MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

This October we witnessed continued high-level engagement between Pakistan and the US. We had the honor of hosting Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who paid an official visit to Washington, DC at the invitation of President Barack Obama. This visit reinforced the commitment of both leaders to an enduring US-Pakistan partnership, a prosperous Pakistan and a more stable region.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Obama held wide-ranging discussions on all aspects of bilateral cooperation including economic growth, trade and investment, education and civil society cooperation, climate change and energy, regional security and counter-terrorism, cyber security, strategic stability, nuclear security, and nonproliferation, and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to democracy. Both leaders committed to building on the ongoing U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue to advance progress in these and other areas. Welcoming the establishment of the “U.S.-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor” in June 2015, the two leaders directed their respective governments to intensify cooperation within this important framework in consonance with the priorities set out in Pakistan’s Vision 2025.

The Prime Minister also had well-rounded meetings with a wide cross-section of leadership in the US Administration, Congress, academia, the business community and media. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his team forcefully projected Pakistan’s perspective on a wide range of initiatives including clean energy, security and girls’ education. Prime Minister also effectively conveyed the country’s efforts against extremism in its territory and highlighted the need for similar actions from Afghanistan. All speculations about a nuclear deal were also put to rest as no deal was discussed during the visit.

The visit was made successful by virtue of a collective team effort and I would like to congratulate all the team members for their contribution. The decisions taken during the visit will be followed up actively to realize the true potential of a robust bilateral relationship for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

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PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF MEETS PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Barack Obama during their meeting at The White House.

At the invitation of President Obama, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif paid an official visit to Washington from October 20 to 23, 2015. Welcoming Prime Minister Sharif, President Obama noted the long standing Pak-US relationship and bilateral cooperation on security, economic, scientific and educational fronts. The US The two leaders expressed their conviction that a resilient U.S.-Pakistan partnership is vital to regional and global peace and security and reaffirmed their commitment to address evolving threats in South Asia. Building on the foundation of the Enhanced Partnership for Pakistan Act, President Obama reiterated a commitment to comprehensive bilateral cooperation through both the public and private sectors, into the future. The leaders expressed their commitment to fostering a deeper, stronger, multi-dimensional partnership based on mutual respect, trust and understanding to cooperatively tackle the global challenges of the 21st century.

Full text of Joint Statement.
US VICE PRESIDENT, JOE BIDEN MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with Vice President Joe Biden. Both sides reviewed the bilateral relationship and discussed issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif apprised the Vice President of his government's priorities and policies and informed him about the important economic milestones achieved by the government over the last two years. Both leaders also discussed regional, political, security issues especially Pak-US cooperation in the war against terrorism and reaffirmed their commitment to remain closely engaged to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. The status of Pak-US bilateral cooperation in different spheres also came under discussion. Both leaders agreed on the need to intensify this cooperation. They agreed on the need to closely coordinate for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Vice President Biden acknowledged Pakistan's positive and crucial role in the war against terrorism and reaffirmed US commitment to continue helping Pakistan in achieving their shared interests.

Left: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with Vice President Joe Biden prior to their meeting

US SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN F. KERRY CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and US Secretary of State, John Kerry shaking hands prior to their meeting at Blair House

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Secretary John Kerry meeting at Blair House

US Secretary of State John F. Kerry along with the senior officials of the State Department called on the Prime Minister at Blair House. Recalling their long and cordial interaction over the years, they took stock of recent developments in the relationship and stressed the need for continued high level engagements on all issues of mutual interest. The Prime Minister briefed Secretary Kerry on the important achievements of his government over the last two years, especially in the economic and internal security domain. Secretary Kerry assured the Prime Minister of the continued US cooperation to further enhance economic engagement between the two countries including in meeting Pakistan's energy needs. It was agreed that terrorism posed a common challenge to regional and global security and reaffirmed their resolve to counter this challenge. Prime Minister informed the Secretary of State about the efficacy of Zarb-e-Azab as well as the National Action Plan. The Prime Minister apprised Secretary Kerry of Pakistan's efforts to improve relations with Afghanistan and reiterated his commitment to seek normalization with India. Secretary Kerry was briefed about the destabilizing role of Indian agencies in FATA, Balochistan and Karachi. Three separate dossiers containing evidence of the Indian involvement in subversive activities were handed over to the US side, by Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz.
US SECRETARY OF TREASURY, JACK LEW CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF

US Treasury Secretary, Jack J. Lew called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Prime Minister Sharif highlighted the positive indicators of Pakistan economy which have been duly recognised by independent international institutions including rating agencies. He also expressed his government's resolve to implementing reforms in Energy, Taxation, Privatization and other sectors. Secretary Jack J. Lew congratulated Pakistan for successfully implementing the government's economic reform agenda which has resulted in macro-economic stability, rebuilding of foreign exchange reserves, and continuing reforms in the energy sector. Secretary Lew expressed the desire to deepen economic cooperation between the two countries. It was agreed to continue working together in invigorating economic relationship between the United States and Pakistan and combating terrorist financing.

US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ASHTON CARTER HOSTS PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF AT THE PENTAGON

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited the Pentagon at the invitation of US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter. On arrival, the Prime Minister was received by Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and Honor Cordon was in place to welcome the Prime Minister to the Pentagon. During the meeting, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that bilateral defence cooperation had continued to grow over the past two years. In particular, he noted successful cooperation in areas such as smooth movement of US retrograde cargo through GLOCs, facilitation through Air Lines of Communication, maritime security and Counter IEDs cooperation. Defence Secretary Ashton Carter expressed appreciation of the progress achieved by Pakistan in degrading terrorist networks. Recognizing the tremendous sacrifices made by Pakistan's military, law enforcement personnel and civilians, Secretary Carter noted that Pakistan has been at forefront of fighting terrorism. He lauded the government's efforts to achieve a national political consensus on fighting terrorism.

US SECRETARY OF ENERGY, DR. ERNEST MONIZ CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF

US Secretary Energy, Dr. Earnest Moniz called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and discussed the Pak-U.S. energy cooperation within the framework of Energy Working Group under the auspices of Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. Both sides agreed to deepen their cooperation. Pakistan and the United States are working on a new framework, U.S. - Pakistan Clean Energy Partnership to orient their future bilateral cooperation in clean energy projects. Under the new Partnership both countries are making joint efforts to sustainably address Pakistan's energy needs. It is aimed at stimulating increased levels of private investment in Pakistan's energy sector. It targets to add 3000 MW of clean power to Pakistan's national electricity grid within 3-5 years.
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with senior members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Bob Corker along with the Ranking Member Senator Ben Cardin received the Prime Minister and his delegation at the Capitol Hill. Thanking the Committee for their consistent support to democracy, security cooperation and economic development in Pakistan, the Prime Minister briefed the members about his economic reforms agenda that led to reviving the economy and upgrading of Pakistan's economic outlook in recent months. The Prime Minister also briefed the members on the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate the Temporary Dislocated Persons (TDPs) back in their homes in FATA following the clearing of areas by the successful military operations. Appreciating the provision of counter-terrorism assistance by the US Congress, Prime Minister informed that due to the successful operations of the Pakistani security forces, militants' command and control infrastructure had been destroyed and ability of militants to plan or conduct any major attack had been significantly diminished. Outlining his vision of a peaceful neighbourhood, Prime Minister reiterated his government's commitment to remain engaged with the Afghan leadership to enhance mutual coordination in dealing with the common challenges of terrorism and promoting peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Prime Minister also briefed members of the Congress about his recent peace initiative towards India, announced in the UN General Assembly session. Members noted the Prime Minister's proposal that given India's resistance to bilaterally resolve outstanding issues including Kashmir, it would be imperative to have the third party intervention for which the United States would be most relevant. Members of the US Congress emphasized that Pakistan was an important country in the region and the US looked forward to engaging with Pakistan to advance the goals of peace and stability in the region. Members also assured the Prime Minister of the continued support by the US Congress in complimenting Pakistan's efforts to stimulate people centered growth and eliminating militancy and extremism from the region.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with senior members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) welcomed the Prime Minister and his delegation at the Capitol. Chairmen and Ranking Members of subcommittees of Foreign Affairs Committee also attended the meeting. The Prime Minister informed the House Foreign Affairs Committee about the upturn in Pakistan's economy and government's efforts to stimulate economic development, sustain fiscal stability and enhance regional economic connectivity. Highlighting sacrifices of Pakistan's civilians, military and law enforcement personnel, the Prime Minister also outlined Pakistan's resolve to defeat terrorist networks through a comprehensive set of measures laid out in the National Action Plan. He remarked that operation Zarb-e-Azb had achieved its initial targets and was in a decisive phase. The Prime Minister appreciated House Foreign Affairs Committee's constructive role in supporting Pakistan–United States security and economic cooperation. Committee members interacted with the Prime minister on issues of mutual interest including Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts and economic development. Matters related to peace and security in the region also came up for discussion.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with senior members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ) CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF

Senator John McCain, former Presidential nominee and current chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee called on the Prime Minister at the Blair House. Prime Minister was joined by Finance Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Advisor on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaz Aziz, Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi, Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry and Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani. Prime Minister thanked Senator McCain for his leadership and supportive role in the US Congress in approving the critical counter-terrorism assistance to Pakistan which helped the Pakistani security forces to achieve important gains in the fight against terrorism. Prime Minister underlined that continued US support to Pakistan’s efforts in reversing the tide of extremism and militancy was important for advancing the shared goals of peace and stability in the region. Sharing his vision of a peaceful neighborhood, Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to work with the Afghan government in enhancing coordination in all areas of mutual interest including defeating terrorism and supporting the Afghan led reconciliation process. In this context, Prime Minister welcomed the recent decision by the US administration to retain the US troops in Afghanistan through 2017 which would help bring stability to the region. Elaborating his resolve to seek normalization with India, Prime Minister shared with the Senator his peace initiative to resume dialogue on the basis of honour, dignity and reciprocity. Noting the sacrifices rendered by the Pakistani nation in the fight against terrorism, Senator McCain acknowledged that operation Zarb-e-Azb had contributed in degrading the terrorist networks operating from the border region. He emphasized that Pakistan and the United States need to work with the Afghan government to deal with the existing and emerging threats in region especially the possible expansion of ISIL. Senator McCain assured the Prime Minister of the continued support by his Committee in providing necessary counter-terrorism assistance.

MEMBERS OF THE PAKISTAN CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER

A three member delegation of Pakistan Congressional Caucus called on the Prime Minister at the Blair House. The members included Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Congressman Andre Carson (D-IN) and Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (D-MI). On behalf of the Congressional Caucus, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee presented a resolution introduced in the US House of Representatives on 16th October to welcome the Prime Minister to the United States. During the meeting, Prime Minister emphasized that Pakistani-American community could play the role of a catalyst and a bridge between Pakistan and the United States. He underscored the need for enhancing people to people contacts and parliamentary exchanges between the countries. The Prime Minister extended an invitation to the members of the Congressional Caucus to visit Pakistan.

Full text of the resolution.  
http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news754_10182015_Congress.php
CHRISTINE LAGARDE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, IMF CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF

Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, IMF called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and congratulated him and his economic team for taking important steps towards macro-economic stability and leading a difficult reform process. The Prime Minister appreciated the role of IMF in assisting Pakistan with policy advice. He lauded Ms. Christine Lagarde for providing excellent leadership to an important international financial institution. The Prime Minister highlighted the government's policies aimed at structural, energy, fiscal and monetary reforms in the short and medium term which have led to improved economic indicators for Pakistan. He briefly touched on the legislative progress the government has made in the financial, taxation and other relevant fields. The Prime Minister said that his government has taken decisive steps in combating terrorism and it is helping to provide a conducive environment for the investors. Ms. Christine Lagarde appreciated the economic and financial reform process successfully being spearheaded by the government of Pakistan. She congratulated Pakistan for completing the 8th review under IMF’s Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program highlighting positive results as a consequence of the government’s current economic policies.

PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF ADDRESSES THE US–PAKISTAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AT THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addressing at the US Chamber of Commerce

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif speaking at a luncheon Business Forum organized by the United States–Pakistan Business Council here at the US Chambers of Commerce to introduce the investor-friendly policies of the government aimed at providing lucrative incentives to the foreign investors. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif invited the US investors to use diverse areas for investment in Pakistan and benefit from one of the most attractive investment regimes. The Prime Minister said that the US has always remained a great partner of Pakistan and the government will continue to encourage active investment of the US companies. He added that he was keen to see Pakistani products reach out to the US markets and said increased trade would help strengthen ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with Chairman USPBC, Miles Young

PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF ADDRESSES AT THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE (USIP)

Full text of the speech


Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKQQ8g-MAz0&feature=youtu.be

Right: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addressing at the United States Institute of Peace
PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE PAKISTANI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AT THE EMBASSY

FIRST LADY OF PAKISTAN, KALSOOM NAWAZ SHARIF AND MARYAM SAFDAR MEET FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES, MICHELLE OBAMA
Begum Kulsoom Nawaz Sharif and Mariam Safdar held a meeting with the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama at the White House. On this occasion both sides announced a new partnership Let Girls Learn (LGL Pakistan) to promote girls’ education in Pakistan that intends to benefit 200,000 young girls. Under LGL Pakistan, both sides committed to closely work together to expand opportunities for the education of young girls in Pakistan and women empowerment. Mrs. Michelle Obama warmly welcomed Begum Kulsoom Sharif and Mariam Safdar at the White House. She announced an initial funding of US $ 70 million for LGL Pakistan program. Ms. Mariam Safdar in her statement thanked Mrs. Obama for her support to strengthen Pakistan’s education sector and highlighted the priority being accorded to increasing female literacy in Pakistan. She emphasized the firm commitment of the Government to implement the policies of the Government as envisioned in the Vision 2025. LGL Pakistan is part of the global LGL program, announced by President Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama to help create more education and growth opportunities for the underprivileged girls.

AMBASSADOR JILANI HOSTS THE SECOND CONVENTION OF PAKISTANI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY (CPAC-2015)

The Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC hosted the second Convention of Pakistani-American Community (CPAC-2015). The Convention was hosted by Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani to deepen the Embassy' collaboration with the growing Pakistani diaspora in the United States. A large number of leading Pakistani-American community leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, representatives of Pakistani community organizations, political activists, members of civil society and academicians from across the United States participated in the Convention. In his address, Ambassador Jilani emphasized the importance the Government of Pakistan attached to the welfare of overseas Pakistanis. He also highlighted the community's role in strengthening the Pak-U.S. bilateral relations. He briefed the Convention on the positive developments taking place in Pakistan in economy and counter-terrorism and the Prime Minister's vision of a peaceful neighborhood. The participants discussed various aspects of Pakistan's economy, trade, security situation, foreign policy, and the role of Pakistani community in the socio-economic development of the country. Senior officials from the State Department, Office of the US Trade Representative and USAID also spoke in the Convention and briefed the participants on the importance the U.S. Government attached to its relationship with Pakistan and the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Congresswoman Shiea Jackson Lee, the Chairperson of Pakistani Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives in her message appreciated the positive contributions of the Pakistani-American diaspora in the United States in all walks of life. The participants of the Convention profoundly appreciated the initiative of the Embassy in organizing the nation-wide Convention, which offered an effective platform to both the Embassy and the community to deliberate on the issues of mutual interest.
The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.

Please send your comments to newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org
or visit www.embassyofpakistanusa.org