

PERVEZ MUSHARRAF – A DESPOT AND NOT A CONSTITUTIONAL HEAD

PRESS RELEASE

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



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Member Senate of Pakistan

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Islamabad (January 16 2006): Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, while talking to a section of local press has described General Musharraf's interview to Karan Thappar of the CNN IBN, the text of which has now been published in the Daily Times of January 15, 2006, as a diplomatic disaster. "It is an index of the General's knee-jerk approach to serious national policy issues, particularly Kashmir and Pak-India Relations", he pointed out. According to Prof. Khurshid Ahmad it is also highly disturbing that a Head of the State and Chief of Staff of the Army has used highly derogatory language about a senior Pakistani journalist Mr. Ayaz Amir, editorial writers of national newspapers and even about the Corps Commanders and officers of Pakistan Army.

"The Parliament, the Nation and the Press must take serious notice of this highly irresponsible and almost slanderous outburst of one who occupies such an elevated and sensitive position in the country", he appealed.

According to Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Pak Army is a respectable institution under the Constitution and not a fiefdom of any individual. "Loyalty in all Pakistani services", he stressed "is not to any individual per se but to the State, the Government and its authorities under the Constitution and the law." He pointed out that "To claim that 'it is totally loyal and committed to me' and if there is any dissent from the personal opinion of the head 'they will be out of the Army tomorrow' are insulting that can come only from a despot and not a constitutional head."

"Similarly", Prof. Khurshid Ahmad added, "the language used against a senior journalist, is, say the least, unbecoming of a head of the State. In one breath he has called him "unbalanced man" for four times and outrageously challenged the interviewer to project this on TV." "To arrogate to oneself all claim to "national interest", and dubbed everyone who differs as a "vested interest", reveals a mindset that is dictatorial, intolerant and politically disastrous", he emphasized.

"It is a tragedy that Pakistan affairs are being handled in this slipshod manner. The conclusion is unavoidable that all this is happening because of the failure of institutions and total absence of accountability", he concluded.
