governments to reform the OIC, 2004-05.
- Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 2004-2009.
- Secretary General, Pakistan Muslim League, 2005 onwards.
- Elected Member of Eminent Persons Group of Think-Tanks of the Islamic World, during meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, March 2012.
- Chairman, Pakistan-China Institute, 2009 onwards.
- Secretary General, Centrist Asia-Pacific Democrat International (CAPDI).
- Special Rapporteur, International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP).

Award and Honours:

- Awarded Congressional internship by the US Congress in Washington, Summer of 1974.
- Represented Georgetown University at the prestigious Student Conference on US Affairs (SCUSA), US Military Academy, West Point, November 1973, and the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC), April 1974.
- Youngest Editor at age 29, of any major national English daily in the region, as Editor of "The Muslim".
- Leader of Pakistan Delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Geneva, 1993.
- Declared 'Prisoner of Conscience' by Amnesty International, world's leading human rights organization as political prisoner without any charge for 440 days.
- Awarded the Congressional Medal of Achievement by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Philippines, January 2006.
- Awarded Honorary Doctorate by the Royal Academy of Cambodia in Political Science, 2010.
- Awarded The Star of Achievement for Service to Humanity by the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), 2011.
- Received highest Cambodian award, Grand Order of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for contribution to Asian causes, May 2011.

Current Status:

- Author of 3 books on Pakistan's Foreign Policy and domestic politics as well as issues of governance.
- Currently a Senator, Member of Parliament. Chairman, Senate Committee on Defence.
- Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Standing Committee on Rules of Privileges, Function Committee on Human Rights, Senate Finance Committee, Parliament Committee on National Security and Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir.

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Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana

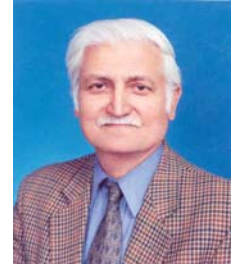


Position: Senator
Party Affiliation PML(N)
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Gender: Male
Phone: 061-4544532,042-35895255
Mobile Phone: 0300-8730050
Fax:
Province: Punjab
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ii. 90-Rehman Villas, Defence Road, Lahore.

Committee(s)

Standing Committee on Defense
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication
Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs

Farhat Ullah Babar



Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: PPP-P
Gender: Male
Home Phone: 051-2827578
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Mobile Phone: 0300-8552543
Fax: 051-2202835
Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Address: H.No.24-A St-52, F-7/4, Islamabad.

Achievements: B.A Peshawar 1963,
B.E (Civil Engg) Peshawar 1965, M.I.E 1985, Honors in Pushto Peshawar,
1963, French Language Course 1981, Islamabad, PR Management, PIM
Karachi, Pakistan Engineering Council 1983, Certificate, Pakistan
Computer Bureau Islamabad 1994, Journalism and Mass Communication,
Information Academy Islamabad.

Professional positions including,

- Managing Editor of English National daily The Frontier Post
- Speech Writer to the Prime Minister
- Press Assistant to Prime Minister
- Manager Royal Saudi Air Force Project, Transarabia, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Participation/presentation of papers in scores of national/international seminars, UN meetings and conferences on multilateral and bilateral issues including the following

- United Nations Regional Conference on Disarmament, Beijing, China
- International conference on Nuclear Non-Proliferation in South Asia, ISS
- Third Bilateral Pak-US Forum at Berkeley, USA,.
- 7th OIC summit Casablanca,
- Global Forum Singapore,
- UN General Assembly Session,

Publications: Ten volumes of press articles, columns, research monographs.

Dr. Muhammad Jehangir Bader

Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: PPP-P
Gender: Male
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ii. 140-Karim Block, Allama Iqbal Town,
Lahore.



Committee(s): [Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs](#) (Chairman)
[Standing Committee on Commerce](#)
[Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)
[Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources](#)

Details: Tenure = March 2009 to March 2015

Achievements: M.A. (Political Science), M.Com., L.L.B

Current Position:

1999 – To date

Central Secretary General Pakistan Peoples' Party, since on 22.11.1999.

2009; ----- Member Senate of Pakistan.

Government Offices:

1997 -1999 Elected Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Food and Agriculture in Senate.

1996 Federal Minister for Political Affairs and Religious Affairs in Govt. of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto Later dismissed by President Farooq Leghari.

1994-1997 Elected as Chairman Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural resources in senate for 3 years

1994-1999 Elected as Senator for Six years, in Senate of Pakistan.

1993 Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture in the care taker Government of Prime Minister Balak Sher Mazari as Prime Minister.

1988-1990

* Federal Minister for Petroleum & Natural Resources, Housing& works And Science & Technology in the PPP Government of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

* MNA Elected in General Elections from walled city of Lahore seat NA .96

* MPA Elected in General Election from walled city of Lahore PA 124 – later

on resigned.

Democratic and Political Struggle:

1999 – To date

- * Central Secretary General of Pakistan Peoples Party since on 22-11-1999.
- * President, PPP Overseas as relieved during 2003, when in jail.
- * Arrested on 21st March 2001 to prevent participation of ARD public meeting for Democracy, at Lahore; which already was announced Bailed out By Lahore High Court.
- * Addressed Public meeting of Pakistan Peoples Party at Glasgow chaired by Shaheed MBB.
- * Arrested by Gen. Mushraff military regime, on 21st August 2001, by NAB – For Victimization. Released on bail by Supreme Court of Pakistan during April, 2003. Acquitted 2008.

1998

- * Toured and organized PPP in different parts of the world as President overseas PPP.
- * Arranged big public meetings of overseas Pakistan at U.K Chaired By S.MBB
- * Participated in all activities of ARD and PPP, in Pakistan.

1997

- * President Pakistan Peoples Party, Overseas.
- * Chief Guest at two conferences at Canada, by local and Pakistan Community.
- * Organized PPP Overseas.

1995

- * Relived from President-ship PPP, Punjab.
- * In-charge Pakistan Peoples Party, Overseas desk.

1993

- * Arranged PPP long March on behalf of PDA, led by Shaheed MBB.
- * Contested and lost MNA, MPA seats in General Elections. NA 87, PA 129 – both lost.

1992

- * Convener of PDA (Pakistan Democratic Alliance), in Punjab and arranged rallies for political alliance throughout Punjab. Started organizing Long March.

1991

- * President of PPP Punjab, appointed 2nd time, during April.

1988

* Resigned from President-ship PPP, Punjab.

1987

* Arrested by PML (N) Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif Govt. in Punjab.

1986

* Went to London and succeed in developing consensus and inviting Ms. Bhutto for come back from exile.

* Arranged the biggest historic reception, rally and Public rally in Lahore, on arrival of Shaheed MBB from London, on 10th April; in his capacity as President PPP Punjab..

1985

* President PPP Punjab; On 23rd March Mr. Benazir Bhutto (in exile) nominated him (while in Multan jail) as President Pakistan Peoples Party, Punjab to be announced on 4th April.

* Released from prison and was declared, PPP, Punjab.

* Taken as “Convener” of MRD, Punjab and arranged first public meeting against Gen. Zia’s regime and for restoration of democracy, at Mochi Bagh, Lahore, fully crowded.

1984

* Released in MID year from jail.

* Arrested after Gen. Zia held Presidential so called Referendum; kept at Central jail, Multan.

1983

* Released at the beginning of New Year, after about two years.

* Arrested during August when MRD announced movement for Democracy, against Gen Zia regime. kept at Central Jail, Bahawalpur.

1982

* Authorities shifted him, from Central Jail Mian Wali to District Jail, Gujranwala.

1981

* Arrested by Gen. Zia after some non-entities hijacked PIA plane to Kabul at time when MRD (Movement for Restoration of Democracy) political alliance started movement for democracy – tortured at Shahi Qilla and kept for some months there followed by detention at Mian Wali Central Jail.

1979

* Additional General Secretary of PPP, Punjab.

* In-charge of PSF (Students Wing) and PYO (Youth Wing) of PPP, Punjab.

* Assisted Ms. Benazir Bhutto in political activities especially in re-organizing Central Secretariat in Karachi.

1978

- * Released from Kot-lakh-pat jail, after under-went one year in mid year.
- * Appointed as Member Central Executive committee (CEC) of PPP by Shaheed Chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, founder Chairman PPP, in Sep.
- * Arrested while on Political visits with Ms. Benazir Bhutto – sentenced by military court for 9 months and fined Rs.30,000 undergone full term at kot lakhpat Jail, Lahore.

1977

- * Arrested by Gen. Zia dictatorship in August, 1977; under charge to receive Shaheed Bhutto at Lahore Airport and leading a procession – sentenced by military Court for one year and lashes – undergone full punishment and lashes inflicted out side Jail Cell of Shaheed Bhutto at Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore.

1977

- * Was Candidate for MNA seat from walled city, Lahore for General Elections announced by dictator Gen. Zia and postponed few days before polling; as against PNA, political alliance.

1976

- * Senior Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party in the Walled city of Lahore.

Publications:

2008

- * Evolution of Democracy By Jehangir Bader during 2008.

2006

- * Grand Agenda During 2006.

2004

- * How to be a Leader By Jehangir Bader During 2004.

1973-74

- * Commentary on Constitution of Pakistan; Constitutional History of Pakistan; Commentary on Partnership Act, and Negotiable Act.

1972-77

- * Lecturer at University of the Punjab (H.C.C) Visiting Faculty in the subject of Commercial Law. (Company Law).
- * Having honor to deliver special lecture at different educational institutions, NGOs and International Democratic Institutions.

Extra Curricular: As Student

1972 – 1975 Regular Weekly Columnist at Daily “Mushriq” on “University

Round Up”.

1972 Member of Central Board of Film Censors.

1971 Arrested and kept at Camp jail, Lahore by Dictator Gen. Yahya to prevent participation in Punjab University Elections.

1970

* Was elected as President Student Union, University of the Punjab, Lahore; Dictator Gen. Yahya Khan sabotaged elections, arrested and rusticated him.

* Was sentenced by a Martial Law Court for one year R.I. and kept at Dist. Jail, Shahpur, (Sargodha). Was released during Dec. after General Elections in Pakistan. Arrested by Yahya Khan in order to sabotage university elections results. Rusticated from university of the Punjab – Conuited by military court for one year – completed sentence at Distt Jail Shahpur. President Students Union University of the Punjab.

1968-69

* Elected President, Students Union, Halley College of Commerce, Punjab University, Lahore.

* Arrested During student movement against Dictator Ayub Khan.

1966-67

* Prominent student leader during studies, Debater, Sportsman.

* Met and Joined Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto since before inception of PPP, and let the first badge of students who joined and supported Shaheed Bhutto in his struggle for Democracy in Pakistan.

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL AWARD.

1. Leadership Award
2. Torch Bearer Award
3. Public Service Award
4. Proclamation Award
5. Certificate of Reorganization
6. Good Will Ambassador Award

International Participations:

* Participated in several international forums, and conferences public meetings and debates periodically, and at big forums like IPU and socialist international, more than once.

* During 2008, participated in the international conferences like at Monaco, during June 2008 by Crans Montana; in July 2008, socialist international conference at Greece; and in July, Psoe Congreso Federal (Spain) at Madrid.

* during august 2008, participated as guest of honor, at world Olympics games opening celebrations, held at Beijing, as invited by republic of china.

* was delegate in the international conference on “world food crisis” held by Academie La De Paix (peace academy) at Roma during October, 2008.

* Part of two members delegation headed by chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, sent at UNO, to receive award by HR committee of the security council; a Posthumous award to Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto, on 10.12.2008 at general assembly hall, UNO building. At New York USA.

Democratic Struggle.

* Was the President of the students union Hailey college of commerce, University of the Punjab during 1968-69 when the students movement against dictator Ayub Khan ended the regime, he was arrested for the first time during the movement.

* Was elected as President of the Student Union, University of the Punjab, Lahore which were sabotaged by dictator Yahya Khan; rusticated for two years and convicted by a military court for one year.(1970)

* Arrested again 1971, after released and rejoining of University when announced his candidature for the same post.

* Was senior Vice-President, PPP at the walled city of Lahore.(1975-77)

* Was granted ticket of PPP for National Assembly in general election during 1977.

* Arrested in August 1977 on receiving Mr.Bhutto at Lahore airport, and was sentenced by a military court for one years and the lashes. Released after undergone full term.

* Arrested and convicted in Oct.,1978 for a year when toured with Ms. Bhutto in Punjab. Released after gone full term in 1979

* Arrested in early 1981 and was detained for almost two years. Was also taken to torture cell of Shahi Qila, Lahore and kept for more than three months. Released in early 1983.

* Arrested in August 1983 at annoucement of MRD movement for retoration of democracy. Released in summer 1984.

* Arrested year ending 1984 at occasion of Referandum held by Gen. Zia and the non-party elections held by the regime.Released in 1985 summer. During detention was nominated President , PPP Punjab.

* Arrested in 1987 by the Punjab government.

* Arrested by NAB, of Musharaf regime. Released on bail in April 2003 by Supreme Court of Pakistan.

POLITICAL SKILL/EXPERIENCE.

* Was a prominent Leader of the Progressive Students Community in Punjab for few years.

* Was a regular column writer of "University Round Up" in daily "Mushriq" about five years.

* Was Senior vice-President of PPP City of Lahore.(1975-77)

* Was nominated as Member of Central Executive Committee of PPP by Shaheed Bhutto.(1978)

* Was nominated as Additional General Secretary PPP, Punjab. (1979)

* Was incharge of the Students and the Youth Affairs of PPP in Punjab.(1980)

* Was made the President of Pakistan Peoples Party, Punjab for about eight

year.(During1985-95)

- * Was incharge and arranged reception for Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in April 1986, which could said to be the biggest in the political history.
- * Was the Desk Incharge and afterwards the President PPP Overseas in the year 1995 till early 2003.

STATE AND GOVERNMENT.

- * Member of the Central Board of Film Censor Board during 1972-73.
- * Was an advisor/ consultant to Minister for Electricity and Power UAE, in 1976.
- * Was elected as MPA, MNA in the general elections held in 1988.
- * Was made the Minister for Housing, Science and Technology and for Petroleum and Natural Resources in the government of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto. (1988-91).
- * Was made the Minister for Food and Agriculture in the Care-taker Govt. of Prime Minister Balak Sher Mazari during 1993.
- * Was elected in the Senate of Pakistan for six years.(1994).
- * Was elected as the Chairman of the Standing Committee in Senate of Pakistan on Petroleum and Natural Resources. (1994-97)
- * Was elected as the Chairman of the standing committee in Senate of Pakistan on Food and Agriculture. (1997-2000)
- * Was the Federal Minister for Political and Religious Affairs Under Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Government of Pakistan which was dismissed in 1996.
- * Delegate in several International conferences.
- * Elected as Senator in 2009.

Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah

Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: PML-F
Gender: Male
Province: Sindh
Address: A-204, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.



Committee(s): [Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)
[Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs](#)
[Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research \(Chairman Committee\)](#)
[Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges](#)

Details: Tenure = March 2012 to March 2018

Achievements: L.L. B
M.A (International Relations)
Senior Vice President, Pakistan Muslim League (Functional) (1980)
Member Majlis Shoora (1980 – 1982)
Minister for Industries Govt. of Sindh (1983 – 1984)
Speaker Provincial Assembly Sindh (1986 – 1988)
Minister Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Agriculture Land Utilization,
Minister Coordination, Govt. of Sindh (1990 – 1992)
Chief Minister Sindh (1992 – 1993)
Speaker Provincial Assembly Sindh (2002 – 2008)
Member Parliament (Senator: 2012 to 2018)

Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi



Position: Senator
Party Affiliation MQM
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Gender: Male
Phone: 051-9221224, 021-4901290
Mobile Phone: 0321-2691790
Fax: 051-9223975
Province: Sindh
Address: Al-Najaf, 225, Street No.8, Defence Officers Housing Society,
Phase-I, Malir Cantt, Karachi

Committee(s)

Standing Committee on Rules of Procedures and
Privileges (**Chairman Committee**)
Standing Committee on Defense
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control
Senate House Committee

Qualification: B.Sc (Hons)

Other Information:

Senator Col (retd) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi is affiliated with Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), and has been elected as a Senator for the second time, this time for the period of 2012 to 2018. He is performing his duties as the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Senate on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, and this is his third consecutive term serving as the Chairman of the said committee. Additionally, he is also contributing as a member of Senate Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, Senate House Committee, Senate Finance Committee, Senate Special Committee on Devolution Process, and Special Committee of the Senate to Examine the Election Issues.

Senator Col (retd) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi belongs to a well-known political and literary family of Pakistan. He completed his education in England from 1950 to 1962 from Topline Public School Queens College and graduated from the University of London Townton

with a BSc. Honours degree. He was commissioned in Pakistan army in 1968 and started his practical life. He served in various Command and staff appointments from 1967 to 1992 and took release from Army on own request in 1992. Even after retiring from the Army he continued to fulfill his moral duties and worked as a freelance columnist and analyst. His analytical articles on political, social, cultural and international issues appear regularly in “The Nation”, “Dawn”, “Pakistan Observer”, ”Defense Journal”, ” Frontier Post”, “Baluchistan Times”, “MAG”, “The Voice”, “Pakistan Illustrated” and others English newspapers and periodicals.

He is gifted with a distinguishing literary taste and has been active in social, political, cultural and literary circles in Karachi since retirement. He has widely traveled and has visited USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Thailand, Russia, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uzbekistan, Iran and Azerbaijan etc.

Senator Col (retd) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi has previously served as Vice Chairman of District East Committee from 1994 to 1996 as an Independent. He was elected as the Chairman Municipal Committee Karachi East in 1997. In 1998, he formally started his political journey with MQM. In 1998, he served as the town Nazim Jamshed Town Karachi for short while. He resigned to contest election to Pakistan Senate from Sindh province, and was elected as a Senator. His political endeavors are still ongoing.

Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri

Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: JUI-F
Gender: Male
Home Phone: 051-9222434, 084-4210209, 081-2822233
Office Phone: 051-9202881
Mobile Phone: 0300-5247488, 0300-5083277
Province: Balochistan
Address: i. 211-G, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
ii. Jamia Islamia Shah Waliulla, Kalat.
Balochistan.
iii. Jamia Masjid Postal Colony Quetta.



Committee(s): [Standing Committee on Housing and Works](#)
[Finance Committee](#)
[Standing Committee on Communications and Postal Services](#)
[Standing Committee on Water and Power](#)
[Standing Committee on Railways \(Chairman Committee\)](#)
[Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

Details: Tenure = March 2009 to March 2015
Leader of the Opposition

Achievements: Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, a veteran politician, is a Senator of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) from Balochistan province. He holds the important portfolio of Chairman Standing Committee on Railways. He is also a member of following Standing Committees:

- Communications and Postal Services
- Foreign Affairs
- Water and Power

Senator Ghafoor Haideri, who holds an M.A.(Islamiyat) Degree from Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia, has served at many prominent positions during his career. He has worked as President of JTI and Central Vice-President, Balochistan. He has participated in different movements like Khatam-i-Nabuwat and Qaumi Itched, and was sent to jail. After completing his studies, he has been associated with Jamiat Ulma-i-Islam. In 1983, he participated in Jail Bharo Tehreek from the MRD Platform. He has been imprisoned in district Jails of Quetta and Machh, besides having undergone one-year rigorous punishment in Sibi Jail. He remained Deputy Secretary General of JUI, Balochistan, from 1987 to 1993. He has the honour to be elected as Central Secretary General of JUI for five consecutive times i.e. from 1994 up till now. In 2001, he was sent to Quetta Jail by Musharraf regime for three months on charges

of taking out protest rallies against the US attack on Afghanistan. In 1988, Nawab Akbar Bugti became Chief Minister of Balochistan and a Supreme Council was constituted to monitor performance of the provincial government. He was the member of the Committee. He was elected as member of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan in the General Election, 1990. He also remained the parliamentary leader in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.

He remained Senior Minister in the cabinet of Mr. Taj Muhammad Jamali. In 1993, he contested for National Assembly seat and defeated Sardar Akhtar Mengal with great majority. In 1994, he addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations and presented Pakistan's point of view. In 1997, being a JUI candidate, he contested General Election, but could not succeed. In 2002, he was elected Member of National Assembly. In 2008, the party awarded him ticket for the membership of Senate of Pakistan. He was elected Senator and also remained as Chief Whip of the Upper House.

In May, 2011, JUI unanimously nominated him as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. The then Senate Chairman, Farooq H. Naek, declared the JUI-F parliamentary leader in the Senate, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, leader of the opposition in the Upper House. Haideri had the support of 19 opposition members.

Babar Khan Ghauri

Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: MQM
Gender: Male
Home Phone: 021-9231310
Office Phone: 051-9203288, 9210322-4
Mobile Phone: 0300-2000363, 0333-5104463
Email: babarghauri@hotmail.com
Province: Sindh
Address: i. E-205, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
ii. H.No. C-170, KDA Scheme 1-A, Karachi.



Committee(s): [Standing Committee on States and Frontier Regions](#)
[Standing Committee on National Harmony](#)
[Standing Committee on Education and Training](#)
[Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

Details: Tenure = March 2009 to March 2015
Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping

Achievements: B.A. Karachi University.

MPA (Sindh Assembly) 1993-1996.
MNA (Member National Assembly) 1997-1999.
Senator (Sindh) 2003

Sehar Kamran



Position: Senator
Party Affiliation: PPP-P
Gender: Female
Home Phone: 9216664
Office Phone: 9207920
Mobile Phone: 00-92-306-292-5507, 0301-2925507,
Fax: 9202461
Email: saherkamran@hotmail.com
Province: Sindh
Address: Apartment No.5, Block-A, Minister's
Enclave, F-5/2, Islamabad.

Committee(s): Library Committee
Standing Committee on Defence
Standing Committee on Human Resource Development
Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

Details: Tenure = March 2012 to March 2018

Achievements: Mrs. Sehar Kamran Muddassir (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz)

Objective : To serve and promote my beloved country Pakistan, using all my abilities, position and status with true dedication, devotion and commitment.

PROFILE

Recipient of the National Civil Award "Tamgha-e-Imtiaz" in recognition of the contributions in the field of education, social work and for promoting Pakistan in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Experienced Educationist with an extensive background in School Management, Student Guidance, Career Counseling and Administration. Specialized in maintenance of Statutory Records, Financial Controls, Procurement, Personnel and Public Relations.

Strong communication, leadership, management and problem solving skills. Dedicated professional who enjoys the challenge of indentifying and solving working problems.

A Team Leader and Confident person with diversified experience, highly capable of handling multinational staff, grooming students and youth to built their personalities as a responsible citizen and successful person.

Extensively engaged in research and study being the member of various International Think Tanks.

A respected social worker, who has commendable skills and passion for successfully carrying and accomplishing social and philanthropic projects.

General Information

- Member : International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS)
- President PPP Human Rights Wing (Overseas) Middle East
- Member of Pakistan Kashmir Committee Jeddah
- Associated with the Pakistan People's Party since 1984.
- 1987 - 1988 : President of Peoples Student Federation (PSF-Girls Wing) Karachi University.
- Accompanied Shaheed Bibi during her last Umrah on 18th June 2007.
- Also accompanied Shaheed Bibi on 18th October 2007 during her return journey from Dubai to Pakistan, and was among the victims of that bomb blast, got injury in the left limb.
- Presently working as the Principal of Pakistan International School, English Section Jeddah (PISJ-ES). PISJ-ES is a British Curriculum School, founded by Shaheed Bibi in 1995.

Contributions for the School

- Processed and acquired License for the Pakistan International School (English section) Jeddah in the Year 1999 and played a major role in uplifting of this institution. Over the years, this institution has grown extensively, and today, it occupies a prominent and unshakeable position in the fields of academics, co-curricular activities and sports. It is recognized as one of the best educational institutions in the Middle East. PISJ-ES is a British Curriculum school, Cambridge International Examination (CIE) registered & British Council attached centre, Affiliated Member of Cambridge Primary Programme (CIPP) and Provisional Member of (CIS) Council of International Schools. The School offers Undergraduate Programme through the University of London. The institution endeavours to impart quality education through latest techniques in a healthy and stimulating environment. We pay high emphasis on the overall grooming of the students, their personality building is an integral and vital part of our educational endeavours.
- Introduced IGCSE, A Level and Undergraduate Education Programmes at the School.
- Established Elected Student body (PISJ-ES Student Council) in the Year

2008.

Social and Humanitarian Work

- Actively participated in all National Events and Welfare Projects.
- Worked as "Overseas Coordinator" for Pakistani Women in Saudi Arabia.
- Represented Pakistan in various Saudi and International Social and Cultural Event held in Jeddah.
- Was appointed Coordinator Overseas Pakistani Women Network-Saudi Arabia in 2005.
- Attended Regional Conference on Violence against Women in Islamabad-Pakistan (September 2005).
- Carried Fund raising and collecting donations for victims of Earth Quake 2005.
- Purchased of tickets for 11 Pakistani women left abandoned in Saudi Arabia 2006 and arranged their safe dispatch back home.
- Contributed and carried the Fund raising campaign for the rehabilitation of the displaced people of Bajour.
- Adopted needy children and launched scholarships for students of Bakhtawar School Nodero.
- Carried fund raising campaign for Internally Displaced People of Swat and Buner in 2009.
- Member Kashmir Committee-Saudi Arabia, worked for highlighting Kashmir cause and projecting Pakistani point of view.
- Organized Pakistan corners and cultural displays to promote Pakistan in Saudi Arabia.
- Participated in Pakistan Investment Conference-2009.

Professional and Educational Accomplishments

- (Sub editor-Reporter) at PPI News Agency, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Reporter & Stringer at Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, Karachi, Pakistan.
- News Reporter at VIS News (Division Of BBC International)
- Attended a Course on "American Literature" the Novel conducted By American Center, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Attended And Participated in Technical Seminal of W.T.O.'S Commission in South Asia.
- Conducted & Coordinated Visit and study for the delegation of project "PECHAN" from Nottinghamshire U. K, headed by Sheriff of Nottinghamshire.
- Attended First Educational Forum of Arab Countries held in Dubai in 2006 and represented Pakistan International School (English Section) Jeddah).
- Participated in the IISS Annual Conference the Global Strategic Review (GSR)-2011, held in Geneva 9-11 September 2011.
- Participated in the Council of International Schools (CIS) forum-2011 on Student Guidance and Admissions in Lisbon, Portugal.

- Participated in The Gulf Forum-2011, The Gulf and the Globe held in Riyadh, 3-5 December 2011) organized by the Gulf Research Council and Diplomatic Institute KSA.
- Participated in lectures and forums organized by the King Faisal Research Center.

Articles & Publications

- Pakistan and Gulf Relations
- Public Relations in Private Commercial Organizations in Pakistan.
- Practice of Public Relations
- Public Relation in Government Organizations.

Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam**Position:** Senator**Party Affiliation:** PPP-P**Gender:** Female**Home Phone:** 051-9203536, 047-7626699**Mobile Phone:** 0300-8493114**Province:** Punjab**Address:**
i. H.No.31, St-8, F-7/3, Islamabad.
ii. Shah Jewan House, Civil Lines, Jhang
Saddar.**Committee(s):** [Library Committee \(Chairperson Committee\)](#)
[Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization](#)
[Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research](#)
[Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat and Capital Administration & Development](#)
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs**Details:** Tenure = March 2009 to March 2015

Syeda Sughra Imam is currently a Senator elected from the Province of [Punjab](#). She is also serving as an Advisor in the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Prior to being a Senator, Imam has also been a public representative at the Provincial & Local level in Pakistan. In 2008, she ran for office as a Member of Pakistan's National Assembly & lost by a narrow margin. In 2002, she was Member of the [Provincial Assembly](#) (MPA) of Punjab for one term (2002-08). She was also a Cabinet Minister during this period (2003-04) holding the portfolio of Social Welfare. In 1998, she was elected as the Chairman of her District, Jhang.

She enjoys the distinction of being amongst the very few public representatives in Pakistan who have been elected at all levels of Government: Local, Provincial and Federal.

Elected Positions

Member, Senate (2009-15)

Member, Provincial Assembly of Punjab (2002-08)

Chairman, Zila Council, Jhang (1998-99)

Early life and Education

Syeda Sughra Imam, graduated in 1994 from [Harvard University, USA](#).

After graduation, she worked at the US based foreign policy think tank, the Council on Foreign Relations headquarter in [New York](#). She has also worked with a variety of civil society organization and the UN, in addition to her public service.

Secretary Committee



Name: Dr. Syed Pervaiz Abbas
Designation: Additional Secretary
Home Phone: 9251 2201352
Office Phone: 9251 9211334
Mobile Phone: 92300 9414555
Email: pervaizabbas@gmail.com
Address: Flat No.12/21, Gulshan-e-Jinnah, Sector F-5, Islamabad
Service Group: Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS).17th CTP.

Qualifications:

- MD (Doctor of Medicine) LVOV MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - USSR
- MA (Mass Communication)- University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Common and Specialized Training Programmes, Civil Services Academy, Lahore, 1989-1991.
- 3rd Senior Management Course, National School of public Policy, Lahore – 2008.
- Course on “Law of the Sea” –Wollongong University, New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 2013.
- 100th National Management Course, National School of Public policy, Lahore – 2014.

Experience:

- Have served in various Administrative Capacities of AC, DCO & Provincial Secretary as a PAS officer.
- Have attended Multiple Courses Pertaining to Management at the National Institute of Management Sciences, Lahore.
- Represented Pakistan at the International Maritime Organization meeting on Marine Pollution held in London U.K in September, 2011.
- Conducted negotiations with Port of Singapore International Ltd & China Overseas Port Holdings Company Ltd for the “Transfer of Concession Rights” in respect of Gwadar Port operations in 2012, both in Pakistan and at Singapore.
- A signatory to the ”Transfer Agreement” in respect of “Concession Rights “from PSA (Pte) Gwadar Ltd to COPHL in respect of Gwadar Port in February, 2013.
- Attended a course on “Law of the Sea” organized by United Nation’s Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Sydney Australia in June, 2013.
- Attended United Nations Parliamentary Hearing on International Parliamentary Union at UN Head quarters USA in November, 2014.

- Attended 7th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly and 2nd Executive Council Meeting of IPU in Dec 2014.



AMJAD ALI
Director (Staff)
Foreign Affairs Committee
Senate of Pakistan

Qualifications:

M.Sc. Mass Communications
M.A. Islamic Studies

Experience:

- Mr. Amjad Ali is serving as Director (Staff), Foreign Affairs Committee, Senate of Pakistan. Earlier he was associated with the Defence & Defence Production Committee.
- He also served in Ministry of Culture & Tourism, Planning Commission of Pakistan, and National Assembly of Pakistan.

Countries visited:

China, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Turkey, Thailand, United Kingdom.

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PICTORIAL VIEW OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE



SENATOR HAJI MUHAMMAD ADEEL, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MAY 09, 2014.



SENATOR HAJI MUHAMMAD ADEEL, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS & GILGIT- BALTISTAN, EXCHANGES VIEWS WITH PAK-AFGHAN GRADUATE MEMBERS/STUDENTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS OF PESHAWAR UNIVERSITY, AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2014.



SENATOR HAJI MUHAMMAD ADEEL, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 25, 2014.



SENATOR HAJI MUHAMMAD ADEEL, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2014.



SENATOR HAJI MUHAMMAD ADEEL, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 27, 2014.



SENATOR HAJI MUHAMMAD ADEEL, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS & GILGIT- BALTISTAN, PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JANUARY 16, 2015.

Minutes of the committee meetings on Foreign Affairs

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 19TH AND 20TH JUNE 2012.

Meetings of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan were held on 19th and 20th June, 2012 in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meetings were presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting on 19th June 2012:-

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------|
| i. | Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel | Chairman |
| ii. | Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed | Member |
| iii. | Senator Jehangir Bader, LOH | Member |
| iv. | Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, LOO | Member |
| v. | Senator Sehar Kamran | Member |
| vi. | Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam | Member |

2. The meeting held on 20th June 2012 was attended by the following:-

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------|
| i. | Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel | Chairman |
| ii. | Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed | Member |
| iii. | Senator Jahangir Badar, LOH | Member |
| iv. | Senator Aitzaz Ahsan | Member |
| v. | Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam | Member |
| vi. | Senator Sehar Kamran | Member |

Detail of the participants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs is annexed at F/A

3. The meetings started with recitation from Holy Quran by Chairman Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel on 19th June and by Senator Sehar Kamran on 20th June 2012.

4. The notified agenda of the meeting was as under:-

19TH JUNE 2012

- i) Briefing on the functions and performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ii) Briefing on relations with USA / NATO and Chicago Summit
- iii) Any other item with permission of the Chair

20TH JUNE 2012

- i) Sanctioned and actual strength of officers and officials in Foreign Office including foreign missions along with province-wise break-up;
- ii) Briefing on Pakistan's foreign missions abroad including the detail of properties and cars owned by each mission separately;
- iii) Any other item with permission of the Chair

5. The Committee, however, decided through consensus that briefing on Foreign Policy issues should take precedence over administrative issues and asked the Secretary MOFA to brief the Committee in depth, not only on the relations with USA / NATO and Chicago Summit but also on current situation in Afghanistan, scenario after announced withdrawal of US / NATO Forces as well as Pakistan's relations with neighboring regional countries in South Asia, Central Asia, GCC etc.

6. Before formal briefings, the Committee offered Fatiha for the departed souls of MNA Fauzia Wahab and the Crown Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia. The Committee while praying for the success of the new Crown Prince HRH Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz and Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia prayed and hoped that the relations between the two brotherly countries, shall touch new heights in coming days.

7. The Secretary MOFA requested the Committee to declare the proceedings, following his opening statement, in camera in view of transitional and highly sensitive nature of some of the issues involved in Pak-US / NATO relations.

8. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel said that he has all along been an advocate and supporter of media access in all aspects of government deliberations and decision making specially in the Parliamentary work but due to desire of the Committee Members to give comprehensive briefing including

sensitive and under debate issues, the Committee reluctantly agreed to declare the proceedings of first day in camera.

9. The Secretary MOFA in his opening statement on Pak-US relations said that six decades old relations have remained cyclical in nature with ups and downs; terming these as a 'roller coaster ride'. Salala incident and a series of events prior to that has caused huge trust deficit. He said Pakistan took a number of steps including stoppage of NATO supplies, vacation of Shamsi Air Base after Salala incident. Subsequently, Pakistan undertook a comprehensive Parliamentary review of the relations and after thorough deliberations the Parliament adopted the consensus Recommendations of the National Security Committee.

10. The Secretary MOFA said that the four important Recommendations of the Committee for the purpose of redefining and working out relations with US / NATO were:-

- i. An unconditional apology
- ii. Complete secession of Drone strikes
- iii. Coalition Support Fund reimbursement and proper compensation
- iv. Expulsion of all foreign fighters from Pakistani soil

11. The Secretary said that in the re-engagement process, there have been high level meetings between top leadership of the two countries besides regular visits / meetings at working level to renegotiate and settle the new terms of engagement.

12. The Committee was informed that there has been marginal success so far as the focus and emphasis of two sides varied on different issues and the stand on some issues has been changing with the passage of time. He said that while Pakistan remained focused on unconditional apology and secession of Drone strikes, immediate / early reopening of Ground Lines of Communications remained priority number one of USA / NATO. On the issue of apology, while the US administration was willing to do so in January February 2012, they have changed their position later mainly due to internal politics and pressure as it was election year in USA and President Obama who had already rendered apologies to Afghanistan on some issues was being targeted for not taking tough stand in fight against terrorism. Similarly, on the issue of reimbursement of

Coalition Support Fund, there had been usual delays due to re-verification by the US side but even the agreed / accepted claim of US\$ 1.18 Billion was being withheld by the US on the pretext that it required Congressional approval which was difficult in view of stoppage of NATO supply lines by Pakistan.

13. Senator Ishaq Dar asked the Secretary MOFA to share with the Committee full and latest information on the issue of CSF reimbursement to Pakistan by USA. He said that it was in his knowledge that large CSF amount pertaining to longer period was overdue. But he was most unhappy and disturbed on the issue of alleged over billing by the Pakistani Authorities which he said was not only damaging the credibility and respect of the country but delaying the reimbursement process unnecessarily. He said that he had been advocating for developing a template for submission of CSF claims / billing by the Pakistani side for a speedy payment by USA to Pakistan.

14. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel asked the Secretary MOFA about any written agreement between Pakistan and USA on the issue of CSF reimbursement and whether it involved approval by the Congress or not, as it was not aid to Pakistan but reimbursement of the expenditure already incurred by Pakistan as a coalition partner. The Committee asked MOFA to provide a copy of the agreement in the next meeting. The Committee was of the view that CSF reimbursement between the two countries should have been worked out in such a manner that some amount should have been advanced to Pakistan to incur expenditure instead of first incurring the expenditure and getting a delayed reimbursement.

15. Senator Sehar Kamran expressed her concern over unnecessary delay in rendering / accepting apology, quoting the incident of instant apology in the case of mishandling of an Indian Actor at the airport. Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel also mentioned that he was able to get an apology in writing by the US Embassy through insistence and follow-up. The apologies by US President to Afghanistan were mentioned by the Members while pointing out discriminatory treatment to Pakistan as

well as error of judgment and mistakes on our own part especially not being alive to the importance of timing in foreign policy and strategic decision making.

16. Secretary MOFA said that initially the US side appeared to be ready for a genuine apology but later they have changed their stance and had proposed words like 'Sorry' and 'Regret'. He said that latest excuse given by the US side was pressure on US President due to upcoming elections. The Committee however did not agree to this argument. Senator Sehar Kamran said that we should do our own analysis and convey to the US side the non tangent cost to the US administration in rendering apology and the tangent as well as very high recurring cost due to stoppage of GLOC.

17. Sharing the details of the negotiations on the issue of charging appropriate amount on the use of Pakistani road infrastructure for NATO supplies, the Secretary MOFA said that previously Pakistan as a genuine coalition partner in the war against terrorism, had allowed almost free use of Pakistani roads by the huge NATO / ISAF Trailers but in the renegotiation process, Pakistan had demanded US \$ 6200 for a 20 feet Trailer and US\$ 9000 for a 40 feet Trailer. He said that while the American side considered it too high and used terms like grouching, the fact was that US / NATO were paying much more when using Northern Distribution Network (NDN). He said that the amount being paid through NDN was \$12000 and \$17000 respectively for 20 and 40 feet Trailers. However, it was later informed by the US / NATO that this was door to door cost on a long route passing through more than one countries and most of it was the cost of transportation / freight paid to the contractor. He said that the latest charge per Trailer being discussed and debated between Pakistan and US has accordingly been reduced after which the overall significance of the matter has also reduced as Pakistan would not recover very high amount if the approach of charge per Trailer is adopted.

18. The Committee Members were of the view that an alternate approach of developing and repairing damaged road network be adopted. The Secretary MOFA pointed out that there were three strips i.e. Peshawar-Torkham, Chaman-Kandhar and Hyderabad-Karachi which needed total reconstruction to be able to cope with the

volume and load of NATO supply to Afghanistan and more importantly return from Afghanistan on withdrawal. The total length of these three strips was estimated around 300km and the international standard two lane road required at least one million dollar per km. The Committee asked the Ministry to work out estimated costs of repair and maintenance of Motorway M-I and M-II besides other roads used in supply routes.

19. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam was of the view that despite the stoppage of NATO supplies, Pakistan's Foreign Policy had achieved major successes and dividends with many of the countries included in NATO on bilateral as well as regional or block level. She specifically mentioned about the excellent relations with European countries highlighting the unprecedented and extraordinary preferential trade agreement for Pakistan's exports to EU a long standing and hitherto unmet Pakistan demand. Referring to the visit of the Foreign Secretary of the UK and ongoing dialogue on strategic and security issues, she said that Pakistan's relations with the UK had never been better and statement of UK Prime Minister David Cameron that Pakistan's enemy is UK's enemy, was a testimony and clear proof. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam mentioned about the extremely warm, close and growing relations with Turkey, an important Member of NATO. She said that the visit of Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, helped further improving the relations while showing Turkey's solid commitment to the stability and prosperity of Pakistan in the face of some challenges and threats.

20. Basing on the aforementioned dimensions of Pakistan's current Foreign Policy, Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam argued that to show 'indecent haste' in opening of the supply routes on the fear of Pakistan's isolation would be misplaced. Rather, Pakistan should maintain its dignified stand and negotiate terms in the national interest and reopen supplies only when these demands are met, said the Senator.

21. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel asked the Secretary to brief the Committee about the 4th major Recommendation of Parliament which was regarding expulsion of all foreign fighters from the Pakistani soil. The Secretary informed that this issue has been repeatedly raised by the US side and it was

closely linked to the secession of Drone strike also. He however, mentioned a number of difficulties, capacity issues and other requirements to undertake such a big exercise. He mentioned that the Haqani Network being pointed out by the US side was not an easy target even if the government decided to launch an operation as the Network alleged to have undertaken operation in Afghanistan was able to break 7 tier security system in Kabul. He said that other issues were required capacity of Pakistani Law Enforcement Forces, evacuation, settlement and rehabilitation of peaceful people of the area and a fear of retaliation. He said that issue of free passage and amnesty by the country of origin were also serious issues.

22. Briefing the Committee about the participation of Pakistan led by President in the Chicago Summit, the Secretary said that although there were some views to the contrary especially on bilateral treatment / success vis-à-vis USA during the Summit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its post Summit analysis was of the opinion that participation was a right decision as it sent a positive message to all stakeholders concerned with situation in Afghanistan. He said that it was not a bilateral visit and the Chicago Summit was on the future of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pakistan through participation, proved itself to be a responsible state who is seriously concerned about the present and future of Afghanistan. He said that in NATO there were many countries and not only USA, some of which were undisputed friends of Pakistan and only due to thaw in relations with USA, Pakistan could not afford to abandon relations with other countries in NATO including UK, EU, Turkey etc. He said that announcement of aid of US \$20 million by the President Asif Ali Zardari for development of Afghanistan also sent positive message.

23. Senators Muhammad Jahangir Badar, Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam and Sehar Kamran were of the view that Pakistan should not isolate itself in the changing and emerging situation in Afghanistan and remain engaged with the friendly countries such as UK, EU and Turkey even if there were difficulties in relation with USA. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar expressed his concern and reservation about the manner in which invitation to Pakistan for participation in Chicago Summit was extended as well as the overall results of the participation. He was of the

view that unnecessary delay in convening joint sitting of the Parliament after Recommendations of the National Security Committee, while USA was ready for a comprehensive and meaningful apology at that time was Pakistan's big mistake. He further mentioned that during recent interaction with a US Congressional delegation, the US Ambassador has said that USA was ready to provide the tools and technology to fight terrorists especially Al-Qaeda elements living in border areas which meant that they were willing to share Drone technology. He urged MOFA as well as Parliamentary Bodies to further pursue this matter. He also pointed out the mistake of not including market access and preferential treatment for Pakistani exports in US markets, in the negotiations, which he said, should have been a priority area instead of aid.

24. The Secretary MOFA said that while preferential treatment has been a continuous demand of the government of Pakistan and significant success has been achieved in the case of EU, this issue has not been included consciously in currently ongoing negotiations as it could dilute other genuine and immediate demands besides being an issue on which US can give many excuses for delay such as resistance by local business community.

25. After thorough deliberations on various aspects of ongoing negotiations with the USA regarding compensation rates etc., the Committee Members were of the view that the first and foremost condition of unconditional apology was a pre-requisite for restoration of full fledged relations. The Secretary MOFA was also of the same opinion who said that 'apology was the key to unlock GLOC'.

26. On a question by the Chairman of the Committee and Senator Sehar Kamran that what would be the response of Pakistan in case a request from one of the friendly countries, who wanted early withdrawal, is received for providing routes for withdrawal. Secretary MOFA said that this question was also on his mind and he wanted some guidance in the matter. The Committee Members after varying responses to the question, finally agreed to a unanimous advice. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed forcefully pleaded the case for apology as the first principle in case of any reopening of routes. While some Senators wanted to deal the matter on case to case

basis, it was finally decided that since apology was a pre-requisite Pakistan should not make any preemptive attempt and wait for any specific request while keep insisting on apology. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam agreed that the present stand and 'policy of apology first' should be fully supported by the Committee and we should not weaken our own stand by preemptive moves.

27. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam also wanted to know the outcome of latest meeting of Foreign Minister in Kabul and any agreement in this regard, to which Secretary excused not being in a position to answer. He also expressed inability to point out who was finally negotiating and exchanging various drafts but assured the Committee Members that each and every draft was prepared with full consultation and participation of all stakeholders before exchanging with the US side.

28. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed strongly advocated to stick to our position in negotiation as time was on Pakistan's side being a force and reality that will remain while it was American issue and they were struggling against the time. He also pointed out the fact that more than 7000 Trailers per day will ply from 1st January 2013 in case of withdrawal by US/NATO out of which most will be through Pakistan as NDN had limited capacity in the Solung Tunnel where even currently Trailers were stuck. The Chairman Committee however wanted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to remain vigilant and keep all aspects in mind which included the option and previous practice of US to leave Arms and other things in Afghanistan while leaving in hurry.

20th JUNE 2012

29. The briefing on the current situation in Afghanistan and post withdrawal of US / NATO, overlapped in the two sittings of the Committee on June 19th and 20th as the Secretary MOFA touched on some aspects of the Pak-Afghan relations on first day but on Members' desire briefing on the subject continued on June 20th.

30. He said that the MOFA view on current situation in Afghanistan as well as future was close to the other countries of the regions expressed in recent Shanghai

Cooperation Organization meeting compared to the all well and exaggeratedly optimistic view in the Chicago Summit. He said that while in Chicago, optimism prevailed among the western countries including their think tanks, in Shanghai Conference, where regional countries participated, serious apprehensions about the current situation and post withdrawal position were expressed; which included:-

- i. Serious capacity issues of the Afghan National Army which was unable to cope with the challenge even with the available support and cover of US / NATO forces
- ii. Highly divided Afghan society where no serious effort for national reconciliation has been made during the past decade or so and it remains sharply divided in Pushtun – Non-Pushtun. This division could also affect the performance of the Afghan National Army.
- iii. No grooming of alternate leadership after President Karazai
- iv. Poppy / drug problem and nexis between drug peddlers and war lords
- v. Regional / external forces influence

31. Commenting on the state of relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Secretary MOFA said that as with the US, our relations with Afghanistan have seen ups and downs but tremendous progress has been made during the past two years. He said that at the government level relations were extremely warm as continuous engagement at different tiers was continuously going on which included meetings at the Prime Minister, Army Chief, Foreign Minister level as well as at the level of Foreign Affairs Secretaries and Intelligence Agency Chiefs. He said that although the trust deficit between the two countries and accusations have reduced, there were still occasional problems but on the whole the relations were on the right track.

32. Briefing the Committee about the talks or negotiations started by the US with the Taliban, the Secretary said that there has not been much success as initially the US tried to bypass both Pakistan and Afghanistan and as a result the Qatar process was stalled for some time. Even after change of policy by the US and involving Afghanistan and Pakistan, the talks were heading no where as some of the basic demands of Taliban including delisting of some of their members from terrorists list and

release of some prisoners from Guantanamo Bay were not met and the Taliban were seeing negotiation more as a tactical move of US void of any sincerity.

33. The Members of the Committee were of the view that the policy guidelines given by the Parliamentary Committee i.e. dialogue, development and deterrence had finally been adopted by the US but not only it was delayed, it still remained fight and talk instead of being done in the desired order of priority.

34. On a question by the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel, the Secretary MOFA said that there was no chance of immediate take over by the Taliban in case of withdrawal of US / NATO, but the fact remains that being a reality and force, Taliban will have a role in Afghanistan. He said that currently no one had control over Taliban as they had been acting independently and ignoring highest level requests and appeals from Pakistan on various issues. He said that even Saudi Arabia did not have the degree of influence it had in the past and that's why it excused USA to play a role in this regard.

35. On the prospects of Pak-Afghan relations, the Secretary was of the view that Pakistan has been able to remove irritants not only with the government of Afghanistan but with the Northern Alliance. He said that due to economic reasons and compulsions, Pak-Afghan relations were bound to improve because not only Afghanistan was dependent on our port, most of its population demanded and preferred Pakistani products such as cement and medicine. He said that our bilateral trade has reached dollar 2 billion and it was likely to grow as interaction and exchanges of businessmen were increasing. He said that there were existing and potential challenges not only due to lack of stabilizing factors in Afghanistan but a fear of regional tug of war for area of influence in Afghanistan mentioning that for Pakistan, the involvement of India was of great concern. He said that our apprehension about greater Indian involvement through opening of liaison and other offices were genuine. A recent press statement issued by Taliban appreciating the decision of the Indian government not to assume responsibilities in Afghanistan was discussed by Committee and it was found

that it had double meaning and was not a simple message of better relations between Taliban and India.

36. Coming to the most important regional Foreign Policy matter of Pak-India relations, the Secretary MOFA said that history and record of bilateral relations has not been good. He said that relations had remained strained most of the time with some periods of less tension but the relations were and still are 'accident prone'. He said that for the past about two years, the relations were improving. He said that since the resumption of dialogue one and a half year back after India finally decided to move forward and beyond the terrorism focused issues and approach, many rounds of talks have been held. These included talks on Sir Kreek, Siachen and other six issues. The core issue of Kashmir and other important issues were likely to be discussed in the forthcoming Foreign Secretary level meeting to be held in the first week of July. He said that more significant progress was achieved in the trade relations where Pakistan was moving to grant most favored nation status to India.

37. Intervening at this point, Senator Aitzaz Ahsan said that it was high time that Foreign Ministries and think tanks of the two countries started looking at the broader and out of box situation. Instead of purely bilateral or adversarial approach, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other policy making bodies should adopt a south and central Asian block relations approach. This, he said, was possible as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and India were conduits of energy and trade. He said that the matrix of relationship and connectivity should integrate India into our thinking and planning process. Senator Muhammad Janagir Badar seconded the opinion of Senator Aitzaz Ahsan, adding that in any Foreign Policy planning, business and economics should be integral part. He mentioned about the 25 years Foreign Policy Strategy prepared by India wherein business and economics has been mentioned as an integral part of Foreign Policy formulations spreading over a long period of time. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also pointed out energy grid and transport grid aspects of Foreign Policy while advocating south and central Asia regional approach instead of merely bilateral approach. He said that in the South Asia, Pakistan had great constituencies and

goodwill in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Burma, Maldives and Bangladesh which should be built upon for a better position in SAARC vis-à-vis India.

38. The Secretary MOFA agreed to the observations of the Committee Members regarding need and potential for regional approach in energy and trade issues. He however, had his reservations about the prospects and potential of SAARC as a forum which had produced so many institutions and agreements on paper but hardly anything on the ground. He said that in the Foreign Policy thinking, goodwill in Sri Lanka and Nepal was given due consideration. The situation in case of Bangladesh was however not as clear as in the other two countries.

39. Deliberating further on the merits of regional and block approach in not only diplomatic relations but energy and trade relations, the Committee Members urged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pay special attention to develop and further strengthen ties and connectivity in south and central Asia region. The Committee unanimously observed that the contours of greater South Asia including Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia were driven by energy and economy. The MOFA should therefore focus on tapping the potential as Pakistan was conduit to both energy and trade routes and was to benefit not only in meeting own deficit but getting more toll and taxes.

40. Senator Sehar Kamran underlined the need for more focus on our relations with GCC and OIC which she felt were getting colder including the support of these two important bodies in our stand on Kashmir.

41. The Chairman and Members of the Committee expressed their resolve to play an effective role to promote peace and stability in the region and further build upon the goodwill emerging among the business communities and general public. They were of the view that if the peace initiatives started by the elected leadership had continued, the fate and destiny of the people of the region would have been different.

42. The Secretary MOFA while agreeing with the observations and sentiments of the Parliamentary Body said that in some areas India needed to reciprocate and show flexibility for a conducive environment and conclusive agreements leading to

permanent peace and stability. These included flexibility and reciprocity on issue of Siachen but more importantly on water issue where India was not listening to the international arbitrators and was planning more dams contrary to the Indus Water Treaty which clearly spelt out rights and obligations of the two countries.

43. Senator Sehar Kamran especially mentioned about poor or no response by the Indian side on Siachen issue despite some overtures by the various Pakistan elements. Other Committee Members also found the hard line and no flexibility approach by a very strong Indian establishment which was not responding to the need of the hour. They however expressed the hope that with increased trade and economic cooperation, benefiting the people and businesses of the two countries, strong pro-peace constituencies will emerge.

44. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed asked question about the current state of relationship with APHC leadership and advised that we should not repeat the mistakes of Afghanistan to pin point 'our man'. The Secretary informed of good relations with all APHC members but said that the internal division and differences were bound to have impact. He said that an invitation has been extended to all APHC members to visit Pakistan and earlier Kashmiri leaders having divergent point of view such as Umar Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have been invited / visited.

45. Senator Sehar Kamran pointed out that lately our efforts to highlight Kashmir issue in the world especially OIC and GCC left much to be desired and half hearted attempts were being made as merely a formality instead of serious effort. She also mentioned about lack of any strategic planning to build on the pro-Pakistani feeling and element in the Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia where previously many Pakistani Journalists and others were working in top media organizations but proper replacement was not made. On the other hand India was trying to induct as many as possible people in all organizations including media to cultivate their interest and influence.

46. The Secretary MOFA said that there were some serious capacity issues in view of the changing role and increasing demands from the Ministry within country as well as in Missions abroad. He however was of the view that Pakistan still remains important for the Muslim countries and Pakistan's concerns were included in all OIC Resolutions.

47. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed asked about the reasons for not getting full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Secretary informed that it was only a matter of time as a criteria has been evolved for granting membership and both the major players i.e. China and Russia were in favor of Pakistan's membership.

48. The Committee expressed satisfaction over main elements of Pakistan's Foreign policy especially the recent further improvement of relations with UK, EU, Turkey etc. but more so looking at alternatives and focusing on regional and natural allies. Growing relations with China were a good sign besides warming of relations with Russia. The Committee was informed that a number of positive developments were taking place so far as relations with China were concerned which included better road infrastructure from Sust border. The Committee was also informed about progress on Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline project besides progress on TAPI Gas Pipeline Project.

49. The Committee was informed about the opportunities being opened up through effective participation in Shanghai Cooperation Organization and unprecedented level of diplomatic and highest level activity with China. The industrial and trade zones being established by China in which Pakistan was offered special place were also mentioned. Likewise, road links such as Casa 1000 to pass through Wakhan with 500 million dollar Russian assistance were also discussed. The Committee was informed that Pakistan was hosting a Conference of Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan in September this year which would open up new avenues of economic cooperation. The Committee was informed that a concentrated effort was being made to remove few irritants in bilateral relations with China, Iran and other friendly countries.

Similarly, Pakistan's successful drug / Poppy control policy was likely to pay some dividend.

50. While appreciating the recent initiatives and near future plans as well as likely benefits of Pakistan's Foreign Policy, the Committee stressed upon the Ministry to take steps for making the Pakistani Missions abroad pro-active in promoting soft image of the country and resolve issues of the Pakistani community living abroad.

51. Since the two day deliberations of the Committee remained focused on Policy issues, it was decided that administrative issues contained in the original agenda will be taken up in the next meeting. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks for the Chair and appreciation for the Foreign Secretary for a detailed and comprehensive briefing.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT-BALTISTAN HELD ON 3rd JULY 2012.

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan was held on 3rd July, 2012 in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting:-

i.	Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel	Chairman
ii.	Senator Farhatullah Babar	Member
iii.	Senator Aitzaz Ahsan	Member
iv.	Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam	Member
v.	Senator Sehar Kamran	Member
vi.	Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal	Member
vii.	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
viii.	Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo	Ex-Officio Member
	Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan	

List of participants from Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan is attached

2. The meeting started with recitation from Holy Quran by Mr. Amjed Pervez, Special Secretary Senate / Secretary Committee.
3. The Agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. Briefing on the functions and performance of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan
 - ii. Constitutional Status of Gilgit-Baltistan
 - iii. Any other item with permission of the Chair
4. Welcoming the participants of the meeting, the Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel specially appreciated the participation of Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo, the Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, despite certain preoccupations. The Chairman welcomed the media persons and said that the meetings of the Committee will be opened for media for transparency and dissemination of information to the public at large.

5. Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo, the Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan said that the composition of the Committee, including senior most and heavy weight Parliamentarians was an added consideration for his participation in the Committee meeting as he attaches great importance to attending to Parliamentary Business.

6. In a brief overview of the functions and performance of the Ministry, the Minister said that the interim constitution of 1974 of AJ&K, given under the leadership of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after the landmark 1973 Constitution of Pakistan, laid down well defined roles and boundaries of the government of AJ&K and the AJ&K Council which has the Prime Minister as its Chairman and the Minister for Kashmir Affairs as its Minister Incharge. He said that although the Constitution allowed the Pakistan Government through AJ&K Council, to administer a number of subjects but as a conscious policy of promoting self governance and devolution of power, even those subjects and powers were being exercised by the AJ&K government.

7. He said that the steps taken by the incumbent government in Gilgit-Baltistan were praiseworthy as a clear cut identity and greater autonomy has been given to the areas as per demand and wishes of the people. He said that the Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment & Self Governance) Order, 2009 was similar to the interim Constitution AJ&K. He elaborated that previously there was highest level of concentration of power at the federal government level but after the empowerment order most of the powers were transferred to the government of Gilgit-Baltistan which was now close to a Province with all the institutions and public offices.

8. The Minister further said that the role of Ministry was more of coordination and facilitation. However, the Ministry and the present government can take credit of the most transparent and fair elections in the AJ&K with a credible Election Commission and independent Judiciary. He said that these Elections could be seen as role model for Pakistan. Sharing his vision for the development of AJ&K, the Minister said that he has asked the Chief Secretary to have comparative data on the infrastructure, health, education and other vital sectors vis-à-vis the occupied Kashmir and ensure that better infrastructure and facilities were made available to the people of AJ&K.

9. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel asked the Ministry to provide copies of the interim Constitution of AJ&K and Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment & Self Governance) Order, 2009 to the Members of the Committee. He wanted to know about the opening up of trade and travel between AJ&K and Indian held Kashmir. The Minister informed that the volume of bilateral trade was touching 14-15 Billion Pak Rupees. He said that a Bus Service with special arrangement / documents of travel was plying successfully but trade and travel facilities needed to be enhanced.

10. The Secretary Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan gave a detailed presentation about the functions and performance of the Ministry. However, in the outset he said that more specified agenda was required for specific details / information. He also clarified that the presence of representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Law & Justice was also required for a debate on diplomatic and legal issues surrounding the subjects and territories of AJ&K and Gilgit-Baltistan.

11. The Secretary informed the Committee that the vision of the Ministry was “To assist and help the Government of AJ&K and Gilgit-Baltistan in developing institutions to ensure self governance, sustainable economic development and a political system which should be able to respond to the needs of the people”. He said that the functions of the Ministry under the Rules of Business 1973 were; coordination with the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and Gilgit-Baltistan Council; Coordination with Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Azad Jammu & Kashmir Council; Matters relating to the settlement of Kashmir dispute, other than those falling within the purview of the Foreign Affairs Division. Elaborating the last function, the Secretary said that since bilateral, regional and international diplomatic aspects of the settlement of Kashmir dispute was the domain of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issues such as management of the properties of Maharaja and settlement of claims etc. were being looked after by the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan. The other functions of the Ministry included; Administration of Jammu and Kashmir State Property in Pakistan (Ordinance 1961); Processing of development schemes reflected in the PSDP of Ministry of KA&GB at the level of CDWP and ECNEC; Co-ordination between the Federal Government Organizations and the Government of GB and GB Council.

12. Giving historical background, the Secretary said that Ministry of Kashmir Affairs was established in 1949 initially to deal with matters relating to Kashmir including administrative control of Northern Areas. In 1996, Ministry of KA&NA and SAFRON were merged; Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Area and SAFRON bifurcated in 2004 into: Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (KANA) Division, SAFRON Division. KANA was re-named as Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (KA&GB) on 9th September 2009.

13. Dividing the achievements of the Ministry in Administrative and Political, Developmental and Legal the Secretary gave separate account for Gilgit-Baltistan and AJ&K. Regarding Gilgit-Baltistan, he said that promulgation of Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment and Self Governance) Order 2009 has changed identity of Northern Areas as Gilgit-Baltistan and has created a complete province like setup. Wildly participated free and fair general election for new Legislative Assembly held in November 2009 and existence of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly with powers to legislate upon 61 subjects and also approve budget were the other significant achievements and milestone. The Secretary also mentions the taking of Oath on 23 March 2010 by the first female Governor. He also listed; Independent Judiciary, Chief Court and Supreme Appellate Court with original jurisdiction, Gilgit-Baltistan Council comprising 12 Members, including Prime Minister of Pakistan as Chairman, to legislate upon 53 subjects, GB's own Public Service Commission, AGPR, Chief Election Commissioner, Advocate General, GB's own Consolidated Fund, Public Accounts Committee and different Standing Committees, Creation of separate Division of Baltistan, Prime Minister's big city package for Gilgit and Skardu, Creation of New Districts and Tehsils in Gilgit-Baltistan as major steps of the government towards empowerment and development of Gilgit-Baltistan.

14. Mentioning the achievements regarding Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Secretary listed widely participated fair and free general elections in June, 2011, Establishment of "Service Tribunal" for AJ&K Council employees, Establishment of

Directorate of Revenue Audit in Audit Department AJ&K and Inspection & Audit Directorate in AJ&K Council, Introduction of Scholarship scheme for J&K State subject students, provision of Grant-in-aid to AJ&K Police Department, AJ&K RSP & Mirpur University of Science & Technology, Increased income tax collection from Rs. 3500 Million to Rs. 6000 Million, Increased provincial taxes collection from Rs. 1500 Million to Rs. 3000 Million, Government of AJ&K's resources enhanced from Rs. 3000 Million to over Rs. 5000 Million.

15. Briefing the Committee about the management of the property of Jammu & Kashmir State, the Secretary said after Independence in 1947, the properties belonging to the State of Jammu and Kashmir (or Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir and Maharaja of Poonch), located in Pakistan i.e. outside the territorial jurisdiction of Jammu and Kashmir were taken over by the AJ&K Government, Government of Pakistan took over the management of the properties in June 1955, The Property is presently managed by KA&GB under (Administration of Property) Ordinance, III of 1961 through an Administrator, the Properties are located in the Districts of Lahore, Sialkot, Jehlum, Sheikhpura and Rawalpindi, and are in the form of residential, commercial properties and agricultural land, the properties can be categorized into 25 segments/ sites, The estimated value of these properties is around Rs. 7.38 Billion as of September 2005, as per valuation report prepared by NESPAK, The sale of properties is banned since 1986 by the order of Prime Minister of Pakistan.

16. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel asked that prior to the ban on purchase of property, were some of the properties sold and currently is a bulk of property under the control of any specific agency / organization. The Secretary in reply to the questions, said that prior to the ban sale of property had taken place but he clarified that no agency or organization was given any major portion of the properties.

17. Coming to the developmental work in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Secretary said that major development projects were in the sectors of Energy, Education, Health, Road Construction, Youth Affairs and Tourism. He gave a detail of the allocations for under development budget including block allocation and PSDP projects. The Committee was

informed that the grand total for the year 2011-12 was 6493.5 Million Rupees. He also brief the Committee about the major PSDP projects which included Health, Environment, Water Supply and Special Education.

18. The Secretary highlighted a major difficulty faced by the Ministry and the two territories due to the existing scheme of release of funds in 4 tranches for the PSDP projects as the hilly areas and mountain regions required front loaded releases inconformity with the work season. The Chairman and Members of Committee from Balochistan pointed out that similar difficulties were experienced in some of the hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa and Balochistan. They agreed with the proposal of different fund release mechanism for such areas.

19. The Secretary informed the Committee that the most important of all the sectors and projects were those related with Power Generation and Water Storage. He said that Bhasha Diameer was well known project of huge potential and importance but an equally important potential area was Bojhi. He mentioned about the importance of progress on Naltar Power Projects.

20. The Chairman of the Committee asked the Secretary to brief the Committee about the role of the Ministry in Mangla Dam Project in AJ&K and Diameer Bhasha Water Reservoir and Power Project in Gilgit-Baltistan with overlapping area and jurisdiction with the government of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa. The Secretary informed that so far water reservoir area / management was concerned, the Ministry had role in both Mangla raising and Diameer Bhasha project.

21. The Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan informed the Committee that in view of the national importance of the Diameer Bhasha project, the government and the Ministry were avoiding any controversies which can cause difficulties. He said that no issue was being looked as dispute between any governments or areas and the Minister had himself taken the Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa government on board. The boundary commission or any such thing was therefore a non issue.

22. The Minister said that by acting quickly and in a totally transparent fair and just manner the Ministry has supervised the payment of compensation to the affectees. He said that there were no controversies in this regard and the minor issues which were also mainly about the title of ownership of land between Mazara and Land Lord were local issues which the local administration was resolving. He said that the issue raised in this regard by elected representatives were being regularly monitored and reported to Assembly.

23. Senator Mustafa Kamal wanted to have some idea about the number of affectees. The Acting Secretary Northern Areas informed that approximately 40 to 50 thousand people were affected on the Chillas side but he did not have information about the affectees on Bhasha side.

24. Towards the end of his presentation, the Secretary touched upon the issue of constitutional status of the areas by showing a pre-partition map of Jammu and Kashmir which had a total area of 218949 sq km. He said that after partition and with the disputed boundaries / division, India had 42% of the total area where AJ&K had 6%, Gilgit-Baltistan 35% and Siachen 17%. He said that the presence and input of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was essentially required in any further deliberations on the constitutional or diplomatic status.

25. Senator Sehar Kamran underlined the importance of discussing the strategic aspects of the areas and pointed out that in many international curriculum books, the maps were contrary to the UN Resolutions and Pakistan position.

26. Senator Farhatullah Babar floated a proposal for the further empowerment and self governance of both Gilgit-Baltistan and AJ&K. He said that no doubt the recent steps taken by the government of Pakistan under the leadership and vision of President Asif Ali Zardari ensured much greater autonomy to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan but more steps were needed to give clear cut identity as a province or part of the Pakistan to both these areas, for which legal and diplomatic opinion was required. He strongly pleaded a case for representation of GB and AJ&K in important federation policy and

decision making organizations such as Council of Common Interest, National Finance Commission, IRSA as well as the Parliament of Pakistan.

27. Senator Aitzaz Ahsan was of the view that by merging the areas in Pakistan, we will be weakening the stand and position of Pakistan by converting the de jure position into defecto. Some other Committee Members as well as the Minister seconded him. At this point absence of a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was strongly felt. The Chairman directed the Secretary Committee to write in the strongest possible words to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the absence of their representative despite specific Notice to DG (South Asia), who absented himself without intimation / permission.

28. It was also realized that for representation in the Pakistan Parliament to these areas, amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan would be required. The Chairman of the Committee and the Minister shared the opinion that the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir were very well represented in the Legislative Bodies as they had the right to vote and get elected for elected Bodies in Pakistan as well as in AJ&K.

29. The Committee had some discussion about the nationality status, UN Resolutions, conflicting claims of AJ&K Supreme Court and the position of government of GB on being part of AJ&K but decided that for a meaningful discussion, while remaining within the boundaries and limits set in the regional and international stand of Pakistan on the contentious issues, detailed deliberations will be held in the presence of representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Law and Justice in future meetings.

30. The Minister for Kashmir Affairs clarified that during his visit to all parts of AJ&K and close interaction with people and their representatives there were no demands for change / amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan while there were voices and demands for changing the interim constitution of AJ&K for greater self governance.

31. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam being a Member of the Committee in past informed that the position of AJ&K and GB vis-à-vis other States was different so far as

accession or merger was concerned, because Pakistan's claims in these areas were beyond borders and disputed with India bilaterally and at the United Nations.

32. Senator Mustafa Kamal, referring to the stated position of the Minister and Secretary to have a comparison of AJ&K with the Indian held Kashmir for infrastructure development and other facilities, expressed his differing opinion and said that instead of comparison based developmental efforts we should try to do the maximum for the welfare and development of the people. Raising a query about the temporary or permanent nature of the vision of the Ministry 'to assist and help the government of AJ&K and GB' the Senator opined that this should be only temporary and ultimate goal should be of total self governance without any help or support by the Ministry. He also underlined the importance of establishing local government system in the areas, which he said, was the ultimate goal or starting point of any self governance. He said that local government system was even more important for these territories where Legislative Assemblies constituencies spread over vast and difficult terrain requiring long journeys. It was decided, on the demand of Senator Mustafa Kamal, that details of constituencies areas, population and travel routes / journeys will be provided by the Ministry.

33. The Committee was informed that Agha Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) had all the elements and characteristics of local self government and infact the community was much more involved and mobilized in this program. The model had been adopted in other parts of the country where it was much more successful. But this program had some limitations due to a particular community focus / specific.

34. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said that Gilgit-Baltistan, AJ&K and certain other areas and territories such as FATA were difficult and sensitive and that's why Pakistan has been moving slowly with caution but the steps and decisions on some other States and Territories especially Kalat and Bahawalpur had left much to be desired. However, on the issue of merger / enhanced representation of AJ&K and GB, he supported the view point of Senator Aitzaz Ahsan.

35. Senator Aitzaz Ahsan, reiterating his apprehension of damaging Pakistan's cause and stated position by merger of these areas into Pakistan asked three questions regarding local government in these areas, the sectarian clashes and status of Ata Abad Lake. The Committee was informed that local government system had not been adopted by the government of AJ&K even in the times of Gen. Pervez Musharaf and Pakistan had only limited influence in such matters as these were in their own domain. On the issue of sectarian violence, it was informed that although the divide was very sharp, some strong administrative steps taken in the aftermath of recent occurrence of violence complimented by some political initiatives including dialogue and a written agreement has helped to improve the situation.

36. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel wanted to know that had any of the culprits of the bus sectarian targeted killing arrested. It was informed that no one had been arrested so far as it appeared that people from some other area who had professional guidance and support from some local or foreign elements undertook the operation in a deserted area and fled away immediately.

37. On the issue of Ata Abad Lake, the Committee was informed that the apprehensions created by media reports of any major threat to the population or Terbala Dam were unfounded. The Committee was informed that the level of the Lake was being brought down through spill ways and a major project proposal with German funding to drain the water through a tunnel was being worked out at the Planning Commission in which local administration was not much involved. Senator Mustafa Kamal was of the view that the local administration should be in loop on such matters.

38. The Committee was informed that the federal government took timely action to move the people in safe areas immediately after phenomenon of new Lake occurred but later the people were rehabilitated as there was no threat. It was also informed that despite submerging of portion of Karakoram highway, travel was going on through use of boats.

39. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel said that although travel was possible through bords but due to heavy cost and logistical issues involved, trade between Pakistan and China using this route had a serious set back. He urged the Ministry to look into the matter and also take other steps to remove the apprehensions of Chinese side for trade enhancement. The Minister said that he was planning to lead a delegation to China for this purpose and he would take along some Members of the Committee. The Committee Members also suggested to explore the possibility of opening up trade between Skardu and Laddakh on the pattern of border trade in AJ&K. However it was decided that further discussion in the matter will be undertaken in an other meeting in which opinion and advice of Ministry of Foreign Affairs was available, through their participation.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 18th JULY 2012.

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held on 18th July, 2012 in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting:-

i.	Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel	Chairman
ii.	Senator Jehangir Bader, LOH	Member
iii.	Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, LOO	Member
iv.	Senator Farhatullah Babar	Member
v.	Senator Babar Khan Ghauri	Member
vi.	Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal	Member
vii.	Senator Sehar Kamran	Member
viii.	Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam	Member
ix.	Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar Minister for Foreign Affairs	Ex-officio Member

Detail of the participants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs is attached.

2. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Fateha Khwani for the father-in-law of the Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel.

3. Following was the agenda before the Committee:-

- i) Briefing on re-opening of NATO supply routes.
- ii) Briefing on relations with United Kingdom.
- iii) Briefing on Pak-UK National Security Dialogue.
- iv) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. The Chairman of the Committee explained to the Members the reasons for changing the time of the Committee meeting. He said that the final change from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. was made on the request of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who alongwith the Secretary were called for a meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

5. The Special Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs started the briefing on Agenda Item (i) regarding re-opening of NATO supply routes. Briefly mentioning the history and background of blocking the NATO supply routes, the Special Secretary said that after the unfortunate incident of Salala, the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) took the decision to block the Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC) to Afghanistan through Pakistani territory. This decision was taken because of Pakistan's principle stance on the issue of sovereignty. He said that on 12th April 2012, the Parliament provided 'guidelines for revised terms of engagement with USA/NATO/ISAF and general foreign policy'. He said that the government has continued to be guided by the recommendations given by the Parliament. The Special Secretary informed that after receiving "Sorry" from the US Secretary of State, the DCC decided on 3rd July 2012 to re-open NATO supply routes.

6. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel pointed out that in the written brief provided by the Ministry, the words 'receiving expression of Sorry' have been used. He wanted to know the exact position / wording as there has been a lot of controversy and different versions on the actual wording. He also wanted to know the composition of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet to which the Special Secretary informed that it was a Committee of the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister and includes Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance and Interior as permanent members with the Services Chiefs and the DG(ISI) through invitation.

7. Senator Babar Khan Ghauri expressing his opinion on the re-opening of the NATO supply routes said that under the circumstances and given regional and international situation, the decision of re-opening the NATO supply routes was right as Pakistan's relations with not only US but 40 other NATO member countries were deteriorating due to long wait and delay. The decision however, proved that the initial decision of blockade was not very wise, Senator Ghauri said.

8. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that the whole episode and handling by our side has damaged the respect and reputation of Pakistan. He said that there was not only confusion or misunderstanding about the actual use of word Sorry or mere expression of Sorry but re-opening the routes was a slap in the face of Parliament and its recommendations whereby unconditional apology was demanded.

9. He said that added to the diplomatic setback, Pakistan has not gained anything economically as the final outcome of negotiation between Finance Minister Hafeez Shaikh and a US Deputy Secretary was not made public. He said that neither the CSF reimbursement situation has improved nor there was any upfront commitment or allocation of funds for infrastructure repair and development.

10. The Committee debated for quite some time the decision of re-opening the supply routes especially the manner in which it was done and the timing of the decision. Senator Babar Khan Ghauri was of the view that in view of the economic and financial situation, the government had taken a decision at top executive level. He said that the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were not in best position to defend or justify such an important decision made at the level of DCC.

11. Senator Farhatullah Babar was of the view that discussion and debate about the whole episode of supply route blockade and re-opening will continue since there were divergent view points. He said that no one can say the decision and handling of matter as perfect but we should realize that it had some good points as well as potentially good things for the future. It had helped Pakistan to get rid of verbal agreements and formalize policy matters as well as operational level agreements as negotiations for future relations and interactions were underway. He said that instead of focusing on past, we should look and move forward.

12. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal said that decision of blockade was taken by reacting in a hasty and strong manner, which attracted the attention of whole world to Pakistan. The implications and significance of the initial decision should have been taken into account and once the decision had been taken, it should have not been reversed in such a manner that Pakistan was looking desperate towards the end. The

episode has not helped in building respect of Pakistan and its people and since situations like that may arise in the future as well, we should handle these carefully, Senator Kamal said.

13. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar shared with the Committee that according to his information USA was ready for apology in January, 2012 as our Ambassador in USA Sherry Rehman and US Ambassador to Pakistan had said this repeatedly but due to delay in holding Joint Session to consider and approve National Security Committee recommendations, the opportunity was missed.

14. The Minister and Secretary Foreign Affairs joined the Committee meeting at this point. The Minister desired to share with the Committee all important details and events chronologically to remove misperceptions being built around the episode. She however proposed that the meeting be declared in-camera; to which the Chairman and Members of the Committee agreed and the media persons as well as Senate staff were requested to leave. The Foreign Minister said that not only the decision of re-opening supply routes was being criticized unnecessarily, some quarters were critical of the decision of blockade taken in the aftermath of Salala incident. She said that Salala was not a mere incident in a series of violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and trespassing of territory. She said that while the earlier incidents were controversial, Salala was a case of clear cut violation and crossing of mutually agreed red line. She said that it was a case of brutal murder of Pakistani Soldiers with not a drop of blood on the other side. Pakistan therefore wanted to send a clear cut message and after thorough deliberations in the DCC, tough decisions and stand was taken.

15. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that if finally and eventually Pakistan had to retreat from the stand, then question arises about the rationality of the decision itself. He said that not only Parliamentary prestige suffered as the apology, which was previously forthcoming, was never made and even the use of word 'Sorry' was controversial. Senator Babar Khan Ghauri also said that the matter pertained to the executive who took both the decisions to block and re-open supply routes but involved Parliament into it causing unnecessary delay and embarrassment.

16. The Foreign Minister said that she strongly believed that the decisions of the executive were not only defensible but in the best interest of the country under the situation and circumstances. She said that the myth of 'missed opportunity' of apology needed to be seen in the backdrop of the ongoing Parliamentary review process in January-February 2012 when US Administration had indicated at multiple levels their willingness to apologize. However, she said that it was totally incorrect that Pakistani administration asked them to postpone or defer it till Parliamentary review, as they were clearly told to do it at timing of their own convenience. If the US Secretary of State was called back from flight she had taken to come for apology, it was their own 'system' which stopped her and their own considerations such as apologies to Afghanistan and elections which were few months away.

17. The Foreign Minister said that in view of their own considerations and compulsions, the US administration especially Pentagon under Panetta, changed the position and took a very hard line. She mentioned his statement before the US Senate Committee that US had already said what it had to say and there was nothing more to be said on the Salala incident, totally ruling out Sorry or Apology. The Minister said that she held several meetings with the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who understood our position but expressed her inability. Ms. Clinton told this even to the President during Chicago Summit meeting. However, continued to impress upon the US the significance and centrality of apology putting certain other conditions and demands on back and argued its importance in strengthening liberal democratic forces in Pakistan as total refusal to apologize was reinforcing militant forces and sentiments. She said that series of rounds of talks and meetings were held at various level including between Finance Minister Hafeez Shaikh and US Deputy Secretary but there was no progress on apology or sorry from US.

18. The Foreign Minister said that the clear cut use of word sorry in the context of Salala incident was agreed to after a lot of efforts and exchange of drafts as earlier they had agreed to say sorry in some other context. She said that it was very unfortunate that confusion was being created about the use of word sorry. Reading out from the transcript with her, the Minister said that saying of 'we are sorry' on loss of lives in

Salala incident was twisted by some as both Pakistan and US were sorry, whereas the following sentences clearly showed only US was meant 'by we'. She said that other than sorry the US clearly mentioned about respect of Pakistan's sovereignty and assurance to avoid reoccurrence of any such incidents. The Foreign Minister further told that preferential treatment and better access of Pakistani exports to US markets was also mentioned. She said that while the opponents of government and country were painting negative image about Pakistan and its foreign policy, some of the achievements especially EU market access concessions were concrete proof of success. The Members of the Committee asked the Minister about assurance of guarantee of trade concessions in view of various international trade regimes requirements as well as lobbying by Bangladesh and some other countries. The Minister said that 'we are very highly confident' since EU has approved and Bangladesh which is not a Member can only lobby in the matter. She said during this period EU has come in a big way to support Pakistan.

19. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar reiterated his stated position that unnecessary delay in calling the joint session after unanimous passage of recommendations by the National Security Committee in early January was a mistake and it showed that we could not clinch the moment and opportunity when US was ready for apology. The Foreign Minister agreed that all state institutions and political parties needed to work hard in a timely manner as diplomacy in the current era was matter of days and hours. She said that in the face of national crisis, nations including their Parliament acted quickly in emergency sessions.

20. On the question of CSF claims reimbursement, the Minister informed that amount of US\$ 1.1 billion has been notified by US Administration to the Congress and remaining dues will also be cleared in due course. She said that to avoid unnecessary delays, the system will also be streamlined as the whole structure and mechanism is being reviewed and renegotiated. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar wanted to know that whether a new template with built in audit and verification system, was being considered as repeatedly pointed out by him. The Minister answered in affirmation and informed that by October the new system with a new template would be in place.

21. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal said that an other issue which has caused embarrassment to Pakistan was asking amount of US\$ 5000 per trailer and in the end agreeing to a zero charge. He wanted to know that from where this figure came and who asked for such an exaggerated amount in the first instance. The Minister said that this figure was worked out at technical level meeting but never raised at political or diplomatic levels. She gave the details of formula on the basis of which the figure was considered; which included damage to infrastructure divided by the number of trailers as well as cost per trailer incurred by NATO / ISAF using Indian or Northern route. She however said that later a better way out was found and the USA was willing to repair and reconstruct about 300 km of Pakistani roads infrastructure. She said that concrete development in this regard was expected in September, 2012.

22. Senator Babar Khan Ghauri maintained the view that after a series of setbacks and wrong moves, Pakistan finally had to decide under pressure to reopen the supply routes before the dawn of July 4th, the US national day. The foreign Minister denied any pressure or specific reasons for deciding in the night of July 3. Senator Ghauri also raised the issue of payment of damages at the Pakistani ports, which he said was being examined by the Board in his Ministry but may require guidance and advice at the highest level. He proposed that the Committee may take up this as an agenda item in next meeting.

23. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Syed Mustafa Kamal and Babar Khan Ghauri repeatedly mentioned about the embarrassment caused to Pakistan in the whole episode. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal specifically mentioned about the statement of Mr. Panetta during visit to India in which he used derogatory words and remarks about Pakistan.

24. The foreign Minister said that the statement of Mr. Panetta, specially its timing and place, was very unfortunate as it caused troubles not only in Pak-US relations but Pak-India relations which were otherwise returning to normalcy. She said that people in Pakistan and abroad mostly mentioned about disconnect in Pakistani institutions but the disarray in the US system was much more serious and visible as Pentagon, White

House and State Department had different lines on different issues and occasions. She said that the State Department had been considerate of Pakistan's position all along but Pentagon, especially Mr. Panetta had taken a very hard line. She said that while we repeatedly mention about changing statements and positions of Pakistan and the resulting embarrassment, the final decision of saying sorry by the US and assurance of not repeating any Salala like incident has huge embarrassment to Pentagon and Mr. Panetta who had clearly said that US was not going to say a single word on Salala issue as all had already been said.

25. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam said that contrary to the viewpoint of some of her colleagues in the Committee, she was of the opinion that in view of the ground realities Pakistan's decision to reopen supply routes was pragmatic and the country had been able to register a strong protest with the US. She said that while reopening of supply routes was understandable, her question and worry was that it has not solved the problems and issues between Pakistan and USA. She wanted to know the future directions of Pak-US relations even after opening of supply routes. She was of the view that the future of Pak-US relations was not looking very bright as a number of grey areas and potential threats such as future of Afghanistan, Dr. Shakeel Afridi etc. were painting a bleak picture.

26. The Foreign Minister said that reopening of supply routes was not a solution to all the existing or potential problems in Pak-US relations as it was merely a window of opportunity to improve the relations as much more effort, and understanding was required. She said that where the relations were heading to? was not easy to answer but the MOFA was confident that improved and better relations were possible. She said that in the case of Afghanistan both Pakistan and USA wanted a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and with convergence of views and interests, it was only a matter of details. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam was of the view that 'life lies in details' pointing out the sensitivity and complexity of various existing and emerging issues between Pakistan and USA.

27. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel wanted to know that who was responsible in the 'timing' mistake in the issue of apology. He also wanted to know the implications of the case of Dr. Shakeel Afridi, which he thought was being mishandled.

28. The Foreign Minister said that even if it was accepted that we made a timing mistake it was responsibility of not only executive as some delays were unavoidable once the matter was referred to Parliament for a comprehensive review. She said that in case of emergencies, Parliaments act quickly and timely. She gave the example of UK Parliament, Cabinet and other institutions in the face of riots in London.

29. The Foreign Minister concurred with the Committee Chairman that matter of Dr. Shakeel Afridi had been mishandled and it was one of the potentially problematic areas in future relations with USA. She mentioned pending legislation in the US Congress on three issues including Dr. Shakeel Afridi, Haqqani Network and wrongly media portrayed issue of Abu Jandal as some of added tension sources in Pak-US relations.

30. The Foreign Minister concluded the briefing by saying that Pakistan and US were learning from past mistakes and making a conscious and serious efforts to avoid mistakes as the interests of the two countries were interdependent and essential for regional peace and stability. She said that on our side we needed to be more realistic and pragmatic to face different challenges and issues including propaganda and media war to which different sections of Pakistani society and leaders often fell prey. She said that instead of being critical all the time on all the issues, people, media and leaders in Pakistan should appreciate the efforts being made by the government in handling difficult issues. She said that in her view the original decision of blocking GLOCs and the later decision of reopening after fully registering Pakistan's sovereignty and red lines were defensible and in the interest of the country.

31. In view of the time consumed in discussing the first agenda item regarding reopening of NATO supply routes, the discussion on remaining agenda items was kept pending for future Committee meeting.

32. The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Minister for a comprehensive briefing. He obtained concurrence of the Ministry and Secretary to hold meeting in next week to discuss pending agenda items of earlier meeting.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 25th JULY 2012.

An In-camera meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held on 25th July, 2012 in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting:-

i.	Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel	Chairman
ii.	Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader, LOH	Member
iii.	Senator Aitzaz Ahsan	Member
iv.	Senator Farhatullah Babar	Member
v.	Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal	Member
vi.	Senator Sehar Kamran	Member
vii.	Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam	Member
viii.	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
ix.	Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Ex-officio Member

Detail of the participants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs is attached.

2. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Farhatullah Babar.

3. Following was the agenda before the Committee:-

- i) Briefing on Pakistan's Foreign Missions abroad including the detail of properties and cars owned by each Mission separately.
- ii). Sanctioned and actual strength of officers and officials in Foreign Office including Foreign Missions along with province-wise break-up
- iii) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel opened the meeting with the remarks that since administrative and official issues were to be discussed, the meeting has been declared in-camera.

5. In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the Committee said that there was a general feeling and perception about unsatisfactory performance of the Pakistani Missions abroad. He said that neither the Pakistanis living abroad nor the Members of Parliament, who visited different countries, were happy with the dealing of the officers posted in the Missions. He said that not only the working class, less educated Pakistanis working in Gulf region had serious complaints, even the educated and professional Pakistanis, living in North America and Europe were unhappy. He said that while the expatriates in Western developed countries were able to manage their affairs without the help of Pakistani Missions, the relatively less educated Pakistanis working in Gulf countries, where laws were very strict and human rights were not as well protected as in other countries, help especially legal assistance from the Mission was badly needed as many Pakistanis were punished and penalized unheard or for small amounts of fines.

6. The Chairman Committee further mentioned about poor performance of trade and community welfare attaches who were unable to do anything meaningful in their respective areas of work. He said that the unsatisfactory performance was more pinching when seen in the backdrop of huge expenses on high price rented accommodations and other expenses on the officers posted abroad and their families. He said that in view of the financial difficulties and lack of foreign exchange resources, it was also not understandable that why two or three Missions dealing with UNO, ILO, Trade etc. were being maintained whereas some less developed countries were operating through single Mission. Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel mentioned a few of his personal experiences to highlight the unsatisfactory performance of the officers. He said that during his visit to Nepal, the officer in-charge in the absence of the Ambassador refused to send a vehicle to take him to the Mission. He also mentioned that in one country the Ambassador hosted a lunch on Friday at exactly the prayer time.

The Chairman Committee said that not only the identity, cultural and religious sensitivities should be kept in mind, these should be used to build better understanding with the Pakistanis living abroad as well as other Ambassadors of Muslim countries. He said that if the Ambassadors started offering Jumma Prayer in the main Mosque where most of the Pakistanis and other Muslim countries Ambassadors offered Prayers, it would greatly facilitate interaction and mutual goodwill.

7. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan said that as a Member of Parliament and representative of the people he had similar perceptions but after working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he had realized that there were some issues which were not visible from outside and a closer or deeper understanding can help realize the reasons for negative perceptions. He said that lack of financial and physical resources was the major handicap but the situation was further compounded by impulsive decisions imposed upon Ministry of Foreign Affairs by some rulers in the past. Briefly addressing the concerns of the Committee Chairman, the MOS said that although the complaints by the Pakistani community abroad were not totally unfounded, these were exaggerated and narrated out of context most of the times. He further clarified that most of the consular services and other facilities to the community were supposed to be provided by the officers not belonging to the Foreign Service but hailing from various other services and not always appointed on merit basis. He said that there were issues of effective control of the Ambassador on some of the vitally important sections which were the interface with the community living abroad. He said that having separate Missions for UN and WTO etc. was essential because of totally different areas of dealing and specialization but in some cases where it was possible, Pakistan was managing more than one operation from one Mission. Concluding his brief introductory remarks before the formal briefing by the Acting Secretary, the MOS said that with limited resources, efforts were being made by Pakistani Missions abroad to meet the demands and requirements. He however admitted that there were lapses at times and some of the complaints of community as well as representatives of people visiting abroad were genuine.

8. The Acting Secretary Foreign Affairs in her remarks said that Pakistani Missions abroad were tasked with atleast ten important functions out of which only one was dealing with the community living abroad. She said that in view of the contribution and role of the Pakistanis living abroad, this was nonetheless very important function but it was primarily entrusted to non Foreign Service officers. She said that the officers of the Foreign Service of Pakistan were well trained and groomed professionals who performed their duties at the headquarter as well as during posting abroad in the best possible manner. Responding to the incidences pointed out by the Committee Chairman, the Acting Secretary said that isolated incidents were possible, however, while there were complaints in few cases the Members and Chairman will agree that on a number of other occasions they have been fully facilitated and looked after.

9. The Acting Secretary agreed with the suggestion of the Chairman Committee that Ambassadors should offer Jumma Prayers with the community. She said that in many cases this was already being done. She further mentioned that a particular day has been specified and dedicated for the visit of the community to the Missions which has removed a number of complaints and misperceptions. She said that database about the Pakistanis living in each country abroad was being compiled and efforts were underway to extend legal and all possible help to Pakistanis in difficulties. She specifically mentioned about repatriation of Pakistanis in large number at government expenses from Libya and Kuwait during crisis times. She said that only last year a large number of Pakistanis were got released from jails after payment of fines by the Missions. She said that the Missions abroad had also some genuine complaints about the behavior and attitude of some community members, who abide by all laws and regulations of the country where they were residing but when they visited the Pakistani Missions or interacted with the officers of the Mission, they were too demanding and not willing to listen about legal or rules position whereby their requests could not be acceded to.

10. The Acting Secretary said that FSP cadre officers were competitively selected by FPSC and rigorously trained professionals, whereas community welfare attaches and in some cases trade attaches were selected by other Ministries not always on merit and

comprised officers totally new or unsuitable for outreach and interaction with the community. She said that most frequent and important dealing with the community was regarding passports and CNIC which was being handled by the officers under the control of Ministry of Interior. She said that for a comprehensive briefing and solution of the problem, the representatives of these Ministries should also be asked to attend the Committee meeting. After the initial remarks, the Acting Secretary asked the DG(Personnel) for a briefing about the functioning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Missions abroad.

11. The DG(Personnel) in his presentation briefed the Committee about the role and functions of the Ministry. He said that MOFA is a national security institution and Pakistan's first line of Defence. The Ministry represents Pakistan abroad, protects and promotes national interests, deals with international community, international and regional organizations, negotiates international agreements and treaties. He said that important functions of Missions abroad were to protect and enhance Pakistan's security and national interest, provide strategic inputs on national security and Foreign Policy issues, project Pakistan's image abroad, promote defence, trade and economic relations and protect interests of Diaspora.

12. The DG(Personnel) briefed the Committee about the structure and organization of the Ministry, classifications of Missions abroad in terms of living conditions and in terms of importance of Missions from political, economic and military point of view. He informed that there were 80% career Ambassadors compared to 20% non-career Ambassadors which were politically appointed. Sharing with the Committee details of Mission classification the DG informed that out of total 117 Missions, 87 were Ambassadorial, one Cd'A, 17 Consulates General, 7 Consulates and 5 Trade Missions. He further informed that out of 88 Ambassadorial Missions, 66 percent were two men Mission with one senior and one junior officer and two supporting staff.

13. In the briefing about provincial quota of MOFA employees, the province of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa was written as KPK to which the Chairman Committee objected

and explained that Pakhtoonkhawa was one word and even if it has to be abbreviated, it should be written as KP. The MOS and Acting Secretary immediately conceded to the point raised by the Chairman of the Committee and directed the staff to ensure using proper name of the province.

14. On the issue of observing provincial quota in the officers and officials strength of MOFA, the Committee members pointed out deficiencies in the case of two provinces and excess in the case of others. The Ministry was of the view point that quota is being observed at initial recruitment level but some distortions take place in due course. The Ministry further explained that quota was not being observed in the case of Naib Qasids and low grade employees as the Esta Code allowed recruitment from local area and it was difficult to find candidates from far flung areas willing to live in capital on meager salary. The Ministry also argued about non-availability of candidates with required education and skills for various jobs from underdeveloped provinces.

15. The Chairman and Members of the Committee strongly opposed the contention of the Ministry for not observing permit quota and wanted a thorough scrutiny of the matter. Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader who is heading a special Committee constituted by the House to examine observance of quota in various Ministries / Departments, suggested that the Special Committee can have a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and share its report with the Foreign Affairs Committee. However, some Members wanted further examination by the Committee itself.

16. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam expressed her serious concern and objection on treating Rawalpindi Division as local area for recruitment of Naib Qasids. She was of the view that for a person coming from Chakwal, it was as difficult to live and work in Islamabad as for any other person from remote area of Punjab or Balochistan. She said that in a study conducted by her, she has found that even in the officers level, the majority of the employees in all Ministries and Divisions hailed from three developed Divisions of Punjab. She further shared with the Committee that a person recruited in lower grade on local or specific area basis, during the course of rise

in service got inducted many more people from the local / same area, thereby creating distortions in provincial and regional quota.

17. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel wanted thorough explanation of the term local area as in the case of federal government Ministries, Islamabad should be considered local area and Rawalpindi which was part of Punjab province could not be termed local area.

18. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also rejected the view point of the Ministry officials that people with required education or skills were either not available or not willing to work in Islamabad. He said that he can provide names and particulars of as many people as needed with required education and skills but advised the Ministry to advertise the vacancies in the local press in each province / region to fill the quota from respective areas. The Committee directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take affirmative action for filling quota as prescribed in the Rules within six months through special advertisements and efforts.

19. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal diverted the attention to the international relations and image building functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and said that in his opinion the Ministry has not been able to properly market the image of the country and there was a wrong perception about Pakistan. He said that the efforts of Pakistan compared to India and Bangladesh in effective lobbying were few, disjointed and unsuccessful. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal also wanted a briefing on the GSP plus and status of preferential trade agents.

20. Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader also underlined the need to review the performance of the Ministry especially its role in better perception about the country. He said that the Ministry should share with the Committee the efforts made in this regard. He proposed to include comprehensive performance review in the agenda of the next Committee meeting. The LOH said that while he will share his observations in this

regard in the next meeting he wants that the Ministry should adopt a well thought out long term policy and strategy as per requirement of the time and practice of neighboring and other countries. He also wanted a discussion and decision regarding obtaining of nationality of the country of posting by some Ambassadors and other Diplomats, for which he proposed compulsory return and a fixed period of 5 to 10 years in Pakistan after completing diplomatic job.

21. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also proposed a comprehensive review of the basic objectives and targets of the Foreign Policy especially in protecting and enhancing the image of the country abroad. He said that despite being a victim of terrorism Pakistan is being painted as a terrorist, which means we have failed to convince the world about our role and sacrifices.

22. The MOS and Acting Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that although efforts were being made in better projecting Pakistan in the face of propaganda but the fact remains that the Foreign Policy and image of a country was dependent on the internal strengths and situation in any country. The Ministry was of the view that we as a nation and state needed to perform in a coherent manner and bring some reforms and changes in laws and practices which were giving opportunity to the opponents to paint negative picture of the country.

23. Senator Sehar Kamran was however of the view that it is lackluster performance of the diplomats posted abroad which was resulting in isolation of the country as Pakistan was loosing image and good relations with brotherly Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia. She listed a number of factors which were responsible for poor performance. These included; posting of diplomats without considering previous postings / experience in the region, focus of diplomats on personal issues and savings during the three years posting in one country and then another foreign posting without any review or consideration of performance of the officer in earlier posting. She said that not only outreach efforts of our diplomats were lacking behind with other / neighboring countries, even the invitations and initiatives by the host country organizations were not

responded to. She said that a superiority complex among almost all the Pakistani diplomats was common who avoided to visit the Mosques and other areas of community gathering and had a select group of people to show as community representatives to the visiting dignitaries.

24. Admitting that some diplomats were different and successful, Senator Sehar Kamran mentioned the improvement in relations after the appointment of incumbent Ambassador. She, however, said that due to poor performance in the past a deadlock had taken place in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia relations which required a sustained long term effort to restore and enhance relations with a country and region having critical importance for Pakistan. She said that coordination among various sections of the Mission as well as other Pakistani organizations abroad was very bad. She gave the example of over crowded visa and passport section of the Mission in Jeddah and idling Hajj Complex which can be used, other than Hajj season, to accommodate and deal with large number of Pakistani workers and families who come everyday but could not be entertained due to limited space and facilities at the Consulate. She was highly critical of the role and contribution of trade and community attaches and gave example of no interest or response by the community attaches to retrieve dead body despite repeated requests. She said that this state of affairs was much more ironic if seen in the backdrop of huge foreign exchange spent on the residential and other facilities.

25. Senator Farhatullah Babar was of the view that in his experience officers of the Foreign Service of Pakistan were among the best trained and performing officers in the Civil Service of Pakistan. He said that there were shortcomings and gaps but these were in all sections of the society especially people engaged in public service. He said that unfortunately we are in a state of denial and never accepted our own shortcomings while focusing on others mistakes.

26. Senator Farhatullah Babar agreed with the suggestion by Members of the Committee to undertake a comprehensive performance review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its officers but said that first the Committee should have a briefing and full

understanding about the mechanics of Foreign Policy formulation in Pakistan and the role of other stakeholders in it. He said that one of the former Foreign Minister of Pakistan was on record that the Foreign Office had hardly any meaningful role in critical areas of Foreign Policy of Pakistan such as Kashmir, Afghanistan and Nuclear Program. He said that while we should be taking the officers of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to task for poor performance, it was only fair if such distortions were taken into account and corrected. He proposed that this should be the agenda for next meeting as this meeting had agenda items on personnel and properties of Pakistani Missions abroad.

27. Diverting the discussion to the agenda items, Senator Farhatullah Babar asked about the details of sale of property in Japan and Jakarta which reportedly was unauthorized. The Ministry officials clarified that there were no issues in the sale of property in Japan as it was done after the approval of inter-Ministerial Committee and other procedures. They however said that the case of sale by an Ambassador of properties in Jakarta in 2002 was unauthorized and subject of NAB inquiry as well as PAC. They said that PAC had last year ordered for a thorough probe and report by the Ministry about the actual financial loss due to unauthorized act of the then Ambassador as well as extend apology to the family of Mr. Rizvi, an officer of the Foreign Service who had pointed out irregularity timely but was called back and posted out of service which caused his demise.

28. Senator Farhatullah Babar proposed that the Committee may direct the Ministry to expedite the inquiry into irregularities and tender apology to the family of the deceased. The Ministry was of the view that under direction of PAC a report in the matter was being finalized. It was however, yet to be decided that who should tender apology to the family as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not responsible to the torture caused to the officer and infact had taken up matter with the then Chief Executive of the country. The Ministry was of the view that apology may have other repercussions such as claim of damages etc. and proposed that the matter may be disposed off after

submission of report to the PAC. It was decided that this issue alongwith other issues raised in the meeting will be taken up as agenda item in next Committee meetings.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 29TH AUGUST, 2012.

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan was held on 29th August, 2012 in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting:-

i.	Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel	Chairman
ii.	Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader, LOH	Member
iii.	Senator Farhatullah Babar	Member
iv.	Senator Aitzaz Ahsan	Member
v.	Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal	Member
vi.	Senator Sehar Kamran	Member
vii.	Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam	Member
viii.	Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan MOS for Foreign Affairs	Minister of State

Detail of the participants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs is attached.

2. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Farhatullah Babar.

3. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel informed the Committee Members that despite proper consultation in writing with the Ministry regarding the date for holding the meeting, the Secretary and / or Special Secretary of the Ministry did not appear on the mutually decided date. Only in the morning of the date of meeting, a fax was received wherein it was informed that the Secretary and Special Secretary will be unable to attend due to a briefing at President House at 1:00 p.m. The Secretariat after bringing the matter into the notice of the Chairman Committee, asked the Secretary telephonically as well as in writing through fax to

appear before the Committee at 11:00 a.m. and after approval of the Committee may leave early for the briefing scheduled at 1:00 p.m. or any other / earlier engagement.

4. Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan, Minister of State informed the Committee that he was also scheduled to attend the briefing at the P.M. Secretariat and will be leaving after 12:00. The Chairman Committee thanked the MOS for showing respect and regard to the Committee for attending the Committee meeting despite engagement at the P.M. Secretariat. The Chairman said that he was also approached by the P.M. Secretariat for a meeting at 11:30 a.m. but since meeting of the Committee was scheduled, he informed the P.M. Secretariat, requesting meeting later in the day which was agreed to and fixed at 02:00 p.m. He said that the Ministry officials could have and should have informed the Prime Minister Secretariat of their commitment at the Parliament House and in any case there was sufficient time to appear before the Committee by both or either of the two officers who could be excused by the Committee to leave early for any essential / urgent government business.

5. However, since Members of the Committee had specially traveled from different cities and in case of one Senator from abroad for the meeting, it was decided to discuss as many agenda items as possible without the senior officials of the Ministry who were in best position to brief the Committee and answer various questions.

6. On the proposal of the Minister of State, the Chairman Committee agreed to start the briefing with agenda item No. 2 regarding Policy of Government of Pakistan on the killings of innocent Muslims in Rakhine State of Myanmar. The MOS said that Myanmar has witnessed violence in the wake of communal riots that took place in June 2012. According to the UN, about 50,000 to 90,000 Muslims have been displaced. He said that the recent spate of violence, Myanmar Government's crackdown on Rohingyas and its stated intention to restrict them to camps, has received international attention and criticism. The OIC Working Group on Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues in Geneva held a meeting of OIC Ambassadors on 27 July 2012 to discuss this issue. MOS said that extraordinary OIC Executive Committee Meeting was held in Jeddah on

5th August 2012 on the critical situation of the Muslim Rohingyas. He said that our Mission in Jeddah proactively participated in the meeting.

7. MOS said that extraordinary OIC Summit decided to take the issue of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingyas, displaced by deadly sectarian violence, to the United Nations. At a meeting in the Holy City of Mecca the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned "the continued recourse to violence by the Myanmar authorities against the members of this minority and their refusal to recognize their right to citizenship". Pakistan played an active role at the Summit. MOS said that the President of Pakistan in his statement at OIC Summit said that large scale killing of Muslims in Myanmar was a matter of deep concern for Pakistan. He said that the President of Pakistan had addressed a personal letter to the President of Myanmar urging him to take necessary steps to end the bloodshed. The President called upon OIC to use its good offices for promoting a process of protecting the life and property of the Muslims of Myanmar.

8. The Chairman of the Committee asked whether the issue of no cooperation or refuge by Bangladesh to the Muslim minority of Myanmar who reached the coasts through boats was taken up at the OIC summit. Although there was no clear cut answer to the matter in the absence of Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs who was one of the five members delegation at the summit, the Committee was informed that the issue did not come up for discussion in any of the plenary session / main event of the summit.

9. Senator Sehar Kamran who had been involved in individual capacity in the OIC summit said that the President of Pakistan had not only mentioned this matter in his speech but informed everyone about the personal letter written by him showing concern of the people of Pakistan at the highest level. She said that unless timely checked, the issue had the potential to become another Kashmir or Palestine. On the initiative / draft of Senator Sehar Kamran, the Committee unanimously passed the following **Resolution:-**

"The Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan strongly condemns the violence and large scale killings of Muslims in Myanmar. Since it is a matter of deep concern for Pakistanis, the Committee urges the

Government of Myanmar to take all possible measures for immediate secession of violence. The Committee expressed its appreciation for President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari's initiative of addressing the issue by writing a letter to the Government of Myanmar for the plight of Muslim minority. The Committee also appreciated Pakistan's position on the issue in the extraordinary Summit of OIC held at Makkah-tul-Mukarrma. The Committee demands that the resolution should be followed and taken up with all concerned for effective implementation. The international community and United Nations must be asked to take practical measures and concrete steps to stop the bloodshed of innocent Muslims and provide all possible humanitarian assistance to the affected community".

10. Taking agenda item No. 3, the Minister of State informed that the ratio of political appointees in Pakistan's Ambassadors abroad used to be 60:40 but as a result of a review in 1993 the ratio has been changed and now appointment of only 20% political Ambassadors was allowed under the rule. He clarified that the term political appointee was confusing as neither political influence was used in such appointments nor all of them had political affiliations. The term / category included all Ambassadors other than the career / Foreign Service of Pakistan Ambassadors and even retired Ambassadors of FSP re-employed on contract were considered political appointees. The Committee was informed that 20% ratio has not been strictly followed in President Musharraf's regime and the quota was exceeded. However, currently the quota was around 15% but likely to increase after decisions of few new Ambassadorial postings. Senator Farhatullah Babar proposed a review of the policy approved in 1993 suggesting further reducing ratio of political appointees. However, some Members of the Committee disagreed with any immediate change in the ratio and pend the discussion about the ratio of Non-career diplomat.

11. The Chairman of the Committee asked individual Members about their opinion regarding reducing the ratio of politically appointed Ambassadors. Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader, Leader of the House disagreed with the proposal saying it was too early and the Ministry should provide data / policy in this regard followed by other countries. Senator Sehar Kamran said that appointment of Ambassadors by the government of the time to further its particular policy and approach was required and

therefore the government should have this option. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam also disagreed with any recommendation without getting necessary details and information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs especially about the policy and practice by some other countries. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal however recorded different opinion saying that we will have to start the process of reform and change from some point if the morale and performance of the career officers had to be improved. Similarly he recorded his apprehensions about passing too many resolutions about Muslims living in other countries as there was a fear of pointing back by some countries about the killing of Muslims belonging to different Sects within Pakistan.

12. Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader, Leader of the House said that not only details should be provided about the comparative ratio of career versus non-career Ambassadors but a comprehensive comparative study of the performance of the two types / categories of Ambassadors should also be undertaken. The Minister of State was of the view that assessing individual performance of an Ambassador was difficult and subjective.

13. Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader reiterated his demand for assessing the performance of Ambassadors and other staff as he had been receiving serious complaints by the Members of the Pakistani community living abroad both as an elected Member of Parliament as well as in his capacity and long position as president of Pakistan Peoples Party Overseas wing. He said that the justification given by Ministry representatives about bigger and broader role more focused on diplomacy was not tenable as other countries' diplomatic missions and Ambassadors were giving due attention to the expatriates of their respective countries' and successfully meeting their demands and expectations.

14. Senator Sehar Kamran who had been continuously advocating for developing mechanism to assess the performance of Pakistani diplomats at all levels and use the same as criteria for their eligibility or ineligibility for any further posting, reiterated her proposal saying that in the absence of any such mechanism and criteria, the diplomats were least bothered about their overall performance including addressing the issues of

the community. She said that this was a case of criminal negligence in many instances as Pakistanis were languishing in jails or suffering other tortures due to no action or response by any career diplomat or community attaché unless and until someone from the high ups intervene and ask for action in the matter.

15. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal said that even if the Committee met every week, redressing the individual complaints may not be possible. He said that the Committee should focus on macro and policy issues and try to give concrete proposals in just one area for bringing a fundamental change. He wanted to know that whether at the time of posting abroad the Ambassador was given a briefing / tasking.

16. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel said that although bringing a policy and fundamental change was the noble cause but for any meaningful intervention or proposals, the Committee first needed to get briefing and information about various issues. He said that in today's briefing it has transpired that in the political appointees, there are many Generals from the Army and even the current democratic government had appointed five Generals. He said that as representatives of the people we could not ignore the sufferings and complaints of Pakistanis living abroad. He said that he had received many complaints and one of the complaints received against our Ambassador in Yemen was in writing which was under examination and verification.

17. Senator Sehar Kamran said that Committee's intervention in improving overall performance of the Missions abroad through a merit based criteria including experience and knowledge of the region was very important as it was being adopted by many other countries. She said that similarly a criteria for assessing the performance could be evolved wherein all the parameters and targets including trade, foreign remittances etc. are incorporated. She said that compilation of data and assessment of all parameters at the time of the posting of a diplomat and at the time of his / her departure could help assess the performance. She said that not only as representatives of people Members of Committee were bound to intervene for focus by the diplomats on the community issues but even as a strategy the Ministry of Foreign Affairs need to review the situation since

addressing community issues may just be one of the tasks of the diplomatic mission but it was such an important and overarching task and objective that it can help achieve other goals such as better bilateral relations, more trade and remittances.

18. The Minister of State said that individual incidents or mishaps were possible but as a whole the Ministry and its officers were trying to perform well in discharging their duties and functions which included good bilateral relations, coordination with multilateral bodies, promoting trade, solving community issues, building better image of the country and a host of other official business including conducting of state level and Parliamentary visits. He said that a country brief and other details were provided to the Ambassadors but if they were from the regular service they had received training and gained experience at various levels of their career. He said that quality of individuals vary in foreign service whether career or non-career and we had some great Ambassadors while some were below the mark. He said that if deemed fit the Committee may examine and review the performance of Mission country or region wise by having the same in the agenda of next meeting or specially called meeting.

19. The Minister of State wanted to leave the meeting to reach in time for a briefing at the Prime Minister Secretariat. The Chairman of the Committee allowed him but said that in his absence and due to non-appearance of the Secretary or Special Secretary, the meeting could not continue. He again informed the Committee Members about proper consultation in time for the date of the meeting and last minute intimation by the Ministry officials which also was not sufficient reason to excuse their absence as it was possible for both or either of the two senior most officers to come to the meeting and leave early in case of urgent / important business. The Chairman Committee said that in his opinion it was a fit case to be referred to the Privileges Committee. However, Members of the Committee convinced the Chairman to not take serious action at this stage and only record in the Minutes the unauthorized absence of the Secretary and Special Secretary which could result in serious action by the Committee or the Privileges Committee in future. The Chairman of the Committee agreed to the suggestion of the Members but said that he may bring the matter in the notice of

Chairman Senate of Pakistan as supremacy of Parliament and its Committees was being continuously undermined by various Ministries.

20. The meeting ended without completing the agenda as meaningful discussion was not possible in the absence of any senior representative of the Ministry. The Chairman said that due to visits abroad of the Minister and Secretary, the Committee meetings could not be convened on desired dates as the Committee had been showing flexibility to adjust the busy schedule of the Minister / Secretary but as a result important agenda items could not be taken up or completed. He directed to carry forward the remaining / unfinished agenda items for the next meeting.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 5TH AND 11TH OCTOBER 2012.

Meetings of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan were held on 5th and 11th October, 2012 in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meetings were presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan.

2. Following Members attended the meeting on 5th October 2012:-

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|-------|--|--------------------------|
| i. | Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel | Chairman |
| ii. | Senator Jehangir Bader, Leader of House | Member |
| iii. | Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Leader of Opposition | Member |
| iv. | Senator Farhatullah Babar | Member |
| v. | Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran | Member |
| vi. | Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam | Member |
| vii. | Senator Babar Khan Ghauri | Member |
| viii. | Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal | Member |
| ix. | Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri | Member |
| x. | Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs | Ex-Officio Member |
| xi. | Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan, MOS for Foreign Affairs | Ex-Officio Member |

3. The notified agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Visit of United Nations Working Group on missing persons to Pakistan
- ii. Details about new Visa Agreement signed between India and Pakistan and development in trade relations between two countries.
- iii. MOU signed between Pakistan and USA regarding restoration of NATO supply routes
- iv. Further discussion on Government owned properties abroad.

- v. Details about officers and officials of Foreign Office and their spouses having dual nationality.
 - vi. Details about officers and officials of Foreign Office having foreign national spouses.
4. Following two agenda items based on developments taking place close to the holding of meeting were also conveyed to the MOFA for verbal briefing:-
- i. Last minute cancellation of the visit of the Russian President
 - ii. The issue of sacrilegious film by a US citizen hurting sentiments of Muslims across the globe and steps taken by the Government in this regard.
5. The meeting started with recitation from Holy Quran by Senator Sehar Kamran.
6. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel thanked the Foreign Minister, Minister of State, Secretary and other senior officers for attending the Committee meeting. He asked the Minister to first brief the Committee about the two recent developments that had taken place in between the issuance of Committee agenda and the holding of the meeting.
7. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs briefing the Committee on the issue of last minute cancellation of the visit of Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin, clarified that it was not a bilateral visit as being mentioned and projected. She said that it was quadrilateral summit wherein heads of states of Pakistan, Russia, Afghanistan and Tajikistan were to participate. She said that this was not the first session of the forum as two sessions had already been held. The Minister informed that a week or so before the scheduled date, the Russian side regretted that participation at President's level will not be possible due to pressing domestic engagements of President. She said that since it was a summit in which heads of State were to take part, non-participation by any one country's head would have resulted in postponement and therefore proposal of any other level participation from Russia was not considered.
8. Ms. Khar said that she got this information in New York during the UN General Assembly session. A letter from the Russian President addressed to the President of Pakistan was also received wherein regrets of the Russian President for

not being able to visit Pakistan due to domestic engagements and scheduling problems were conveyed. In the letter, the Russian President reaffirmed the commitment to continue working and further enhance the diplomatic, economic and other relations which had progressed at fast pace during recent past.

9. The Foreign Minister said that although many commentators and media persons were reading too much into cancellation of the visit of the Russian President, she had established in the one on one meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov that there were no other reasons then the stated ones. The Minister said that since Russian President had also not attended the forum in Baku held around the same dates, the reason that visit to Pakistan was cancelled for some compelling domestic engagements during the period was further strengthened.

10. The Chairman of the Committee said that the Russian President may not have attended the Baku Conference due to some disputed issues between the two countries; to which the Minister did not agree by saying that participation in multilateral forum is different from bilateral visit. The Chairman Committee pointed out that the Russian President later visited Tajikistan. The Minister said that it was not in the dates of visit to Pakistan and Baku.

11. Senator Farhatullah Babar said that in view of the explanation given by the Foreign Minister and the fact that the Russian President wrote a letter to President Asif Ali Zardari, we should not read too much into causes and reasons of cancellation of visit. He, however, pointed out that in the letter no new date or any indication to work out a new date for the visit of the Russian President was mentioned which needed to be looked into because it is a set practice that whenever a visit is postponed, new dates are given or an indication is given to work out mutually convenient dates. The Minister promised to look into this aspect. She also did not completely rule out the proposition that the unruly scenes and mob attacks in Islamabad on the Friday before the visit might have contributed to the cancellation of the visit as security was a issue for such high level visit / summit.

12. Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader said that the statement given by the Minister was acceptable and the Committee should give its support to the Minister who had been working hard in view of the numerous foreign policy challenges; some real ones and others bloated out of proportion by commentators and media.

13. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal asked three specific questions; (a) any other precedents of cancellation of head of state level visit on a few days notice (b) any Indian involvement in the cancellation of visit and (c) was the visit of the Chief of Army Staff to Russia prescheduled?

14. Responding to the questions, Ms. Khar said that there were numerous examples of last minute cancellations including cancellation of a visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Russia for an event in St Petersburg at only two days notice. She said that Indian lobby might have played a role but there was no evidence and reason. Regarding the visit of the Chief of Army Staff, the Minister said that it was prescheduled. She said that much more noteworthy was the fact that the Russian foreign Minister who is senior most politician in the country visited Pakistan on just two days notice after the cancellation of Russian President visited Pakistan to allay any apprehensions of any serious or other reasons.

15. The Chairman of the Committee said that there were reports mentioning use of Indian lobby by the USA. The Minister said that it was difficult to accept or reject such reports but there was no doubt that the present government had been able to make a breakthrough in cold relations with Russia and unprecedented developments had taken place during the last four years. She said that the visit of President Asif Ali Zardari and many other visits were highly successful. She said that holding of inter-Ministerial meeting was also a very high profile thing in the Russian system. She further said that Pakistan and Russia had mirror image on a number of global and regional issues. She said that Russian support on the eve of UN Security Council elections for Pakistan was also very encouraging. She said that Russia is in favor of Pakistan's membership of SCO.

16. Senator Sehar Kamran said that the breakthrough in relations with Russia and unprecedented developments during the current PPP government was a revival of the policy of former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who had successfully worked on alternates in the foreign policy of Pakistan heavily dependent on USA / West.

17. Senator Sehar Kamran moved a Resolution on the issue of sacrilegious film, the second item of the unwritten agenda. The Resolution which condemned in the strongest term the making, release and hosting on web of the film asked for international action / laws to stop such things in the name of freedom of expression. The Resolution appreciated the bold stand taken by the President of Pakistan Honorable Asif Ali Zardari during his address to the UN General Assembly as well as the proactive role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to agitate the matter especially in OIC (full text of the Resolution is annexed).

18. Coming to the notified agenda item, the Chairman Committee, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel said that personally he was in favor of the visit of UN working group on missing persons but since there has been controversy in media, the Foreign Minister should brief the Committee to answer questions.

19. The Foreign Minister said that two things needed to be clarified before details about the visit. She said that it was neither a Commission nor a country (Pakistan) specific visit. She said that it was a UN working group which had received invitations from over 90 countries and had already visited around 30 countries. She said that before extending invitation, the Ministry of Foreign had consulted all stakeholders and inter-Ministerial as well as inter-agency concurrence was obtained before moving a summary to the Prime Minister which included visits of two other UN bodies, one on assessment of independence of judiciary. She said that while there was no criticism on the visit of the other groups, the one on missing persons was criticized without understanding its non-investigatory role. She said that this visit was necessary as Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the UN was going to take place and Pakistan, which had taken a number of executive and judicial steps in missing persons along with other Human Rights protective measures would have faced uncalled for embarrassment and negative propaganda. She said that an improved image about HR situation in

Pakistan was the need of the time not only for the UN purposes but for EU and others who attached great importance to Human Rights issues while deciding any aid or grant including trade concessions.

20. The Minister said that the press release issued at the end of the visit of the working groups as well as the preliminary report of the working group had not much negative about situation of missing persons in Pakistan as a vibrant judiciary, civil society side by side the executive was reported trying to overcome the challenge that existed. The Minister said that not only media but even some of the members of the National Assembly were totally ignoring the facts behind the visit of the UN working group which had been allowed to visit on the advice and considered opinion of some of the seasoned diplomats. We wanted the world to see that there was no state sponsored terrorism or government role in missing persons in Pakistan, as many pillars of the state and society were working hard to overcome the challenge. She said that the preliminary report of the working group was a proof that the stand of the Foreign Office was in the interest of the country.

21. The Leader of the Opposition, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said it was a matter of great concern that the UN working group's report mentioned a very high number of around 14000 missing persons compared to only 100 or so acknowledged by the government of Pakistan in its various reports. He said that the briefing given by the Minister of State in another Parliamentary Committee briefing was different from the one being given by the Minister which needed to be looked into. He said that it was important to establish and mention exact number of missing persons as number of 14000 would cause unnecessary alarm in the UN as well as other countries / bodies assessments of missing persons in Pakistan.

22. Senator Ishaq Dar further mentioned about varying accounts and positions of the treasury benches mentioning a Private Member's Resolution moved by Senator Farhatullah Babar seeking ratification of treaty on missing persons. He said that although the government side did not object to the Resolution, when it was moved as an agenda item in the Senate Session, he despite being the Opposition Leader urged the

government / treasury benches to defer it and consult all the stakeholders before taking such a step which can cause difficulties at a later stage.

23. Senator Farhatullah Babar explained that as a Private Member he had submitted Resolution which was his right but as per party decision and discipline the party Members were asked to submit their legislative proposals for a review. He said that no one could deny the fact that Pakistan had an issue or challenge of missing persons but it was also a fact that the Parliament and its Committees including Human Rights Committee was seized with the matter and other organs of the state including the Supreme Court and the Peshawar High Court were trying to resolve the issue. He said that the stand and position of Ministry of Foreign Affairs was worth appreciating while taking a bold principled stand stood up tall and did whatever was in the interest of the country irrespective of unnecessary criticism and propaganda.

24. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said that case of Pakistan was different from other countries who had extended invitation to the UN working group as there was a huge propaganda about the missing persons and failure of government in this regard. He said that there were apprehensions of UN involvement in the country in the name of missing persons or other human rights violations but the ultimate objective was to destroy or takeover the nuclear assets of Pakistan. He said that if Human Rights violation was the actual issue why did not UN body take up the issue of drone attacks and resulting innocent killings.

25. Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel asked why the working group has not visited Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa province and held meeting only with the Home Secretary. The Foreign Minister informed that request for a meeting was made to the Chief Minister. The Chairman Committee further asked why the Chief Justice of Supreme Court refused to meet the delegation whereas Chief Justice Islamabad High Court met. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar clarified that matter was subjudice in the Supreme Court and not in Islamabad High Court. He further mentioned that there were reports of meeting of a very high number of people in Quetta which needed to be checked and confirmed by the MOFA.

26. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal said that while it was being projected as a success by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reliance on the reports of UN or other foreign Missions and working groups was like walking on a tight rope as at some point and in some issues they could report things negatively. He said that we should address issues domestically instead of relying on others reports. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that the matter of missing persons was not something out of the knowledge of global community and the government has not brought it to the notice of other countries or bodies. The fact was that a highly exaggerated and contrary to the ground realities negative image was being portrayed about the issue of missing persons in Pakistan. The visit of the working group which was under the United Nations meant for all countries of the world has helped Pakistan in removing misperceptions. By not allowing the group we could have compounded propaganda. The Minister however conceded that as a nation and country we had not handled the episode properly.

27. Taking up the second agenda item, the Committee expressed displeasure that the Ministry of Interior was not represented at the required level i.e. Minister and Secretary or Additional Secretary, as per Senate Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business 2012. The Chairman Committee asked the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Interior about the status of implementation of the new visa agreement signed between India and Pakistan. The Committee was informed that the agreement signed by the Interior Minister of Pakistan with his Indian counterpart was yet to be ratified by the Cabinet. The Chairman Committee said that as per reports the Indian sides have started implementation. He wanted to know whether approval of Cabinet was obtained before signing the agreement. The Committee was informed that 'approval in principle' was granted however as per Rules of Business ratification is still required. Since the agreement / document was same there was no likelihood of any objection and it was only a matter of process.

28. The Chairman and Members of Committee were displeased to know that approval of a very important matter to be processed within the Interior Ministry has taken so long. They said that it was the bureaucratic approach and non serious attitude of the Interior Ministry that had caused unnecessary delay. The Committee unanimously

approved the **Resolution** expressing concern over the delay in the ratification of the visa agreement between Pakistan and India and called upon the Government to ratify the same without delay so as to set in motion the purposes behind liberalizing the visa regime. The Ministry of Interior was asked to report back to the Committee after completing process on their part within a week's time.

29. The Committee also proposed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Interior should work for including the media persons in the category of visa exemption so that better understanding is developed between the two countries through frequent easy exchange of media delegations. The Foreign Minister promised to look into this, saying it was a good suggestion / recommendation.

30. Due to the Friday Prayer, the Committee meeting had to be adjourned without completing the agenda. It was decided that remaining items of the agenda will be discussed in the next / second meeting which was rescheduled from October 9 to October 11 on the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

11 October, 2012

31. Following Members attended the meeting on **11th October 2012:-**

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------------------|
| i. | Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel | Chairman |
| ii. | Senator Jahangir Bader, Leader of House | Member |
| iii. | Senator Farhatullah Babar | Member |
| iv. | Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam | Member |
| v. | Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah | Member |
| vi. | Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan, MOS for Foreign Affairs | Ex-Officio Member |

32. The meeting started with the recitation from Holy Quran.

33. The Chairman Committee asked the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary to start with agenda item No. (ii) regarding MOU signed between Pakistan and USA for restoration of NATO supply routes.

34. The Secretary MOFA, Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani informed the Committee that the decision to reopen ground lines of communication supplies (GLOCS) was taken after thorough consultation with all stakeholders in the light of policy guidelines and parameters approved in the joint sitting of the Parliament based on recommendations of the Parliamentary National Security Committee. He informed that the agreement was signed on 31st July 2012 and it will end on 31st December 2015. In the agreement the Ministry of Defence has been declared as coordinating and implementing Ministry on behalf of Government of Pakistan while the US side is represented by their Defence Representative Pakistan (DRP). It was decided that after clearing the backlog, the supply through Pakistan territory was allowed on new terms whereby no lethal weapons are allowed. Some military equipment required for the Afghan Army is allowed subject to strict scrutiny. A negative list has been annexed with the MOU.

35. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah asked about the reasons behind not charging any fee or tax despite huge damage to the road infrastructure. He gave examples of Sues and Panama Canals. The Secretary MOFA informed that this aspect was thoroughly debated and remained in media agenda for a long time. However, it was dropped from our side as Pakistan did not want to be seen as asking for money while being a member of the global community and alliance in the war against terrorism which was in our own interest.

36. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah further asked about the details of the mechanism in place to assure that no lethal weapons were being transported and how it was possible to differentiate between weapons required for the NATO / ISAF forces and the Afghan national army. The Senator was of the view that some of the definitions and terms such as “strong scrutiny mechanism” and “lethal weapons” used were vague and not very objective. The Foreign Secretary informed that the Ministry of Defence which was in best position for such a task has developed a system and mechanism to effectively check and monitor. The Secretary further informed that on the issue of damage to Pakistan road infrastructure a better and more beneficial approach has been adopted whereby the USA has undertaken the responsibility of reconstructing four sectors of the road network. The Committee was informed that work has already started on Peshawar Torkham sector with an estimated cost of US\$ 70million. He said that on

Quetta Chaman sector work will be soon started. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah asked whether Karachi Hyderabad sector which was badly damaged will be included. The Secretary confirmed that super highway between Karachi and Hyderabad will also be reconstructed under the same arrangement. The Secretary further clarified that detailed TORs were being finalized which will be annexed to the MOU to take care of all concerns and interests of Pakistan. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah also wanted to know about compensation to the transporters whose Trailers were burnt. The Secretary said that it was between the US / NATO and the transport contractors and the government of Pakistan was not involved in any way. He however said that the transporters had some built in costs and were happy on restoration of supplies.

37. The Chairman of the Committee wanted to know that thousands of trucks which were stuck during the period of suspension of supply routes were cleared under the new arrangements or previous one. The Secretary said that the backlog was cleared as per previous understanding and these were mainly food supplies etc. as the period of weapon supply was much before and the current requirements were more of food and other logistic requirements. He said that some small transport such as Jeeps were in the stuck up supply but no lethal arms.

38. Senator Farhatullah Babar in his brief remarks on the agenda item said that he was of the view that Ministry of Foreign Affairs had successfully handled a difficult issue in line with the recommendations and policy guidelines of the Parliament.

39. The Chairman Committee decided to take up agenda item related to the Ministry of Commerce and asked the Secretary Commerce to brief the Committee about the recent developments in Pak India trade relations.

40. The Secretary Ministry of Commerce gave a detailed presentation about the resumption of composite dialogue with India which included trade component. He also briefed about Cabinet's decision on granting Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to India and Cabinet's approval of negative list dated 29 February 2012. The Secretary also briefed about the trade defence laws under WTO which were available in case of fear of Anti Dumping or any other unhealthy trade practice. Current status of trade negotiations with India as well as signing of three agreements to address issues related

to Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) were also explained. The formal presentation of the Secretary Commerce is annexed.

41. The Secretary Commerce clarified the term 'most favored nation' which was grossly misunderstood as declaring India most favored nation of Pakistan. He said that it was an international agreement term under WTO whereby each country was given equal status and treatment meaning each country was most favored. He said that India has granted this status to Pakistan many years back but the Cabinet has decided only lately to allow this status, that too, subject to a negative list till December, 2012. "We are moving from a positive list regime to a negative list regime which after the approval of the Cabinet would be gradually phased out by the end of 2012", the Secretary said.

42. The Chairman of the Committee wanted a clarification about negative list and sensitive list. The Secretary Commerce informed that sensitive list was with reference to SAFTA and duty on these items could be more than the universally agreed 35%. He said that India is going to revise its sensitive list by April 2013 whereby the number of items will be reduced from 680 to 100. He said that in view of different apprehensions Pakistan has sought more time and we could remove items from sensitive lists by 2017.

43. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah asked about opening trade route from Khokharapar for which natural trade potential and road / rail routes were available. The Joint Secretary Commerce informed that working groups including all stakeholders i.e. Customs, Ministry of Defence, Rangers, Communications etc. have been established by Pakistan and India to speed up the work for opening up Khokharapar route.

44. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam drew the attention of Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards a major area of neglect in the trade negotiations with India and internal consultation with the stakeholders. She said that despite agriculture being the major sector and farmers being the primary stakeholders hardly any consultation had been done with the farmers community or their representatives organizations as the focus of consultation and attention had been

industrial manufacturing sector for which many rounds had been held with the Chambers of Commerce and Industries as well other representative organizations of particular industries. She asked the Secretary Commerce about any formal consultation with any of the farmers' representatives body to which Secretary could mention names of only one or two individuals. The Senator said that it was in her knowledge that no formal consultations were held with any of the representative body of agriculture sector although a number of them had been knocking at the doors of the Ministry officials and representatives. The Secretary Commerce assured that he will hold meetings with the agriculture sector representatives on the Ministry's initiative as well as on being referred by the public representatives.

45. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam highlighted the critical aspects of trade negotiations and agreements with India regarding agriculture products. She pointed out the huge disadvantage to the Pakistani farmers in the face of highly subsidized agriculture inputs, energy supplies and other subsidies to the farmers in India. She said that there was no possibility of facing competition or making inroads into Indian markets in the agriculture field in the presence of these subsidies. The Secretary Commerce pointed out that in view of this consideration the Government of Pakistan had got five years time to reduce / abolish agriculture items from sensitive list so that the agriculturists were ready to compete with Indian counterparts. The Senator was of the opinion that five years period was irrelevant in view of the disadvantage to the Pakistani farmers due to heavy subsidies in India and no possibility of matching subsidy by Pakistan in coming years. She said that situation will be more or less same even after five years down the road and the Ministry / Government needed to focus on finding a way out / alternative in the face of this reality.

46. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah seconded the opinion of Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam by saying that market rates of Pakistani agricultural products would always be higher if cost of inputs in the two countries remained different due to free electricity and other subsidized inputs in India. He underscored the need for a broad and sustained effort to solicit views and solutions from the farmers community and address their genuine concerns. He said that as Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research, he would undertake the exercise

and help the Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Affairs in developing arguments and alternatives in negotiations and agreements with India regarding agriculture products.

47. Senator Farhatullah Babar said that free trade was in the interest of both India and Pakistan but a level playing field was must which did not exist in the agriculture sector of the two countries at the moment and there were no signs of any improvement in near future. He said that we have to become competitive for which consultation with and facilitation to farmers was must.

48. Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, the Chairman of the Committee, also mentioned about free electricity supply for tube wells in Indian Punjab as well as a number of other subsidies, huge research, development and other support by the Indian government. He asked whether specific concerns of the provinces were taken into account as hardly any consultation was held with the Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa Chamber of Commerce and Industries. In the agriculture sector, he feared a set back to the Tobacco growing farmers of the province if their genuine concerns were not taken into account and addressed timely.

49. The Secretary Commerce while agreeing to the sentiments and concerns of the Committee, pointed out that in the new trade regime and patterns as well as in view of international and regional agreements, competitiveness was the key to face the opening up of trade with neighbors and other countries of the region which in return was likely to bring many benefits to the country and consumers. He said that under MFN and SAFTA, the negative or sensitive list had to be reduced or abolished but in view of apprehensions and concerns, Pakistan has got five years time.

50. Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader said that despite being an advocate of developing trade relations with India and other neighbors, he had similar views as Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam on the issue of agriculture sector products. He said that India, while formulating its long term policy, had economic and trade aspects built in. He said that a similar approach was needed in our foreign policy formulations for which there was no dearth of brain or professionalism and it was only a question of integrated, futuristic approach and vision.

51. The Chairman of the Committee asked that why there were restrictions on investment by Pakistanis in certain sectors while India has allowed investment for Pakistanis. He wanted to know about any differences in policy for Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Secretary clarified that only for some sectors such as defence and security, the investment from Pakistan was not allowed and there was no difference vis-à-vis other regional countries. He however agreed that investment had to be channelized or processed through certain government routes even in developed countries which were open for investment.

52. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that on the issue of subsidy huge debates and controversies had been going on between USA, Europe and other countries. He said that despite being champions of free trade even most developed countries had raised issues and discouraged free trade when a particular sector or commodity was subsidized by one side. He gave examples of restriction on trade of wheat and butter between Europe and USA and asked the Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Affairs to rely on such arguments and examples while protecting the interests of Pakistani farmers.

53. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah mentioned about the Doha Round of the WTO wherein emerging and developing countries had raised similar issues and concerns in the name of protection of vulnerable / infant industries and sectors. The Secretary Commerce said that this issue is at the heart of controversy for which consensus could not be built even after the Doha round. He said that due to stalemate in the WTO or global trade agreements there was a growing trend of regional trade blocks and agreements which necessitated a similar approach by the countries of the subcontinent / SAARC.

54. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah and Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam wanted to seek some clarifications from the Secretary Foreign Affairs and Secretary Commerce about the ongoing issue of allowing allegedly disease suffering Australian sheeps which were originally destined for Bahrain but on rejection by their authorities, the ship carrying them was diverted to Pakistan, allowed to offload out of

turn and given NOC by the Quarantine Department. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah read out the contents of a letter from the Ambassador of Bahrain to MOFA clearly mentioning that the sheeps were rejected by the Bahrain authorities and wanted to know why and how these were allowed in Pakistan. The Secretary Foreign Affairs and Commerce did not contest the contention of the Committee Members but said that matter was handled by provincial government and other authorities from which an explanation was due. But since the matter was in the Court, it was already subject of inquiry /subjudice.

55. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam however wanted to know a specific question that was there a single case of change in bill of landing / destination, to which the Secretary Commerce said that there were many cases and infact trading in sea in many non perishable commodities and agriculture products, such as wheat, was a common practice. The question was accordingly refined and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was asked to inform the Committee of any example where a shipment rejected by an other country was diverted to and accepted by Pakistan in 64 years.

56. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel asked the Secretary Commerce about some precautionary measures against anti dumping and other unhealthy trade practices while developing trade relations with India and other countries. The Secretary Commerce informed that a number of Trade Defence Laws including National Tariff Commission Act 1990, Antidumping Duties Ordinance 2000, Countervailing Duties Ordinance 2001 and Safeguard Measures 2002 were available within the parameters of WTO which could be used to check antidumping etc. The Committee asked the Ministry of Commerce to examine and use if required any of the aforementioned laws / duties to safeguard the genuine interest of the Pakistani farmers and agriculture products. The Chairman of the Committee said that there was need to review and examine the increasing number of complaints in the products supplied by the Chinese Companies both by the public and private sector e.g. rail engines by Pakistan Railway, CNG Buses by the Punjab Government recently. He said that in the private sector there were increasing complaints of fraudulent companies or products from China to which no easy recourse was available. He said that no one could deny

the importance of excellent brotherly relations with China but in the name of friendship, the fraudulent elements should not be allowed to exploit. The Secretary Commerce said that with the change transition in the Chinese economic system more and more private enterprises were coming into business and it was upto the Pakistani importers to check the credentials and ask for quality products at appropriate prices instead of just going for the cheapest and earliest available, which was bound to create troubles.

57. The Ministry of Interior was again not represented at the level required under the Rules as neither the Minister nor the Secretary / Additional Secretary turned up for the meeting to give an update on the ratification of visa agreement with India. The Chairman Committee directed to record displeasure of the Committee for not showing any respect to the Parliamentary Committee in total disregard of the Rules and the Resolution passed by the Committee in the previous meeting held on 5th October, 2012.

58. Coming to the agenda items relating to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chairman Committee asked the Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs to brief about the issue of dual nationality by officers of Foreign Service and their spouses. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah said that the issue of dual nationality has come into focus as a result of restrictions and constitutional bar on the Members of Parliament. He wanted to know that what was the law in case of Foreign Service officers and other public office holders. The Secretary Foreign Affairs said that no Foreign Service officer was holding dual nationality and even in the case of spouses most of the dual nationality holders were of Pakistani origin. He informed the Committee that for marrying a foreign national, the Foreign Service officer has to seek prior permission which was processed through the Establishment Division and approval of the Prime Minister was obtained through a summary. He said that in all the cases of foreign nationality spouses, permission has been obtained. He further informed the Committee that even for marriage with a Pakistani female the Foreign Service officer were supposed to inform and could marry only after clearance.

59. The Chairman and Members of Committee had a number of concerns in cases of dual nationality or marriage to foreigner in view of the sensitive and confidential nature of the job in the MOFA and Missions abroad. They wanted to know the criteria

for according approval to the request for marrying a foreign national, any restriction to serve in the country of the nationality of spouse as well as the law and rules for the other civil servants and public office holders.

60. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam said that the scope of question should be broadened to include the children of the diplomats who get nationality of the country in which their parent was serving as diplomat / Ambassador. She said that instances were in her knowledge but she would not like to name. However, she underlined the importance of broadening the scope of inquiry in the matter of dual nationality in Foreign Service as well other civil servants and public office holders. She read out from the oath that any individual has to take on the eve of grant of nationality of USA which clearly says that he or she had abandoned allegiance with the former country / state and had a number of other clauses such as taking up arms and fighting with any country (including the country of origin or prior nationality) for the USA. She said that in the presence of such an oath how a dual nationality agreement with USA was possible because it clearly says that the newly turned American national severs all relations and allegiance to the former state or country. The Chairman of the Committee said that this matter required thorough scrutiny and reply by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as apparently two issues have been mixed up to protect the interests of certain individuals and classes. He said that grant of passport by UK to citizen of commonwealth countries and some other countries were different from grant of nationality. Likewise permission to hold passports of two countries was different from holding two nationalities and the agreements signed by the government of Pakistan with all countries especially USA needed to be reexamined in this backdrop.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 26th December, 2012.

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held on 26th December, 2012 at 02:00 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting:-

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|------|---|--|
| i. | Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel | Chairman |
| ii. | Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed | Member |
| iii. | Senator Sehar Kamran | Member |
| iv. | Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam | Member |
| v. | Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan,
Minister of State | Minister of State for
Foreign Affairs |

Detail of the participants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs is attached.

2. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Sehar Kamran.

3. Following was the agenda before the Committee:-

- (i) Policy of Government of Pakistan on Cyprus
- (ii) Advice of Foreign Office not to allow Chief Minister of Bihar, India to visit Peshawar / Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province
- (iii) Briefing on visit of Hurriyat Conference delegation to Pakistan
- (iv) Further discussion on Government owned properties abroad
- (v) Any other item with permission of the Chair

4. Senator Sehar Kamran moved a Resolution for condemning the assassination of senior politician and Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Late Bashir Ahmad Bilour. The Committee offered Fatiha for the departed soul and passed the Resolution (annexed).

5. Before taking up formal agenda items, the Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel asked for information and observations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding some recent developments including Paris negotiations with Taliban, cancellation of the visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Iran and its correlation or repercussions for the Gas Pipeline Project.

6. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs gave brief comments about the Paris talks, agreeing to the public comments of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed that the talks were success as, for the first time, all major parties to the conflict and stakeholders sat together. The MOS however highlighted some of the concerns regarding capacity of the institutions and system in Afghanistan as well as internal conflicts in the country.

7. The Foreign Secretary gave a detailed account of the efforts and steps taken by Pakistan before Paris talks which were being widely appreciated by not only western media but Afghan media which previously projected Pakistan's role and contribution negatively. He listed the visits of high peace council and Foreign Minister saying that all issues were taken up in a forthcoming manner by Pakistan and some other steps conducive for the talks were taken by Pakistan including release of some prisoners. He said that efforts were made to bring the Ulema of Pakistan and Afghanistan together and pass unanimous decisions regarding terrorism and sue side attacks. The Foreign Secretary said that the French government had conveyed some details to Pakistan but more feedback will be available in due course. He said that after Tokyo it was for the first time that all important groups participated. The Foreign Secretary also underlined the need for internal consensus in Afghanistan.

8. Regarding cancellation of visit of President of Pakistan to Iran, it was categorically stated that the visit was never finalized as it was only on idea which emerged during D8 Conference and it had more to do with the regional issues than the gas pipeline project which was intact and Pakistan was not budging to any pressure. However, the issues that remained to be solved were taking time.

9. Taking up the formal agenda, the Chairman of the Committee asked the Secretary for any other details or comments than those given in the written brief regarding policy of Government of Pakistan on Cyprus. The Secretary MOFA said that most of the details were in the brief and Pakistan had excellent relations with Cyprus. However, on the issue of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) there were some aspects which could be discussed in in-camera meeting.

10. On the second agenda item, the Chairman of the Committee gave a background of invitation by government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as other provinces to the Chief Minister of Bihar. He wanted to know why an advice to the contrary was given to the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while the Chief Minister Bihar visited Sindh and Punjab province besides Islamabad.

11. The Foreign Secretary said that the Ministry was told only about the formal invitation by the government of Sindh and the program that was discussed included only visits to Sindh and Punjab. He said that at the last minute there were suggestions about visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but due to the advice of law enforcing agencies the visit was not recommended.

12. The Chairman of the Committee was of the view that law and order situation was bad in Karachi and Lahore. He said that in Karachi the situation was even worse so far as general law and order is concerned. The Foreign Secretary and MOS said that there was no denying the fact that law and order challenges were everywhere but it was also a fact that the threat perception for the visit of high profile person and diplomats to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was higher. The Chairman of the Committee did not agree with the contention of the Ministry and asked for a clear cut and categorical statement about the opinion of Ministry of Foreign Affairs about visit of foreigners and diplomats to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He said that while the province was bravely facing the challenge and threat rendering huge sacrifices, our own government departments should not discourage visitors from abroad as it will result in isolation.

13. Taking up the third agenda item of the meeting, the Chairman and Members of the Committee wanted to know why the desire of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee

to meet the visiting Hurriyat Conference Delegation was not acceded to by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

14. The Foreign Secretary said that there was no issue or problem in arranging a separate meeting of the Hurriyat Conference Delegation with the Senate Committee. It was thought that their meeting with the joint Parliamentary Committee of National Assembly and Senate on Kashmir would be more useful. The Chairman of the Committee said that the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee was also dealing with Kashmir Affairs. However, it was clarified that the nomenclature of the Committee was more to do with the Kashmir Affairs Ministry. As a Committee on Foreign Affairs it was however in the jurisdiction of the Committee to take up Kashmir issue. It was decided that in future separate meeting of the visiting Hurriyat Conference Delegation with the Senate Committee will be arranged or a possibility will be explored to hold joint meetings of all the relevant Committees Members of Senate and National Assembly.

15. The Foreign Secretary gave a brief account of the highlights of the visit of the Hurriyat Conference Delegation including their meetings with the top leadership of Pakistan, AJ&K, major political parties and all stakeholders. He said that the visit was supposed to be a regular feature but it took place after a gap of many years during which a number of misperceptions were created. He said that the recent visit helped to remove misperceptions in the minds of Hurriyat Conference leaders who had been facing propaganda by the Indian media and others that Pakistan has forgotten Kashmir or there was some change going to take place in the stand. He said that meetings held with a cross section of leadership, society and political parties had reassured them about no change in policy or any change in future.

16. The Chairman of the Committee wanted to know about the fate of confidence building measures such as allowing visits to the Kashmiris living on both side of the LOC as well as the bus service and trade. The Foreign Secretary clarified that although passport was not a requirement for the visit and a special document was issued to the Kashmiris but this also required some time resulting in backlog of applications. He said that there was a need to simplify the system so that the concept of free movement by

the Kashmiris can be materialized. The Foreign Secretary said that due to the history of Indo-Pak relations some sort of verification or clearance was required because espionage and terrorism cases had happened. The Chairman of the Committee however wanted more liberalization and confidence building measures so that the people of Kashmir can connect easily with each other on both sides of LOC.

17. Discussing the fourth and final formal agenda item, the Committee was informed about the properties of Pakistani Missions abroad including the purchased / owned and hired ones.

18. The Chairman and Members of the Committee were of the view that huge foreign exchange resources were being used on payment of rent. The Ministry was asked to prepare a comprehensive proposal with full details to construct the Chancery and residential buildings on the plots available through borrowing by the banks as the interest on the loan would be much less than the annual rental payments and in the long run the country would save scarce foreign exchange resources.

19. The Ministry officials pointed out lack of release of funds by the government as well as difficulties in borrowing from the foreign banks as the Missions were not in their respective country legal jurisdiction. The Chairman of the Committee however said that his proposal was different from allocation of funds by the government. He said that where Pakistani Banks had branches in the foreign countries, loan can be obtained and in case where Pakistani Banks had no branch, the case can be processed in Pakistan with the Pakistani Banks such as National Bank of Pakistan. It was decided that the Ministry will submit a comprehensive report in this regard giving a list of countries / plots available, the current amount paid as rent, the rate of interest and monthly installments vis-à-vis the monthly rents.

20. Senator Sehar Kamran gave specific examples and details of the property / plot available in Jeddah. She said that so many difficulties were being faced by the community due to lack of coordination and not optimally utilizing the land and physical resources available under the control of different Ministries. She said that not only rent

savings were possible, the whole loan can be repaid in very little time if own properties were constructed. The Chairman of the Committee and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed were also of the view that the proposals / designs of the buildings should not be royal ones and these should be practical and economical such as the one in China. It was finally agreed that the Ministry would work on the proposal in line with the suggestions and recommendations of the Committee which will be presented to the Committee.

21. The Chairman and Members of the Committee asked some specific questions about the deals of sale and swap in Tokyo and Indonesia. These matters had remained under the scrutiny of the PAC and were also in Court. The Foreign Secretary clarified the position in each case and said that while there were some issues in the case of Indonesia, the swap in Tokyo was in the interest of country.

22. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed asked some specific questions about the situation in Syria, Pakistan's recent state of relations with the USA and the plans of the Ministry after Pakistan assume the Chair in the UN Security Council in January, 2013. He said that all these were important issues and there were various reports in the media.

23. The Foreign Secretary briefly replying to the queries of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that the position and role of Pakistan, which was of non interference in the internal affairs, was very well established and appreciated. Regarding recent improvement in relations with the USA, he said that the comments and vibes coming from all sources indicated improvement in relations. He said that the credit for this goes to the Parliament of Pakistan which had, for the first time, given policy guidelines in the matter. He said that Pakistan's principled stand and renegotiation in the light of Parliamentary guidelines had helped Pakistan in creating the space required for a balanced relationship based on effective reciprocity. He said that even the US administration was appreciative of the role of Parliament in properly addressing the issue and defining contours of the policy in line with the aspiration of the people of Pakistan expressed through their elected representatives. The Foreign

Secretary informed that the government and the Ministry had two clear cut defined priorities during the months in which Pakistan will be Chairing UN Security Council.

24. The Committee was informed that an open debate is planned on 21 January on “UN Peacekeeping: a multidimensional approach”, which is aimed at reviewing the UN flagship activity to maintain international peace and security. Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf was scheduled to preside over the session. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will brief the Council on the peacekeeping operations. As a leading contributor of personal to UN peacekeeping operations over the past decades, Pakistan has a vital interest in the continued effectiveness and success of UN peacekeeping, the Foreign Secretary said. An exhibition is also being organized to mark 52 years of Pakistan’s contribution for the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. Currently, Pakistan has over 9,000 troops and other personnel deployed in eight UN Peacekeeping Missions around the world, which demonstrates its commitment to global peace and security.

25. The Foreign Secretary informed that the second planned activity is a ministerial-level open debate on January, 15, to deliberate on the comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. Pakistan hopes that it will provide an opportunity to have a holistic view of the continuing threats and implementing coherent and comprehensive responses to this menace. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed appreciated the selection of priority areas as these were very relevant to the foreign policy goals and contributions of Pakistan.

26. The Chairman of the Committee agreed to the proposal of Foreign Secretary to hold a meeting of the Committee on the agenda item of external dimensions of the terrorism in Pakistan. He also desired an early and comprehensive proposal by the Ministry regarding construction of buildings on the plots available with various Missions abroad through bank loaning or some other method whereby huge expenditure on rents of official and residential buildings abroad can be saved.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 15th APRIL, 2013.

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held on 15th April, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting:-

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|------|--|-----------------|
| i. | Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel | Chairman |
| ii. | Senator Farhatullah Babar | Member |
| iii. | Senator Muhammad Jahangir Bader | Member |
| iv. | Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal | Member |

2. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

3. Following was the agenda before the Committee:-

- i. Briefing on the on-going development projects in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- ii. Briefing on Ata Abad and Shigar Lakes created due to landslide damage caused by lakes to road infrastructure and steps taken to repair the damaged infrastructure.

4. Mr. Kamran Ali Qureshi, Secretary of the Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan introduced himself and the Chief Secretary of Gilgit Baltistan. The Committee, in response to a query, was informed that no Minister has been appointed for the Ministry by the Caretaker Government and as per the general principal the charge of the Ministry was with the Prime Minister.

5. The Chairman of the Committee asked the Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan for briefing on the agenda item. The Chief Secretary started with a brief introduction of the Gilgit Baltistan saying that with about 72000 sq km area and only 1.5 million

population, the density of population was the lowest in the whole of Pakistan including Balochistan. He said that despite low population the developmental requirements of the area were many because of vast spread and specific topography. He said that providing basic needs to the population with little connectivity was also a challenge.

6. After a brief introduction of the area and historical perspective, the Chief Secretary informed that the Empowerment Order 2009 had changed the administrative as well as general outlook of the Gilgit Baltistan which was now more or less a Province administration wise although Constitutionally it had a separate and distinct identity. He said that the people of the area were happy over the reforms. The Chairman and Members of the Committee asked some questions about the history of the ownership and rulers of the area before and at the time of partition. The Members also shared their information and observations about the historical developments.

7. Senator Mohammad Jahangir Bader not only gave a historical perspective on the areas but pointed out an emerging future threat due to the adverse affects of climate change. He asked whether there was any proper study or coordination with the Ministry of Climate Change as there were many reports of looming danger not only to the area but the rest of Pakistan along with some other countries due to climate change. He proposed to the Chairman Committee to convene an international Seminar in the matter to share international knowledge and experiences as well as to chalk out a plan of action for the country including Gilgit Baltistan where Glacier melting was apprehended besides frequent land slidings and other disasters.

8. Coming to the agenda item, the Chief Secretary gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the development budget 2012-13 outlay, which was Rs. 8039 million. He said that about 80% of the Gilgit Baltistan Annual Development Plan 2012-13 was for the ongoing schemes with only 20% for the new schemes. The Committee was informed about the district level distribution of ADP according to which the outlay was distributed among districts in proportion with the size of population and area and Skardu had 25% followed by Gilgit 17%, Diamer 15%, Ghizer 14%, Hunza / Nagar 11%, Ghanche 10% and Astore 8%.

9. The Committee was given details about the sector wise summary of ADP showing highest allocation of 32.2% for the power sector. The Committee was informed that Gilgit Baltistan had huge untapped potential for power generation and unlike the other parts of the country, all the areas had independent power production facilities. The Committee was informed that due to lack of connectivity within the areas there were problems of meeting shortages in one area from the other but more importantly the areas could not export the surplus energy currently available as well as the huge untapped potential to the energy short national grid distribution system for no connectivity. The Chief Secretary strongly pleaded the case for connecting the areas with the national grid distribution system. He suggested a route via Phandar and connecting through Chitral for export of around 100 MW of surplus electricity available.

10. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel was of the view that instead of exporting the surplus meager available energy, connectivity within the areas should be increased to meet shortages in some areas especially Gilgit. He said that the Ministry and the Chief Secretary should also work at the option of encouraging industry in the area by offering a low cost and full time available energy. The Chief Secretary was of the view that due to peculiar geographic and topographic nature of the areas, industrialization was not the best option as it may destroy the natural beauty and effect ecology of the region. He said that the tourism potential of the areas was huge and instead of industrialization, efforts should be made to encourage tourism which could be a great source of income. He mentioned about the number of highest peaks in the area as well as the connection of three great mountain ranges.

11. The Chairman and Members of the Committee agreed to the tourism potential but underscored the importance of law and order in the areas which had affected tourism. The Chief Secretary informed that situation has improved with the posting of career officers from other parts of the country and other measures. He however said that acts of terrorism had been committed by some outsiders which had caused damage to the law and order situation perception.

12. The Committee was briefed about the PSDP funded projects. In response to the desire of the Chairman Committee to give more details about the projects in the energy sector, the Chief Secretary informed about the 26 MW Hydro Power Project Shagarthan 14 MW Hydel Power Project Naltar-V, 16 MW Hydel Power Project Naltar-III and 04 MW Hydel Project at Thack Nullah Chilas.

13. The Chairman of the Committee mentioned about the big energy projects in the pipeline including Diamer Bhasha, Bhunji, Dasu and others. He said that connectivity with the national grid would be possible after these projects but there was no clarity on the completion timeframe of these projects. He mentioned about Katzara and other potential projects in which China was offering help in development as they were also short of energy in the adjoining border areas.

14. Senator Farhatullah Babar, Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal and Senator Jahangir Badar also expressed their views about the untapped energy potential of the areas and suggested that a combined meeting of the Ministries of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan with Water and Power Ministry should be convened to examine the matter in detail and recommend a policy in this regard.

15. The Chief Secretary briefed the Committee about the land slide at Hoto Shigar and a video clip was played for the information of the Committee. He said that due to some timely steps, but more importantly the acts of nature, a major disaster was avoided as the landslide that occurred was huge but it was more of soft soil then rocks and a natural spillway was created which saved the areas.

16. The Chief Secretary then gave a detailed account of the losses and damages caused during the unprecedented landslide of Ata Abad on 4.1.2010, whereby the Hunza River and Karakrum Highway were completely blocked. While 20 persons expired and many were injured, 7 villages were submerged and about 457 houses were damaged. He said that a total of 3656 people were internally displaced directly while there were 4792 indirectly affected IDPs. He gave details of the submerged or collapsed agriculture land of around 13000kenals, about 200,000 fruit trees and over 800 cattle

sheds destroyed. A total of 4 bridges submerged while a sizeable portion of KKH came under water which was still a major missing link in the area causing huge difficulties to people and administration.

17. The Chief Secretary informed about the assistance package by the local administration, GB government, Chinese government, Pakistan Baitulmal and some international organizations. He briefed the Committee about the Helicopter sorties, Boat operations and operation of Class 50 Ferry. The details of all the food supplies and survival kits given to the people during the past 2 years were shared with the Committee.

18. Senator Farhatullah Babar said that while some relief assistance had been provided to the affectees in the initial phase and some survival support was also made available in the following years, there were reports and complaints of arresting and penalizing some of the people who were demonstrating for due compensation. He gave specific details of one case and asked the Chief Secretary about other cases and the policy in the matter, which he said was the primary concern of the Committee and elected representatives.

19. The Chief Secretary said that despite best efforts to compensate the people, there were not enough resources and the losses were huge and permanent. He said that there were some reports of unnecessary agitation and demands but there was no denying the fact that the people of the area were suffering in a big way. He said that since financially and logistically it was not possible to provide assistance and basic necessities to the people in the upper area of the Lake, assistance package with the government of China was signed for the first two years which was later extended for an other year.

20. Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal expressed his great shock over the approach adopted by the administration in the matter. He said that the seriousness of the crisis was either not recognized or had been forgotten with the passage of time. He said that instead of relying on other country's aid and that too for an indefinite period in

the matter of a Lake or natural disaster was of great concern to the elected representatives and the Committee. He said that activities, no matter how many and for how long, were not a substitute for a result oriented action plan and concrete steps. He said that countries and nations face natural disasters and come out of these through efforts but a stand alone event could not be properly addressed for the last many years. He proposed to the Chairman Committee to undertake a visit of the site to better understand the situation and re-sensitize the media and the public about the grave situation.

21. The Chairman of the Committee was also not happy on the steps being taken to repair the damaged infrastructure and reopen the road which was adversely affecting trade with China. The Chief Secretary said that the reconstruction of road project was with the NHA who were in better position to brief the Committee. The Chairman Committee and Senator Mustafa Kamal expressed their displeasure over lack of coordination between the GB Administration and NHA and decided that a visit of the site will be undertaken after the general elections and joint meeting of all concerned, especially NHA, will be convened to get details about the new road link project as the Lake was now considered a reality.

22. The Secretary of the Ministry and the Chief Secretary agreed to the suggestion and promised to arrange a visit of the Committee to the site in the last week of May. The Committee decided to undertake the visit and invite the NHA and all other stakeholders to get a comprehensive briefing about the plans and progress so far on reopening land route / road on high priority as not only the people of the area were continuously suffering, the trade with China was almost stopped. The Committee decided that in due course joint meetings with other relevant Ministries and stakeholders will be held on the cross cutting issues of power generation and export as well as climate change affects in the region.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 27th MAY, 2013.

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held on 27th May, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The Meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman SSC on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. Following Members attended the meeting:-

	Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel	Chairman
i.	Senator Farhatullah Babar	Member
ii.	Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Member
v.	Senator Syeda Sughra Imam	Member
v.	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member

List of the participants of MOFA and Commerce is also attached.

2. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran.
3. Following was the agenda before the Committee:-
 - i. Irregularities in the appointment of Trade Officers in the Pakistani Missions abroad.
 - ii. Pakistanis detained in Indian Jails.
 - iii. Delay in issuance of Note Verbal to former Parliamentarians with details of number of Note Verbal issued to Parliamentarians during last one year.
 - iv. Details of appointments made in Foreign Office during last three years along with procedures adopted for appointment.
 - v. Details of regularization of employees in the Foreign Office during last three years, showing procedure adopted at the time of initial appointment.
 - vi. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. On the suggestion of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayefi, the Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel agreed to include an additional agenda item on the recently concluded visit of the Premier of the People's Republic of China, Li Keqiang and it was decided that the Foreign Secretary will brief the Committee in camera before notified agenda.

5. The Foreign Secretary Syed Jalil Abbas Jilani, briefing the Committee about the visit, said that it was the most important visit which was undertaken at a time when the new government had yet to take over in Pakistan after elections and a caretaker government was in place. The Chinese side did not consider the political and electoral situation in Pakistan as any problem, underlining the fact that Pakistan and China were 'all weather friends' and no circumstances or situation could influence or effect the deep rooted relations.

6. The Foreign Secretary briefed the Committee about the objectives of the visit which included; a message to the people of Pakistan that irrespective of any political change, the relations will go on from higher to higher as there was complete consensus across the party line; a signal to the world that the new Chinese leadership will also have relations with Pakistan as its priority and that's why Pakistan was included in the first leg of the visit after change of leadership in China; underscore that Pakistan and China want peaceful negotiated settlement of all issues between countries of the region; China's continued reliance on Pakistan's input and advice regarding Afghanistan; furthering bilateral strategic cooperation; increased cooperation on counter terrorism and explore untapped market potential of Pakistani products in China to balance the trade. He said that almost all objectives of the visit were achieved but most significant were boosting trade and economic relations and energy sector initiatives besides strategic and defence related agreements. He gave some details of the economic and energy sector initiatives but said that more details will be made public in due course. He said that China Pakistan relations were not one sided as Pakistan had been extending unconditional and unmatched support to China

at all forums for which Chinese were obliged. He said that joint working groups have been established to boost trade and give concrete shape to the second phase of FTA agreement including currency swap and barter trade. He said that if one outcome of the visit was to be highlighted it was the new 'economic corridor' whereby not only Pakistan and China will be connected from Gwadar to KKH but a new corridor for the rest of the region and world will be opened. He said that people to people contact were also growing and more young Pakistanis were learning Chinese language for which China will provide teacher training. He said that the Chinese leadership was making conscious efforts to inculcate the friendship with Pakistan in the minds of new generation entrepreneurs of China who were mostly western educated and oriented. He said that strong message of the visit was that no matter how fast China grows and becomes bigger and bigger and its relations with other neighbors change, Pakistan will remain the best friend of China.

7. The Chairman of the Committee and Members asked several questions about the visit including the media reports on various issues such as visiting India before Pakistan. The Foreign Secretary said that economic growth and resulting cooperation as well as dependence between India and China were facts. He said that other than economic considerations, the Chinese were worried about being encircled by surrounding countries because of different geographical disputes. China was therefore trying to resolve its border disputes with India as soon as possible. The Foreign Secretary however urged upon all sections of the society including the media to not get involved into non issues and have faith in time tested Pak China friendship.

8. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed appreciated the detailed briefing by Foreign Secretary but asked for effective followup and implementation as many MOUs had been signed with China in the past as well which remain untouched. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri was also of the view that there was much more talk than action and Pakistan should focus on its development needs instead of being marred into controversies with neighbouring countries. The Foreign Secretary said that there were serious capacity issues on Pakistan side which were hindering implementation on many agreements but he agreed with the Committee Members that serious follow up was required to convert the MOUs into concrete action.

9. Taking up the first notified agenda item, the Chairman of the Committee asked the Secretary Commerce to brief regarding the selection process of commercial Counselors and Attaches and explain various controversies in this regard. The Secretary Commerce gave a detailed background including the policy formulation and Court cases regarding selection and appointment of Trade Officers. He said that one major issue was the quota for Commerce and Trade Group which was finally decided to be between 25-30% while the rest of 70% were to be from various other services including from private sector with relevant education and qualification. He said that the posts were advertised and everyone had to apply. After short listing each and every person had to appear and qualify the written test conducted by LUMS.

10. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam pointed out that there were press reports regarding use of name of LUMS in written exam while actually the Ministry set the papers. She also asked about the particular department of LUMS which conducted the test pointing out that the paper was too easy as majority of the candidates passed. The Secretary Commerce categorically stated that the Ministry had no influence in the exam by LUMS. He however agreed that the passing ratio was very high but justified the minimum qualifying marks comparing these with FPSC written qualifying marks. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam had concerns about the appointment of less experienced BS-18 Officers but the Secretary Commerce said that it was well considered policy decision in line with posting of junior Foreign Service Officers.

11. The Chairman of the Committee asked that whether there was any private sector Member in the Board which conducted interviews. The Secretary Commerce said that it was mostly government sector but some of the heads of the trade / investment promotion organizations were from the private sector. On the recommendation of the Committee the Secretary Commerce agreed to include the Chairman Board of Investment instead of Secretary in the Interview Board because he was usually from the private sector. The Chairman TDAP also from public sector was already included in the Board.

12. Senator Farhatullah Babar said that the weightage given to the written test (20%), IT skills (10%), the performance evaluation reports (PERs) of officers (10%) and the interview

(60%) in making the final selection was lopsided and gave undue weight to discretion in interview. He said that even in the CSS examination 1100 marks were reserved for the written test and only 300 marks (i.e. about 25%) were reserved for the interview. He suggested that the weightage formula for selection of Trade Offices needed to be revisited so as to decrease the proportion of weightage given to interview.

13. The Chairman and other Members of the Committee also considered the written test and interview ratio lop sided and recommended to review it. The Secretary Commerce agreed to move the case for reviewing the ratio to give 60% weightage to the written test and PERs and 40% to the interview.

14. Members of the Committee asked various questions about the process of the recently selected Trade Officers pointing out to controversies and media reports in this regard. The Secretary Commerce said that those who could not be selected or were not given the stations of their choice always leveled allegations. He reassured the Committee that selections were merit based as per approved policy. He said that all the writs and stay orders by various Courts were finally decided in favor of the Ministry, which proves that the process was as per Law, Rules and Policy.

15. The second notified agenda item was regarding the Pakistanis detained in Indian Jails. The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave details of the Pakistani prisoners in Indian Jails. He said that at present there are 469 Pakistani prisoners (165 fishermen and 305 civil) as conveyed by the High Commission for Pakistan, New Delhi. Out of total, 197 Pakistani prisoners have not been provided consular access by Indian side despite several requests. According to Agreement on Consular Access signed between Pakistan and India in May 2008, consular access is to be provided within 90 days of arrest of either country prisoners. This agreement is not being followed by the Indian side. He further informed that 30 Pakistani prisoners have completed their sentence and their national status as Pakistani has been confirmed but the Indians however, are not repatriating them.

16. The Chairman of the Committee Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel expressed deep concern over the fact that many of the prisoners who had completed jail term were still not

released and repatriated. He wanted to bring on record the concern of the Committee regarding lack of effective liaison and followup by the Pakistani diplomats in reaching out to the Indian authorities and Pakistani prisoners. The Members of the Committee also wanted to know what the Pakistan High Commission was doing in cases where Indian authorities were not giving consular access. The

Committee wanted to know what other measures and steps were possible in such cases.

17. Senator Farhatullah Babar said that relations between India and Pakistan have followed a pattern of tit for tat and asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that whether there were cases of Indian prisoners held in Pakistan who have been denied consular access and whether there were cases of Indian prisoners in our jails who had completed their term but had not yet been released. He said that if these figures were made available then a rational discussion can take place to take the process forward. The Additional Secretary MOFA said that he did not have these figures readily available with him and that he will provide these figures to the Committee.

18. The Additional Secretary assured the Committee that all the required details in this regard will be provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Interior and Pakistan High Commission in India. This information will be provided as soon as possible but not later than two weeks after which the Committee will decide to hold a meeting in which Ministry of Interior may also be invited.

19. On the agenda item regarding issuance of Note Verbal to the former Parliamentarians, the Chief of Protocol, MOFA, said that Note Verbal are issued for official visit to former Parliamentarians but in view of the large number of former Parliamentarians there was an apprehension that it will lose its utility and no Embassy in Islamabad will accommodate so many requests for private visits. He also mentioned that there was no international practice or norm in this regard.

20. The Chairman of the Committee did not agree with the contention of the Ministry and said that instead of a big No, the Ministry should consider the matter in its true perspective. He said that the record attached with the brief showed that very few Note Verbal were issued to the

former Parliamentarians. He wanted to know how many former Parliamentarians applied for Note Verbal. The Ministry did not have the information available.

21. It was decided that the Ministry will provide detailed information about:-

- i. The total applications by former Parliamentarians for Note Verbal in the last two years.**
- ii. The number and list of all the persons; civil, military officers (serving and retired) as well as all other persons to whom Note Verbal was issued during the past two years.**

22. On the agenda item No. (iv) regarding appointments made in Foreign office during the last three years, the Committee was informed that fifteen persons were appointed Ambassadors / High Commissioners (BS-22/21) in different countries. Two officers (Minister Community Welfare - BS-20, and First Secretary BS-18) in Pakistan High Commission, London, UK and Pakistan Embassy in Dublin, Ireland, were appointed on contract basis by the then Prime Minister. Sixty six (66) officers were inducted in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in FSP cadre during the last three years through Federal Public Service Commission.

23. The Committee Members wanted to know the fate of political appointee Ambassadors including politicians, former diplomats and Generals. The Committee was informed that in the contract of all such Ambassadors it was clearly mentioned that their services will stand terminated / resigned on the change of the government which appointed them. There was some debate about the quota of political appointees especially big ratio of Generals and retired Foreign Service Officers.

24. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam pointed out that appointing retired diplomats on contract under this category was just a cover up to give extension to the superannuated civil servants on which the Supreme Court directives were very clear and the Ministry needs to keep this in mind. It was however decided that the Ministry will revise policy and gradually reduce quota of political appointees from 20% to 15%.

25. The Committee was also provided details of all the officials in lower grades appointed during the last three years, out of which the highest number was that of Stenotypists. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam said that in view of the new technologies and new requirements, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should take lead in changing the staff qualifications and designations as Stenotypists were a requirement of the past. The other Committee Members also wanted the Ministry to review the designations and skills of lower grade officials appointed in Pakistani Missions abroad and advised to follow the norms and practice in the countries in which they were serving. However, it was realized that such decisions required thorough deliberations and concurrence of other Ministries. The Committee wanted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take a lead in the matter.

26. On the final agenda item, the Committee was given details of the lower grade officials whose services were regularized during the past three years. The Ministry said that all the lower grade appointments including the regularized ones were made as per rules and procedure. **The Chairman of the Committee wanted provincial domicile details of all the employees appointed / regularized during last 3 years which will be provided by the Ministry in two weeks time.**

27. Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam pointed out that some of the senior scale employees / Advisors appointed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were holders of dual nationality. The Committee gave clear cut direction that for all appointments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including contractual, MP scale or any other nature, the Ministry must clearly advertise that the applicants should be holder of only Pakistani nationality and no dual national should be appointed in the Ministry. The Committee wanted the press advertisement, the policy and procedure for hiring Legal Advisor in the Ministry. **The Additional Secretary promised to provide all the required information within two weeks' time.**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT-BALTISTAN HELD ON 25TH JULY, 2013 IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan was held on 25th July, 2013 in the Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee:-

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| 1) | Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel | Chairman |
| 2) | Senator Babar Khan Ghauri | Member |
| 3) | Senator Farhatullah Babar | Member |
| 4) | Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader | Member |
| 5) | Senator Syed Mustafa Kamal | Member |
| 6) | Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri | Member |

2. The following officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting:-

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|----|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) | Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, | Secretary |
| 2) | Mr. Sohail Mahmood | Addl. Secretary (Afghanistan) |
| 3) | Mr. Salik Khan, | Director General (Afghanistan) |
| 4) | Mr. Iftikhar Anjum, | Director General |
| 5) | Mrs. Riffat Masood, | Director General (SA) |
| 6) | Mr. Zaheer A. Janjua, | Chief of Protocol |
| 7) | Syed Haider Shah, | Director (Afghanistan) |
| 8) | Sardar Muhammad Khattak, | Deputy Chief of Protocol |

3. The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Senator Maulana Ghafoor Haideri.

4. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Response of Government of Pakistan on news items stating that India itself was behind the attack on Parliament in Delhi and the Mumbai terror attacks.

- (ii) Response of Government of Pakistan on the news regarding involvement of Hindhu extremist groups in Samjhauta Express bombings.
- (iii) Further discussion on “Talks with Taliban”.
- (iv) Further discussion on delay in issuance of Note Verbal to former parliamentarians with details of total applications received and number of Note Verbal issued to former parliamentarians during last two years.
- (v) The number and list of all the persons; civil, military officers (serving and retired) as well as all other persons to whom Note Verbal was issued during the past two years.
- (vi) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

5. The Chairman of the Committee asked the Ministry for combined briefing on Item (i) and Item (ii) of the Agenda as these were of identical nature. Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Secretary Foreign Affairs briefed the Committee regarding the statement attributed to Mr. RBS Mani, Under Secretary in the Home Ministry that Mr. Verma, member of CBI telling him that Indian Parliament attack and 2008 Mumbai attack were orchestrated by India Government in order to strengthen related legislation, Secretary Foreign Affairs informed that the statement prompted plenty of debate and attracted enough media attention. The Foreign Ministry contacted the Pakistan High Commission to investigate into it and check with the Indian Government and inform the Ministry. The Pakistan High Commission sent interim report after taking up with the Indian External Ministry as well as investigating informally by itself. According to the interim report, Mr. Verma has told the Indian Government that he has not spoken to Mr. Mani regarding the matter. It has also appeared in the section of Indian media that some conflict between the two officers could be the reason of leveling of charge by one of them against the other. The Secretary Foreign Affairs stated that although the investigation into the matter is still going-on and its final report was yet to come, however, it is a fact that in all the attacks occurred in India so far in which Pakistan have been accused, even a large number of people in India have raised questions about the statements of their government. He also referred renowned Indian author Arundhati Roy and her book titled: “Thirteen December, Thirteen Questions” Mentioning 13 December, 2000, the date of Indian Parliament attack, and thirteen are the questions raised by Indian intellectuals finding gaps in the Indian government’s version attributed to the attack.

6. Regarding Samjhota Express bombing, the Secretary Foreign Affairs termed the burning of the train the most horrendous incident in which more than 60 innocent poor people of the divided families lost their precious lives. He said that at that time he was in India to attend a meeting and had visited some of the seriously injured hospitalized Pakistani passengers. Even at that time questions were being raised that the incident was not a mere accident. It has now become an open secret when a Senior officer of RSS namely Aseemanand Swami, feeling a pinch of conscience at the sight of torture of a muslim child in jail, gave statement to police and the investigation team that RSS had attacked the Parliament and Indian Military Intelligence personnel had a hand in attacking the Samjhota Express. The latter's statement resulted in arrest of Colonel Proheed and other persons of Military Intelligence for investigation. Pakistan High Commission took up the matter with the Indian Government to investigate and share report regarding involvement of Indian army personnel and their motives. However, the Indian Government has not shared the investigation with Government of Pakistan so far, the Secretary apprised the Committee. He said that Secretary Interior who discusses the incidents of terrorism has a meeting with the Indian officials and thus the Samjhota Express incident will be taken up during the next round of Composite Dialogue at the diplomatic level due to revive, soon as its dates are being exchanged and finalized in the next week ten days.

7. The Chairman of the Committee asked that whenever right or wrong incident occurs in India, their government and their media speak very vociferously and aggressively against Pakistan at national and international level, but in the wake of Samjhota Express bombing in which concrete evidence has emerged and the Indian Colonel is involved, then why at the Government level this incident is mentioned at low profile and politeness is expressed? The Secretary MOFA replied that whenever such incidents take place, we share our point of view with the diplomatic core present in Pakistan, highlight our point of view in media. He said that the occurrence of this particular incident of Samjhota Express was abundantly highlighted when it took place. This issue is still on the radar screen of those countries who are interested in fostering better relationship between Pakistan and India. Besides this, when such issues occur, we always sent important points, based on facts, to all our missions abroad for sharing it

with Governments and diplomats and highlight among their think tanks and media, the Secretary said. He also apprised the Committee that we have been sensitizing India that the particular incident of Samjhota Express was a very serious issues which not only required investigation but also its sharing with us.

8. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel while sharing his experience with the Committee stated that within three weeks after the occurrence of Mumbai incident, he already as part of a delegation went to India under the auspices of South Asia Free Media Association. When they observed a very aggressive attitude of the people, media, officers and leadership of the political parties on the Indian side which also included those segments who were once considered as soft and sympathizers of Pakistan. He said that in India always a detailed message is conveyed to their people, their media and to the international media. He observed that in Pakistan, however, we cannot do so in spite of being innocent and it is not clear as to where lies the fault, whether it is at the foreign office level or of the Government of Pakistan or other departments. Thus we have not been able to plead our case properly in the court of international media, Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel expressed. Referring to his sixteen years long experience of dealing the matters relating to Pakistan and India, the Secretary MOFA said that there is a culture in India that when it comes to the matters relating to Pakistan and India, be it political parties, media, members of civil society or government, they all stand united and their point of view is one. They never question the point of view of their government notwithstanding their domestic issues and differences.

9. Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri endorsed the point of view of the Foreign Ministry. He said that when the incidents of Parliament and Mumbai occurred, members of the frontier constabulary in Baluchistan were sent to the borders and at that juncture, Pakistani and Indian forces were face to face on the brink of war. He said it's a fact that sometime such incidents are planned by various countries in order to achieve certain objectives. He cited local instances of honor killings and violence against women in which actual motives are ascertained at later stage. He said that there was a prevalence of a general perception about involvement of Pakistan in Indian attacks till appearing of those media reports. The Senator deplored the occurrence of

Samjhota Express in which precious lives were lost. He said that by citing such unfortunate incidents the Indian Government has been telling the world that Pakistan is sponsoring the acts of terrorism on their land. He urged the Foreign Office and the incumbent government to timely take action and underscored the need of national integration, national consensus, holding of national conferences and media conferences in the wake of such incidents and coming up with the factual position and forging a unanimous point of view in order to dispel wrong perceptions about Pakistan. Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri was also reminiscent of the statements of the then Interior Minister to the effect that there was an Indian hand in currently deteriorated situation in Baluchistan. The Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that certain foreign factors were responsible in current situation in Baluchistan. The Senator urged upon the government to take the nation into confidence and share the facts whether there is involvement of foreign elements in jeopardizing peace in Baluchistan.

10. Senator Farhatullah Baber expressed his reservations about the news that one Indian officer said that the other officers told him that India had planned the Mumbai attack. He said that we should not go too far in this game for the fear that we might plunge the entire nation in hostile environment and a permanent state of denial engendering disastrous consequences. He said that in the initial days of Mumbai attack, we straightaway denied the reports till a boy was arrested. He said credit goes to the media for approaching the village of Ajmal Kassab and talking to his parents. It cost our National Security Adviser his job when he officially announced that Ajmal Kassab was a Pakistani citizen. This became a basis of the fact that as a nation we cannot live in a state of denial. Similarly when the Kargil incident occurred, we took a position that Pakistan army did not go there rather those were the Mujahideen. He said that although Pakistan and India harbor a relationship in which such incidents keep occurring in both the countries, nevertheless, we must be aware of the fact that if we keep pursuing such matters beyond a particular limit then we will be living in a state of denial which could be even more disastrous. He said the greater one's inner strength, the more confidently one can examine one's weaknesses. He emphasized the civil society, institutions, media and the Pakistani nation not to slip into a state of denial and

explicitly express their weaknesses and shortcomings to escape subsequent disastrous consequences.

11. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader asked the Secretary MOFA that after appearing of those news items suggesting Indian involvement in the Parliament and Mumbai attacks, has there been any visible change in Indian perception about Pakistan. The Secretary responded that despite of the statements of Mr. Mani and Mr. Verma and the investigations pending into the matter, Indian intellectuals' contribution towards raising the thirteen questions mentioned in Arundhati Roy's book, and the incident of Thirty Six Sempura Village in Indian held Kashmir killing five sikhs by the Indian army and accusing Pakistan of terrorism, which were later proved by an independent human rights commission that those sikhs were killed by Indian forces, there has been no visible change witnessed in the Indian perception about Pakistan. Rather, Indian government has been taking political mileage and earning advantage of out of the propaganda against Pakistan, he said.

12. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader further asked that whether Pakistan Government has initiated any dialogue process with the Indian Government in which both the countries could mutually agree to make efforts for elimination of terrorism in South Asia region. The Foreign Secretary informed the committee members that occurrence of terrorism incidents particularly after 1997 forms a separate agenda item for discussion in ongoing dialogue process with Indian government. He said that a Joint Anti-Terrorism mechanism was devised in 1996 according to which we used to address each other's concerns and discussed across the table. But unfortunately after the Bombay incident, this mechanism ceased. However, we are trying either to revive the same mechanism or devise its alternate to address such serious issue of terrorism. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader suggested that India should be sensitized about the fact that if it did not help in countering terrorism and sharing investigation with Pakistan, there is imminent danger of mushroom growth of terrorism in the region.

13. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel expressed that the issue of the killing of Sikhs in Indian held Kashmir was not adequately highlighted in the Pakistani media. He

said soon after the incident he went to India through Wagha Border on the invitation of Pak-India People Forum Peace for Democracy and visited Amratsar, Jalyanwalla and the Temple. He told the people in India with reference to Khyberpakhtoonkhwa that we were in a state of war, being attacked through drones and that they were also attacking us with verbal drones. However, if we fail to contain the terrorism, this could also penetrate into India, entire Asia and Europe. He expressed our weakness of not properly highlighting any evidence which could be positive for Pakistan's image. Since our country has experienced martial law, our nation does not trust the statement of the government and because of this trust deficit, our people, civil society, media and the government have no unanimous view point on many important matters, Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel said while citing occurrences of Kargil and 1971 war.

14. Senator Mustafa Kamal asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as to what is permanent SOP to deal with emergency situations in external relations. The Secretary apprised the committee that there is a proper mechanism for the purpose. In the event of any crisis situation, the Chief Executive of the country immediately calls a meeting in which Foreign Affairs gives its point of view. The Foreign Minister or the Foreign Secretary convenes the press conference and apprises the media about the situation. Simultaneously, respective section of the foreign office disseminates instructions to all our missions abroad stating the strategy of the government. The information is also shared with the media and Pakistani diaspora. Senator Mustafa Kamal further asked that apart from Ambassador was there any other dedicated officer round the year available to handle such matters and was there any plan to properly market and correct the perception about Pakistan? The Secretary responded that eighty percent of our missions are two men missions which is inclusive of Ambassador and a Second Secretary or a junior officer and rest twenty percent of our missions constitute other staff members apart from the Ambassador. In Delhi, New York, Washington we have eight officers. Regarding gap in perception and marketing, the Secretary attributed multifarious reasons such as internal country situation and the place of Pakistan and India in international politics. He said that with the Grace of Almighty Allah, we have a lot of say at the international forums like United Nations and OIC. We are the members of Security Council for the seventh time. The other aspects included media, diaspora of

our neighboring country and its presence in international media, congress, universities and at various levels.

15. Senator Babar Ghauri asked for clarification of the Foreign Ministry about a private effort in the name of Aman Ki Aasha in which parliamentarians and foreign office participated and now questions were being raised that it was sponsored by Indian funding. The Secretary apprised that the foreign office only pursues the policy of the government and supports any effort aimed at peace and stability. However, regarding the Aman Ki Aasha being a private effort, the foreign office has no mechanism to establish or verify it and said that they only knew about it to the extent of media reports.

16. Senator Sehar Kamran stated that one the reasons for ambiguity in our policies is the transparency of our policies and emphasized to be more transparent and correct our posture. She said Pakistan is being severely criticized in world about the acts of terrorism. Since such acts have occurred in Indian, as to how we have communicated our message to the international community she asked. The Secretary Foreign Affairs said that this issue has been highlighted in the media in India and at various levels. The Indian government has advanced their version that Mr. Verma has denied such statement and the matter is pending investigation. Senator reiterated the importance of transparency of policies at the government level. The Secretary Foreign Affairs expressed a sense of satisfaction about the effectiveness of parliamentary committees to encourage interaction and gaining valuable input and start of public awareness process.

Agenda Item No.(iii)

“Further discussion on Talks with Taliban”

Regarding the Taliban Talks, the Chairman of the Committee asked about the role of Pakistan and its advantages. Whether these talks are between Taliban and America or Afghan government and other groups like Northern Alliance and Hekmatyar's group are also included in these Talks and if these talk are successful what will be its effects on Khyberpakhtoonkhwa, tribal areas, Pakistani Taliban or Swati Taliban. The Secretary MOFA said that Pakistan's policy is very clear about Afghanistan to which Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel disagreed and said that since commencement of Afghanistan crisis 25 years ago, Pakistan's Policy has been different in General Zia era and General Musharaf's period. The Secretary mentioned various elements of

Pakistan's policy with regard to Afghanistan which comprises the current situation in Afghanistan, internal reconciliation process in Afghanistan, reconciliation process among Taliban and Afghanistan, security situation in Afghanistan, presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan and political forces in Afghanistan. These all issues were inter-related, he said. Regarding the role of Pakistan, there is no ambiguity in Pakistan's policy that it wants peace in Afghanistan. If there is no peace and stability in Afghanistan then lawlessness and difficulties in Pakistan will persist which could even escalate in future. While mentioning about the recent years, developments, the Secretary said that earlier perception has been dispelled that Pakistan is only interacting with one group of Pashtoons in Afghanistan; rather Pakistan is having better relations with all the parties in Afghanistan inclusive of the former Northern Alliance. A consensus has developed in the last two three years particularly when President Hamid Karzai said that Pakistan should appeal at the highest level that Taliban should become a part of reconciliation process. Pakistan has been facilitating the reconciliation process in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister of Pakistan issued a public statement that Taliban should become a part of the reconciliation process. In order to become part of the reconciliation process, Pakistan facilitated all the representatives of Taliban in Pakistan to become part of the reconciliation process are that in Qatar, Afghanistan or any third country. Pakistan has been part of the trilateral process i.e. America, Afghanistan and Pakistan and all the international community have appreciated Pakistan's role. We also played our due role in the Doha process which is acknowledged by all the parties. The Secretary said that the negativity generated previously with regard to Pakistan's role to a large extent has now turned into positivity.

17. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader suggested the Chairperson to hold a separate meeting on single agenda on the future of Afghanistan to cover all the aspects like security and trade etc. He also suggested that the Minister for Foreign Affairs should attend the meeting and brief the committee on Afghanistan. The Secretary MOFA apprised the committee that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has given policy guidelines regarding improving of relationship with the neighboring countries, Afghanistan and India. The Prime Minister also extended invitation to President Hamid Karzai to come to Pakistan and also sent Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Foreign Minister who had a

fruitful reconciliation related discussion with President Hamid Karzai. He further said that Pakistan, Afghanistan and the international community have convergences on pursuance of the reconciliation process. While endorsing the suggestion of Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader, the Secretary also desired that a separate session on the Afghanistan be dedicated in-camera so that no one feels constrained in candidly expressing his point of view. Regarding recent visit of Mr. Sartaj Aziz to Afghanistan, Senator Haji Adeel Ahmed cited the media reports from Afghanistan and BBC which were not positive and he also said that President Hamid Karzai has also attached certain preconditions to visit Pakistan. The Secretary assured the committee that the Foreign Minister's visit was successful as it not only minimized the preceding negativity but it also boosted interaction between the two countries.

18. Senator Sehar Kamran asked about the measures to ensure security of porous borders in the post-NATO scenario, necessary to safeguard the security and economy of Pakistan. The Secretary MOFA said that border mechanism is a very important issue and is discussion in internal meetings among the Prime Minister Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and input is being sought from the security agencies to strengthen the border mechanism. He said that there exists an agreement aimed at strengthening the border mechanism between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Afghan Interior Minister has been invited to discuss the border mechanism and related matters like regulation of traffic, refugees, undesirable elements and terrorism. The mechanism will take a shape after the visit of President Hamid Karzai, he stated. Senator Sehar Kamran asked another question concerning a project called: "Heart of Asia". The Foreign Secretary said the same project is also known as "Istambole Process", initiated two years back in Turkey which consisted of the regional countries and Pakistan being part of it. Under the Istambole Process, seven working groups or coordinators were formed which related to economy and Pakistan was leading the segment related to disaster management. He said that significant progress is being witnessed in "Heart of Asia" project.

Agenda Item No.(iv) and (iv)

The Chairman of the Committee asked details about the issuance of Note Verbal to former parliamentarians in the last two years and the detail about all persons, civil,

military officers to whom Note Verbal is issued in the past two years. The Chief of Protocol, Mr. Zaheer A. Janjua briefed the committee that during the past two years, fifty five (55) former parliamentarians had applied for the Note Verbal out of which forty eight (48) former members were issued the note verbal and six of them have not collected their note verbal and there was no outstanding request pending with them. The CP told the committee that nineteen thousand seven hundred and sixty seven (19, 767) Note Verbales were issued in favour of persons, civil or military officers (serving and retired) and official of other government department during the past two years . The Secretary further explained to the committee that because of the official delegations of the Prime Ministers Secretariat, President Secretariat and other government delegations proceeding abroad, large number of Note Verbales has been issued. The Secretary also told the Committee that no importance was given to Note Verbales issued by them rather the respective embassies have their own criteria regarding issuing of visas. The Committee expressed its displeasure of the earlier discriminatory reply of the Chief of Protocol to the effect that if they issued Note Verbal to the former parliamentarians then this number will raise to unending large numbers. The Secretary MOFA said that the committee's point was well taken and assured the committee to rectify the mistake at their end. He assured of full cooperation and to Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Secretariats in issuing Note Verbal.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE IN CAMERA MEETING OF THE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR
AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN**

An in camera meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held on 03rd September, 2013, at 11:00 A.M. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House Islamabad. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Afghanistan issue.
- (ii) Visit of US Secretary of State John Kerry to Pakistan.
- (iii) Pakistan Bangladesh relations.
- (iv) Current situation of Pakistan India relations.
- (v) Complaint by Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran against Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khokhar, Counsul General of Pakistan in Jeddah.
- (vi) Briefing to Committee Members visiting Kabul, Afghanistan for Pak-Afghan Defence Committees's dialogue.
- (vii) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

Following attended the meeting:

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| (i) | Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel | Chairman |
| (ii) | Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader | Member |
| (iii) | Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed | Member |
| (iv) | Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haidery | Member |
| (v) | Senator Farhatullah Babar | Member |
| (vi) | Senator Chaudhry Aitezaz Ahsan | Member |
| (vii) | Senator Sehar Kamran | Member |
| (viii) | Senator Syeda Sughra Imam | Member |
| (ix) | Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan, MOS. | Ex-Officio Member |
| (x) | Mr. Sartaj Aziz,
Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs | Ex-Officio Member |
| (xi) | Mr. Sharifullah Khan Wazir | Ex-Officio Secretary |

2. Meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haidery.

3. Chairman of the Committee, Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel thanked all members of the Committee, Mr. Sartaj Aziz and the representatives of Foreign Office.
4. Senator Muhammad Jehangir Bader stressed the need to shorten and specify the agenda on which we can focus and deliberate in detail.
5. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs took the floor. He thanked the entire Committee for giving him an opportunity to give an in camera briefing. He focused two areas, both very important and uncertain because two transitions are taking place; one is Security transition ISAF forces are going to be withdrawn at the end of next year, 2014 and consequently, all the responsibilities would be upon the Afghan Forces and the second is political transition, as Presidential Elections in Afghanistan are going to be held in April next year. At the same time Taliban have launched their spring offensive programme named as Khalid Bin Walid and resultantly, the activities inside Afghanistan were to be accelerated. Though various observers have opined that there is no solution in military operations.
6. On 18th June, 2013 Afghan National Security Forces formally took over the lead responsibility for security across entire Afghanistan and since then NATO and ISAF Forces went into the supporting role. After a drawdown in the next year, the role of NATO and US forces will be in advice mode only. All the stakeholders are in agreement that the capacity of Afghan National Security Forces to maintain peace and defend their territory is doubtful because they lack air cover.
7. The next important issue is residual foreign forces. After the drawdown in Afghanistan, it is to decide that how much forces are to be there and on what conditions. In this regard the negotiations are going on and it is estimated that 10000 to 12000 residual foreign forces are to be there. For this purpose talks are being held on Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA). Previously, these talks were suspended due to the disagreement of President Karzai.
8. The salient features of BSA are Financial and Security guarantees in terms of financial military assistance for Afghan Forces. In this regard US intends to retain 9 military bases, the idea not liked by Iran, China and Russia.
9. President Karzai have argued that after finalization of the BSA, he will call Loya Jirga which will approve the BSA ultimately. The USA has desired that the BSA should be finalized till October or November, this year. The idea of zero option has also been floated strategy but nobody wants zero option because everybody knows that Afghanistan cannot survive without supporting troops. The security guarantees with reference to BSA are alarming and targeted towards Pakistan.

10. Next issue relates to economic dis-equilibrium. At the time of withdrawal of ISAF Forces, the economic conditions of Afghanistan will be hit directly. There are already deteriorations in economic activities and the rise in unemployment. In such scenario, it is suspected that in case of any civil war, Pakistan will have to face another flood of Afghan Refugees.

11. There was a conference held in Tokyo in 2012 and in that conference there was a pledge of 16 billion dollars but due the failure in fulfilling the agreed benchmark, the pledge was not honoured. Narcotics production is on rapid rising in Afghanistan these days.

12. About also the political transition, he said that Presidential Elections in Afghanistan are going to be held in April, 2014 and President Karzai finally approved two Election Laws; one is the announcement of independent Election Commission and the other is Electoral Complaint Commission. Strong reservations were made by various stakeholders on favoured appointments of officials in these two Commissions. That is why the said elections seems to be doubtful. No candidate has so far been emerged from any side and President Karzai is trying to restrict the candidature upto four. Taliban have also not indicated so far their participation in the elections and Mulla Umar in his recent statement has termed it as it is a waste of time. On the other hand, Karzai is trying to postpone the elections so that his tenure goes longer and he could witness this transition. In support of this, the Governor of Kandhar has openly said that these elections should be postponed and two more years should be given to President Karzai to create favourable environment for this transition. But the international stakeholders are pressing hard for timely holding of elections.

13. For peace and reconciliation, Afghan Government initially offered conditional talks to Taliban in case they stop violence, accept the Constitution and respect the human rights particularly the rights of women but Taliban never accepted these conditions. Through another effort President Karzai constituted a High Peace Council comprising 78 members under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rabbani. Doha peace process initiated and Taliban were offered to establish an office in Doha. Resultantly, they opened an office there and named it as Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan with the permission of Qatar Government. But that was objected by President Karzai and the process ended into deadlock. President Karzai is insisting that Taliban can only talk to him or to his High Peace Council. In this uncertain situation, there are three possible scenarios (i) Status quo. (ii) Taliban can continue to have effective rule in those provinces which are completely under them. as it will not be a dejore separation but a kind of defecto. (iii) Civil war can emerge immediately after the withdrawal of foreign forces.

14. The third scenario of civil war is much alarming for Pakistan because there is a possibility of militants' movement from Pakistan side in support of Taliban and from the other side, huge influx of refugees towards Pakistan. Pakistan's policy in this regard is to safeguard its own security. Since the Taliban are representing a major portion of Afghanistan, they should be given a chance to participate in the dialogue process appropriately but the Jihad option is not in the interest of our own security. We have to secure our borders properly as 50000 to 60000 people are crossing border daily out of which 40000 return and the rest remain here. For the purpose, we are working on it and trying to introduce a biometric system at the border.

15. Our policy of "non-interference and no favourites" can only be succeeded if all countries in the region will follow it. Otherwise a power vacuum will be created after the withdrawal of ISAF forces and we will not allow any one to fill that vacuum. We should allow Afghan led Afghan owned process and try to help Afghanistan in its development. It is an irony of fate that the two super powers of the world attacked the poorest country of the world but nothing has been gained by any one of them.

16. Lastly, he talked about the visit of President Karzai to Pakistan. His prime fear from Pakistan was that their tranquility and modernization was threatened by Pakistan. But we denied and told him that Taliban are stakeholders in Afghanistan and were required to be given the participation in Peace equally represented. This narrative has been improved during the visit of President Karzai and we tried to convince him that your apprehensions are not positive. We have focused the economic issues in this visit. We also discussed and solved the problems of Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement. We are working on a motorway proposal from Peshawar to Kabul. Then a rail link from Chaman to Spinboldak was also discussed. We also talked to fastrack the project of Kaza 1000 and a joint project of hydel power on River Kunar of 1500 MW. President Karzai visit resulted into a peaceful environment between the two countries. Reciprocally, he invited our Prime Minister to Afghanistan which was accepted. President Karzai also talked about the release of some prisoners. We have already released 26 prisoners in response to Doha process and we can release further but their demand that the custody should be given to Afghan Government is not acceptable to us.

17. Chairman of the Committee elaborated that we have interfered in Afghanistan consistently and because of that behaviour Afghan people are not friendly to us. At one stage we had planned to attack Jalalabad. Instead of supporting Afghanistan in their development, in fact, we have worked inverse to that. He also inquired about the unregistered refugees and their non repatriation to Afghanistan. About the registered Afghan refugees who live here, speak Urdu,

study here, is there any proposal under consideration for granting citizenship so that the concept of refugees can be eliminated?

18. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed welcomed Mr. Sartaj Aziz and requested for the following three clarifications:-

- (i) What is Pakistan's position on American Bases and American Troops presence in Afghanistan beyond 2014? Because China, Iran and Russia are opposing of it.
- (ii) Have we thought that if the American Troops do not withdraw then it will be a recipe for continuation of a civil war? Is there a possibility of a UN or an Islamic Peace Keeping Force of those Islamic countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria who are not geographically attached with Afghanistan?
- (iii) Is this Committee for National Security, a rehash of National Security Council? Or is it an old wine in new bottle?

19. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jehangir Bader asked whether they took Pakistan into confidence about the dialogue between the USA and Afghanistan? Whether the reservations of Pakistan in this regard be part of that agreement or not? Or Pakistan has to talk to Afghanistan separately? What steps Pakistan has taken with reference to Civil War because that could definitely move into the territory of Pakistan as more than 37 lakhs Afghan refugees are residing here, they can start insurgency here also. In such a scenario what has been done for the security of people living here?

20. Senator Afrasiab Khattak informed the Committee and said that Afghanistan has three major tasks:

- (i) Presidential Elections.
- (ii) To establish Afghan National Security Force.
- (iii) Reconciliation.

21. Reconciliation is not possible because of the behaviour of Afghans. Their major focus is on political transition. According to my information Mr. Karzai will not contest the elections. He will also not get extension in his tenure but his younger brother will contest the elections. Reconciliation will emerge after the withdrawal of NATO and ISAF forces. They are hoping a lot with Pakistani Premier as he can do some corrections and can also do a lot to limitize the non-state actors. If Mian sahib fails, then they will lose all hopes from Pakistan. He also stressed to avoid to talk against President Karzai because they feel annoyance. We have to revisit our fundamental policy. We should have to decide whether we should go for the benign policy towards Afghanistan like China's policy towards Pakistan. Let us be a friend to Afghanistan, not

to a group, or ethnicity. Secondly we should get out of geo-strategic circle. Instead of sending there militants we should send there doctors, engineers, bankers, lawyers because there is a lot of vacuum. By adopting this policy, we both can become one country within 15 years.

22. Senator Farhatullah Babar complemented the honourable Advisor for his lucid explanations. He had some observations;

- (i) Honourable Advisor has very rightly said that our post withdrawal policy should be our national security but would we be able to get out of the Zia era security policies or not?
- (ii) Foreign policy is led by the guardians of security which has resulted into the conflict of interest, whether honourable Advisor has any formula or idea that foreign policy formulation is extricated from the security establishment? If not totally, at least in a large measure, be restored to the civilian political leadership through the Foreign Office?
- (iii) We have established a narrative that if USA is negotiating with Taliban then why Pakistan can't negotiate with Taliban?
- (iv) Despite having past experience, will you insist on going for a peace deal disregarding what happened to all the peace deals in the past? Because we have had 13 military operations and we have had 09 peace deals.

23. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri took the floor and asked about the post 9/11 policy formulated by General Parvez Musharaf which the previous Government continued and whether the present Government intends to change the policy in this regard?

24. He also said that the prevailing deteriorating law and order situation is because of the Afghan Refugees. Is there any policy of our government to grant nationality to any foreigner?

25. It is also learned that the Taliban and other stakeholders are opening their offices in Saudi Arabia? Is there any authenticity in this regard?

26. He also apprehended about the civil war and the influx of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan after the withdrawal of Americans and their allied forces. What steps Government of Pakistan intends to take in this regard?

27. He further inquired about the Pakistani Taliban. What will be their status after the withdrawal of NATO and ISAF forces?

28. Senator Ch. Aitezaz Ahsan welcomed Mr. Sartaj Aziz and put forth gave his observation that Government of Pakistan is encouraging a scenario of non-interference and no favourites, an Afghan led and Afghan owned process. He also inquired about any master plan through which Pakistan's sovereignty can be maintained? Whether civilian Government can stand by the Army

if the Army initiates any expedition? He also condemned drone attacks as it is an interference in the sovereignty of Pakistan. He also hinted towards an issue raised by Mr. Imran Khan by taking up the drone attacks matter in the UN Security Council. In his opinion, it is equivalent to surrender our sovereignty if we go to the UN Security Council. His last question was as to whom do you want to negotiate? In his opinion both, the Pakistan and Afghan Talibans are blood brothers. Then what will be the guarantee in case of talks that Taliban will discontinue Shia killings, stop destroying our mosques and tombs, stop in putting hindrances in the way of women's education, they will stop propagating against TV and internet and others. We should also recognize the efforts and sacrifices made by the Awami National Party by combating Taliban.

29. Senator Sehar Kamran took the floor. She said that her concern is Pakistan and not Afghanistan. She was very much conscious about what Pakistan has lost in the last 34 years and what Pakistan is going to lose in the coming years. Her most immediate concern was about the national security and border security and also about the practical measures to be taken in this regard? She also inquired as to how much time will be required and whether we would be able to secure the borders or not. Despite our best efforts and sacrifices we have failed to establish our goodwill in Afghanistan. We should be focused on track 2 and track 3 activities because in this regard India has gone far ahead of us.

30. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam asked three questions: In her first question she referred to a book written by Sameul Huntinton regarding political order in changing societies. She reproduced his wordings that political order is established through institutions more than actually the political system at hand. In that context, the importance of institutions (especially the civil bureaucracy, the judiciary & military) in nation building cannot be ignored. In rebuilding Afghanistan, the creation of an Army has been an ongoing challenge. How much money the NATO and its allies are committing to Afghan National Army in the withdrawal scenario and the figure she quoted was 4 billion US dollar and asked whether this 4 billion US dollar would be enough?

31. Her second question was, since Pakistan is fostering a policy of no interference and no favourites, whether this policy has also been adopted by other stakeholders/countries.

32. She finally asked whether the international forces are actually committed to see a stable Afghanistan post 2014 scenario?

33. Senator Ch. Aitezaz Ahsan again said that we need an out of the box solution as we need a think tank to think far ahead on the basis of Central Asian Markets. Is there any possibility to

converge the interests of Pakistan and India to exploit that market and also to bring stability in Afghanistan? He also agreed with the proposal given by Senator Afrasiab Khattak that we should go for the geo-economic solution rather than geo-strategic solution.

34. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri again said that both Pakistan and India should focus to initiate the process of talks in the light of internationally prescribed principles and think about the peace and stability in both countries.

35. Chairman offered the floor to Mr. Sartaj Aziz for his response to the above questions as asked by all honourable members.

36. Mr. Sartaj Aziz appreciated all the questions and points raised by honourable members but before giving any response, he offered the floor to Secretary Foreign Affairs.

37. In response to a question about the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and also about the refugees, Secretary Foreign Affairs said that there is a developing realization amongst all the stakeholders about the military intervention in Afghanistan as a mistake. In our political leadership and defence establishment a convergence is developing that the policies we adopted in old days were also very effective though the same were debated and objected but at this time there is a realization that we should not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. There is a consensus between the political and military leaderships that we cannot pursue the previous policies with regard to Afghanistan because of its negative results.

38. In response to a question raised by Senator Afrasiab Khattak, he said that our efforts are being proved very fruitful nowadays as we have developed our relations with all the groups in Afghanistan. He also agreed with the views regarding Afghan refugees. He also seconded the three scenarios explained by Mr. Sartaj Aziz and in his assessment the third scenario is the most likely one. He said that about the border security a committee has already been formed comprising of the representatives of the provincial Government, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all the security agencies which manage border and they will soon formulate and submit their recommendations before the Government for approval.

39. In response to a question raised by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed regarding our position on the bases, he said that we have a consensus that they will not be able to bring stability in Afghanistan. The purpose of those bases is post withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan. He had an opinion that our policy is very rational. Talking about vacuum, with regard to withdrawal of ISAF forces, he said no country is willing to send their troops there. OIC countries are also not interested in Afghanistan.

40. At this stage Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed interfered and said that Shingai Cooperation Organization Summit is supposed to be an important Summit in Bishkik and why Mr. Sartaj Aziz is leading Pakistan's delegation instead of the Prime Minister?
41. In response he said that there are two forums of this Organization; one is head of State forum and other is head of Government forum. This meeting is going to be held at the level of head of state and that is why Mr. Sartaj Aziz is going there.
42. Senator Mushahid Hussain inquired the Foreign Secretary as to why they are not sending Mamnoon Hussain in the forum as he would be President by that time. The Foreign Secretary responded that it would be too early after his taking oath of the office. He told the Committee that Mr. Sartaj Aziz would represent Pakistan in the meeting as an observer.
43. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that he has learned that Russians wants Pakistan should have a high level representation. Is it true?
44. In response, Foreign Secretary said that Russians desire President Putten and our Prime Minister should meet as early as possible. The Foreign Secretary also told that we have extended our invitation to President Putin from the Prime Minister of Pakistan.
45. Responding to the question of Senator Jehangir Bader as if Pakistan's concerns have been considered during bilateral talks between Afghanistan and United States, the Foreign Secretary told that we have duly communicated our concerns to Mr. John Kerry and President Karzai during their recent visits to Pakistan.
46. He further elaborated that our prime concern is the neutrality of Afghanistan to be maintained at all costs. We have serious concerns about the Indian interference and support being given to Balochistan Libration Army (B.L.A) and Balochistan Republican Army (B.R.A). We have concerns about the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (T.T.P's) elements operating in Kabul i.e. Maulana Fazlullah and Faqeer Muhammad or even Hakeemullah Mehsud who are being supported from there.
47. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel inquired as to what will be the Government's policy towards the groups sitting in our areas like Haqqani, Mullah Nazir and other people? If Afghanistan addresses Pakistan's concerns, whether these groups will operate freely? He asked as to why the Foreign Office does not raise these issues at any international forum?
48. Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said that we all hear about the involvement of India. We even learned that Abu Dhabi, Iran and India are involved in these issues due to Gwadar Port. Some feel that if Gwadar Port starts functioning, the Dubai Port will suffer. The cargo is transported to Central Asia through Iran, then Iran would also suffer. To what extend the

United States is involved? We have also heard that huge amount of money is also involved in these issues?

49. The Foreign Secretary said that the input from the Senators would help them in formulation of policy. About the involvement of Iran and Abdu Dhabi, he told that we also learned through the media reports but we have got no evidence of involvement of these countries. Although we have an interaction of intelligence sharing with Iran and Arab Emirates but we have no evidence about these countries. On the other hand, there is enough evidence of Indian involvement. We share the same with India during our dialogues.

50. Responding to the question of Senator Haji Adeel of not raising these issues on international level, he said that despite raising in conferences, we highlight these concerns and evidences in a discreet manner with those countries who matter in this case.

51. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel said that we waited for five years in the Parliament but only some photographs of guns were shown to us. He gave a reference of Mr. Mengal who said that what was meted out to them, was the task of agencies. Senator Mushahid Hussain said that the DG, ISI gave them a briefing in the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and in that meeting, he also gave the evidences. There were some recordings as well as the specific evidence. They also showed us the maps and the tape recordings and that was the fool proof evidence. He told that training is being imparted by India and it is being done under the auspices of NATO.

52. Responding to the question of Senator Afrasiab Khattak, the Foreign Secretary told that a very serious review of the policy is being undertaken. He told about the decision of convening of Cabinet Committee on National Security's meeting after every month. He told that it will have an independent Secretariat. A major review of the policy will be undertaken and its contours will be evident very soon. There was convergence between all the participants.

53. The Foreign Secretary pointed to Senator Farhatullah Babar's comment and said that constituting the Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) is a step through which we will be able to bring the civil and military leadership on one page. In this way, the policy will enjoy a broader consensus between all the stakeholders.

54. Responding to Maulana's question of bringing any change in the policy formulated after 9/11, the Foreign Secretary told that the matter is being thoroughly discussed and the old policy is not at all being pursued. He told that the Karzai's recent visit to Pakistan has brought about some positivity.

55. If we can establish neutrality in the election process, that would be a big contribution towards confidence building. As far security transition, Afghan Security Forces would be responsible for the security. We have some reservations about the capacity of the Afghan Forces but the Afghan Government. thinks that as and when they would be entrusted the responsibilities, they would hopefully perform.

56. Responding to the Aitzaz Ahsan's question of whether there is any policy about foreigners operating in North Waziristan and violating Pakistan's sovereignty, the Foreign Secretary said that a consensus has been developed on this issue and we believe these elements are violating Pakistan's sovereignty. The East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) also exists there with a real concern for us as they are a threat for China aslo. Besides this, Chechens are also there. The presence of these elements creates a bad impact on our relationship with other countries. The results of the policy framework discussed during the last few weeks would come very soon. There is an increased focus on North Waziristan issue. A consensus is required amongst the political leadership as to how we tackle this situation. We need to mold the public opinion. We also have to think about the population living there because everybody living there is not a militant.

57. Responding to the concern raised by Imran Khan whether the Government will take the drone issue to the U.N. Security Council, the Foreign Secretary told that the U.N. has itself taken up this issue. He said some credit should also go to the Foreign Office as we invited last year the U.N. Human Rights Commissioner, Miss Pillay to Pakistan. She gave a statement that drone strikes are a violation of human rights. Afterwards, the U.N. appointed a Special Rapporteur who visited Pakistan in October, met with different people and the report he submitted afterwards supports our point of view that the drones attacks are a violation of the sovereignty of Pakistan. He referred to the recent visit of U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki Mon and said that his position was also in our favour. He hoped that in the coming days, a debate is going to take place in the U.N. and we are trying to brief the relevant people participating in that debate.

58. Senator Aitzaz Ahsan's questioned that how many high value targets have been knocked out by drones. Has there been any advantage? The Foreign Secretary answered that there has been some advantage. He referred to Baitullah's incident. Senator Mushahid Hussain referred to a China's terrorist belonging to ETIM who was killed in the drone attack. The Foreign Secretary stated that Afghan Taliban and T.T.P. have a cooperation and the take over of Taliban in Afghanistan will embolden the T.T.P. He referred to the recent statement of Mullah Omar as

encouraging in which he said that they have no plan to take over Afghanistan, rather, they want an inclusive government.

59. Senator Sehar Kamran suggested that we should create awareness of these issues amongst the masses by utilizing the state television.

60. Responding to Senator Syeda Sughra Imam's question about the policy of political non-interference by other countries, the Foreign Secretary responded that till date, it is not being followed. We should try that all other countries must follow this policy. Senator Syed Sughra Imam added that other countries, the regional and international players are involved in Afghanistan. They have spent trillion of dollars in Afghanistan and it is a valid question that will they not interfere in future? The answer is in negative.

61. Mr. Sartaj Aziz took the floor and responded to Senator Mushahid Hussain's question about the formation of Cabinet Committee on National Security. He said it is unfortunate that since the last 65 years, we have no system for formulation of an effective security policy. In the outside world, there is a mechanism and system for this purpose. He gave America and U.K.'s examples. He said in our country after 1958, the military formulated the security and foreign policy and they developed their capacity for it. The civilian governments, during their short tenures, were only given briefings on these issues, whereas, there is a great difference between briefing and decision making. He mentioned that there are four stakeholders in formulating the national security policy, establishment, political leadership, foreign office's expertise and the Parliament. All the previous policies were made by the Army and they developed their capacity for it. They have think tanks like I.S.I. and N.D.U. etc. Comparatively, there is no capacity in civilian side.

62. He referred to the previous efforts of forming a National Security Council during Yahya Khan, Zia-ul-Haq and Musharraf's regimes. He said this idea could not be materialized because there was a perception that the Army was being assigned a constitutional role to supervise the political system. The composition of Musharraf's Security Council was very strange as it did not include the Foreign Minister, Defence Minister and the Interior Minister. It was just an advisory body and it had no role of decision making. In all three experiments, President was the head of the Council which is contradictory to our Constitution because in the parliamentary system, Prime Minister is the Chief Executive and not the President. He referred to the Charter of Democracy and said that there was a concept that we would convert the Cabinet Committee on Defence (DCC), so that the debate of President or the Prime Minister would settle forever. It would have its own Secretariat which would identify issues, make briefs and policy options.

There is a supporting infrastructure. There would be a planning committee under the supervision of Advisor which would comprise of Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, Interior Secretary and Finance Secretary with heads of all the intelligence agencies. They would first debate the options before going up. There would be an Advisory Board which would comprise of all the think tanks and experts from private and public sectors.

63. The Advisor said that we have appointed Mr. Rasul Bakhsh Raees as head of Institute of Strategic Studies. He has performed very well.

64. Responding to the suggestion of coming on the same page by military and civilian leadership, the Advisor said that it needs intensity and continuity. He said that this forum is the Committee and not Council. It is the same forum as being practiced all over the world.

65. He said that if there was a forum like this, Kargil incident would not have been happened. This process would certainly have a long term effect. He said that after listening the parliamentarians, our perspective has improved. We consider that collective decision making is very fruitful.

Item No. III

66. Mr. Chairman, opened the discussion with regard to the relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh. The matter was taken up very seriously as the Bangladesh Government has refused our Cricket Team and consequently no Pakistani delegation is visiting there. Better, we should not talk about the internal affairs of Bangladesh at the Government level.

67. A representative of Foreign Affairs replied that the Government of Pakistan gave a statement about the violence occurred in Bangladesh and not on the trial proceedings. Many other NGOs of the world have also shown their resentment in this regard. We have also given very strong statements on the crises of Egypt and Syria.

68. She further stated that since the Awami League came into power in January, 2009, our relations became abnormal in a negative sense because the agenda of Awami League is always to wake up the bitter memories of 1971. She further talked about the War Crimes Tribunal and said that it was also a part of the Government of Awami League. The policy of Government of Pakistan is to condemn all kinds of violence any where in the world. In near future we are going to have a meeting with Bangladesh in Joint Economic Commission in which we will discuss the economic agenda because we desire to improve our economic and trade relations with Bangladesh in future. Further, we have a very strong collaboration with Bangladesh on SAARC because both the countries have similar views on SAARC and we cooperate with each other on

various social and economic agendas but there are certain issues remained unresolved with Bangladesh which includes also the apology issue. Between Pakistan and Bangladesh, people to people contacts are continuing as our trade and economic relations are also continuing and we intend to extend them.

69. We have also granted Bangladesh 10 million takka for the water supply projects and for the construction of schools, as a welfare measure towards Bangladeshi people. So, the statement that our relations are not good with Bangladesh is denied at the Government level.

70. Chairman also inquired about the cancellation of the tour of Pakistani Cricket team to Bangladesh. He said that he had an opportunity to visit Bangladesh and also had a chance to attend a Seminar about War Criminals and Tribunal.

71. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also said that he has been an advocate of a Pakistani apology. Keeping in view the history, we have to accept the mistakes and then we have to reverse the wrongs. At that time we have committed a crime against humanity.

72. Senator Ch. Aitezaz Ahsan said that we, the people, Pakistan Army and the civilian bureaucracy are at the same page.

73. A female representative of Foreign Office said that our High Commissioner to Bangladesh wants to the Committee as he will be here on 11th September for a week or ten days. Chairman in a response decided that we can call him in a meeting on 13th September, 2013 after our return from Afghanistan.

74. At this stage, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan desired to guide and advise the Government of Pakistan that how to make apology and what will be the wordings of apology. It is agreed that we have no difference on substantive issues with Bangladesh. The dispute is of historic nature. He also said that the number of claims made by Bangladesh, are not proven correct historically.

75. Chairman, expressed that there is no need to give any statement on the internal affairs of any country of SAARC particularly Bangladesh.

76. Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan thanked the committee of its guidance and also said that the Government of Pakistan gives priority to maintain good relations with neighbouring countries.

77. At this stage Senator Jehangir Bader, said that there were some bitter realities between us. He also stressed to get out of all the biases and bitter realities. We should not hesitate to pay apology in this regard. He gave a reference in the context of statement made by President Asif Ali Zardari as an apology to the people of Balochistan. He also discussed about one currency in the South Asian World and also about the South Asian Parliament like European Parliament. He

seconded the version of the Chairman and also requested the Foreign Office to avoid making such statements in capacity of the Government.

78. Chairman put before the Committee the following resolution brought by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, pertaining to current situation in Syria:

“Taking note of statements made at the highest level of the Government of the United States of America, the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee representing the sentiments of the people of Pakistan strongly opposes any attack by the United States or any other country against Syria on any pretext whatsoever. The Committee feels that, as it is, the entire Middle East is in turmoil and there is instability and growing violence and any new war in the region would be detrimental to the cause of peace and security in the region as well as the violation of Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Regarding the issue of chemical weapons which the committee condemns irrespective of who used such weapons, the best mechanism is the United Nations which is already conducting an independent investigation into the matter. In the 21st century the “might is right” principle can only lead to the law of the jungle rather than the supremacy of law and the United Nations’ Charter which all the UN Member States are duty bound to uphold.

The Foreign Affairs Committee urges the Government of Pakistan through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs to use its good offices to promote peaceful resolution and uphold the UN Charter, more so, given the fact that Pakistan is a member of the UN Security Council.”

(The Resolution was unanimously adopted.)

At the end, Senator Muhammad Jehangir Bader suggested to call next meeting as early as possible to discuss the recent NATO activities, in particular, and in the past in general.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE IN CAMERA MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT-BALTISTAN

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan was held on 20th November, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel.

2. The meeting was attended by the following:

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|------|--|----------------------|
| i. | Senator Dr. Muhammad Jehangir Badar | Member |
| ii. | Senator Farhatullah Babar | Member |
| iii. | Senator Syeda Sughra Imam | Member |
| iv. | Mr. Sartaj Aziz
Advisor to the PM on National Security &
Foreign Affairs | Ex-Officio
Member |

3. The agenda of the meeting was as under:

- i. Prime Minister's visit to USA and UK.
- ii. Two Czech women kidnapped in Pakistan.
- iii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed all the participants. Foreign Secretary, Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani was congratulated by the Chairman and all members upon his nomination as Ambassador of Pakistan to United States. His devoted efforts as Foreign Secretary, were also highly appreciated by the Committee

5. Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz briefed the Committee about Prime Minister's visit to USA. He informed the Committee that it was the first official visit to USA by any Head of Government of Pakistan during last 10 years. Basic objective of the visit was to bring Pakistan-US strategic dialogue to the centre of bilateral discussion, secure US support for democracy and socio-economic development in Pakistan, seek US commitment with regard to UN and civil nuclear cooperation, develop positive narratives about each other and clearly define the vision of bilateral relations after 2014 and beyond. The US side and multi donors presented an overview of the energy issue in Pakistan and future course of action and praised the bold steps taken by Pakistan to revive the economy and

overcoming the energy crisis. During the visit, the World Bank President noted that foreign investors were already looking for positive trends and will help in attracting investment in Pakistan. In the House Committee on Foreign Relations, the PM discussed the democratic institutional consolidation in Pakistan marked by the first-ever peaceful transition, Pakistan's support for the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, Pakistan's counter terrorism policies and the issue of Dr. Shakeel Afridi, on inquiry of the US Congressional Committee.

6. The Chairman questioned about the benefits that Pakistan has acquired through the US visit. Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz replied that the basic issue was to know how US will evolve Pakistan's independent relationship after 2014. Another basic objective behind this visit was to define pillars of the new relationship and composition of the strategic partnership. Pakistan has now decided to focus on trade and not on aid. Pakistan's Ministers for Water and Power and Natural Resources also went to US with the Prime Minister and visited various companies dealing in energy sector. These companies have not only offered technical assistance to Pakistan but have given an indication of 200 million dollars for Bhasha Dam. Moreover the issue of Coalition Support Fund was raised with the US. The Fund is going to end in 2013, therefore, a discussion took place as to how it can be continued on limited basis.

7. Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs stated that the issue of terrorism was discussed during the visit. US has agreed for better border management between Afghanistan and Pakistan but there is a possibility that in case of recession in Afghanistan after the foreign troops leave Afghanistan, Pakistan will face a flood of refugees. The Prime Minister also stressed that the drone attacks are against our sovereignty and are counterproductive. About Dr. Afia Siddiqui's case, an agreement is being finalized for exchanging convicted prisoners with the US. The PM's visit was quite successful but the drone attack of 1st November, 2013 was a setback resulting in loss of many innocent lives. The Chairman asked whether peace talks with Taliban will also suffer in case US targets Fazalullah. Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs replied that it is very unlikely because Taliban has already refused the dialogue.

8. Senator Farhatullah Babar said that in post-2014 scenario, Pakistan will be facing two issues.

- The mechanism of Coalition Support Fund and the development in this regard.

- The bilateral security agreement between Afghanistan and US, for which President Karzai has demanded that all the terrorists, either the Afghan Nationals or from outside world involved in Afghanistan will be treated as enemy by the US.

He questioned as to whether any concern has been shown on it or not as it is not mentioned in the official brief provided by the Ministry.

9. Regarding Shakeel Afridi's case Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs replied that the PM did not raise this issue all by himself. In the Congressional Committee meeting on Foreign Relations, the Chairman of the Committee, requested the Prime Minister to get this issue resolved. The Prime Minister had replied that it was a legal issue but he may look into the facilities being extended to Dr. Shakeel Afridi and his right to defend himself.

10. Senator Sayeda Sughra Imam said since the time of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq Pakistan's slogan has been the trade not aid but the US has not moved on it. In present visit also, the US Government has not announced any steps for giving us market access for trade. She stated that during US withdrawal almost 32 billion dollars equipments and goods will be transported back by using Pakistan's land routes. In 2002 the rate for NATO supply was 250 dollars per truck. Now even after eleven years the same rate is offered. The exit of US equipment is a big opportunity for Pakistan. She believed that the exit from Afghanistan is a chance for Pakistan to make at least a financial gain. She also questioned about US guarantee regarding a possible spill-over affect from Afghanistan. Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs replied that at present Pakistan has to improve and harmonize its relationship with the US. Regarding the rate per truck he replied that the last Government's decision was not to increase this rate. Now Pakistan does not want to obstruct their exit as it is in its own interest. He mentioned that the 250 dollars mentioned in the Committee are not going into the Government fund. It is actually the fee charged by port authorities for scanning purposes or NLC's requirements for permit. The Parliamentary Committee on Cabinet had decided not to increase this fee in order to facilitate the European Union and also to restore a goodwill for Pakistan just to get the trade preferences for Pakistan.

11. Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs also took up the briefing on the Prime Minister's visit to UK where he attended the Islamic Economic Summit. He said that in these meetings investment towards Islamic countries is attracted. One of such meetings was also held earlier in Pakistan.

12. The Committee next took up the issue of two Czech women kidnapped in Balochistan near the Iranian border of Pakistan. These women had travelled from Istanbul and wanted to cross Pakistan to go to India. They boarded a bus in Pakistan alongwith a Guard but some people came in uniform and abducted all of them. After sometime the Guard returned alone. The Chairman of the Committee informed that during his meeting with the Foreign Relations Committee in Czech Republic last week, the agenda was focused on these two abducted women. Parents of these women had also met our new Ambassador there. The Chairman stated that he met the mothers of both these ladies who were initially told not to travel through this route. He asked the Foreign Office and Ministry of Interior to explain the steps taken by them regarding the recovery of these two ladies. The Chairman also directed the DG (NCMC)/Addl. Secretary Interior, Wing Commander Tariq Lodhi to inform the Committee about all relevant details pertaining to the subject matter within a week time.

13. The Committee was informed that a joint investigation team was formed to resolve the matter at the provincial level headed by the Deputy Commissioner of the District concerned. The team also included members from ISI, IB and others. According to witness some armed people who were in uniform took away the foreigner ladies alongwith the Levy gunman after their identification through their passports. After sometime the Levy Gunman was set free. A team from the Czech Republic comprising of their intelligence, police and senior law officers also arrived and a joint working group was formed with them under National Crisis Management Cell. All relevant information and details were provided to the team. At the moment there is no concrete evidence about the whereabouts of these ladies and nobody has so far demanded any ransom for them.

14. On a question by Senator Syeda Sughra Imam the Committee was informed that whenever a European citizen travels to Balochistan or such areas, NOC is issued to him. These Czech women were tourists who were granted permission by the Provincial Government. The Committee was informed about the visa and NOC procedure by Addl. Secretary (America), Ms. Naghmana Hashmi, she said generally the Embassies do not issue visa to the people travelling through sensitive and restricted areas, instead such requests are sent to Ministry of Interior and the concerned Provincial Government and after their clearance, visas are issued by the embassies.

15. Senator Farhatullah Babar asked the concerned authorities to update the Committee on the said investigation through their progress report on fortnightly basis.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGITBALTISTAN**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and GilgitBaltistan was held on 19th December, 2013 at 11.00 A.M in the Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. Visit of US Defence Secretary to Pakistan.
 - ii. SOPs of Foreign Office for arranging release of Pakistanis detained in jails abroad particularly in Middle East.
 - iii. Follow-up on status of the kidnapping of two Czech women.
 - iv. Posting of Mr. Sher Bahadar, Legal Advisor as Counsel in Birmingham, UK.
 - v. Complaint by Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran against Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khokher, Counsel General of Pakistan in Jeddah.
 - vi. Complaint by Senator Babar Khan Ghauri against Counsel General, New York for ignoring parliamentary delegation during their visit to New York.
 - vii. Verbal complaint of Senator Babar Khan Ghauri against Counsel General, Houston.
 - viii. Absence of Counsel General Dubai at arrival/departure of Parliamentary delegation (Islamabad to Baku).
 - ix. Any other item with permission of the Chair.
3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-
 1. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed
 2. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana
 3. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
 4. Senator Farhatullah Babar

4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. Chairman of the Committee thanked and welcomed all. He, alongwith members of the Committee welcomed Mr. Izaz Chaudhry on assuming the charge of Foreign Secretary.

5. Taking up agenda item: 1, the Chairman gave the floor to Secretary Foreign Affairs for briefing the committee. Secretary Foreign Affairs explained that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had an in depth talk with the US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel during his visit to Pakistan. Two major issues comprised of this talk. Firstly, to establish long term and broad-based defence cooperation between Pakistan and US on the basis of mutual interest. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif emphasized that US drone attacks were counterproductive to Pakistan's efforts in combating the terrorism. Secondly, while ensuring Pakistan's support for Afghan peace and reconciliation process, the Prime Minister stressed on protecting Pakistan and regional countries from any negative effects arising out of the instability in Afghanistan. Secretary Foreign Affairs also refuted the news item published in some papers regarding threat from US to Pakistan due to current hindrance in NATO supplies.

6. On a query from Senator Muhammad Rafique Rajwana, Foreign Secretary informed the Committee that efforts of Pakistan for the last three months coupled with support of some other countries, paved the way for passing a resolution in the UNO against US drone attacks in Pakistan. This resolution emphasized on three major points.

- i. Violation of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law due to Drone Attacks.
- ii. The process or mechanism to be defined for a civilian casualty due to a drone attack.
- iii. The need to define a legal basis for drone attack, as the self-defense justification of US is debatable.

The Chairman requested the Foreign Secretary to provide the text of the resolution. Foreign Secretary agreed. Furthermore, the Chairman asked if this resolution has any practical utility and implementation, upon this Foreign Secretary replied that the practical implementation of any UN resolution is only possible if it comes under Chapter # 7 of the UN Charter. However, the world

pressure following such resolution is very important as it may lead to a debate in US itself.

7. Senator Farhatullah Babar desired that the Committee should be briefed about Chuck Hagel's discussions in Afghanistan regarding Border Security Agreement in the light of the demands of President Karzai. Foreign Secretary said that Pakistan's sole perspective in this regard was to safeguard Pakistan or any neighboring country from any such term in the Afghan-American Strategic Agreement.

8. Replying to the concerns of Senator Syeda Sughra Imam, Foreign Secretary said that Afghanistan in the bilateral agreement was seeking a guarantee from US that in case of any external aggression US together with Afghan forces will defend the country in consultation with Afghanistan. But Pakistan wanted this to be clarified so as to avoid any implications afterwards. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam remarked whether the talks between US Defence Secretary and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif considered re-negotiating the terms of engagement at the exit of US Army from Afghanistan as regards the move of military equipments worth about US \$ 36 billion out of Afghanistan through the routes of Pakistan. On this, the committee approved to hold a joint meeting by inviting the officials from Ministry of Finance and Defence. Regarding the support so far extended by Pakistan in the reconciliation process, Secretary Foreign Affairs informed the committee that Pakistan extended full support as a facilitator during Doha talks although Pakistan was not part of the talks. Similarly when Afghanistan requested the release of Afghan Taliban detainees, Pakistan responded positively. Resultantly, the Afghan government has seized to issue any hostile statements against Pakistan as were witnessed earlier.

9. Taking up the second agenda item pertaining to the release of Pakistanis detained abroad, the Chairman expressed his concerns over the complaints of overseas Pakistanis detained in foreign jails. He said that the attitude of Pakistani Embassies abroad is not good and such detained Pakistani's are not satisfied. Even some Pakistani detainee's term of sentence have come to end but still they are detained and Pakistani Embassies do not look after them. Furthermore, he said that our embassies abroad do not even provide health facilities to Pakistani detainees especially in the Gulf Region. Senator Malik Rafique Rajwana added that the reply given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is incomplete in this regard. There is no information regarding the

countries, nature of the cases and the frequency of cases. However, Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that this committee is open to discuss the problems and issues faced by the foreign office in discharge of their duties abroad and ensured that the committee will provide its full support to them as well. In response, the Secretary Foreign Affairs clarified that there are clear guidelines for all embassies from foreign office to provide assistance to overseas Pakistani detainees. He exemplified the case of Saudi Arabia where around eight lac Pakistanis were regularized, who were in trouble as a result of Nitaqat Saudization Program.

10. **The Chairman asked Foreign Secretary to provide the names and contacts of all such Pakistanis who were helped by embassies abroad for confirmation. In addition to this the Committee also asked for a report pertaining to the progress and performance of Pakistani embassies abroad during last three years.**

11. Coming to the third agenda item, Mrs. Tasnim Aslam Additional Secretary Europe briefed the committee that the two young Czech women were abducted in Balochistan on their way to India from Iran. No ransom has so far been demanded nor the responsibility has been taken by any group. She added that the kidnappers were fluent in English so a well organized group was suspected to be involved in the case. Senator Farhatullah Baber reminded the chairman that in the last meeting it was assured that the witness accounts of the case, the statement of the levy force gunman and further progress will be placed before this committee. Additional Secretary Europe ensured the committee that the two women are being traced with full effort and further progress will be intimated to the committee. Director General National Crisis Management Cell informed the committee that Foreign Ministry is regularly facilitating the Czech Republic delegates who came to Pakistan to investigate this matter. He said the delegates were facilitated to visit Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Joint Investigation Team together with the Czech delegates interviewed the levy gunman so as to clear the case of any doubts. The Chairman reminded that even last time there was very little information regarding the kidnappers and even in this meeting there is nothing new to be shared with the Committee by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He apprised the Committee that he had personally met the mothers of abducted ladies and ensured them all possible assistance. He asked for the statements of the witness

accounts. Director General National Crisis Management Cell assured to provide the details soon.

12. While taking up the agenda point No. IV of the meeting, Additional Secretary Administration Syed Ibne Abbass briefed the committee about the posting of Mr. Sher Bahadur, Legal Advisor as counsel in Birmingham. The Chairman inquired about the amount of expenditure on his TA/DA because as per the news item an amount of £100,000 was spent on his TA/DA from the national kitty being the tax payers money. The Additional Secretary Administration clarified that such news are not based on fact as he has personally verified from the High Commission and the Counselate office. **He assured that detailed actual expenditure report will be sent to the committee very soon.**

13. **Agenda item: v was not discussed in the meeting but a detailed report was unanimously asked by the members on the subject issue after having discussion by the Foreign Secretary with honourable Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran.**

14. Agenda item: VI & VII were deferred due to absence of the complainant. However, the Chairman took a serious note on the absence of Counsel General Dubai on the arrival and departure of the parliamentary delegation travelling from Islamabad to Baku and back. Secondly the Chairman resented that a junior officer who did not even know how to look after the delegates and who had little knowledge about the airport facilities was sent to the airport. Responding to the complaints **Ms. Naila Chohan Additional Secretary ME & Africa ensured submission of a detailed report very soon.** Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed asked whether the US \$200 exit visa charges even on diplomatic passports, as applicable in United Arab Emirates, is also applied in Pakistan on the basis of reciprocity. **A detailed report in this regard was demanded by the Committee during next meeting.**

15. Lastly, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed asked about the news relating to closure of the educational and other missions abroad such as the closing down of educational mission in China. He said Pakistan entails very important profile in Asia. Pakistani students who do not get visa in the west are moving towards China and other Far Eastern countries for their studies. He inquired about the rationale as well as the authority behind such decisions related to the closure of such facilities. Additional

Secretary Administration replied that a committee chaired by Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar to rationalize the working of such foreign missions took this decision and the **report in this regard will be presented in the next meeting.**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN HELD ON 6TH JANUARY, 2014 AT ISLAMABAD**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held on 6th January, 2014 at 12.00 pm in the Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. Follow up on status report regarding kidnapping of two Czech women;
 - ii. Complaint by Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran against Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khokher, Counsul General of Pakistan in Jeddah.
 - iii. Any other item with the permission of chair.
3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-
 5. Senator Farhatullah Baber
 6. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran
 7. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar
 8. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
 5. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana
4. The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran. Chairman welcomed all the members and participants. Chairman remarked on the report submitted by the Foreign Ministry in response of the previous meeting regarding abduction of Czech women, as incomplete. He said it was quite strange that nobody in the ministry had information about this case until the levy gunman was set free by the abductors who reported the matter. It was observed that missing person cases are increasing day by day but agencies are still inactive. Director General National Crisis Management Cell replied that the route is long which makes it difficult for the agencies to cover the whole region. He informed the committee that the abductors were very professional and difficult to trace out although the search started soon after.
5. Senator Dr. Jahangir Badar asked the reason behind the visit of the missing Czech women to Pakistan and whether these women made any such adventurous trips to the regions of the world. He further asked for the tourist statistics coming to Pakistan after 9-11 incident because according to him, it was very unlikely for the tourist to visit such dangerous zones. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam seconded him by saying that after 9-11 the world has changed as the travel advisories of most countries do not suggest

tourists to go to dangerous areas especially women alone. Moreover, the motive behind abduction is not clear as these Czech tourists do not even seem to have any connection with Afia Siddiqui's case. Secretary Foreign affairs agreed to these concerns and assured provision of the required statistics to the committee.

6. Chairman read the statement of the Levy guard who was set free after the abduction of the women. Reading between the lines he said that abduction seems to be pre planned. Only one gunman with two foreigners in such a dangerous zone is a point to consider. Director General National Crisis Management Cell replied that there is just a hypothesis of the case so far, no concrete evidence is available. Czech Republic along with Pakistan's foreign office is connected with further agencies in trying to trace the women as no ransom is demanded. He further said that any breakthrough can come through use of technology or some informer.

7. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam asked about the number of NOCs issued to European people to cross the Iranian border especially women. Director General National Crisis Management Cell ensured submission of statistics in the next meeting.

8. Senator Farhatullah Baber drew the attention of the committee towards the alleged connection between missing person cases and allegations against Frontiers Corps. He asked the committee to take notice of the issue as the case may have been dramatized using the name of Frontier Corps. Upon this it was unanimously decided to call the concerned official from the Joint Investigation Team in the next meeting.

9. Taking up the Agenda item no: II, Chairman apprised that a letter on behalf of this committee was sent to the Pakistani Consulate in Jeddah, restraining them from defaming the honorable Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran. But it appears that the Consulate is going ahead with their proceedings. He asked Senator Sehar Kamran to brief the committee. She informed the committee of her contributions to the school and the statements of consulate against her. In addition to this, she complained about the cancellation of her multiple entry visa.

10. Finally the chairman said that such practices of the Consulate against Senator Sehar Kamran were breach of the committee's privilege and this committee will take the matter to Chairman Senate.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 11th February, 2014 at 02.30 P.M in the Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. "The Ratification of Foreign Agreements by Parliament Bill, 2007" SHFZ Introduced by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani in the Senate on 20-08-2007 and referred by the House to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of consideration and report.
 - ii. "The Pakistan Sovereignty Bill, 2010" introduced by ex-Chairman/Senator Mr. Wasim Sajjad in the Senate on 11-01-2010 and referred by the House to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration and report.
 - iii. Any other item with permission of the chair.
3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-
 9. Senator Farhatullah Babar
 10. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader
 11. Senator Aitzaz Ahsan
 12. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
 13. Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah
 6. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri
4. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, as Mover of the Bill attended the meeting.
 - a. The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed all the members and participants. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani briefed the Committee on agenda item: (i) in detail. He said he wishes to amend the bill in conformity with the resolution of the Parliament. He requested the chair for one week's time after which he will be able to present the bill in a more updated and elaborated form before the Committee.
 - b. Senator Muzaffar Hussain Shah asked Foreign Secretary to prepare a briefing regarding international practices of various Parliaments on ratification of bills. He suggested to put before the Committee a comparative view of the Parliaments of US, UK and India etc in this regard. Moreover he asked about the bill's implementation

through Municipal Law. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam seconded him. Upon this Foreign Secretary replied that this issue relates to the Cabinet, Finance, Commerce and Economic Affairs Division, therefore the concerned Ministers or at least secretaries of the above mentioned Divisions/Ministries be called to respond and participate in the next meeting on the subject issue

c. Senior Legislative Advisor suggested the Committee to keep the bill as a recommendation from the Parliament for future Foreign contracts/Agreements and not as a law. Upon this the Chairman disagreed and said that mere recommendations may not be bindings upon the implementators. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani said that Foreign Agreements have serious consequences on the economic, political and fundamental rights of the citizens of Pakistan so it is essential to make them subjected to a national debate and scrutiny through the Parliament. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam seconded him by saying that the government cannot even levy taxes on the citizens unless the Parliament approves it because it has the economic and financial implications.

d. Taking up agenda item: (ii) Senator Aitzaz Ahsan said that he considers the “Pakistan Sovereignty Bill, 2012” as an insulting and demeaning law effecting the national dignity and the Parliament need not to be so apologetic. Senator Muzaffar Hussain Shah said the drafting was general and vague so there seems to be no justification for it. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam said she does not feel there is a need for this bill. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri seconded the others by considering the bill as a redundant. Foreign Secretary also said that he thinks that the bill was not required. Therefore, the Chairman announced that the “Pakistan Sovereignty Bill of 2010” has lapsed under Rule 207 (3) of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Senate 2012 as Senator Wasim Sajjad has seized to be a member of the Senate of Pakistan.

e. The Chairman read a news report before the Committee which stated that under Nitaqat saudiazation programme one lac twenty two thousand people were sent back to Pakistan from Saudi Arabia. The people of Pakistan use their own resources to go to Saudia and send their hard earned money to Pakistan by working day & night. Therefore, it is the duty of Pakistani Consulate to take care of them. Upon this Foreign Secretary apprised the Committee that the news report was not based on facts and said

that Pakistani Consulate worked very hard from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm on daily basis. It conducted jobs fairs for Pakistanis there. Moreover, he said that around nine lac ten thousand Pakistanis were regularized by the Consulate, the details of which are available at the Consulate's website. He briefed the Committee about a detention centre where approximately 4000 Pakistanis wait for their exit documents. These are the ones who had overstayed after Hajj or Umrah. Furthermore, he said that since November, 2013 fifty six thousand Pakistanis have been regularized till date.

f. Ms. Naila Chohan, Addl. Secretary (Middle East & Europe) briefed the Committee that when a Pakistani involved in such activity is caught he is sent to the detention cell where his pictures are taken. After that Pakistani Consulate is informed. The Consulate sends the person's pictures alongwith his/her finger prints to NADRA Pakistan, which verifies the persons nationality. She said that this is difficult and time consuming job but the Consulate ensures that the sick and old are given priority.

g. Foreign Secretary said that the Consulate is giving suggestion to Saudis to allow PIA to send Pakistanis to their homeland. This may lead to a financial burden on Pakistan but it would be a relief for Pakistanis who have to wait.

h. Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah asked the Foreign Secretary if the Consulate needs the Committee to make any recommendations in this regard to the government. Foreign Secretary replied that he considers it to be the duty of the Consulate hence no recommendations are required. The Chairman suggested the Foreign Secretary to take help from Bait-ul-Maal or Zakaat fund in this regard. Upon this the Foreign Secretary told that the Saudis have not yet allowed Pakistanis to use their own resources to deport Pakistanis. But the Chairman said that the Committee will send its recommendations in this regard.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 17th March, 2014 at 11.30 A.M in the Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. "The Ratification of Foreign Agreements by Parliament Bill, 2007" Introduced by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani in the Senate on 20-08-2007 and referred by the House to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of consideration and report.
- ii. Visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan
- iii. Pakistan's position on Syria
- iv. Reported Statement made by Iranian Interior Minister regarding kidnapping of five Iranian Border Guards
- v. Recent visit of CIA Chief to Pakistan
- vi. Number of Pakistani detainees who reached deportation center Jeddah facilitated by Foreign Office and deported back to Pakistan during January 14 & February 14.
- vii. Any other item with permission of the chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

14. Senator Farhatullah Babar
15. Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi
16. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran
17. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
18. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq
7. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed
8. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana

4. The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed all the members and participants and expressed his pleasure on the presence of Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs.

5. Taking up agenda item No. (i), the Chairman asked Secretary, Law & Justice to present his viewpoint, who in response explained that he believes that the ratification of Foreign Agreements should rest with the Executive/Cabinet as some countries keep the right of ratification of Foreign Agreements with the Parliament and some keep it with the executive/cabinet. Upon that the Chairman remarked that the reason due to which the Committee is laying stress on this issue is, that Foreign Agreements are mostly related to financial matters or generation of economic activities and the people of Pakistan are directly affected by such agreements, therefore, it should be in the notice of the Parliament. As Mover of the Bill, Senator Mian Raza Rabbani was on his visit abroad, therefore, all the members unanimously agreed to pend the item till the next meeting so that the Mover may reflect his valuable ideas in the best way during next meeting of the Committee.

6. Taking up agenda item No. (vi), the Chairman asked the Foreign Secretary to update the Committee on the progress made so far. Foreign Secretary briefed the Committee that our Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate in Jaddah wishes to speed up the process of deporting Pakistanis who are detained in Saudi Arabia. He clarified that 3448 Emergency Passports were issued to those Pakistanis who were deported from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan during the period January, 2014 to February, 2014 this year. He said that the Consulate had a meeting with PIA and negotiated the fares with them as a result the, PIA agreed to charge 1000 instead of 1500 Saudi Riyal per detainee in bringing them back to Pakistan. Seeking permission from Saudi government, in this regard, has now been started. Upon this Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran commented that the Consulate in Jeddah does not have sufficient staff and the office building is also not in a good condition. Responding to her observation, the Foreign Secretary said that new offices of the Consulate are being planned in the near future and efforts are being made to improve the condition of the Consulate. Furthermore, he said that the Consulate has worked with full enthusiasm and patriotism on daily basis for more than 12 hours and has got good relations with the Saudi Government. He said that upon the request of the Consulate the Saudi Government had not only extended the deadline but had arranged camps for the detained Pakistanis. The Chairman remarked that there are examples of some other countries Consulates which are working even on holidays to facilitate their people. Foreign

Secretary agreed and said that Pakistani Consulate in Saudi Arabia is very committed and is planning to take steps for further improvement.

7. The Chairman asked Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran to present a paper before the Committee regarding the points as she has raised about the subject matter. Furthermore, it would have been more appropriate if Secretary Foreign Affairs had visited those Camps during his presence in Saudi Arabia for Umrah purpose.

8. Taking up agenda item No. ii, iii & iv, in a clubbed manner because of their identical nature, the members asked various questions from the Adviser upon the relevant issues. Chairman showed his concern about the non-invitation of the opposition Members at various receptions hosted in honour of the Saudi delegation. He termed it a deviation from the Parliamentary norms and practices. In response, the Adviser confirmed that Leaders of the Opposition both from Senate & National Assembly were invited for one of the Banquets but they had regretted. Senator Farhatullah Babar drew the attention of the Committee towards AFP news in which it was stated that the Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz, in his visit to Pakistan had asked Pakistan to provide Hand Carried Missiles so as to support the people in Syria. In addition to this it has also been learnt that Anti tank & Anti Aircraft Missile and Anza Missiles are supplied to the rebels in Syria. The most unfortunate part of the whole episode would be that our Adviser on National Security & Foreign Affairs will not know anything about the weapons to be sent. The Foreign Office alone does not formulate our Foreign Policy as the military establishments are mostly involved in formulating the foreign policy particularly in case of India, Kashmir and Afghanistan. General Javed Nasir's statement during his DG, ISI tenure regarding supply of Pakistani arms & weapons to Kosovo upon which serious concern by International Tribunal shown was also quoted as an example. He identified that such arrangements will endanger our borders from all sides and it may lead to a sectarian war in Pakistan.

9. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam read a para from the brief which stated that "Pakistan only sells arms through legal mechanism and by abiding by all relevant national and international regulations which require End User Certification to prevent the buyer from onward sale or transfer of our products to any third party". But she said that this not a position which Pakistan had previously endorsed. Pakistan had always kept a non-interventionist policy. We should realize that western powers want to impose their

policies over Syria. Saudi Arabia seems to be on the same page with Israel on this issue. Therefore, Pakistan should not endorse either western or Saudi Arabian position. The purpose of western powers is to defeat Hizbullah and Hamas as it is not just a sectarian issue. She asked the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs to comment as to why Pakistan has adopted a shift in its non-interventionist policy and that there is a link of Syrian issue with Israeli and Palestinian war.

10. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed seconded her and said that it should not be compared with Bosnian case, as it was an issue of moral support there but in Syria there is a civil war. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran also seconded Senator Syeda Sughra Imam and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, and said that Pakistan should adopt its non-interventionist policy which Pakistan had adopted in the Islamic Summit Conference. Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi said that no country gives an amount of \$ 1.50 billion to any other country without taking anything, there are strings attached to Saudi Arabia's gift and it does not seem to be in the interest of Pakistan.

11. Adviser to Prime Minister on the National Security & Foreign Affairs said that Pakistan is focusing on its economy and security and is in the process of building very good relations with its neighborhood. Pakistan does not believe in the interventionist policy because it has paid a high price in the past. Afghanistan can be quoted as an example in this regard.

12. Regarding \$1.50 billion which Saudi Arab has given to Pakistan, Adviser to PM on Foreign Affairs clarified that it was not a loan but a gift from a friendly country. Even Saudi Arab has asked Pakistan not to publicize it much. There is nothing we are paying in return and the discussions regarding weapon supply to Saudi Arab in support of Syrian rebels is just a rumor. Moreover he said that Pakistan and Saudi Arab has the stance on Syria which is strictly according to Geneva -I policy.

13. Regarding Gas pipeline agreement with the Iran, Adviser to PM on National Security & Foreign affairs said that there is no interference of Saudi Arab or US in it but the time frame for completion of the Project in 2014 and the high price are the two unrealistic issues presently under consideration of Government of Pakistan.

14. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed moved a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, condemning terrorism against China, particularly the recent tragic Kunming incident, and also a statement attributed to the prescribed terrorist 'Turkestan Islamic Party' quoted by Reuters news agency of 'planning attack on China' on March 15 (which were carried by Pakistani media). The members urged the Government of Pakistan to take stern notice of such statements designed to undermine Pakistan-China friendship. The resolution made it clear that Pakistan stands by China, and under no circumstances, will Pakistan allow or tolerate any one person or group to use Pakistani territory against a brotherly neighbour like China.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 31st March, 2014 at 11:00 am in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following members attended the meeting:

1.	Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel	Chairman
2.	Senator Farhatullah Babar	Member
3.	Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader	Member
5.	Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	Member
6.	Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed	Member
7.	Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
8.	Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Mover

2. List of participants is annexed.

3. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i) "The Rectification of Foreign Agreements by Parliament Bill, 2007" Introduced by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani in the Senate on 20-08-2007 and referred by the House to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration and report.
- ii) Recent visit of CIA Chief to Pakistan.
- iii) Visit of King of Bahrain Shaikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- iv) Complaint by Senator Babar Khan Ghouri against Consul General, New York for ignoring parliamentary delegation during their visit to New York.
- v) Any other item with permission of the chair.

4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran.

5. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar brought to the attention of the Committee that he has written a letter to the Chairman of the Committee regarding the mishandling of his visa issuance by the UAE Embassy. With the permission of the Chairman he read out the letter, in which he had mentioned a detailed account of how his visa was not issued even though a Note Verbal had been issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He added that it is a serious matter and a sub-committee should be made to probe the matter and find out whether there was some problem at the Embassy level or the Senate Secretariat was responsible for it. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed agreed with him and added that the recent incident that happened with Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, MNA was also of similar nature and these need to be addressed. Senator Farhatullah Babar further added that a similar incident occurred when another sitting MNA Makhdoom Muhammad Ameen Fahim's wife wanted to visit her ailing husband in Germany but was unable to get a visa by the German Embassy.

6. The Chairman further raised the issue that several aero-planes, many a times carrying people who are not particularly friends of Pakistan travel through our national airspace, what do we do to scrutinize them? It is not only a matter of our national prestige but related to our defense also. Some Committee members alongwith the Secretary Ministry of Defence were of the opinion that the matter comes under the ambit of Civil Aviation Authority which is now under the Cabinet Division and Ministry of Defence couldn't comment on it. The Secretary Defence added that ever since 9/11, US has been extra cautious about their airspace. Any flight that pass-through, have to submit a passengers list for scrutiny, even if the plane is headed for a destination other than the US.

7. Additional Secretary ME, Mrs. Naila Chauhan apologized for the inability of the Adviser to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs to attend the meeting because of another meeting which the Adviser was presiding. The Chairman replied that the Committee requires more details of the reasons of his non-availability. She said that she would inquire regarding the details and forward them to the Committee.

Senator Mian Raza Rabbani said that this is not a good trend and he suggested that the meeting should be adjourned to send a strong message in this regard to the quarters concerned.

8. Additional Secretary ME, Mrs. Naila Chauhan, in reference to the Visa issue, said that we have been facing problems with diplomatic visas; she added that the concerned Embassy verbally conveyed that there were no problems but the issues still keep coming. She further said that it is a welcome suggestion by Senator Dr. Muhamamad Jahangir Badar regarding a sub-committee. She also mentioned that MNA Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad's incident has been raised by the Adviser to PM at the highest levels and we are still waiting for a response regarding the reasons behind the occurrence. Additional Secretary (UN) Ms. Tasnim Aslam added that they have taken up the issue with the Americans and MNA Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad's name has been taken off the list and he has been informed of the fact that he is free to travel. The Chairman expressed his views that there should be reciprocity in this matter and if such courtesies are not extended to the Parliamentarians from Pakistan, we should also do the same in reciprocation. Additional Secretary ME again reiterated that for this matter Civil Aviation Authority and Ministry of Interior were the relevant bodies.

9. Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi said that Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar has served this country in every way and it is his personal application to probe the matter so it should be accepted and a Sub-Committee should be formed. He further added that the Honorable Minister and Secretary should be present and there are no two ways about it, and there can be no concession. The rules clearly state that they "Shall" come, it is binding, and if they cannot, the Additional Secretary should attend instead. He added that in addition to the individual application of Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar the Ministry also needs to address the collective issue of parliamentarian's visa problems. He added that we are a strong country and we should reciprocate.

10. The Committee decided that a sub-committee should be formed in the matter regarding the visa issue faced by the dignitaries and Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq would lead the Committee. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq was of the view that the Ministry should be given some time to gather information regarding the

matter rather than forming a sub-committee. The Committee, however, decided to form a sub-committee in this matter, headed by Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq; Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed as members. The TORs of the Sub-Committee would include looking into the reasons for:

- a. Delay in issuance of UAE Visa to Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar
- b. Disembarkation of Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, MNA from plane bound to Canada
- c. Non-issuance of Visa by Germany to the spouse of Makhdoom Muhammad Ameen Fahim, MNA.
- d. The sub committee would also suggest appropriate measures/reciprocal legislation/amendment in laws and will submit its report within 15 days.

11. Regarding the 1st agenda item Senator Mian Raza Rabbani said that it is not useful to discuss it in the absence of the Adviser to the PM, therefore it should be deferred. Members of the Committee agreed and the item was deferred with protest regarding the Adviser's absence. The Chairman on behalf of the Committee apologized from Senator Mian Raza Rabbani that he had to cut his visit short because of the Committee meeting but his bill could not be discussed. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani asked that he had made some amendments to the bill, and before the next meeting the amended bill be circulated amongst the members and relevant offices. Secretary Committee/Additional Secretary Mr. Sharifullah Khan Wazir assured him that the amended copy had already been circulated and will be done once again for the next meeting.

12. Moving to the next agenda item regarding the CIA Chiefs visit to Pakistan, Secretary Ministry of Defence, told the Committee that intelligence exchange was a routine activity and there was nothing unusual about it. Such visits are an ongoing activity, sometimes our DG visits them and sometimes they visit us. The agenda items were kept limited upto the operational level for improvement in the coordination and no policy issues were discussed.

13. Regarding the agenda item No. (iv), the Committee decided that it is important for the complainant, Senator Babar Khan Ghouri, to be present and until then the agenda item should be deferred.

14. Talking on the agenda item No (iii), Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed expressed that there are diplomatic norms that one country does not use another country's land to make statements against another country, which was the case when King of Bahrain made statements against Iran. Additional Secretary ME, Mrs. Naila Chauhan, replied by saying that the government had nothing to do with it. They just told us that they wanted to thank the government of Pakistan through a press conference, during which unfortunately they insinuated our neighbor. Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi asked if the Ministry had refuted the statement, he was told that the statement was refuted and it was clarified that these were the views of Bahrain.

15. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar said that the Ministry has categorically said that we are not sending troops, but what about the arms? Additional Secretary UN, Ms. Tasnim Aslam, said that we are doing neither of these things, the arms that we sell are sold with an end user certificate and we do not sell arms to the countries being under UN sanctions. The Chairman questioned the rationale behind putting so many restrictions on the sale of our arms; he said that if we do not, someone else would do. The members of the Committee believed that it was a very debatable and controversial topic.

16. Senator Farhatullah Babar raised the point that the Adviser to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs had stated on the floor of the house that we won't "officially" supply arms and manpower, but what about the unofficial channels? This is a concern because we have done so in the past in Kargil, Bosnia and Afghanistan. He further added that the Americans are saying that Al-Qaeda and Taliban are moving towards Syria, he inquired if it was true. Additional Secretary UN, Ms. Tasnim Aslam, said that the Ministry is not aware of any such information. The Senator further asked regarding the King of Bahrain's visit, who travelled to Joint Staff Headquarters and met with service chiefs, which is strange and strengthens the suspicion of unofficial channels. He added that we, the parliamentarians, have principally decided not to travel

to the GHQ for briefs rather they have to come here and brief us. In this regards, such a visit from the King to the JS Hqr sends the wrong message. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed further added that the protocol was also breached during the meeting as Khaki preceded the mufti.

17. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed further said that the sequence of events is creating suspicion in the whole situation and for the first time in the history Iran has complained to UN about Pakistan. He added that the Middle East is in turmoil and we cannot afford to choose sides, we are already struggling and cannot afford to even tilt a little towards one side. He said that actions speak louder than words and our official stance would matter little if even a perception of taking sides is created. He further mentioned that for the first time the GCC itself is divided, and if they are being this much careful, we need to be extra cautious, otherwise Pakistan would become a battle ground and it would be a bigger disaster than the Afghan Jihad.

18. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar said that the Ministry should look into two things: 1) why the King did not visit Pakistan for the past 40-45 years, and 2) the immediate reasons of the visit. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq was of the view that we need to stop asking when someone visits, the reasons of their visit, and when someone does not visit, the reasons of not visiting. He stated that it is not a discussion worthy question. He added that in the Iran Iraq war, Pakistan did not take sides and it proved to be a very good policy. He added that we have always had good relations with Iran and we need to be mindful of it. On the other hand, Saudi Arab is also a friend, when we went nuclear they gave us \$3 billion in the form of Oil, they gave us an additional \$500 million credit line, similarly they helped us when we needed to buy the F-16 aircrafts which are still the foundation of our air defense. He further elaborated that Pakistan could have played a very positive leadership role in the current scenario if it were more stable which is unfortunately not the case.

19. Additional Secretary ME, Mrs. Naila Chauhan, said that people are trying to connect dots which have huge spaces in-between. She said that there are about 10,000 Pakistani people working in the Bahrain defense forces and it was Bahrain's request to visit the JS Hqr, the PM accompanied him so that it does not send the wrong

message. She further added that Pakistan is trying to negotiate a free trade agreement with the GCC countries which explains the recent flurry of visits.

20. The Chairman was of the view that money came into Pakistan, which is a good thing, but so much secrecy around the whole incident gave rise to the suspicion. He added that even till today there is no official statement. First, the stance was that the entire news is rumor, and then it has been said that a “friendly Muslim state” has given \$1.5 billion. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq replied that the donors desired such kind of secrecy.

21. Senator Farhatullah Babar was of the view that the parliament does not only need to guarantee that official channels are not used for any such support, but it also needs to ensure that unofficial channels are also not used by the security establishment. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran added that we appreciate the aid coming from the Saudis, but if the matter was addressed properly it could have been given a much positive spin rather than giving rise to that much suspicion.

22. Additional Secretary UN, Ms. Tasnim Aslam, said that Iran did not complain to UN regarding Pakistan, they just wrote a letter to the UN which does not blame Pakistan; it just says that the issue took place on the border. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed referred to the Irani statement that if Pakistan does not recover the guards then Iran has the right of incursion, thus putting the onus of responsibility on Pakistan. Additional Secretary UN, differed and said that the Irani position was that if Pakistan cannot find the guards then they should let Iran to do it. She added that a task force was created that went to the place of the event. Later it was reported that one of the guards has been killed. She added that we have asked them for leads regarding the issue that the guards have been taken to Pakistani territory but as yet haven’t received any feedback. Additionally, she said that they did not “summon” our ambassador, they “invited” him.

23. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed asked regarding a recent report published in Reuters regarding someone from Pakistan claiming to take revenge from China. He

said that China is our very close friend and asked if we have rebutted the report. Additional Secretary UN, Ms. Tasnim Aslam said that we looked into the credibility of the author of the report, she did not seem to have valid information and we have said that we do not let our territory be used in any such way.

24. Subject matter arising out of adjournment motion moved by Ex-Senator Molana Muhammad Khan Sherani on the issue of a function arranged by the US Embassy in Islamabad on passing of law by US related to gays and lesbians was referred to the Committee; however, the committee decided that since Molana Muhammad Khan Sherani is no longer a member of the Senate his motion has lapsed.

25. The Chairman said that we used to send very senior diplomats to Russia, and now we have sent a very junior officer there, even though the situation is more critical than ever considering the Crimea crisis. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also wanted to know Pakistan's stand on the situation. Additional Secretary UN, Ms. Tasnim Aslam said that she did not have the details of the diplomat designated in Russia but he is a Grade 20 officer, speaks Russian and has experience of working in the region. She added that UK, USA, France and some other countries have brought a resolution against Russia in the Crimea issue and Pakistan has abstained it along with 58 other countries. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed added that in the Crimean issue, even China is not supporting Russia.

26. The Chairman also asked regarding the orders to send back to Pakistan Mr. Abdul Qahar, a stenographer who was working in the Embassy of Pakistan, Algeria. He said that normally the tenure was 3-4 years in such cases; however, in this case it has only been one year. He asked the foreign office to look into the matter and provide the Committee with the details. Additional Secretary ME, Ms. Naila Chauhan said that they will forward the Committee all the details related to the matter.

Decisions, Recommendations and Directives

27. The Committee decided to constitute a Sub-Committee in the Convenership of Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, with Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi as members. The TORs of the Sub-

Committee would include looking into the cogent reasons in the following matters and also to suggest appropriate

measures/reciprocal legislation/amendments in laws:

- a. Delay in issuance of UAE Visa to Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar
- b. Disembarkation of Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, MNA from plane bound to Canada
- c. Non-issuance of Visa by Germany to spouse of Makhdoom Muhammad Ameen Fahim, MNA

The Sub-Committee has to submit its report within 15 days w.e.f. the date of its notification.

28. The Committee decided to defer, with protest, the agenda item No. (i) until the Adviser to the PM is present in the Committee meeting.

29. Agenda item No. (iv) was also deferred until the complainant, Senator Babar Khan Ghouri, is able to attend the meeting himself.

30. The Foreign Office was asked to submit the details of the case of Mr. Abdul Qahar, Stenographer, working at the Embassy of Pakistan in Algeria, who is being asked to return to Pakistan prior to the completion of his tenure.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 9th May, 2014 at 02.30 A.M in the Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Crimean crisis and Pakistan's position on the issue;
- ii. Complaint by Senator Baz Muhammad Khan against non-cooperative behavior of protocol staff of Pakistan High Commission, London;
- viii. Complaint by Senator Babar Khan Ghauri against Consul General, New York for ignoring parliamentary delegation during their visit to New York;
- ix. Complaint against Ambassador, officers & officials of Pakistan Embassy in Doha, Qatar.
- x. Consideration of the report of sub-committee on Foreign Affairs.
- xi. Any other item with permission of the chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

19. Senator Farhatullah Babar
20. Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi
21. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran
22. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
23. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq
9. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed
10. Senator Dr Muhammad Jahangir Bader
11. Senator Mr. Baz Muhammad Khan attended the meeting as special invitee.

a. The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed all the members and participants. The Chairman showed his displeasure on the absence of the Advisor and Foreign Secretary. The Additional Secretary told the Committee that the Advisor and Foreign Secretary were busy in the matters pertaining to the Prime Minister's visit to Iran, therefore they were unable to attend the meeting.

b. Senator Farhatullah Babar seconded the Chairman and took strong exception against the absence of the Advisor and the Secretary. He further said that the Parliament has always supported the Foreign Office, therefore officers of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs should come whenever they are called by the parliament. Senator Mrs. Sehar kamran said that very important issues are taking place around us so the Committee wanted to know as to where do we stand as far as our Foreign policy is concerned.

c. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq drew attention of the Chair towards recovery of the lost diplomatic passport of Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader. The passport was handed over to him by Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Deputy Director Protocol in front of the Committee. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Bader thanked the Chair and said that he was very grateful not only to him but to the Convener and all Members of the Sub-Committee by making great contribution in resolving the issue. Moreover, he said that the efforts which he made in pointing out the problem were not only for himself but for the respect of the Parliament as a whole.

d. Senator Tahir Hussain Mashhadi said that if anyone refuses to come upon the call of the Parliament, it is a violation of the constitution.

e. The Chairman adjourned the meeting without discussing the agenda points in a protest due to non-attendance of the meeting by the Adviser and the Foreign Secretary. The Chairman thanked Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq for submission of Sub-Committee's Report to the main Committee. He further asked him to include in the Report all new developments/additions related to recovery of the passport along with their recommendations.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 25th June, 2014 at 02.30 P.M in the Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Prime Minister's visit to Iran & India.
- ii. Crimean crisis and Pakistan's position on the issue;
- iii. Complaint by Senator Baz Muhammad Khan against non-cooperative behavior of protocol staff of Pakistan High Commission, London;
- xii. Complaint against Ambassador, officers & officials of Pakistan Embassy in Doha, Qatar.
- xiii. Delay in issuance of UAE Visit Visa on official passports.
- xiv. Any other item with permission of the chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

24. Senator Farhatullah Babar
25. Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi
26. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
27. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq
- v. Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah
- vi. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana
- vii. Senator Mr. Baz Muhammad Khan (By Special Invitation)
- viii. Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari (By Special Invitation)

4. The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran. Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman Committee welcomed all the members and participants. Before discussing the first agenda item, the Adviser to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs briefed the Committee on the Strategic Vision, main achievements and future challenges of the current government. The briefing included following key components of the Strategic Vision:-

- a. Safeguard Pakistan's security and eliminate the growing culture of extremism, intolerance and violence from the society through concerted political and military strategies.

- b. Economic revival and sustained development by setting out three major priorities, (i) expanding investment and trade (not aid), (ii) resolving energy crisis and (iii) addressing extremism and terrorism.
 - c. Building a peaceful external environment so that core national objectives of economic development could be robustly advanced.
 - d. To turn Pakistan's strategic geographical location from a liability into an asset through trade, transport and energy connectivity with China, Central Asia and West Asia.
- a. The honourable Adviser highlighted the major achievements of the government to include reinforcing strategic partnership with China, reaching out to Afghanistan, improving ties with India and United States, upgrading relations with EU, reinvigorating relations with Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey and other Muslim countries, promoting regional cooperation, safeguarding national security, nuclear programme and geo strategic interests.
- b. He reiterated the govt's stance in addressing future challenges through: (i) constructive engagements, (ii) non-interference (iii) advancement of trade, investment and economic cooperation.
- c. Briefing on the first agenda item regarding visit of PM to Iran and India, the honourable Adviser briefed the participants that main purpose of PM visit to Iran was to "open a new page" in bilateral relations based on a broaden economic-intensive partnership. PM engagements in Tehran included meeting and formal talks with President Rouhani and call on the Rahbar, Ayutullah Ali Khamenai. The visit provided a useful opportunity to the two leaderships to review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern. On the Iran-Pakistan Gas pipeline project, Mr. Nawaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the project while on the Iran's nuclear programme, PM re-emphasized Pakistan support to all efforts to find a peaceful settlement of the issue. During visit to Iran, 9 agreements and MOUs were signed and PM reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the relation with Iran and set a fresh trajectory for their future course.
- d. Briefing on PM's visit to India for attending the oath taking ceremony of Mr. Narendra Modi on 26th May, 2014, the honourable Adviser to PM stated that PM

had a constructive bilateral meeting with PM Modi and also called on the President of India. During meeting of both the Prime Ministers, issues of mutual concern were discussed, including the disputes that have so far hampered progression of bilateral relations. Both the leaders agreed that they had the mandate and their respective tenures ahead of them to meet the hope and aspiration of the people of the two countries. Mr. Modi recognized the need for a dialogue process to address the issues that stand in the way of good relations.

e. On the issue of terrorism, Mr. Nawaz Sharif informed his Indian counterpart that terrorism was a mutual concern and Pakistan had suffered enormously from this menace. People and Government of Pakistan are serious and committed to fighting terrorism in their own national interest. It was further agreed that two Foreign Secretaries would meet soon to discuss the way forward.

f. Briefing on the 2nd agenda item regarding Crimean crisis, honourable Adviser informed the Committee that the Ukrainian crisis came to

surface as a result of President's refusal to sign a political association and free trade agreement with European Union in November, 2013. As a consequence, the protests started and violent protesters took control of the Parliament. The Parliament impeached the President and announced Presidential election in May, 2014 which further escalated the crisis. The President surfaced in Russia and claimed that he was still the President. Referendum was held and the people voted in favour of Crimea joining Russia.

g. The accession of Crimea to Russia was accepted by the President Putin and treaty was signed in March, 2014. The West regards the present government in Kyiv as legal, while Russia does not. Similarly, Russia views accession of Crimea as legal and allowed under international law whereas the West regards it against International Law. USA and EU have announced controlled sanctions against Russia and debate on the matter continues in the United Nations.

h. Pakistan refrained in the UNGA on a resolution moved by Ukraine which asks all states not to recognize any alteration of the status of Crimea. Pakistan also abstained on the resolution moved at UNESCO by Ukraine on the situation in the independent Republic of Crimea. Pakistan at the moment is observing the situation and

believes that all sides should exercise restraint and reconcile the differences through negotiations.

i. Senator Baz Muhammad Khan, while initiating discussion on the 3rd agenda item put forth his complaint before the Committee regarding the non-cooperative behaviour of the protocol officer during his visit to London. He expressed his displeasure on the praiseful narrative from the Ministry about the concerned officer without even listening to his side of the complaint. He said that he could have ignored the issue in his personal capacity but in order to avert such inconvenience caused to other members Parliament in future, he decided to persue the case and asked the Ministry to seek personal apology from the concerned officer. Senator Farhatullah Babar and Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi endorsed viewpoint of the complainant and asked the Ministry to take appropriate action in this regard. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq asked the Ministry to seek explanation from the officer in line with the demand of the complainant. The honourable Adviser informed the Committee that he would personally look into the matter and submit detailed reply to the Committee.

j. On agenda item iv regarding complaint against officers & officials of Pakistan Embassy in Doha, Qatar, the honourable Adviser informed the Committee that Govt. of Qatar allowed separate arrangements for countries having large expatriates population to show case their culture on the eve of National Day of Qatar. The event was held on 18th December and the organizing Committee comprised of Mr. Habibullah Sheikh and Mr. Jannan Bangash. The organizing Committee handed over the flyer to the Ambassador which appeared to be promoting vulgarity and misrepresentation of Pakistani culture. Accordingly, Ministry of Interior, Govt. of Qatar was approached to tender advice to organizing committee to modify the programme which had offended the two gentlemen. Pakistan mission in Qatar was of the view that display of vulgarity in the name of Pakistani culture not only would have tarnished the image of Pakistan but could offend the Qatri authorities. Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel was of a view that apparently the flyer did not signify or promote vulgarity. He asked the Ministry to revisit the case and also obtain comments from the members of the organizing committee.

k. On agenda item v regarding delay in issuance of UAE visit visa on diplomatic/official passports, honourable Adviser to PM informed that the matter had been taken up with UAE authorities at the highest level. UAE Embassy has informed that concerned authorities in UAE enquire the purpose and details of entry visa request (official visit) to UAE regardless of passport types for all countries. Embassy of UAE has further informed that it should receive visa request atleast two weeks prior to the schedule date of visit. Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel, Chairman Committee observed that visas should be issued on the principles of reciprocity. At times, it may not be possible for the Senators/officials to submit their passports two weeks in advance, whereas people holding private passports are issued visa within 48-72 hours. He asked the Ministry to take-up case with the UAE authorities for exemption of visa on official and diplomatic passports.

l. Referring to a newspaper report, Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel asked the honourable Adviser to the Prime Minister whether there are any impediments in Pakistan's relationship with Afghanistan. Furthermore, he expressed his concerns regarding fate of Pakistani prisoners detained in Saudi jails whereas the Indians prisoners confined in Saudi jails have been shifted to India under the bilateral agreement.

m. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq was of the view that Pakistan should try to forge better relations with SAARC countries in particular Bangladesh and India. He further stressed that Pakistan could be instrumental in defusing tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

n. Senator Farhatullah Babar while appreciating the Strategic Vision stated that Ministry should make all out efforts to achieve the objectives set out in the vision. He emphasized that Pakistan should focus primarily on economic diplomacy and take concrete steps in enhancing trade links with India.

o. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana commented that Pakistan has supported the Afghan peace process and now looking forward to work with the new Afghan Govt. as well. He was of the view that Pakistan should enhance the security on the Western borders with a view to check human and drugs smuggling. He termed the visit of PM Mr. Nawaz Sharif to India a remarkable success.

p. Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi stated that Pakistan must pursue the policy of non-interference and should endeavour to capitalize from the recent visit of PM to Iran. He was of the view that Pakistan should not get entangled in to uprisings in various parts of the world and should rather focus on putting its own house in order.

q. Senator Farhatullah Babar pointed out that before the visit of PM to India on 26th May, 2014, Sikh protesters entered into the premises of Parliament building. He recommended that Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be part of the enquiry team probing into the said incident and should look for those elements who wish to sabotage the peace process between India & Pakistan.

r. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq remarked that achievements made by the government during last one year are commendable. He expressed his concern that people from the labour class working abroad particularly in Gulf countries get themselves involved in nefarious activities and therefore carry a bad name to the country. He urged upon the govt. to enforce strict laws in regulating the visa and export of skill manpower to gulf countries.

s. Honourable Adviser while responding to the questions stated that Pakistan now looks forward to working closely with the new democratic choice of Afghan people, manifested through a credible electoral process. He further informed that Pakistan's contribution to the process of stabilization in Afghanistan is being acknowledged regionally and internationally. The key principles of cooperation include mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference and no favourates. Pakistan's continuous and constructive engagement with Afghan government has helped reduce the trust deficit.

t. In response to Senator Farhatullah Babar question, the honourable Adviser stated that during meeting on National Security, there is convergence and unanimity on the issues of national interest. He reiterated that we have to put our house in order first and should persue the policy of non-interference. Our options are open and we are looking forward to closely work with new Afghan and Indian government.

u. In response to Senator Syeda Sughra Imam question, the honourable Adviser stated that Ministry of Commerce is primarily responsible to regulate the affairs

of Afghan transit trade and on water issue, the Indus basin water treaty is a base for any future talks between India and Pakistan.

v. In response to a question asked by Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq regarding relations with gulf countries, the honourable Adviser replied that Pakistan's relations with countries like Qatar, Bahrain and UAE are expanding through deeper political dialogue, energy cooperation, investment in infrastructure projects, export of skilled manpower and increased trade.

w. Replying to the Chairman's question regarding export of manpower to various countries, honourable Adviser stated that Pakistan has asked UAE to provide detail of labour required during Expo – 2020. Pakistan will provide labour as per the demand through formal channel and approved procedure. He further stated that Pakistan has to regulate and set stringent rules to negotiate long term manpower exchange agreements.

x. Responding to the query of Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, honourable Adviser stated that Pakistan is focusing on guarding and protecting our porous borders. Pakistan has maintained neutrality during Afghan election and our efforts are focused on intensified political dialogue, measures to prevent use of territory against each other and finally support Afghan peace and reconciliation process.

y. The Committee concluded its proceedings with following directions/ recommendations:-

- i. Ministry should seek personal apology from the protocol staff serving in Pakistan High Commission, London on account of his non-cooperative behaviour towards Senator Baz Muhammad Khan during his visit to London.
- ii. Ministry may submit detail of agreement (if any) signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia regarding shifting of prisoners confined in each other jails.
- iv. Ministry may take up case with UAE authorities for exemption of visit visa on official and diplomatic passports. In case, UAE authorities do not agree to the said proposal, our diplomatic missions in UAE should be instructed not to issue

Pakistan visit visa to UAE officials before two weeks time. Ministry of Interior may also be consulted in this regard.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 10th September, 2014 at 3.00 P.M in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- z. Pakistan India relations, situation on LOC & International border with India.
- aa. Pakistan Afghan relations.
- bb. Agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia regarding shifting of prisoners confined in each other jails.
- cc. Follow-up on kidnapping of two Czech women.
- dd. Follow-up on complaint by Senator Baz Muhammad Khan against non-cooperative behaviour of Protocol Staff of Pakistan High Commission, London.
- ee. Follow-up on complaint against Ambassador, officers & officials of Pakistan Embassy in Doha, Qatar.
- ff. Follow-up on issuance of UAE visit visa on official & diplomatic passports.
- gg. Progress of Sub-Committee formed on the issue of passport of Senator Dr. Muhammad Jehangir Badar.
- hh. Any other item with permission of the chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

- 28. Senator Farhatullah Babar
- 29. Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi
- 30. Senator Aitzaz Ahsan
- 31. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq
- ix. Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah
- x. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran
- xi. Senator Dr. Muhammad Jehangir Badar
- xii. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed
- xiii. Senator Mr. Baz Muhammad Khan (By Special Invitation)

4. The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed all the participants and members. Considering the engagements of the officers from the Ministry of Interior and NACTA, the Chairman took the agenda item no. (iv) for discussion in the first place. The Chairman presented a brief overview of the

case to the committee members and informed that two young Czech women were kidnapped in Pakistan after crossing over from the Iranian border. NACTA & the Ministry of Interior had not provided requisite update on this subject. He brought to the attention of the Advisor to the PM on Foreign Affairs that through various letters and meetings the Czech Republic has raised the issue of two kidnapped women and expressed their concern over the matter urging an early recovery of the abductees. He stressed upon the importance of the issue and asked the Ministry of Interior, NACTA and the Foreign Office to apprise the Committee about the latest progress in the matter. Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs apprised the committee that investigations into the matter were going on but exact whereabouts of these women remain unknown. DG NACTA apprised the Committee that two videos had been placed on facebook on 6th June, 2013 and 30th October, 2013 using pseudonyms. No organization has claimed the responsibility as yet. He added that Taliban have also denied their involvement. DG NACTA further apprised the Committee that they have received some information from Czech Interior Ministry which has been shared with the JIT. The Deputy Commissioner, District Chagai, Balochistan has also been consulted. The video showing the abducted women has a poster in the background with Dr. Afia Siddiqui's picture figured on it. The investigation is progressing & the report is therefore, not conclusive.

5. The Chairman expressed his dis-satisfaction over the current state of affairs and the level of investigation being carried out.

Decisions:

- i. **Chairman expressed his dis-satisfaction over the progress shown by the Ministry of Interior and NACTA in investigating the incident and recovering the abducted ladies.**
- ii. **The whole investigation committee to be present in the next meeting and make a comprehensive presentation indicating the progress made so far. The intelligence agencies of the Islamic Republic of Iran may also be consulted in the matter as the ladies had come from Iran without a male escort.**
- iii. **The Secretary Defence be conveyed displeasure of the Committee for non-cooperation/non-attendance by the ISI representative in the said meeting.**
- iv. **Secretary Defence be requested to attend the next meeting along with the representative of the ISI and brief the Committee.**

6. Taking up agenda item No. (i) , DG South Asia & SAARC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs apprised the Committee that in pursuance of the dialogue process which started with the previous Indian government, Pakistan is striving to normalize bilateral ties with India. Response from the Indian side has been inappropriate and the remarks made by the Indian foreign ministry are not very positive. Unfortunately on the pretext of hostilities along the line of control India has suspended the composite dialogue which still remain on hold. To a question whether Prime Minister of Pakistan discussed Kashmir issue during his visit to India, the Committee was informed that no such discussion took place. Kashmir issue is an integral part of India-Pakistan dialogue with respect to normalization of bilateral relations. The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs apprised the Committee that during his visit to India the Prime Minister of Pakistan was not asked by the Indian government not to meet leaders of the Hurriyat Conference. He further reiterated that no bilateral talks between Pakistan and India pertaining to Kashmir issue can be held without participation of the Kashmiri leaders, including those of the Hurriyat Conference. Pakistan is going to raise the Kashmir issue at all international fora.

7. The hostile attitude of Mr. Modi, the new Prime Minister of India, towards Pakistan was also discussed in the meeting. Provocative statements given by the new Indian Army Chief were also highlighted in the context of enhanced tensions along the line of control in Jammu & Kashmir. The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs apprised the committee that the civil and military establishments were on the same page in respect of relations with India. All such security issues are discussed by the National Security Committee which met in February, 2014 and is scheduled to meet again in October, 2014. There have been 93 violations by India along the line of control resulting in seven casualties during the current calender year.

8. On the question of problem of floods in Pakistan due to release of excess water in rivers by India, Advisor to PM on Foreign affairs briefed the committee that India notifies Pakistan whenever it releases water into Pakistani rivers. This is in accordance with the Indus Basin Water Treaty. The flood issues of Pakistan cannot be resolved without the construction of large sized dams in the country. India, according to the treaty, cannot construct a dam to obstruct the supply of water towards Pakistan.

Decisions:-

- i. Foreign Office to give a comprehensive briefing on the legal issues in the Indus Basin Water Treaty with India.**
- ii. The mechanism for release of water into Pakistani rivers by India may also be explained in detail.**

9. Taking up the agenda item no. (ii). DG Afghanistan, Foreign Office, briefed the Committee that Pakistan wishes to see a stable Afghanistan. The key principles of Pakistan's policy include non-interference and "No Favourites". The official results of the Afghan Presidential Elections have not been announced so far. Pakistan has "No Favourite" policy towards both the candidates, Mr. Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. To a question whether the 20 million US dollars pledged by Pakistan to train Afghan National Security Force have been utilized, the Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs apprised that Pakistan made this pledge during NATO Summit held at Chicago. No expenditures have so far been made in this respect. The Chair observed that during the operation Zarb-e-Azb over 900 Taliban have reportedly been killed so far. It was earlier estimated that the Taliban numbered in thousands. Are whereabouts of the rest of the Taliban known and what action is being taken against them. The Advisor to the PM on Foreign Affairs replied that Taliban have bases in Kunar and Nooristan provinces of Afghanistan. The response of the Afghan Government in this respect has not been very encouraging. The special envoy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan had visited Afghanistan to defuse border tensions between the two countries. This visit was reciprocated by Afghanistan by sending a Special Presidential envoy and a Military Delegation of the Afghan security forces. Both governments are evolving Standard Operating Procedures to handle sudden hostile situations on the Pak-Afghan border. It has further been reported that a large number of Pakistani Taliban militants have merged into the IDPs and have moved into the settled areas of Pakistan as a consequence of operation Zarb-e-Azb. Pakistan army has totally destroyed the terrorist infrastructures and has crippled their capacity to operate in Pakistan.

10. Agenda item No. (iii) pertained to Pakistani prisoners in Saudi jails. The Committee raised the question that those Pakistani prisoners confined in Saudi jails who have completed their sentences were not being extradited and transferred to Pakistan. Moreover bodies of the Pakistani Prisoners executed in Saudi Arabia on various charges, were not sent back to Pakistan and handed over to their family

members. The Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs promised to look into the matter and apprise the Committee about the progress, in the next meeting.

11. The matter at agenda item No. (v) pertaining to follow-up on complaint by Senator Baz Muhammad Khan has been resolved after tendering an unconditional apology by the concerned officers of the Pakistan High Commission, London.

12. The agenda item No. (vi) pertaining to the complaint against Pakistan Embassy staff in Doha, Qatar was discussed in detail. The Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs apprised that the decision of the Pakistan Embassy at Doha, Qatar may be upheld as they better understand the on ground situation and its consequences in accordance with local laws. The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs assured of the Ministry's cooperation in the matter.

13. The Committee decided that the Foreign Office will write a letter to Pakistan Embassy Doha, Qatar directing them to assist the Pakistani community, living in the Doha, and facilitate them in organizing cultural activities. A copy of the letter would be forwarded for the information of the Committee.

14. Agenda item No. (vii) pertaining to issue of UAE visas was discussed in detail. The Government of Pakistan in the Foreign Office is in consultation with the concerned Ministries of the UAE Government and details about various categories of passports i.e. Official and Diplomatic passports etc. is being forwarded to them. A comprehensive resolution of the problem is expected at the earliest.

15. As regards agenda item No. (viii) pertaining to progress of Sub-Committee. The Committee was informed that the report of the Sub-Committee is under review and Senator Dr. Jehangir Badar has received his passport. The chair directed to extend the period of the Sub-Committee by another two months.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 27th October, 2014 at 02.30 pm at The Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairpersonship of Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Situation on Pakistan-India Border, working boundary & LOC.
- ii. Situation on Pakistan-Iran Border.
- iii. Visit of Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs to Afghanistan.
- iv. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

1. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq
2. Senator Farhatullah Babar
3. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Shah
4. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed
5. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana
6. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam

4. The meeting was also attended by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With the permission of the Chair, the government officers introduced themselves.

5. The chair and the members appreciated the fact that the Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz attended the meetings regularly.

6. The Chair and the members asked the Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, to apprise the committee of the situation on the LOC. The advisor gave the committee an overview of the situation between 30 September 2014, and 11 October 2014. He apprised the committee of the casualties, and noted that normally such instances took place on the LOC. This time however, the shelling and firing had taken place on the working border, the surroundings of which were densely populated resulting in higher damages.

7. Mr. Sartaj Aziz further apprised the committee that India had accused Pakistan of aiding militants to cross the border. He noted, however, that India's security

along the working boundary was very strict, so India's claims were baseless. Mr. Sartaj Aziz also claimed that current shelling by India was heavier compared to that of the past. He cited the recent change in government in India and its anti Pakistan sentiments as the major reasons.

8. Mr. Sartaj Aziz noted that Pakistan and its military were fully capable of retaliating to India's shelling, as they had done during the entire incident on the LoC. He, however, called for internationalization of the Kashmir issue, stating that social media, the internet, and civil sector organizations needed to be mobilized to bring the issue to the forefront of international politics. He also identified the United Nations Military Observer Group working in Kashmir as a neutral verification body to fix responsibility as to which country initiated the shelling.

9. After the detailed orientation by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, the Chair posed the following questions:

- Mr. Modi and PM of Pakistan attended the were both the UN, but a meeting between the two did not take place. What was the reason behind this?
- There are several U.N resolutions relating to the Kashmir issue, but none of them are binding. In case of a plebiscite, will the people of Kashmir vote for Pakistan? And if not, has the MoFA come up with a counter solution to this issue?

10. Senator Farhatullah Babar noted that the Modi government could be trying to install a BJP government in Kashmir, following which they would abrogate Article 370 of the Indian Constitution which grants special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir. In such an event, Senator Farhatullah Babar enquired whether Pakistan had any plan of action. He identified that several Muslim groups in Kashmir favored India, and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should revisit its assumptions regarding the issue.

11. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed raised the following concerns:

- Referring to Arun Jaitley's statement against Pakistan, he asked why no counter statement had been made by the MoD and the MoFA.
- Modi government is openly anti-Muslim, and has adopted an aggressive approach towards Pakistan. He showed concern over this attitude being transferred to Afghanistan as well.
- Writing letters to the United Nations is not sufficient. The U.N Human Rights Council should be involved in the issue as the Indian atrocities in Kashmir and LOC incident is a clear violation of human rights.

12. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashadi, while appreciating Mr. Sartaj Aziz, asked whether the Govt. of Pakistan had initiated any campaign to highlight Govt. of Pakistan's point of view on the Kashmir issue on international fora, and if yes, had it been able to mobilize any form of support from international partners.

13. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq added that the Kashmir issue had been dragging on for several decades, but had not been adequately taken to international fora. He further noted that neither the international community, nor the people of Pakistan were fully aware of the ground realities regarding the issue. He called for attempts to bring the issue into the limelight, highlighting the fact that this issue is discussed at great lengths in India. A similar approach should be taken by the Govt. of Pakistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed reiterated this fact, stating that the last time the issue was highlighted on an international forum was in 1998.

14. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana supported these observations. He added that no activities were being conducted to highlight the Kashmir issue, save a promise of solidarity with the people of Kashmir on Kashmir Solidarity day. The Govt. of Pakistan should make more pronounced efforts to internationalize the issue.

15. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam inquired how the MoFA intended to deal with India's strategic partnership with the United States, given Pakistan's history with the super power. She requested to know how the MoFA would handle this change in alignment of South Asia. She also inquired what Govt. of Pakistan expected from multilateral organizations, the bills of which are footed by the U.S and Europe.

16. To the above presented questions, Mr. Sartaj Aziz's replies were as follows:

- He assured the committee that the people of Kashmir were with Pakistan, and would not vote for India if given the opportunity.
- He also assured the committee that abrogation of article 370 is not legally possible, and if such an event did take place, a legal revival of the issue is eminent.
- The Govt. of Pakistan and MoFA have full confidence in the strength of the people of Kashmir, and their loyalty to Pakistan.
- He stated that he had responded to Arun Jaitely's statement against Pakistan in kind, and the same was published in various newspapers.

- He further apprised the committee that the Kashmir issue had been taken to international forums, and would soon yield positive results.
- On the issue of Afghanistan, he informed the committee that he had visited Afghanistan, and had met with Hamid Karzai, Ashraf Ghani, Abdullah Abdullah, and the Foreign Minister, and that they had shown a desire to depart from the blame game relationship shared by the two countries. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan were determined to take advantage of the current opportunities to improve their relationship, and Afghan officials have also proposed a visit to Pakistan. In this regard, the MoFA is hopeful.
- He also apprised the Committee that Pakistan is taking a stance of non-interference in Afghanistan, and has gone on record saying that Afghanistan will solve its own problems. As such, there is no concern over power politics or a proxy war in the region.

17. Following the answers of Mr. Sartaj Aziz, the Chair voiced concerns over Iran's aggression, as depicted in the language they use when referring to Pakistan. Mr. Sartaj Aziz responded that Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister was currently visiting in Pakistan, and he had held a meeting with him. The Govt. of Pakistan was now focused on improving its relationship with Iran. He elaborated why the Iran Pakistan pipeline could not be completed in 2011 as scheduled, and that the Govt. of Pakistan wanted to move ahead with the project. In this regard, the petroleum Minister of Pakistan would be visiting Iran to negotiate a number of issues in this regard. To further improve relations, better border control mechanisms were being devised to prevent militants from crossing over into Iran from Pakistan & vice versa.

18. Senator Farhatullah Babar enquired whether the reason behind delay in Iran Pakistan gas pipeline was due to price escalations to which Mr. Sartaj Aziz responded that the issue was more complex and factors other than prices were responsible.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 16th January, 2015 at 10.30 A.M in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Visit of Prime Minister to China, Germany & UK;
- ii. Visit of Afghan President to Pakistan;
- iii. SAARC Conference held in Nepal;
- iv. Complaint by Mr. Shafqat Elahi, Ex-Accountant, Pakistan Embassy School, Sana'a, Yemen against Dr. Irfan Yousaf Shami, Ambassador of Pakistan in Yemen;
- v. Complaint by Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran against Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khokher, Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah;
- vi. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

32. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq
33. Senator Farhatullah Babar
34. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran
35. Senator Col. ® Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi
36. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
- vi. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

4. The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran. In the welcome remarks by the Chairman of the Committee appreciated the fact that Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs was regularly attending the meetings. The forum then started deliberations as per the agenda items.

Agenda Item No. (i) Visit of Prime Minister to China, Germany & UK;

China:-

5. The Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed about the Prime Minister's visit to China. At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Beijing on 7-8 November, 2014. The Prime Minister participated in the "Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership" and held bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. The Dialogue

was an initiative by China ahead of the 22nd Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, being hosted in Beijing.

In his meeting with President Xi Jinping, the Prime Minister reiterated that, in view of the evolving geopolitical situation in the region, the two countries should further deepen their multifaceted cooperation. The Prime Minister stated that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a key component of reinvigorating the economy through regional connectivity. President Xi stated that Pakistan was China's strong friend and both countries share fundamental interests to promote this relationship. He assured the Prime Minister of China's continued assistance and help for Pakistan's economic development and security. President Xi said that he was looking forward to visit Pakistan soon.

In official talks with Premier Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister highlighted the centrality of Pakistan-China relations in promoting regional peace and security and underlined the need to deepen and expand economic, financial and trade cooperation. The Prime Minister emphasized that Pakistan considers CPEC a transformational project of regional and global importance which will bring prosperity to both the countries as well as to the region. The Prime Minister also assured Premier Li that Pakistan will provide full security to Chinese nationals and institutions during the CPEC-related projects in Pakistan.

Both leaders agreed to fast track the energy and infrastructure development projects in Pakistan to help meet its development goals. Both leaders agreed to fast track the energy and infrastructure development projects in Pakistan to help meet its development goals.

A total of 19 Agreements/MoUs relating to energy and infrastructure sectors were signed between China and Pakistan. Pakistan's policy and efforts to improve relation with Afghanistan and help bring peace, security and stability to the region were appreciated by the Chinese side. The Chinese leadership reaffirmed their resolve to help Pakistan achieve economic development. The visit reinforced Pakistan-China strategic partnership and China's commitment to Pakistan's sovereignty and economic stability.

6. The Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs raised the question about realignment of the Gwadar – Kashgar Economic Corridor. The Foreign

Secretary replied that the alignment planning in respect of the said corridor was being done by the Planning Commission and not the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also spoke on the importance of the Pak-China Economic Corridor and Senator Farhatullah Babar proposed that a comprehensive briefing in respect of the Pak-China Economic Corridor may be convened with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs agreed to the proposal and said that the Planning Commission may be invited in the next meeting to brief the Foreign Affairs Committee.

UK

The Prime Minister conducted three visits to the UK which were discussed in the meeting. The first visit to UK was from 29th April to 2nd May, 2014 in which a new road map on security was concluded. The delegation of the Prime Minister included Mr. Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdul Malik, CM Balochistan, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, CM Punjab, Syed Tariq Fatemi, SA PM and Mr. Miftah Ismail, Chairman BOI.

The Prime Minister held meetings with his counterpart Mr. David Cameron, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, Foreign Secretary William Hague, Home Secretary Theresa May, Secretary International Development Justine Greening and Defence Secretary Philip Hammond.

The Prime Minister addressed Pakistan Investment Conference, held one-on-one meetings with the CEOs of prominent multinational companies and addressed the community.

The Prime Minister discussed different issues under the framework of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue. He highlighted the priorities of his government especially in the field of economy, energy, extremism and education. He also thanked British government for its support in grant of GSP plus status by the EU. He called for drawing British Investment in field of power, oil gas and mining sectors.

During the visit a new roadmap on security was concluded. Besides, the existing Roadmap on Culture and Education and Roadmap on Trade and Investment were revised and refreshed roadmaps were concluded.

The next visit to UK was conducted from 12-13 November, 2014 to inaugurate the Pakistan-UK Energy Dialogue/Investment Conference. The event was attended by

the CEOs and leading figures of the energy sector. The Energy Conference focused on seeking investments in energy sector to address Pakistan's growing energy needs through sharing expertise and best practices. The Prime Minister also met experts in the energy sector.

The 3rd visit to UK was from 2-6 December, 2014 to attend London Conference on Afghanistan (LCA). The Prime Minister called on the Prince of Wales and met with British Prime Minister David Cameron, Home Secretary Theresa May and Secretary International Development Justine Greening.

During the meeting with HRH Prince of Wales, the Prime Minister discussed Pakistan-UK Bilateral Relations, role of Commonwealth and other issues of mutual interest. The Prime Minister appreciated patronage of the global charities by the royal family and extended an invitation to the Prince of Wales to visit Pakistan.

During his meeting with British Prime Minister, the Prime Minister informed that Pakistan's economy is on right track which is reflected by an upsurge in the stock market and improvement of Pakistan's economic rating by transparency international. The British Prime Minister appreciated the economic agenda of the Government.

The important event during the visit was the trilateral summit between Afghanistan, Pakistan and UK on the post 2014 Security and economic situation in Afghanistan.

7. Senator Farhatullah Babar pointed out that the Prime Minister's visits have been over shadowed by the current visit of the Chief of Army Staff to UK. He asked the Foreign Office to apprise the Committee whether the Prime Minister discussed matters pertaining to Hizbul Tehreer and Baloch Nationalists currently seeking refuge in the UK with the British Government. The Foreign Secretary replied that the Hizbul Tehreer issue is a live issue as it pertains to printing & disbursement of hate literature. Pakistan and UK agreed to take note of each other's security concerns. These issues pertaining to Secretary Matters were raised by the Prime Minister with the British Government and the current visit of the Chief of Army Staff is a follow up of the same. The Foreign Office stressed the need to differentiate between the issue of Baloch Nationalists and those Baloch dissidents who have an anti Pakistan agenda. This is also a live issue which is regularly discussed with the concerned security agencies. Senator Farhatullah Babar further inquired about the input and role of the Foreign Office in the visit of the Chief of Army Staff as he was being given protocol of a Head of the State and not that of a

Government officer. Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran also inquired about the TTP – Raw nexus in the backup of the anti Pakistan statements being issued by the Indian Prime Minister’s Advisor on National Security. Foreign Secretary reiterated that the Foreign Office is always consulted when foreign visits are organized, including those of the Chief of Army Staff and all stakeholders are taken on board. The anti Pakistan statements by the Indian Advisor on National Security are a matter of great concern and are being taken seriously by the Government of Pakistan.

8. Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee said that 30 days have passed to the Army Public School incident and today is our first meeting after the incident so we may offer Fateha for the martyred students and teachers. The Committee offered Fateha for the departed souls.

9. The issue of blasphemous Cartoons published by the French magazine also came under discussion. The Chairman of the Committee proposed passage of a resolution condemning the willful slander and insults hurled in a section of the French media towards Islam and the core beliefs of Muslims in the garb of Freedom of speech. The Committee unanimously adopted the resolution with the directions to the Foreign Office to circulate the same to all the concerned embassies. Copy of the resolution is attached.

Germany

The Prime Minister visited Germany on the invitation of German Chancellor Angela Merkel from 10-12 November, 2014. During the course of his visit, he had extensive discussion with the German Chancellor on bilateral, regional and global issues. He also called on the President of Bundestag.

The Prime Minister addressed an Investment Conference of more than three hundred German and Pakistani investors including several CEOs of major German companies.

During the visit, two agreements including a MoU on Establishing German Special Economic Zones in Pakistan between Army Welfare Trust (AWT) and German Association for Trade and Economy (GATE) were also signed.

The visit further strengthened the relations that exist between Pakistan and Germany. It was extensively covered by German media.

10. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam inquired about the enhancement in the investment scenario and the robust economic investment policy proposed by the Prime

Minister during his visits to Germany. Foreign Secretary emphasized that there are a large number of proposals which are currently in the pipeline but the latest financial figures were not currently available. These investment projects would be made public around the time of presentation of the federal budget.

Agenda Item No. (ii) Visit of Afghan President to Pakistan;

11. At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Afghanistan's President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani visited Islamabad on 14-15 November, 2014. He was accompanied by a large delegation including Ministers, Parliamentarians, senior officials and businessmen. This was the first visit of President Ghani to Pakistan since the peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan and installation of the Government of National Unity.

President Ashraf Ghani's extensive programme included joint call on him by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs and the Finance Minister, call by Minister for SAFRON, call by Ministers for Commerce and Textile Industry, meeting with Chief Minister Punjab, meetings with members of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, and address to a Pakistan-Afghanistan Business Forum. President Ashraf Ghani also visited the GHQ and was given a briefing on security matters.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reaffirmed during his meeting with the Afghan President that a peaceful, stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan is in Pakistan's vital interest. He outlined his vision of a "comprehensive and enduring partnership" between Pakistan Afghanistan contributing to the security and prosperity of the two nations and reinforcing the efforts for peace and development in the region. To this end, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of multi-tiered bilateral engagement, including at the political, security, economic, leadership and people-to-people levels.

Reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to fight terrorism and extremism, the Prime Minister highlighted the positive results of Operation Zarb-e-Azb. He underscored the importance of both sides working together to address common security challenges through common endeavors. The Prime Minister also welcomed the new Afghan government's call to the opposition for dialogue to promote peace and reconciliation process.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment not to allow the use of their respective territories against each other. It was agreed to intensify bilateral interaction on the military and intelligence tracks.

Among other things, the two sides agreed to increase bilateral trade to US\$ 5 billion by the end of 2017. They also agreed to hold the next meeting of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) in Islamabad by December, 2014. It was decided to provide an institutional platform for enhanced business and investment collaboration by forming a Joint Business Council. It was also agreed to initiate negotiations on a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

The two leaders have made a common resolve to overcome the past and build a forward-looking relationship, based on trust and understanding. An effort is underway to transform the relationship in which political engagement, trade and investment, security and counter-terrorism cooperation, and regional cooperation are among the key elements.

Agenda Item No. (iii) **SAARC Conference held in Nepal;**

12. The 18th SAARC summit and its preceding meetings were held at Katmandu, Nepal on 22-27 November, 2014. The theme of the summit was “Regional Integration for Peace and Prosperity”. Initially, the following three agreements were scheduled to be signed during the summit for deepening regional integration and enhancing connectivity in the SAARC region.

The SAARC Inter-governmental Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity) was signed during the summit. However, SAARC Agreement on Railways and SAARC Draft Agreement for the Regulation of Passengers and Cargo Vehicular Traffic were deferred. As per SAARC procedure, the two agreements needed to be submitted to the SAARC Transport Ministers for consideration. Subsequently, the agreements were to be processed for approval by the Member States through their respective in-country processes before signing.

Therefore, it was decided during the summit that SAARC Transport Ministers meeting would be held in three months time since the end of summit to finalize the two transport agreements. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called an Inter-ministerial

Meeting to incorporate Pakistan's view/comments on the two draft agreements before the SAARC Transport Ministers Meeting.

Agenda Item No. (v): Complaint by Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran against Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khokher, Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah;

13. This item was discussed in detail and because of the sensitive nature of the issue, Senator Farhatullah Babar advised the Honourable Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran to formally meet with Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs and resolve the issue amicably. The Chairman inquired from Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran about the proposal. It was decided that Senator Mrs. Sehar Kamran, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Senator Farhatullah Babar will meet with Advisor to Prime Minister within a week and a report will be submitted to the Committee within one week. The Committee would provide the necessary assistance in case of any requirement.

Agenda Item No. (iv): Complaint by Mr. Shafqat Ellahi, Ex-Accountant, Pakistan Embassy School, Sana'a, Yemen against Dr. Irfan Yousaf Shami, Ambassador of Pakistan in Yemen;

14. The issue was discussed in detail. It was reiterated time and again that as the Senate had the oversight over functioning of various government departments, it was within its jurisdiction to seek clarification on behalf of the aggrieved. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs agreed to hold a detailed inquiry of the matter and submission of a report to the Committee.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 6th February, 2015 at 2.30 P.M in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Briefing on Gwadar – Kashgar (Pakistan – China) Economic Corridor;
- ii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

1. Senator Farhatullah Babar
2. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam
3. Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah
4. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

4. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the importance of the issue and conveyed his displeasure for the non-attendance by Minister for Planning, Development and Reform. He appreciated the presence of Chairman, National Highway Authority (NHA) in the meeting on a special invitation. The Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform explained that the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform could not attend the meeting as he had to proceed to Lahore to attend the funeral of one of his relatives. However, he emphasized that Minister had given a detailed briefing on the subject during a session of the Senate of Pakistan.

5. The Chairman of the Committee asked the Secretary, Planning, Development and Reform to emphasize in his presentation on the alignment of said Pakistan – China Economic Corridor (PCEC). He directed that the evolution of the route maps should be explained in a chronological order, from the time Gwadar Port was inaugurated to the present date.

The Secretary Planning, Development & Reform gave a detailed briefing on the salient features of the project pertaining to PCEC and then requested Chairman, NHA, to apprise the Committee of the details of the multiple route alignments of the same. The Chairman, NHA gave a detailed presentation on the existing and planned routes from Gwadar port to Xinjiang China.

The presentation led to a debate and Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel expressed concern over the scattered details of the costs of various portions of the route. He directed that costs of all portions should be listed properly and not be scattered.

Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that the Chairman NHA had candidly specified that the alignment of the CPEC from Khunjerab to Gawadur via Mianwali, D. I Khan, DG Khan, Khuzdar and Turbat is still the original route. As that route would take many years to build and establish, a short term solution is being worked upon, which, according to NHA, will catalyze the utilization and operational running of the Gawadur port. Chairman NHA further stated that using the option of the existing infrastructure for the short term will ultimately save a lot of time and money while the original route is being prepared.

6. Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that once the new alignment becomes operational, it will, overtime, create its own vested interests and it will be impossible to revert to the original planned alignment via D.I Khan and D.G Khan. Thus for all practical purposes, the new short-term alignment will become final and irrevocable.

7. Senator Farhatullah Babar continued that the decision about the Economic corridor's alignment fundamentally is a political decision and needs to be addressed at a political level as it is beyond the capacity and mandate of technocrats. The basic issue in deciding the alignment is whether any weightage is given to national harmony and integrity by connecting the less developed areas of all provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan and tribal areas to the economic corridor, he said. Senator Farhatullah Babar asked three specific questions so that the Parliament could take it up at a higher political level.

- i. What additional uplift projects will be required and at what additional total cost if the initially planned route namely Mianwali, D.I. Khan, D.G Khan , Khuzdar and Turbat is followed? A list of infrastructure projects already available along the initially planned route should be provided to the Committee.
- ii. Which of the additionally required infrastructure projects has already been included in the PSDP so as to get a clear picture of the actual cost of the new works to be undertaken?
- iii. How much time will it take to make the originally planned route fully operational? As for the operationalization of Gawadar port is concerned it will become operational after the opening of Rattadero Gawadur road, which the Chairman NHA has said will be completed by May this year.

The NHA will give its replies to these questions in one week.

8. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam inquired about the time difference between operationalizing the short-term and the long-term route. Chairman NHA clarified that the very reason to opt for the short-term route was to minimize the loss of time to operationalize Gawadar port by a good few years. He further stated that the short-term route also saves money against the potential revenue to the government which it will gather a few years earlier.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed agreed and stated that the number one priority is and should be to operationalize the Gawadar port. However, he added that there should be no feeling of exclusion in the long term by any deserving part of Pakistan that can benefit from the trade route. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam, however, directed that a comparative analysis of other ports in proximity be provided in the next meeting along with details of any loss that Pakistan can suffer because of it.

9. The Chairman of the Committee fixed 13th February, 2015 as the date for the next meeting asking the Secretary, Planning, Development & Reform to answer the questions posted by the members in attendance and provide all route maps plus hard copies (both by Secretary, Planning, Development & Reform and Chairman, NHA) to the Secretary Committee before 13th February, 2015.
