



# News Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

## U.S. EMBASSY Statement:

### “U.S. Strategic Relationship with Pakistan Stronger Than Ever”

*Islamabad, January 31, 2007:* Many in Pakistan have voiced concerns over provisions in the first piece of legislation considered by the new U.S. Congress, H.R. 1 – Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007. This bill, which has been passed by the House of Representative, addresses a wide range of issues relating to the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. While the Administration supports the underlying intent of H.R. 1, the U.S. Administration has serious concerns with several of the bill’s provisions and does not support the bill in its current form.

The United States and Pakistan are not only allies in the War on Terror, but partners engaged in building a broad, long-term strategic relationship. The Government of Pakistan has continued to demonstrate its commitment to cooperating with U.S. counterterrorism efforts. The U.S. Administration therefore opposes provisions in H.R. 1 that would restrict assistance to Pakistan based on a certification requirement that the Government of Pakistan is making all possible efforts to combat the Taliban in areas bordering Afghanistan. Such conditionality would be counterproductive to one of the important goals in H.R. 1, fostering a closer relationship with Pakistan.

In order to become law, a bill must be approved by both houses of Congress and then be signed by the President. H.R. 1 will now be sent to the Senate for consideration. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress on this bill to ensure the enactment of legislation that promotes the safety and security of the United States and its allies. Additional information on the Administration’s position on the provisions of H.R. 1 may be found at [www.http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/110-1/index-date.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/110-1/index-date.html).

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