

US AMBASSADOR IN KABUL

PRESS RELEASE

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD

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Member Senate of Pakistan

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Islamabad (April 7, 2004): Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, MMA, has expressed his outrage on the statement of US Ambassador in Afghanistan Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad who has virtually threatened Pakistan to unleash US and allied forces to enter our Northern Areas. His words are: -

“We have told Pakistani leadership that either they must solve this problem or we will have to do it ourselves.”

“This is not the first time that Ambassador Khalilzad has used this type of language”, said Prof. Khurshid Ahmad. According to international law and practice this statement of the US Ambassador amounts to a threat for invasion which could also be construed as “intention to declare war”. Any violation of Pakistani sovereign territory by any one would be an act of war – as also a clear violation of the UN Charter, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad stated.

Prof. Khurshid Ahmad further said: “This statement is also a mirror in which the Pakistani leadership can see the real face and intentions of the America in the region. The reactions from Foreign Office Spokesman and the Information Minister are to say the least, weak, muted and apologetic. Time has come when America must be told frankly and bluntly that the Pakistani nation regards such statements not only as insulting and also threats that repudiates whatever “friendship” and “special relationship” are harped on during the last two years.”

“The Pakistani leadership must realize that its attitude of subservience to American demands in total disregard for Pakistan’s honour, independence and sovereignty have emboldened persons like the American Ambassador to make such outlandish statement”, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad emphasized. “The only befitting response to this would be first to tell America that if any incursion in Pakistani tribal territory is made by America or allied forces that would be treated as an act of war and would be met forcefully by the Pakistani Forces, Tribal Lashkars and the people of Pakistan” Prof. Khurshid Ahmad suggested. “America has failed to learn from its own Vietnam experience and from Russia’s suicidal invasion of Afghanistan. The other day Senator Edward Kennedy has rightly said, “That Iraq is becoming Bush’s Vietnam.” He said.

He further said, “Any incursion in Pakistan tribal areas would create a more disastrous scenario for America. They must not take Pakistani nation for granted.” He demanded that the President and Prime Minister must shed off their submissive and apologetic attitude vis-a-vis America and tell it that enough is enough. Secondly Pakistan must point blank give this message to America that we are not interested in non-NATO Ally status. Thirdly outrageous statements and the aggressive intentions behind them demand a thorough revision of Pakistani relationship with America and the country’s role in the so

called American war against terrorism which is now becoming the greatest act of terrorism on behalf of Bush Regime and his all the overtones of an imperialist war against the Muslim countries.

Prof. Khurshid Ahmad further demand that the Parliament should discuss this issue and formulate policy guideline for relationship with America. The fact is that America has bogged down in Afghanistan and Iraq and it is searching for excuses for the failure of its policies.

Prof. Khurshid Ahmad informed that the Afghan people are becoming more and more alienated and law and order situation in Afghanistan is at its worst. The expected elections have also been postponed. US cannot cover up its own failure in Afghanistan by trying to extend the threat of war to other countries on excuses that have no relevance.

PROF KHURSHID AHMAD