

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Rao Muhammad Akhtar - Private Secretary

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



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Islamabad December 14, 2005: Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad while talking to a group of journalists has taken serious exception to the statement of American Ambassador in Pakistan Mr. Ryan C. Crocker who has transgressed the bounds of diplomatic tradition by interfering in the internal affairs of the country. His comments about the relief work done by what he regards as "Jehadi Group" is to say the least extremely deplorable. "Jihad", the Senator said, "is a fundamental principle of Islam and every Muslim is part and parcel of the Jehadi Group". While no religious group can be labeled exclusively as "Jehadi" and hence 'terrorist', it should also be clearly recognized that those who are struggling for their right of self-determination and are engaged in a freedom struggle and resisting against the forces of occupation cannot be described by any international yardstick as terrorists. According to Prof. Khurshid, "It is a tragedy that America's so-called war against terrorism has taken a very unfortunate turn by ignoring the role of the movements of self-determination. That being the true position my main objection to the Ambassador's statement", Prof. Khurshid said, "relates to the direct intervention he has been emboldened to make in the internal affairs of the country and injuring the feelings of the people by speaking against the selfless workers of the Islamic and charitable organizations. The services they rendered in the earthquake-affected areas have been acknowledged as exemplary by friends and foes alike". "They are very much loved by the People", Prof. Khurshid Ahmad said, "and by attacking them, the Ambassador has further alienated the Pakistani people from America whose stock in the Muslim world is already low because of the policy it is pursuing there". "I hope the Ambassador would realize that he is no doubt the representative of a super power in a friendly country, but in no way does he enjoy the position of a Viceroy in any colonial arrangement" Prof. Khurshid emphasized.

"While sermonizing us about the so-called Jehadi Groups, it may be worthwhile if His Excellency recalls to his memory what the CIA and the US Military Establishment had been doing in the post-Second World War era. Dozens of books and studies are available in this respect and to recount only a few and the latest of these, we may mention **(i)** "Plow Back", by Chalmers Johnson published by Metropolis Books of the USA, **(ii)** "Post War" by Steve Cull, published by Penguins Books and acclaimed as the international best-seller and winner of the Pulitzer Prize and **(iii)** the "CIA Secrets of the Country" by Mick Farren. There is yet another eye opener, the forthcoming book entitled "The Question of Torture" by Alfred McCoy based on an avalanche of declassified US documents. (Ref: The Guardian, London 10th December 2005)", Prof. Khurshid Ahmad added.

"Finally", Prof. Khurshid Ahmad stressed, "I would like to express the Pakistani people's apprehensions regarding the presence of about One thousand American armed personnel who are said to be presently engaged in the 'relief work'. They are naturally more conspicuous than the volunteers about whom the Ambassador has expressed his concern."

“I am sure the people of Pakistan and its Armed Forces are capable of looking after their people themselves and it would be in the best interest of Pakistan’s relations with the USA that the American Armed personnel engaged in their activities in Pakistan North should be requested to withdraw with the NATO Forces. We are grateful to those who have helped Pakistan in the hour of need, but we definitely do not want foreign forces to use this opportunity for making political capital out of our situation”, Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad concluded.

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