



Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

January 2007



- ★ The U.S. Congress
- ★ Nation Pays Tribute to Ford
- ★ AIPS Conference



U.S. Senators Call on President Musharraf

A three-member U.S. Congressional delegation met with Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf in Lahore on January 14, 2007. They discussed a range of issues including U.S.- Pakistan relations, situation in Afghanistan and the Middle East, an official said. The delegation comprised Senator Evan Bayh, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Representative John McHugh.

(PID photo)



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Front Cover

Newly elected Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, is sworn in surrounded by children and grandchildren of members of Congress, in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007.
(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

the U.S. Congress

An overview of the United States' legislative branch

Article I of the U.S. Constitution establishes the legislative (law-making) branch of government with a bicameral (two-chambered) Congress – the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bicameral system is intended to provide checks and balances within the legislative branch.

The U.S. Congress is part of the legislative branch, which also includes agencies that support Congress, such as the Government Printing Office, the Library of Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office and the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

The primary duty of Congress is to write, debate and pass bills, which are then sent to the president for approval. Congressional powers include coining and printing money, maintaining military forces, declaring war, regulating interstate and foreign commerce, and rarely used powers to impeach federal officials and to initiate amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Congress controls federal taxing and spending policies, and has the authority to investigate and oversee the executive branch and its agencies. As part of that oversight responsibility, Congress can summon senior officials to answer questions, order audits of agencies and hold hearings to air citizen grievances, to identify needs for new laws or to raise public awareness of an issue.

In addition, Congress shares powers with the president in matters such as framing U.S. foreign policy and controlling the military. For example, the president has the power to negotiate treaties, but treaties only come into effect after Senate approval. Also, Congress can declare war and approve funds for the military but the president is the commander-in-chief of the military.



REPRESENTATION AND ELECTION

In the late 18th century, when the United States' founders were debating the form U.S. government would take, a major point of contention was how to determine the representation each state would have in the new Congress. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention from populous states argued for a scheme based on state population, while delegates from smaller states supported equal representation for each state, regardless of population. The bicameral legislature, proposed by Connecticut's Roger Sherman, called for two houses, with representation based on population in one chamber (the House of Representatives) and equal representation in the other (the Senate).

Currently, all members of Congress are elected by a direct vote by the citizens of the state they represent. Prior to the 17th Amendment to the Constitution in 1913, members of the House of Representatives had been elected directly by voters, but senators had been chosen by state legislatures.

Every two years, voters elect or re-elect all 435 representatives and one-third of the senators. A new Congress begins the January after the November national elections. Since the First Congress, which met from 1789 to 1791, all Congresses have been numbered in order. The 110th Congress convened January 4, 2007, for the first of two sessions, one in each of the two succeeding calendar years. It is rare for Congress to remain in session for the entire year, especially in election years.

The House and Senate usually meet in separate chambers in the U.S. Capitol but sometimes convene in a joint session of Congress. Such occasions include the counting of electoral votes for presidential elections, the president's annual State of the Union Address, and speeches by visiting heads of state.

THE SENATE

There are 100 U.S. senators. The Constitution assigns the vice president formal control over the Senate and gives him the additional title of the president of the Senate. As a practical matter, the vice president presides over the Senate only for important ceremonies or to cast a tie-breaking vote. The president pro tempore, typically the most senior member of the majority party in the Senate, is elected by the Senate and presides over the day-to-day operations of the Senate. In the 110th Congress, Senator Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat, holds this post.

Powers reserved to the Senate include:

- Confirming or rejecting treaties;
- Confirming or rejecting presidential appointments to office, including the Cabinet, other officials of the executive branch, federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, and ambassadors;
- Trying a government official who commits a crime against the United States.
- Senators are elected for six-year terms, must be at least 30 years old, have been citizens for at least nine years, and legal residents of the state from which they are elected.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

There are a total of 435 members in the House of Representatives. Each member represents an area of a state, known as a congressional district. The number of representatives is based on the number of districts in a state. Each state is guaranteed at least one seat in the House of Representatives. Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts the population of the states to determine the number of districts in each state.

The House of Representatives is led by the speaker of the House, chosen by the House members of the political party that holds the most seats in the House of Representatives. In the 110th Congress, Representative Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, holds this post. She is the first woman to do so in the history of the Congress.

Representatives, elected for two-year terms, must be at least 25 years old, citizens for at least seven years, and residents of the state from which they are elected. Five additional members -- from Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia -- represent their constituencies in the House. While these representatives may participate in the debates, they currently cannot vote.

Powers reserved to the House include:

- Initiating appropriation and taxation legislation; and
- Determining whether a government official should be put on trial before the Senate for crimes against the United States.



The U.S. Capitol is framed amid the amber leaves of a Yoshino cherry tree, in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006. When its foliage returns in March, the Yoshino cherry (*Prunus yedoensis*) will yield its more familiar and celebrated pale-pink blossoms. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, administers the House oath to Rep. Nancy Boyda, D-Kansas., during a re-enactment swearing-in ceremony, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007. Boyda's husband Steve holds the Bible at center. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)



Democrats Assume Control of U.S. House of Representatives

By David Anthony Denny

California's Pelosi will preside over lower chamber in historic development

The 110th Congress convened January 4 with a majority of its members affiliated with the Democratic Party. That change in party control brings with it a change in the leadership of the House and its committees and will influence U.S. foreign policy over the next two years.

The House of Representatives is the larger house of Congress, composed of 435 members, apportioned on the basis of population within each of the 50 states, with each state guaranteed at least one representative, regardless of population. The most populous state, California, has the largest delegation, 53 members. House members -- referred to as representatives, congressmen or simply members -- serve two-year terms.

Although the Constitution assigns the Senate a larger role in international affairs than the House, the House's constitutional role in initiating all federal revenue legislation also gives House committees dealing with international affairs importance.

As a result of the November 2006 national elections, members of the Democratic Party hold a majority of House seats for the first time since 1995, enabling Democrats to chair committees and set the broad House agenda.

The House apportions its workload among 21 committees and four joint committees, which further are subdivided into numerous subcommittees. The chairman of each committee and a majority of its members represent the majority party. The chairman controls a committee's agenda and presides over committee hearings. Several thousand bills and resolutions are referred to committees during each two-year Congress.

Within each committee, the minority party is led by a ranking member who serves as spokesman for his party's position on issues before the committee. Committees select a small percentage of proposed legislation for consideration, and those not addressed usually receive no further action. The bills that committees report help to set the House's agenda.

HOUSE LEADERS

Speaker of the House

Nancy Pelosi of California, Democrat

Acts as leader of the House and combines several roles: presiding officer and administrative head of the House, the partisan role of leader of the majority party in the House, and the representative role of an elected member of the House. By statute, the speaker is second in line, behind the vice president, to succeed to the presidency. Pelosi is the first female speaker in U.S. history; in the 109th Congress, she was the first female minority leader in the House.

Majority leader

Steny Hoyer of Maryland, Democrat

Represents House members of his party on the floor of the chamber, advocates their policies and viewpoints, coordi-

nates their legislative efforts, and helps determine (with the speaker) the schedule of legislative business

Majority whip

Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, Democrat

Assists the majority leader

Minority leader

John Boehner of Ohio, Republican

Serves as spokesman for his party's position on issues and coordinates party votes

Minority whip

Roy Blunt of Missouri, Republican

Assists the minority leader

HOUSE COMMITTEES

International Relations

Oversees the international diplomatic and political relations of the U.S. government; meets with foreign political leaders, U.S. administration officials and representatives of key constituencies; addresses issues related to international security, the United Nations and peacekeeping

Chairman: Tom Lantos of California

Ranking Republican: Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida

Appropriations

Formulates the U.S. government budget, usually by means of 13 separate pieces of legislation (appropriation bills)

Chairman: David Obey of Wisconsin

Ranking Republican: Jerry Lewis of California



Newly elected Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, is sworn in surrounded by the children and grandchildren of members of Congress, in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Agriculture

Oversees issues and legislation related to rural development, disaster assistance, nutrition, crop insurance, conservation, international trade, futures market regulation, animal and plant health, agricultural research and development, renewable energy, bioterrorism, forestry and other issues; writes, with its Senate counterpart, multiyear legislation that encompasses the income safety net for U.S. farmers, promotion of U.S. food and textiles in international markets, rural development, agricultural research and conservation programs, and nutrition and feeding programs for the needy.

Chairman: Collin Peterson of Minnesota
Ranking Republican: Bob Goodlatte of Virginia

Armed Services

Oversees the U.S. armed forces and the Department of Defense; hears testimony from senior civilian and military Defense Department officials on various aspects of military and defense policy, including terrorism and unconventional threats and capabilities.

Chairman: Ike Skelton of Missouri
Ranking Republican: Duncan Hunter of California

Energy and Commerce

Oversees issues and legislation related to telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, the supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce; through its five subcommittees, addresses commerce, trade and consumer protection; energy and air quality; environment and hazardous materials; health; oversight and investigations, and telecommunications and the Internet.

Chairman: John Dingell of Michigan
Ranking Republican: Joe Barton of Texas

Financial Services

Oversees issues and legislation related to valuation of the U.S. dollar; international finance and international financial and monetary organizations; monetary policy, money, currency and credit; securities and securities exchanges; banks and banking; economic stabilization; defense production; and financial aid to commerce and industry.

Chairman: Barney Frank of Massachusetts
Ranking Republican: Spencer Bachus of Alabama

Homeland Security

Oversees the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which works with foreign government counterparts and international organizations dealing with security matters;

conducts hearings and craft legislation on issues specific to homeland security; conducts investigations and subpoenas witnesses to testify before the panel.

Chairman: Bennie Thompson of Mississippi
Ranking Republican: Peter King of New York

Intelligence

Oversees the 16 U.S. agencies (plus the Office of the Director of National Intelligence) that collect, analyze and disseminate intelligence information; and appropriates and authorizes the classified budgets of the intelligence agencies.

Chairman: Silvestre Reyes of Texas
Ranking Republican: Peter Hoekstra of Michigan

Judiciary

Oversees international affairs through its purview over subversive activities affecting U.S. internal security; also provides oversight on matters related to espionage, criminal law enforcement, immigration policy, and claims against the United States.

Chairman: John Conyers Jr. of Michigan
Ranking Republican: Lamar Smith of Texas

Transportation and Infrastructure


Oversees issues and legislation related to aviation safety and security, international civil aviation agreements, including open skies agreements; foreign investment in U.S. airlines; management of emergencies and natural disasters; railroad safety and security; ocean shipping; maritime and port safety and security; merchant marine; marine and some other environmental protection programs; federal highway and transit programs; commercial road transportation and safety; and pipeline transportation safety.

Chairman: James Oberstar of Minnesota
Ranking Republican: John Mica of Florida

Ways and Means

Responsible for tax, revenue, conditions on the authority of the federal government to borrow money, and international trade policy, with the power to levy tariffs and to regulate international commerce, including the tariff schedules and all tariff preference programs, laws dealing with unfair trade practices, general and specific trade negotiating authority, implementing authority for trade agreements, the granting of normal-trade-relations status, trade-assistance programs, and customs administration and enforcement.

Chairman: Charles Rangel of New York
Ranking Republican: Jim McCrery of Louisiana



110th Congress Brings New Leadership to Senate

Representatives of the Democratic Party move into leadership posts

By Vince Crawley

The 110th Congress convened January 4 under new leadership that will influence the direction of U.S. foreign policy.

The Senate is one of two houses of Congress, composed of 100 members -- two from each state -- ensuring that each state is represented equally. An elected senator serves a six-year term. Traditionally, the Senate has greater influence over the direction of international affairs than the House of Representatives. According to the U.S. Constitution, the president cannot approve treaties or appoint ambassadors and other senior government officials without the "advice and consent" of the Senate.

For the first time since 2002, members of the Democratic Party hold a majority of Senate seats, so Democrats will chair committees and control the agenda of the Senate.

The Senate divides its tasks among 20 committees, 68 subcommittees, and four joint committees. The chair of each committee and a majority of its members represent the majority party. Within each committee, the minority party is led by a ranking minority member who serves as spokesman for his party's position on issues before the committee. The chairman or chairwoman holds primary control over a committee's business.

SENATE LEADERS

President of the Senate (by tradition, largely a ceremonial role)

Vice President Cheney, a member of the Republican Party can cast a tie-breaking vote if the Senate is evenly divided

Senate president pro tempore

Robert Byrd of West Virginia, Democrat

Presides over the Senate in the absence of the vice president

Majority leader

Harry Reid of Nevada, Democrat

Schedules debates and votes, sets the Senate agenda, serves as spokesman for his party's position on issues and coordinates party votes

Majority whip

Dick Durbin of Illinois, Democrat

Assists the majority leader

Minority leader

Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Republican

Serves as spokesman for his party's position on issues, coordinates party votes

Minority whip

Trent Lott of Mississippi, Republican
Assists the minority leader

SENATE COMMITTEES THAT AFFECT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Foreign Relations

Oversees foreign policy activities of the Senate; evaluates all treaties with foreign governments; approves all diplomatic nominations; and writes legislation pertaining to U.S. foreign policy, the State Department, foreign-assistance programs and related topics

Chairman: Joseph Biden of Delaware
Ranking Republican: Richard Lugar of Indiana

Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

Oversees and reviews legislation related to national agricultural policy, food safety and forest management; and writes, with its counterpart in the House of Representatives, multiyear legislation that encompasses promotion of U.S. food and textiles in international markets, rural development, agricultural research and conservation programs and nutrition and feeding programs for the needy

Chairman: Tom Harkin of Iowa
Ranking Republican: Saxby Chambliss of Georgia

Appropriations

Reviews and modifies the president's annual budget proposals; drafts laws allocating federal funds to the numerous government agencies, departments and organizations; drafts supplemental spending bills to fund emergency expenses, such as wartime operations.

Chairman: Robert Byrd of West Virginia
Ranking Republican: Thad Cochran of Mississippi

Armed Services

Reviews defense and military policy of the United States, authorizes the operations, personnel and equipment of the Department of Defense and the armed forces; and drafts laws that govern U.S. military policies

Chairman: Carl Levin of Michigan
Ranking Republican: John McCain of Arizona

Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

Oversees and reviews legislation related to export and foreign trade promotion, export controls, monetary policy, currency matters, banks and other financial institutions, economic stabilization, defense production and financial aid to commerce and industry as well as international economic policy that affects any of these issues

Chairman: Christopher Dodd of Connecticut
Ranking Republican: Richard Shelby of Alabama

Energy and Natural Resources

Oversees and reviews legislation related to national energy policy, including fossil fuels and renewable resources, energy efficiency and conservation; climate change; nuclear waste policy; privatization of federal assets; and territorial policy, including changes in status and issues on Antarctica. In addition, the committee deals with international energy affairs and emergency preparedness.

Chairman: Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico
Ranking Republican: Pete Domenici of New Mexico

Finance

Oversight and legislation related to reciprocal trade agreements; customs, tariffs, import quotas, and transportation of imported goods; U.S. Treasury bonds; general revenue sharing; public money spending; and public pension and health care programs. The committee crafts implementing legislation for any bilateral or regional free trade agreement reached by the United States with other countries.

Chairman: Max Baucus of Montana
Ranking Republican: Charles Grassley of Iowa

Homeland Security and Government Affairs

Reviews security within U.S. borders; prepares for natural disasters and terrorist attacks; improves the effectiveness and efficiency of all U.S. government agencies; studies relationships between the U.S. government and international organizations.

Chairman: Joe Lieberman of Connecticut
Ranking Republican: Susan Collins of Maine

Intelligence

Oversees and reviews intelligence activities and programs of the U.S. government, and ensures intelligence activities conform to the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Chairman: John Rockefeller IV of West Virginia
Ranking Republican: Christopher Bond of Missouri

Judiciary

Reviews the U.S. federal court system and criminal justice matters, as well as antitrust and property law; and reviews presidential nominations for U.S. Supreme Court justices and hundreds of federal judges who serve in 13 appeals court circuits and 94 federal district courts.

Chairman: Patrick Leahy of Vermont
Ranking Republican: Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania

U.S. Swearing-in Ceremonies Highlight

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LEGACY

By Lea Terhune & David Shelby

Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison's declaration that he would swear his oath of office on the Quran, the Muslim holy book, led to new interest in the protocol for swearing in members of Congress.

Ellison is the first Muslim to be elected to the U.S. Congress, and it is the first time that the use of the Quran in oath-taking has gained national attention.

He became the first Muslim member of the U.S. Congress on January 4, swearing his oath of office on a copy of the Quran that belonged to the author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson.

In an interview with USINFO, Ellison spokesman Rick Jauert said the choice of Jefferson's Quran was significant



Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., the first Muslim elected to Congress, third from right, looks at his hands before placing them on the Quran once owned by Thomas Jefferson, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, in Washington. From left are Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Ellison's wife Kim Ellison and their daughter Amirah. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

Constitutionally, religion is not a qualification for office

because it “dates religious tolerance back to the time of our founding fathers.”

“Jefferson was ... one of the more profound thinkers of the time, who recognized even then that there was nothing to fear, and in fact there was strength in recognizing religious tolerance,” he said.

Jefferson’s 6,000-volume personal library was the largest in North America at the turn of the 19th century. He obtained his English translation of the Quran in 1765 as he was finishing his law studies at the College of William and Mary. The translation by British historian and solicitor George Sale first was published in 1734. The Quran, along with the rest of Jefferson’s books, became the basis of the Library of Congress after British troops burned the U.S. Capitol, destroying the old congressional collection in the War of 1812.

The Library of Congress’ division of rare books and special collections made the Quran available to Ellison for the ceremony. It has made similar rare books available for inauguration and swearing-in ceremonies in the past.

Although historically oaths often have been taken with one hand on the Bible, the Constitution of the United States prohibits linking an individual’s ability to serve with religion: “The senators and representatives ... shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.”

America’s founders acutely were aware of the importance of religious freedom. The first colonists, the Pilgrims, members of a Christian sect, migrated to North America to escape religious persecution in England, many sacrificing their lives. Waves of others seeking religious freedom followed, people from many different countries and creeds. Making religion a requirement of public service was unthinkable and illegal from the first days of the republic.

The first bill passed by Congress in 1789 was the Oath Act, which defined a simple oath of office: “I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States.” The oath was expanded after the Civil War to include a loyalty clause. Today, members of Congress, as a group, raise their right hands to affirm the oath of office while the speaker of the House administers it. No book of scripture is necessary. Those who wish may have a separate oath-taking ceremony on their book of choice, and some commemorate the moment in a photo.

Because America has been predominantly Christian, it became customary, but not mandatory, for U.S. presidents and other public officers to carry or place their hand on the Bible while taking the oath of office. Fiercely secular, John Quincy Adams took his oath on a book of laws containing the U.S. Constitution. Theodore Roosevelt used no book at all. Franklin Pierce and Herbert Hoover, a Quaker, did not swear but affirmed the oath of office. Jewish office-holders have brought Hebrew texts, while others acknowledge the Bible’s Old Testament as part of Jewish scripture and settle for that. President John F. Kennedy, a Catholic, placed his hand on the Catholic Douay Version of the Bible.

The introduction of the Quran into congressional oath-taking is evidence of the growing religious diversity of the United States. The Quran used by Ellison during his January 4 ceremonial swearing-in is unique. It once belonged to Thomas Jefferson, drafter of the Declaration of Independence and third U.S. president. The Library of Congress, which obtained the book from Jefferson in 1815, loaned it to Ellison for the occasion. It is an English translation from the Arabic first published in London in 1734.

Today, Muslim Americans number several million. Ellison’s election and his inclusion of the Quran in his swearing-in ceremony highlight the legacy of religious freedom enshrined in the Constitution and the contributions to American society made by people of diverse faiths.

Progress Seen in Securing Pakistan-Afghanistan Border

U.S. plans for reconstruction opportunity zones to promote investment, jobs

By David McKeeby

The United States wants to help Pakistan and Afghanistan make progress in securing their restive border region with a new plan to promote economic opportunities for area residents, says a top U.S. official.

"What I have found in my conversations in Kabul [Afghanistan], as well as my conversations here, is that there is a strong desire on both sides to continue those discussions, to resolve the issues and to move forward. And I think that is very good," said Richard Boucher, assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs, at a January 12 briefing following meetings with senior officials in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Topping the security agenda in these talks, Boucher said, was the continuing cross-border infiltration of Taliban militants and al-Qaida terrorists between Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal regions.

Despite progress by Pakistani security forces in tightening control on their side of the border, "these groups have been able to use Pakistani territory; some of them continue to have people here and operations here that are a threat to Pakistan, a threat to Afghanistan, a threat to all of us. And we all need to work together to stop them," Boucher said.

Boucher also cited the rapid expansion of Afghan army and police forces, NATO's successes in stabilizing Afghanistan's turbulent southeast and Pakistan's increased security presence as positive trends toward securing the border region, despite the likelihood of continued violence from terrorists and narcotics traffickers.

But military force alone is insufficient to secure the border region. The true challenge, Boucher said, is not only extending the government's authority to the border regions, but also the benefits of government, such as new roads, better schools, a sound justice system and business opportunities that would provide area residents alterna-

tives to build better lives.

"The United States can support efforts with more reconstruction, more security, more opportunity for people on the Afghan side, and we can support Pakistan's efforts to provide more opportunities, more economic opportunity in better governance and more security for people on the Pakistani side," he said.

To this end, Boucher told journalists about a U.S. plan to fund reconstruction opportunity zones -- industrial parks on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border where local businesses can set up shop. In addition to government incentives offered to Afghan and Pakistani business owners, jointly produced goods from these manufacturers also would enjoy duty-free access to U.S. markets.

Boucher said the State Department is developing a draft law to fund the reconstruction opportunity zones, which he said the U.S. Congress would consider later this year.

"I think it's really a question: can you bring these areas into the national economy, into the global economy?" Boucher said. "What sort of economic advantage can we provide for industry to establish itself, or jobs to [be established] in this region so that people have a different kind of future than taking up the gun?"

For more information, see South and Central Asia (<http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/>)



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

The following is the text of the US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher's interview with private TV channel AVT Khyber.

Pakistan is

committed

to building

of a more

healthy

society:

Boucher

■ **Hasan Khan:** (AVT Khyber TV) You visited Peshawar and Tribal Areas and met with the officials, what you discussed about the ongoing development and future of this area?

■ **Richard Boucher:** First let me say, thank you and I am glad to be here. I had a great day. I think a very useful day. I had a chance to talk to the government and military officials, political agents, Malik and tribal leaders. I met with some students in school and just gone around to get a sense for myself what this place really is. We do a lot of work and trying to support people here, trying to help people develop change environment here and there is nothing like seeking for myself and meeting the people involved.

■ **Hasan Khan:** There are press reports that the US is not satisfied with the agreement Pakistan has made with the tribal militants and elders in Waziristan. What alternatives you discussed with Pakistani officials?

■ **Richard Boucher:** Well, it isn't so much of the alternatives. That is making the agreement work. It is making the different governing arrangements deployed in this area making them work for the sake of peace in this region. People here want a chance for development. they want security and stability in their lives and the violent elements - Taliban, Al Qaeda and others who have been operating in this area, have really spoiled this region for the people who live here. And what we are trying to do is to work with the government, work with the military and above all work with the people here so that they can get a chance of development. When I talked to the tribal leaders, what I heard from them was, they want roads, they want education, health, we are trying to help them.

■ **Hasan Khan:** What specifics you discussed with officials in Peshawar and FATA about the activities on the Pak-Afghan border areas?

■ **Richard Boucher:** We talked about development. We talked about the needs for development and jobs so that people have the economic opportunity instead of being drawn into taking up guns. We talked about expanding education system. We built 65 schools in tribal areas so that kids can get regular modern education and not end up being radicalized in some of the Madarassas, not all of them. These things

have sort of change in lives of people in a better direction. and I heard tribal leaders this what they want for their people. I think it is a matter not just of dealing specifically with the militants but also dealing with the population here and giving them a different life.

■ **Hasan Khan:** The repeated bombing of the Pashtoon areas has badly dented the US image here. What you are offering in terms of economic development; though we are hearing about the reconstruction opportunity zone since long, when the program will be started?

■ **Richard Boucher:** You are hearing about the ROZs - Reconstruction Opportunity Zones - for the last several months because the President announced them in March last year. We have done a study together with the officials of Pakistan and Afghanistan to study the economic feasibility of the development projects. Now we are drafting legislation. We have to put a bill through our Congress to get authorization for them. We are right on the track and schedule laid out last done. We worked the economic survey. We are now working on the legislation. Once we get that passed we will be moving forward. We will certainly get the legislation forward in next month or two. I hope our Congress will act quickly but I can't predict exactly. But in the meantime, there are other components. There is a whole development designed by the Pakistani officials. We are familiar with what kind of support people need and how to expand the economy here, give people new opportunity. We really are moving with some momentum now, to create a new environment here. But as you know Waziristan agreement is another thing. The people here have the opportunity and responsibility to create a new environment. they have to get hold of the situation here, bring peace to the region. Stop cross border infiltration; stop Al Qaeda from operating here. And so it's a kind of a combined project of tribal leaders, Pakistani government and foreign donors. That's what we are trying to make into. That's why our people here in Consulate in Peshawar are working with everybody, trying to make that happen.

■ **Hasan Khan:** Pakistan is promoting the idea that Afghan government should talk to Taliban. We are also hearing that US is supporting talks with Taliban?

■ **Richard Boucher:** We are not promoting that in any way. I do think, frankly the emphasis right now needs to be supporting the elected democratic government of Afghanistan, the President, the Parliament and the court system that is being built. Extending the national government throughout the country and right up to the borders. Extending not the authority of the government but the benefits of the government.

■ **Hasan Khan:** But not talks with Taliban?

■ **Richard Boucher:** There is nothing to negotiate with (Taliban). There are many people who want to leave Taliban and live more peaceful life. There is a reconciliation system in Afghanistan for that. But there are other people

coming cross with guns trying to shoot us and coming back here with guns trying to shoot people here. And I am afraid we have to shoot back. There are people to be dealt with militarily. And we are going to do it and Pakistan has to do it. But for others who want to join the government and live with peace that's possible. The target right now is the mass of people who are not Taliban, the mass of people who deserve a better life and better government.

■ **Hasan Khan:** What is the image of Pushtoons in the State Department and what image you are taking back?

■ **Richard Boucher:** I don't think it's the image of the Pushtoons. I think, we recognize that there are different government relationships here. Tribal leaders have a lot of authority; tribes have a lot of autonomy. We want to see exercise of that autonomy in order to make peace in the area and give the opportunity to develop. We are happy to work with them on that. So it's generally these people who are going to be partners and we are happy to be partners.

■ **Hasan Khan:** On one hand the US is praising Pakistan's role in war on terror but with an annexure of 'do more.' What is more that you want?

■ **Richard Boucher:** You know, that's a phrase people ask me about but that is not a phrase I use. It's only a phrase I use in one context to say, as long as there are Taliban in this area and as long as Taliban are operating in Afghanistan and Al Qaeda operating in this region on both sides of the border, we all need to do more. We have a job to do here, to make life safe, peaceful and prosperous for the people that live throughout this region. We have a job to do in term of making this region a safe place that doesn't produce a danger elsewhere. We all have a job we haven't finished it yet. So we all have to do more.

■ **Hasan Khan:** US signed civil nuclear energy deal with India. Is there any consideration of such a deal with Pakistan?

■ **Richard Boucher:** That's a unique deal that we do (with India). We are working with Pakistan on its energy needs in a lot of other ways, whether it's coal, bringing down electricity from Central Asia whether it's working on hydro and wind power in Pakistan. Even down to the level of villages and rural areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan we work on small hydro-power projects. So we try to help meet people's energy needs according to their own circumstances. There is a lot we can do with Pakistan and there is a lot we are doing in Pakistan.

■ **Hasan Khan:** What message you have brought here and what message you are taking back with the State Department.

■ **Richard Boucher:** My message is that Pakistan is important for us not only in fighting the extremist elements but in building a more healthy and prosperous society. And the message I will take back to the State Department is that Pakistan is committed to doing it - to fighting extremist elements and the building of a more healthy society and that we should helping them in that.

TOYS FOR TOTS



Islamabad: U.S. marines present toys to children during a ceremony titled 'Toys for Tots' organized by the U.S. Embassy at Essa Nagri in Sector I-9.

(Photo Online)



Nation Pays Tribute to Ford at U.S. Capitol

By Howard Cincotta



Washington -- On a cool winter night punctuated by the salute of cannon and the piping of a Navy bosun's whistle, former President Gerald R. Ford returned to Washington for the last time, December 30, to lie in state beneath the spacious dome of the Capitol Rotunda for two days before a national memorial service that will take place Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

President Gerald R. Ford reads a proclamation to the press on Sept. 9, 1974 at the White House granting former President Richard M. Nixon "a full, free and absolute pardon for all offenses against the United States during the period of his Presidency." (AP Photo)



(AP Photo/Reed Saxon, file)

Ford, 38th president of the United States from 1974 to 1977, died December 26 at his home in Rancho Mirage, California. He was 93.

At the Capitol, where Ford served for a quarter century as a Michigan congressman and leader of the Republican minority in the House of Representatives, his casket was placed atop the pinewood bier that first held the coffin of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

In one of several eulogies delivered in the Rotunda, Vice President Dick Cheney, who served as Ford's chief of staff in the White House, said:

"It was this man, Gerald R. Ford, who led our republic safely through a crisis that could have turned to catastrophe.... America was spared the worst. And this was the doing of an American President. For all the grief that never came, for all the wounds that were never inflicted, the people of the United States will forever stand in debt to the good man and faithful servant we mourn tonight."

Ford's body was flown to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, accompanied by his wife Betty, 88, and members of the Ford family, following memorial services in California.

As night fell, the plane was met by dignitaries who had served in the Ford administration. Along with Cheney, they included former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and James Baker, former head of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan, former Transportation Secretary William Coleman, and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

The motorcade from Andrews Air Force Base drove to the U.S. Capitol via Alexandria, Virginia, where Ford lived during his years in the House of Representatives.

In downtown Washington, the motorcade then paused at the World War II memorial on the Washington Mall, according to news accounts, where

Navy Chief Boatswain's Mate Carlos Ribbot of Puerto Rico, played the three traditional notes on a boatswain's pipe to honor Ford's military service. A group of local Boy Scouts gathered at the memorial saluted the motorcade as well.

Ford served as a navigator and gunnery officer aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during World War II, and is the only president who advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

Sometimes described as an "improbable president," Ford served as a member of Congress for 25 years, rising to the position of Republican minority leader in the House of Representatives until President Richard Nixon nominated him as vice president following the resignation of Spiro Agnew. In August 1974, Ford became president following the resignation of Nixon as a result of the Watergate scandal. He lost a closely contested election contest to Democratic Party nominee Jimmy Carter in 1976.

Ford joins a number of other U.S. presidents who have lain in state beneath the Capitol Rotunda, including Ronald Reagan, Dwight Eisenhower, Herbert Hoover, Warren G. Harding, William Howard Taft, William McKinley and James Garfield.

Ford will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol for two days, allowing the public an opportunity to pay their respects.

The memorial service on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, which will be attended by President Bush and much of official Washington, will take place at the Washington National Cathedral, a soaring Gothic building that has been the site of many prayer and memorial services with a national focus. Later, Ford will be flown to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for a private burial service on Wednesday, January 3, 2007, on the grounds of the Gerald Ford Presidential Library.

U.S. for Strengthening Bilateral Relationship

Through Academic, Scholarly Exchange



U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Peter Bodde giving his inaugural address at the AIPS Conference in Islamabad.
(KN Photo)

The U.S. Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission, Peter W. Bodde, said that there is nothing more noble than the pursuit of strengthening bilateral relationships through academic and scholarly exchange. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 2007 conference of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) in Islamabad on January 19, 2007.

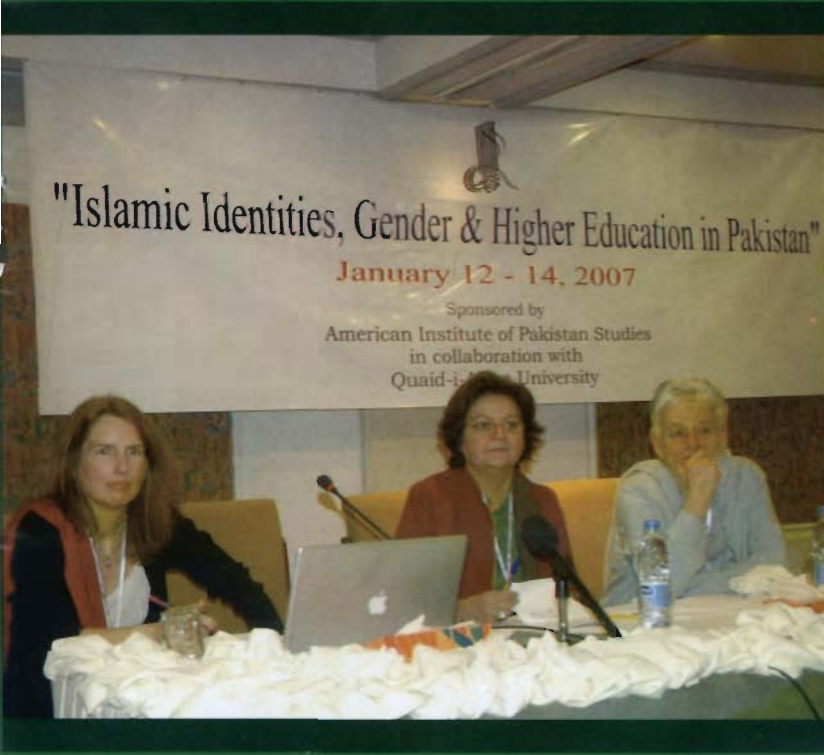
The American diplomat said that AIPS is increasing the richness of people-to-people exchange between the U.S. and Pakistan and promoting scholarly pursuit of a region vital to the United States. "This is an excellent example of how ties between Pakistan and the U.S. continue to deepen and widen – the current U.S.-Pakistan relationship is not exclusively focused on security and the War on Terror," he remarked.

Mr. Bodde said that whether by assisting the Pakistani government accomplish its education reform goals, to supporting the preservation of Pakistan's archaeological treasures through the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, or engaging on gender issues, the U.S. is involved at all levels and intend to remain so.

The goal of the three-day conference, being organized in collaboration with the Quaid-i-Azam University, was to facilitate scholarly research relating to Pakistan and to encourage the exchange of ideas among American and Pakistani scholars. This was the third major biennial international conference organized by AIPS, and the first one to be held in Pakistan.

The central focus of this conference was on university-level pedagogical development in Pakistan Studies, both in the U.S. and in Pakistan, with an emphasis on the humanities and social sciences. AIPS aims to build bridges between disciplines such as archaeology, history, literary and cultural studies, anthropology, political science and education, with overall sensitivity to issues of gender and Islam.

دوطرفہ تعلقات کو اساتذہ اور دانشوروں کے تبادلوں کے ذریعہ مستحکم کرنے سے زیادہ کوئی اور ارفع کام نہیں ہے:



(تصویر لشکر یہ آن لائن)

پیٹر ڈبلیو بوڈی

اس کانفرنس میں مطالعہ پاکستان کے بارے میں بالخصوص سماجی علوم کے حوالے سے امریکہ اور پاکستان میں یونیورسٹی سطح کی درس و تدریس پر خصوصی توجہ دی جائے گی۔ امریکی ادارہ برائے مطالعہ پاکستان آثار قدیمہ، تاریخ، ادبی و ثقافتی علوم، بشریات، سیاسیات اور تعلیم کے مضامین میں دونوں ملکوں کے ماہرین کے درمیان روابط استوار کرنے کیلئے کام کر رہا ہے۔

کانفرنس میں امریکی ادارہ برائے مطالعہ پاکستان کے سربراہ مارک کیناز نے وادی سندھ میں شناخت اور آثار قدیمہ اور آج کے پاکستان میں قدیم یادداشتوں کے حوالے سے تحقیقی مقالہ پڑھا۔ نارتھ کیرولائنا اسٹیٹ یونیورسٹی سے تعلق رکھنے والے تاریخ کے استاد اور محقق ڈیوڈ گلماٹن نے نوآبادیاتی منصوبہ کے تحت مقامی آبادی اور صنفی امور کے بارے میں اپنی تازہ تحقیق سے کانفرنس کے شرکاء کو آگاہ کیا۔ مونٹ کلیئر اسٹیٹ یونیورسٹی کی خاتون پروفیسر نے صوفی کافیوں اور ریختی غزل میں خواتین کی آواز کے بارے میں مضمون پڑھا۔ یونیورسٹی آف اوریگون میں عالمی امور کی ماہر اینیٹا ویس نے حدود قوانین کی اصلاحات میں درپیش مسائل اور پاکستان کے تشخص کے بارے میں پر مغز گفتگو کی۔ یونیورسٹی آف وکونریا کی سینئر فیلو نے مسجد وزیر خان۔ جدید مدرسہ کا ایک نمونہ کے موضوع پر اپنا تحقیقی مقالہ پڑھا۔ کانفرنس کے دیگر مقررین میں خیر پور یونیورسٹی کی نیلوفر شیخ، پنجاب یونیورسٹی کے فرزند مسیح، ہزارہ یونیورسٹی کے ڈاکٹر احسان علی، لاہور یونیورسٹی آف مینجمنٹ سائنسز کے نعمان الحق، قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی سے رخسانہ قصیر، ایس ڈی پی آئی کی صبا ننگ اور نازش بروہی، قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی کے طارق رحمان اور دیگر کئی ملکی و غیر ملکی ماہرین شامل تھے۔

پاکستان میں امریکہ کے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن پیٹر ڈبلیو بوڈی نے کہا ہے کہ دوطرفہ تعلقات کو اساتذہ اور دانشوروں کے تبادلوں کے ذریعہ مستحکم کرنے سے زیادہ کوئی اور ارفع کام نہیں ہے۔ امریکی سفارت کار جمعہ 12 جنوری 2007ء کو اسلام آباد میں امریکی ادارہ برائے مطالعہ پاکستان (AIPS) کی کانفرنس 2007ء کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔

پیٹر ڈبلیو بوڈی نے کہا کہ امریکی ادارہ برائے مطالعہ پاکستان امریکہ اور پاکستان کے لوگوں کے مابین تبادلوں کو بھرپور بنا رہا ہے اور ایک ایسے خطے کے بارے میں علوم کے فروغ کا باعث بن رہا ہے جو امریکہ کے نزدیک نہایت اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک امریکہ تعلقات کے درمیان تعلقات کو مزید گہرا اور وسیع کرنے کی یہ ایک عمدہ مثال ہے۔ پاک امریکہ تعلقات محض سلامتی اور دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ تک محدود نہیں ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چاہے تعلیمی اصلاحات کے بارے میں حکومت پاکستان کے مقاصد کے حصول میں مدد ہو، سفیر کے فنڈ برائے ثقافتی تحفظ کے ذریعہ پاکستان کے آثار قدیمہ کے تحفظ میں اعانت ہو یا پھر صنفی معاملات میں تعاون ہو، امریکہ ہر سطح پر کام کر رہا ہے اور بدستور کام کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

یہ تین روزہ کانفرنس جو قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی کے تعاون سے منعقد ہو رہی ہے اور اس کا مقصد پاکستان کے حوالے سے تحقیقی کام میں سہولت فراہم کرنا اور امریکی اور پاکستانی ماہرین تعلیم کے درمیان خیالات کے تبادلے کی حوصلہ افزائی کرنا ہے۔ ہر دو سال بعد منعقد ہونے والی یہ تیسری بڑی کانفرنس ہے اور پاکستان میں پہلی بار منعقد ہو رہی ہے۔