MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

The months of June and July witnessed a lot of diplomatic activity on the bilateral front. June marked an important milestone as we completed the first year of the present democratic government. The defining principle of Pakistan’s foreign policy during this year has been ‘Peace for Development’, the creation of a peaceful external environment, so that the core national objective of economic development could be robustly advanced. In my interactions with the US interlocutors at The Hill, US administration and think-tank circuit, I found them all appreciative of economic turnaround in the country, owing to internal economic discipline and initiatives to promote peaceful environment in the region. Pakistan now finds itself in the mainstream of the global community. Shared democratic values are serving as a powerful impetus for deeper and more meaningful engagement between Pakistan and other Nations.

Importantly, we received Ambassador Tariq Fatemi MOS and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister in the month of July. During his stay in Washington Ambassador Fatemi had very productive meetings with senior US officials at the White House and State Department. He also had very useful interactions at Capitol Hill, think-tanks and with members of academia.

Reflecting confidence in Pakistan’s economic revival and the government’s clear vision to overcome the energy requirements of the country, the World Bank approved Pakistan’s Dasu Hydro Electric Power Project with overwhelming support from all members. US support for this project will help strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. In reflection of continued confidence in Pakistan’s economy the IMF released a $555.9 million payment to Pakistan as the IMF Executive Board completed its third review of Pakistan’s economic performance. Outreach to the Congress has continued. These meetings give us the opportunity to project Pakistan’s perspective and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Wishing you all a very happy Independence Day.

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SYED TARIQ FATEMI, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISITS WASHINGTON, DC – JULY 21-28

SYED TARIQ FATEMI, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECEIVED AT THE CAPITOL HILL BY THE LEADERSHIP OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs was received at the Capitol Hill by the leadership of Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. Welcoming Mr. Fatemi, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Rep. Ed Royce said that Pakistan and US shared common objectives in peace and stability in the region. He expressed the hope that Pakistan's efforts to root out militancy in border region will yield positive results. Ranking Member of the Committee, Rep. Engel expressed high confidence in the strength and future growth of Pakistan-US bilateral relations. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister briefed the Congressmen on the government's efforts to improve economic governance, enhance security in the country and defeat the scourge of terrorism. He also met Rep. Nita Lowey, Ranking member of House Appropriation Committee.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SYED TARIQ FATEMI SPEAKS AT THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE, WASHINGTON DC

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi spoke at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on “Pakistan’s vision for regional peace, prosperity, and economic development”. In his remarks, the Special Assistant highlighted the Government’s focus on pursuing the goal of economic prosperity for the people of Pakistan. He underscored Pakistan’s commitment to building a peaceful neighborhood for regional peace, security and prosperity. He also highlighted the Government’s commitment to combating terrorism and extremism in all its forms through a comprehensive and consensus based approach.

While emphasizing the importance of enhanced market access, and greater investment flows, the Special Assistant also thanked the US government for its valuable assistance to Pakistan for its various development projects especially those in the energy sector.

THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SYED TARIQ FATEMI, ADDRESSES A ROUNDTABLE HELD AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi addressed a roundtable held at the Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C on ‘US–Pakistan relations: the way forward’. In his opening remarks, the Special Assistant highlighted the importance Pakistan attaches to stronger Pakistan-US cooperation. He stressed that an enduring U.S.-Pakistan partnership is vital to regional and international security. The Special Assistant stated that Pakistan and the US are closely cooperating to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan. During the interactive session, the Special Assistant responded to various questions related to different aspects of Pakistan’s relations with the US, China, India and other countries in the region.
CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani met with Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), Member House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ambassador Jilani with Senator Jeff Flake, (R-AZ), Member of the Senate Foreign Relations, Energy and Natural Resources, and Judiciary Committees.

Ambassador Jilani with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Assistant Majority Leader.

Ambassador Jilani with Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA).

Ambassador Jilani and Defence Secretary Lt. General (R) Asif Yasin Malik met with Congressman Adam Smith, (D-WA) Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee.

Ambassador Jilani with Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA), Ranking Member House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non Proliferation & Trade.

Ambassador Jilani with Congressman Adam Schiff, (D-CA) Senior Member House Appropriations Committee and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Ambassador Jilani with Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY), member House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ambassador Jilani with Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH), Chairman House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia & the Pacific.

Ambassador Jilani with Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH), Chairman House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia & the Pacific.

Ambassador Jilani met with Congressman Alan Grayson (D-FL).

Ambassador Jilani met with Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV).

Ambassador Jilani with Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI).
AMBASSADOR JILANI SPEAKS ON ‘AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN: LESSONS AND PROSPECTS’AT THE ASPEN SECURITY FORUM 2014

Ambassador Jilani attended the Aspen Security Forum where he participated in a panel discussion on ‘Afghanistan and Pakistan: Lessons and Prospects’. Other panelists included Ambassador Eklil Hakimi of Afghanistan, Mr. Jeff Eggars, the Special Assistant on Afghanistan Pakistan in the National Security Council, and General (Retd) John Allen, the former US Commander in Afghanistan. Ambassador Jilani, while talking about Pakistan’s own democratic transition a year earlier, expressed optimism about the election outcome in Afghanistan. Being appreciative of the positive engagement of the US with the Afghan leadership, Ambassador Jilani hoped that the two candidates would pull their country out of the political crisis. Responding to questions about the North Waziristan operation, Ambassador Jilani reiterated that the operation was going to be comprehensive and non-discriminatory. Ambassador Jilani said while the hammer of the Pakistani forces against all militants was working in full swing, a corresponding anvil from the Afghan side would be helpful to decisively crush the terrorists once and for all. General John Allen, responding to a separate question, appreciated the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the war against terrorism especially the Pakistani military which lost more soldiers than any other country.

AMBASSADOR JILANI MEETS WITH MARTIN O’MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

Ambassador Jilani met with Martin O’Malley, Governor of Maryland and briefed him on the important initiatives taken by the Government of Pakistan to turnaround the economy and to improve the regional peace and security environment. He reiterated the government’s desire to engage with all stake holders in the US, including its States, to further deepen and expand trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. Governor O’Malley briefed Ambassador Jilani on the initiatives undertaken in the State of Maryland to give a greater voice and participation to various communities including the Pakistani-American diaspora. He praised the Government of Pakistan’s efforts, in both, improving the economy and reaching out to its neighbours. The Governor reciprocated the sentiments conveyed by the Ambassador to expand trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Maryland, where he saw immense potential for expansion, particularly in the energy and information technology sectors. Thanking the Ambassador for his invitation to visit Pakistan, the Governor agreed to work out a mutually convenient date for the visit.

AMBASSADOR JILANI SPEAKS AT THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE ON “PAKISTAN–INDIA RELATIONS” AND THE CARNEGIE COUNCIL, NEW YORK ON “RECENT ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA FROM A PAKISTANI POINT OF VIEW” IN NEW YORK

Speaking at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Ambassador Jilani stressed the need to promote regional cooperation as a path to peace and prosperity. He said that despite a history of tensions there is a strong realization in South Asia of the imperatives of peace and development in the region. He further added that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif has articulated his vision of a peaceful neighborhood and extended a hand of cooperation towards India in order to build durable peace. The current government feels that South Asia cannot progress unless India and Pakistan resolve their differences and disputes and make a common cause against poverty, extremism and terrorism. He stated that terrorism is as much a concern for Pakistan as it is for India. He expressed that India
should also allay Pakistan’s concerns over interference in Baluchistan. He added that settlement of issues including the J&K dispute in accordance with international legality is of critical importance to establish permanent peace.

In his address at Carnegie Council, in New York on “Recent Elections in Afghanistan and India from a Pakistani Point of View”, Ambassador Jilani highlighted the Government’s vision of economic revival and a peaceful neighborhood. The history of Pakistan–India relations, he added, has not been a glorious one due to unresolved Jammu & Kashmir dispute. Siachen, Sir Creek, terrorism and water issues. He said that there is a realization that military solution to the problems between the two countries is not an option. Talking about Afghanistan, Ambassador Jilani said that from the outset, Pakistan remains directly affected by the happenings next door. He added that Pakistan has suffered deeply from the culture of violence and extremism, arms proliferation and narco trafficking while Pakistan hosting the largest refugee population in the world. Ambassador Jilani expressed optimism that South Asia stands at the cusp of a new beginning with the new elected leadership in Pakistan, India & Afghanistan.

AMBASSADOR JILANI CONVEYS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF BABAR AND HARIS SULEMAN

Ambassador Jilani spoke to the family of Mr Haris Suleman and Mr. Babar Suleman to convey, on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Government of Pakistan and his own behalf the deepest condolences on the tragic plane crash near American Samoa in the Pacific in which Haris lost his live, while Mr. Babar Suleman remains missing. He assured the bereaved family of his full support and cooperation and informed them that Pakistan Embassy had been in contact with the relevant U.S. authorities for the expeditious transfer of the dead body of Haris to his hometown and for the search of Mr. Babar Suleman. Ambassador Jilani lauded the contributions of the father and son duo for promoting the noble cause of education in Pakistan.

AMBASSADOR JILANI HOSTS INTER–FAITH IFTAR DINNER

An inter–faith Iftar dinner was hosted by Ambassador Jilani. Members of all major faiths were invited to the event with a view to promote interfaith harmony and mutual understanding. A large number of Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish community members attended the Iftar dinner. Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Jilani welcomed the participants and shed light on the pluralism and moderation enjoined by Islam. He also underscored the philosophy of fasting and said that Islam being a harbinger of peace and tolerance calls upon its followers to share the blessings of peace with fellow human beings. He elaborated on the policies of the Government which following the vision of the founder of the nation is promoting a progressive, forward looking and tolerant society and sought good neighborly relations in the region and strive for world peace. The representatives of Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh communities offered prayers for peace and harmony among followers of all religion. They highlighted the convergences which unite humanity and professed the messages of kindness, love and fraternity of human race. They called on the need for peaceful co-existence among followers of various faiths and highlighted the universal messages of tolerance and brotherhood which formed the core and spirit of all religions.


AMBASSADOR JILANI AND MRS. SHAISTA JILANI HOST A RECEPTION IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR CATHERINE M. RUSSELL, AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani and Mrs Shaista Jilani hosted a reception in honor of Catherine M. Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues. Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Jilani acknowledged Ambassador Cathy M. Russell’s staunch support of US-Pakistan Women’s Council’s (USPWC) and its objective of empowering Pakistani women through entrepreneurship, education & employment. Mrs. Shaista Jilani reiterated her support for the US-Pakistan Women’s Council and its initiatives, adding that Pakistani women are blessed with enormous capabilities and potential and are playing significant roles in all walks of life. Recalling her recent visit to Pakistan, Ambassador Catherine M. Russell spoke highly of Pakistani women who exemplify Pakistan’s rich tradition of female leadership and are generating employment and innovation in various sectors.
THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES ITS THIRD SESSION OF ‘UNDERSTANDING PAKISTAN’

The Embassy concluded its third session of the certificate awarding course ‘Understanding Pakistan’. Deputy Chief of Mission, Dr. Asad M. Khan, awarded certificates to the course participants and felicitated them on successfully completing the course. In his remarks, Deputy Chief of Mission Dr. Asad M. Khan underscored the importance that the Embassy attaches to reaching out to American and Pakistani-American youth to promote awareness about Pakistan. The course has become an important public diplomacy initiative of the Embassy to foster and expand people to people contacts between Pakistan and the US. The course participants represented a wide cross section of the American private and public sectors including university and college students, US government officials, businessmen and entrepreneurs. The participants deeply appreciated the initiative terming it highly informative and useful.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE GEM & JEWELRY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM VISIT THE EMBASSY

Ambassador Jilani met with the participants of the Gem & Jewelry internship program held under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Special American Business Internship Training Program (SABIT). Addressing the participants, Ambassador Jilani thanked the US government for initiating such programs that will be helpful in implementing Pakistan-US Joint Action Plan to diversify and enhance its export portfolio, through adoption of modern techniques and through value addition. John M. Andersen, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Global Markets at the US Department of Commerce briefed the participants on the various segments of the program. He looked forward to collaborating with Pakistan on all US Department of Commerce Programs, through an increased interaction with the Embassy of Pakistan at D.C. Ambassador Jilani and John M. Anderson awarded certificates to the participants upon successful completion of the program.

AMBASSADOR JILANI MEETS WITH PAKISTANI MOUNTAINEERS, SAMINA BAIG AND MIRZA ALI BAIG

The Embassy welcomed Ms. Samina Baig, the first Pakistani woman to climb Mount Everest and her brother Mirza Ali Baig. Members of U.S. State Department also attended the ceremony. Ambassador Jilani greatly appreciated Samina and Ali Baig for raising the Pakistani flag on the highest peaks around the world through their sheer enterprise, courage and commitment. He acknowledged their commitment to the promotion of girls’ education in Hunza and for their work on empowering women in Pakistan and declared Samina a symbol of pride for Pakistanis all over the world. Ambassador Jilani assured Samina Baig and Ali Baig of full cooperation and assistance in their efforts for advancement of mountain diplomacy and promotion of tourism in Pakistan.
THE WORLD BANK APPROVES THE DASU HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT FOR PAKISTAN

The World Bank approved Pakistan’s Dasu Hydro Electric Power Project during a meeting of its Executive Directors. The project was approved with an overwhelming support from all members including the United States. Dasu Hydro Electric Power (Dasu Dam) is a critical project to meet Pakistan’s energy needs with a potential to generate 4200 MWs of cheap electricity. Upon completion, it will substantially increase the generation capacity of the country, reduce subsidies, change the fuel mix and bring down the cost of electricity generation. The World Bank’s decision to support the project is a reflection of its confidence in Pakistan's economic revival and its clear vision to overcome the energy requirements of the country. US support for the project is in line with the commitment made by the leadership of the two countries to enhance cooperation in the energy sector as envisioned by President Obama and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the Joint Statement of October 2013. Progress on this critical project will help forge the Pakistan- US partnership on a lasting basis and further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

IMF DISBURSES $ 555.9 MILLION TRANCHE FOR PAKISTAN AFTER 3rd PERFORMANCE REVIEW

In a reflection of continued confidence in Pakistan's economy, the International Monetary Fund released a $555.9 million tranche for Pakistan as the IMF Executive Board completed the third review of Pakistan’s economic performance under a three-year program supported by an arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

IDEAS FORUM

Moeed W. Yusuf, Director of South Asia Programs at the United States Institute of Peace and editor of “Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in South Asia: Through a Peace building Lens”, had an interactive session at Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC.

ALSO PAKISTAN

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: SAMINA BECOMES FIRST PAKISTANI WOMAN TO SCALE 7 HIGHEST PEAKS ON 7 CONTINENTS

Samina Baig became the first Pakistani woman to summit the highest mountains on each of the seven continents of the world. Baig, who hails from Hunza in Gilgit-Baltistan, was on a mission to raise the Pakistanis flag on the highest peaks of the seven continents. She achieved her target with her brother Mirza Ali on July 24, 2014.