

The *Pakistani* *American*

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the
Pakistani-American Congress.

Number **TWO** • February 2007

Letter from the President

December 27, 2006

Dear Directors and Prospective Directors of the Pakistani American Congress:

Assalamo-Alaikum ! Eid Mubarak ! Happy New Year

The two issues of the *Pakistani –American* include my two detailed letters addressed to you on June 25th, 2005 and February 13th, 2006, and minutes of the first full-fledged meeting of our Executive Committee held in Chicago on September 3rd, 2005.

The Seminar on Political Development referred to in my letter of February 13th was held at East-West University, Chicago on Saturday, February 25th, 2006. It attracted a large crowd of local Pakistani-Americans. Dr. Hafeez Malik, Professor of Villanova University, Philadelphia and the first chairman of PAC's Advisory Council, spoke at length about Pakistan's and Pakistanis' situation in the post 9/11 world. He took lots of questions from the audience and the whole seminar became very lively. In the evening, I hosted dinner for him, PAC Executive members Faizan Haq and Tasleem Raja, Dr M Arshad Mirza and Zafar Malik and chatted about PAC strategies for this year. We plan to have a seminar on Pakistan's economic development some time in the Spring of 2007, possibly in New York.

Our Advisory Council chairman, Shahid A Khan and myself represented PAC in the APPNA sponsored meeting of Pakistani-Americans in Washington D.C. on Thursday, April 6th, 2006. PAC newsletters were distributed among the audience. Some Muslim organizations, like CAIR, were also represented there. We later met many U.S Congressmen and Senators at the Capitol Hill about present challenges concerning civil rights of the Pakistani and other Muslim Americans.

Our colleagues of the PAC Executive, Dr Salman Zafar and Dr Khalid Luqman Chaudhry organized a regional conference of PAC members and other Pakistani Americans in Edison, N.J at noon on Sunday, May 21st, 2006. Dr Khawaja M Ashraf flew from San Francisco and Professor Faizan Haq from Buffalo, NY for the conference. PAC documents were distributed among the audience and they were invited to attend Pakistan Day at the

Capital Hill on June 21st, 2006. Speeches and discussion focused on the present world situation and there was lot of excitement among the participants. PAC Executive members later met to finalize preparations of the June 21st event.

As the daily *DAWN* story reprinted in this issue reflects, the 14th Pakistan Day at the Capitol Hill organized by PAC on Wednesday, June 21st, 2006 was an outstanding success. In the morning session, our new Ambassador Mahmood Ali Durrani, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Honorable Riaz Khokhar and President of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Srinagar, Mr. Yasin Malik addressed and fielded questions from a sizeable audience of Pakistani Americans at Wyndham Hotel, Washington D.C.

For the 4:00 pm session in Rayburn House Office Building, almost half of the crowd had to stand outside Room 2105 as so many U.S. Congressmen and Senators kept coming and addressing us. Ambassador Durrani and other officers of the Pakistan Embassy were also present as were many print and electronic media representatives.

This year, AAPNA convention was held in Chicago and I had a chance to meet many PAC directors on July 6th and 7th 2006. Alongwith some of them, we had tea and chat with Honorable Mohammadmian Soomro, Chairman of the Pakistan Senate, concerning internal and external situation facing Pakistan.

Professor Faizan Haq, Dr Khawaja M. Ashraf and I participated in the Kashmir Peace Conference held at the Capitol Hill on July 20th and 21st 2006. Given a chance to make some remarks in the final round-table discussion, I said India is surrounded on all sides by Muslim majority countries and has Muslims as its second largest population group. Besides, even South Korea with only 49 million people has a larger GDP (\$899 billion) than India's (\$857 billion) with 1,080 million people. India's constitution enshrines the sublime values of human equality and justice. It should fulfill the promise of granting self-determination to the Kashmiris made by the founding fathers of independent India.

Pakistan's Ambassador HE Mahmud Ali Durrani and his staff colleague Ms. Mumtaz Zohra Baluch met in his office with me, PAC Executive members Prof. Faizan Haq and Mr Victor Gill and an eminent Pakistani-American Dr Hanif Akhter of

Virginia on December 3, 2006. It was a two hour meeting in which we introduced PAC's history and current priorities, world situation and US policies affecting Pakistan, resolution of the Kashmir problem, law and order situation in Pakistan, and the concerns of Pakistani-Americans. In the evening, I took Prof. Faizan Haq, Dr Hanif Akhter, Dr Hafeez Malik, and Dr G N Fai of the Kashmiri American Council to dinner and we discussed the Kashmir problem in detail.

Finally, Indus Society and the Pakistani American Congress organized an elaborate celebration of the Quaid-e-Azam Day and Muslim Leagues' One Hundred Years (1906-2006) on Monday, December 25, 2006 at the East-West University Auditorium in Chicago. It was largely attended and participants showed great enthusiasm in speeches and the Q&A session.

February 13, 2006

Dear Directors and Prospective Directors of the Pakistani American Congress

Assalam-o-Alaikum. Very Happy New Year.

Eid-ul-Adha Mubarak.

This is my second letter being submitted to all of you, as a formative report of PAC activities. The first letter of June 25th, 2005 was also reproduced in our first newsletter, *the Pakistani American*, of which a copy is respectfully enclosed.

On July 14th and 15th, 2005, I had the privilege of participating in the Kashmir Peace Conference held on the Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. Eminent leaders of both the East and the West spoke and I personally met many of them. The speeches of Pakistan's former Foreign Secretary, Honorable Riaz Khokhar, Professor Stanley Wolpert of UCLA, Subramanyam Swami of India and Lars Rise of Norway were quite prominent. Besides myself, our PAC colleagues Dr Nisar Chaudhry and Professor Faizan Haq were also given a chance to briefly address the conference. I said CBM's or confidence building measures between India and Pakistan can also become, God forbid, continental ballistic missiles destroying millions of human beings. The independence of India and Pakistan was a result of the exercise of the right of self-determination by the two peoples and Kashmiris cannot for long be denied the same right. In my life-time, Algerians, Vietnamese and Afghans made supreme sacrifices and achieved liberation from occupying super-powers. Alistair Lamb had suggested in 1997 in his book *Incomplete Partition* that referendums may be held separately in each of the five regions of Jammu and Kashmir. As Sri Lankan President had said in the SAARC conference held in Islamabad two years ago, the two major powers of South Asia should resolve this issue and take steps toward a common market of eight South Asian countries, a European Union, so that almost one-fourth of humankind may live in peace and prosperity. I also said, primarily through U.S. investments, China's GDP has reached \$7.3 trillion compared to India's \$3.3 trillion (*World Almanac 2006*) notwithstanding India's claim to be the largest democracy of the world.

Six of the seven members of our Executive Committee had a long conference call on August 4th, 2005. I also participated in

I respectfully request each one of you to kindly read the last paragraphs of my June 25th, 2005 and February 13th, 2006 letters reproduced in these two issues. Your organizations have to meet the PAC constitution's requirements of affiliation. Each one of us should try our level best to enlist as many \$10 per year card-carrying members of the PAC as we can.

May God Almighty bless our endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr M Wasiullah Khan
President

some sessions of the ISNA conference held on September 3rd and 4th, 2005 in Chicago. Two of these sessions were moderated by our former President M Ashraf Abbasi and Professor Faizan Haq. A full-fledged meeting of our Executive Committee was also held on Saturday, September 3rd, 2005 at O'Hare Hyatt in Chicago. Minutes of these meetings are respectfully enclosed.

Not directly related to PAC but critically important for our objectives as stated in the PAC constitution, was a meeting of intellectuals held in London, U.K. on August 13th and 14th, 2005, which I and the PAC Executive Director Zafar Abbas Malik had organized on behalf of East-West University, Chicago. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss formation of a Muslim "think-tank". Dr Abdullah Omar Nasseef of Saudi Arabia chaired the meeting which was attended by Mr Bill Aosey and Dr Daudur Rahman from the U.S., Honorable Riaz Khokhar from Pakistan, Dr Pervez Manzoor from Sweden and Dr Ziauddin Sardar, Dr Iftikhar Malik, Merryl Wyn Davies, Ayyub Malik, Dr Muzammil Haq and Mr Ehsan Masood from U.K. The proposals developed in that meeting were further discussed in another meeting held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on October 22nd and 23rd, 2005. Some progress was made there towards fund-raising. I also had the privilege of having a luncheon meeting with Honorable Riaz Khokhar on January 2nd in Islamabad and he is close to accepting the directorship of this "think-tank".

Professor Faizan Haq called me on October 8th, 2005 and arranged a tele-conference of PAC Executive the very next day to consider PAC relief effort for the innumerable fellow Pakistanis and Kashmiris who suffered from the most tragic earthquake that day. Many PAC directors called each other that day finding out what happened to our relatives there. In the tele-conference of October 9th, we decided to start fund-raising and relief effort from New York. Dr Khalid Luqman Chaudhry and Dr Salman Zafar, both from New York, organized a good event there on October 15th in which Dr Khwaja Ashraf, Professor Faizan Haq and I participated. They handed over to me cash and checks of almost \$13,700 raised there, which together with pledges totalled about \$31,000. PAC treasurer Tasleem Raja submitted those checks to the Consul-General of Pakistan and remitted relevant checks to Edhi Foundation. Then, all Pakistani groups of Chicago joined together on October 19th for a day long marathon in which over \$100,000 were raised. PAC Executive members and other directors organized major fund raising events in many cities including

San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta, Boston, Baltimore etc. I went to Pakistan and addressed a largely attended press conference at the Karachi Press Club on October 26th, outlining what PAC and other Pakistani-American organizations and individuals were doing for earthquake relief. Furthermore, APPNA led a coordinated effort of many Pakistani-American organizations to do major lobbying with U.S. Senators and Congressmen at the Capitol Hill on November 17th, 2005. I was the first one to be invited to address the 7am meeting of about 70 people including 25 Congressmen and staff members at the Rayburn House Office Building. All day we went to see U.S. Congressmen and Senators and their staff trying to convince them that the U.S. help for earthquake victims should at least be a billion dollars. The day ended with a largely attended evening meeting at the Embassy of Pakistan.

PAC Executive Committee members had unanimously decided that at least until February 2006, PAC should focus only on earthquake relief effort. The Seminar on Political Development in Pakistan, earlier scheduled for November 12th and 13th, 2005, will now be held on February 25th and 26th, 2006 in Chicago. The PAC Executive will also meet at this time. I have appointed a seven member Vision Committee of PAC chaired by Dr Hafeez Malik and including PAC founders and the first few presidents but excluding myself and incumbent Executive Committee members. The Vision Committee will also meet in that weekend.

I cannot overemphasize your help and support to enlist card carrying members of the Pakistani American Congress as I requested in my June 25th, 2005 letter. Our constitution says, membership of the PAC Board of Directors is contingent upon their meeting the constitutional requirements for affiliate organizations. There is also a provision in our constitution for having individual members of the Board of Directors and the enclosed form of membership details the requirements. I hosted a dinner on December 10, 2005 in a Chicago restaurant as a result of which 50 people have already become PAC's card carrying members. In a short time, we can probably enlist 10,000 such members in many large urban areas of the U.S. which will result in a much larger electoral college of the PAC. I visited San Francisco on January 24th and 25th and met Dr Khwaja M Ashraf who suggested PAC should have regional conferences in various cities in order to carry on the grassroots contact effort.

May Allah Almighty bless our endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr M Wasiullah Khan
President



June 23, 2006 Friday • Jumadi-ul-Awwal 26, 1427

A rare day for Pakistan at Capitol Hill

BY ANWAR IQBAL

WASHINGTON, June 22: It was a rare day for Pakistan on Capitol Hill, with one US legislator after another hailing the country as a 'champion ally' and some even urging the Bush administration to offer Islamabad a similar nuclear deal that it offered to India.

"Pakistan has always been an ally ... and good to the US. I can't say the US has always been good to Pakistan," said Congressman Ted Poe, a Texas Republican.

On Thursday, Pakistani American Congress, a non-partisan and non-profit group, brought together dozens of Pakistani physicians, teachers, computer engineers, lawyers, congressional aides and other prominent citizens to lobby for Pakistan on the Hill. In the evening more than a dozen US lawmakers spoke at the concluding session of PAC's 14th annual conference.

At least two legislators, Congressman Bill Pascrell and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, also underscored the need to support democratic reforms in Pakistan. "There are no good dictators or bad dictators. The US government should not support any dictator at all," said Rep. Pascrell.

Congressman Major R. Owens, a Brooklyn Democrat, spoke on the Indo-US nuclear deal. "I don't understand if we can offer a nuclear deal to India, why can't we offer a similar deal to Pakistan as well," he said. "Pakistan is one of our favourite nations."

Rep. Pascrell, a ranking Democrat at the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, questioned the dichotomy of the Bush administration's approach to the nuclear issue. "You either support non-proliferation or you do not," he said. He said he did not understand the administration's decision to deny a deal to Pakistan that it offered to India.

Congressman Dale E. Kildee, a Michigan Democrat and a graduate of the Islamia College, Peshawar, said that living in Pakistan as a young man, he "learned what real Islam is: surrendering to God's will in a way ... which brings peace and stability to your life."

Congressman Nick Rahall, a West Virginia Democrat, said the US and Pakistan shared common goals that go beyond the war on terror and he saw "no reason why this relationship should diminish once the war is over."

Congressman Danny K. Davis, a Chicago Democrat, said the Pakistani community in the US was growing both in number and influence and would soon be in a position to influence the process of decision making in this country.

Congressman John T. Salazar, a Colorado Democrat, also emphasised this point saying that his communications director, Nayyira Haq, was a Pakistani.

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 3, 2005

Time: 7:56 PM

Place: Hyatt Regency Inn

Present

- Wasiullah Khan
- Khawaja Ashraf
- Faizan Haq
- Tasleem Raja
- Salman Zafar
- Khalid Luqman
- Ashraf Abbasi
- Ashraf Toor

Agenda

Second Executive Committee (2005-2007)
Meeting, Chicago, IL

- I) Opening with Prayer
- II) Approval of the Minutes of August 4, 2005 Teleconference
- III) PAC Conference on "Political Development in Pakistan" November 12-13, 2005 at Chicago, IL hosted by East-West University
- IV) Membership Credentials of Member Organizations
- V) Announcement: PAC Executive Director
- VI) New Business
- VII) Adjournment

The meeting was opened with prayers by PAC President, Wasiullah Khan. He welcomed Ashraf Abbasi (immediate past president, PAC) and Ashraf Toor (Member, PAC Advisory Council) as dedicated members of PAC who will always be considered members of the executive committee. The President elect, Khawaja Ashraf, reiterated that Ashraf Abbasi had already been appointed by Wasiullah Khan, current PAC President, as the Chair of the Council of PAC Presidents so he is always welcome to attend any PAC meeting.

Summary of the previous meeting minutes held via teleconference on August 4, 2005 was presented by Faizan Haq, PAC Secretary General. With an amendment to include the circulation of the minutes of the meeting within two weeks by Khalid Luqman, the minutes were approved.

PAC president, Wasiullah Khan, announced the first PAC conference of his tenure being organized at East West University, Chicago, IL on November 12-13, 2005. The title of the conference will be, "Political Development of Pakistan." According to him there would be two such conferences each year. The second conference should focus on "Economic Development of Pakistan." He informed the Executive Committee that he was working with Salman Zafar on the details. More information will be shared with the Executive Committee as things get finalized.

Membership credentials for member organizations were the fourth item of the agenda and it dominated the discussion for over half an hour. The Immediate Past President, Ashraf Abbasi suggested that our community is not

very educated or sophisticated in this regard. It would be great if the executive members such as Victor Gill or others be given the task to bring all these organization at par with the requirements set forth by the PAC constitution. Khawaja Ashraf added that we should provide them with help and education on these matters. Salman Zafar suggested two tier organizational membership so that there may be fulfillment of the constitutional requirements of PAC. The first for those who are in compliance with the constitution and then for those who are not. Khalid Luqman suggested giving all organizations a time frame, e.g. six months, to comply with the requirements. Faizan Haq praised the suggestions provided and recommended giving the organizations some time period and then to work with them to overcome this obstacle.

Tasleem Raja pointed out the lack of communication between PAC and affiliate organizations. He said that every two years only at election time they became relevant and were contacted and it seemed that the member organizations were only used for voting purposes. They only heard from us once in two years. He further insisted that some of the organizations were one-man shows made only to serve personal ends.

Ashraf Toor with the permission of the president advised that PAC should carry some of the blame for the history of poor performance by other organizations. He further suggested that lets not call it cleanup, rather call it engaging others to make things better and let's see what we could do now.

Khawaja Ashraf stated that his experience as PAC officer dictated that PAC was at fault and there has been a serious communication gap. He further stated that whenever Ashraf Abbasi sent an email for response, people hardly responded. He finally suggested that let us first correct ourselves, then we can go after member organizations.

Ashraf Abbasi concluded the discussion by stating that as an umbrella organization we must set an example. He stated that PAC should make things right and should get our affiliated organizations cleared up.

Faizan Haq pointed out the recent problem of leakage of Executive communication to the media or to other outsiders. He said for any organization to be effective, independent of outside manipulation and intrusion, the privacy of internal communication was essential. Ashraf Abbasi echoed his feelings and said he was the one who

experienced it and found it to be very disappointing. It was decided that the inner policies, discussions or problems should not be made public without the consent of the Executive Committee.

Wasiullah Khan at this point reminded everyone of the importance of camaraderie and team work required to run an organization. He referred to the past history of the PAC. He said, "We used to be only seven people and we would run on the orders of our leaders. I suggested the name of Pakistani American Congress on the same lines as the American Jewish Congress." He said that the card carrying members would be the true strength of this organization. The real strength of the organization, according to him, would come from 18 large metropolitan areas of the U.S., by visiting them, and asking the organizations of those areas to come aboard. We should have at least 30 members from each affiliated organization. He said that he would contact the affiliate organizations and have Faizan Haq and Victor Gill help him in accomplishing this task.

Wasiullah Khan moved to the next item on the agenda and announced that he had appointed Zafar Abbas Malik of East West University as the Executive Director of PAC (Pakistani American Congress) for his tenure as PAC president. He said that such positions were created earlier to facilitate the administrative process of PAC. Asim Alavi used to be PAC's executive director when Riaz Ahmed was the president. The decision was accepted in general. Khawaja Ashraf said that as long as it was not a paid position, it was fine as PAC could not afford paid staff at this time.

Faizan Haq, under new business of the agenda, initiated the discussion about the process that is needed to have PAC registered as non-profit, 501-C-3 organization. He informed the Executive Committee once again that the cost will run up to \$5000. Faizan Haq has gathered necessary estimates from a lawyer and an accountant. It might take having to show last four years of income and expense, filed with IRS. Khalid Luqman suggested that each of the Committee members can contribute \$600 to \$700 so that the expenses of getting PAC approved for 501-c-3 can be met and everyone agreed.

Faizan Haq provided the FTP information for the PAC website to Wasiullah Khan. He suggested that an editorial committee should be established to oversee the web content; for an organization of PAC's caliber one or two people cannot adequately address the needs of the website. Khawaja Ashraf informed the Executive that he registered the domain PACUSA.ORG. He informed the group that the domain was registered because the current website, PACUS.ORG, was down. Faizan Haq requested Khawaja Ashraf to have the new domain pointed to current website as the problem was addressed already.

At the end Dr Wasiullah Khan concluded the meeting with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

WHILE approving and endorsing the action taken by the Council and the Working Committee of the All India Muslim League, as indicated in their resolutions dated the 27th of August, 17th & 18th of September and 22nd of October, 1939, and the 3rd of February, 1940 on the constitutional issue, this session of the All India Muslim League emphatically reiterates that the scheme of federation embodied in the Government of India Act 1935 is totally unsuited to, and unworkable in the peculiar conditions of this country and is altogether unacceptable to Muslim India.

It further records its emphatic view that while the declaration dated the 18th of October, 1939 made by the Viceroy on behalf of His Majesty's Government is reassuring in so far as it declares that the policy and plan on which the Government of India Act, 1935, is based will be reconsidered in consultation with various parties, interests and communities in India, Muslims in India will not be satisfied unless the whole

constitutional plan is reconsidered de novo and that no revised plan would be acceptable to Muslims unless it is framed with their approval and consent.

Resolved that it is the considered view of this Session of the All India Muslim League that no constitutional plan would be workable in

this country or acceptable to the Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principles, viz., that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be constituted, with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority as in the North Western and Eastern Zones of (British) India should be grouped to constitute 'independent states' in which the constituent units should be autonomous and sovereign.

That adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards should be specifically provided in the constitution for minorities in these units and in the regions for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them, and in other parts of India where the Muslims are in a minority adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards shall be specifically provided in the constitution for them and other minorities for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them.

The Session further authorizes the Working Committee to frame a scheme of constitution in accordance with these basic principles, providing for the assumption finally by the respective regions of all powers such as defense, external affairs, communications, customs, and such other matters as may be necessary.

The Lahore Resolution

March 23, 1940 - Lahore

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I cordially thank you, with the utmost sincerity, for the honor you have conferred upon me – the greatest honor that is possible for this Sovereign Assembly to confer – by electing me as your first President. I also thank those leaders who have spoken in appreciation of my services and their personal references to me. I sincerely

creating and establishing two independent sovereign Dominions in this sub-continent. As it is, it has been unprecedented; there is no parallel in the history of the world. This mighty sub-continent with all kinds of inhabitants has been brought under a plan which is titanic, unknown, unparalleled. And what is very important with regard to it is that we have achieved it peacefully and by

subjects are fully protected by the State. The second thing that occurs to me is this: One of the biggest curses from which India is suffering – I do not say that other countries are free from it, but, I think, our condition is much worse – is bribery and corruption. That really is a poison. We must put that down with an iron hand and I hope that you will take adequate measures as soon as it is possible for this Assembly to do so.

Presidential Address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan at Karachi

Jinnah's 11 August Speech - On his election as the first President of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah (Quaid-i-Azam) delivered the following Presidential Address to the assembly at Karachi on 11 August 1947. It is in this speech that the famous words occur, which have often been quoted by those who favor a liberal social setup in Pakistan: "You may belong to any religion or caste or creed – that has nothing to do with the business of the State..."

hope that with your support and your co-operation we shall make this Constituent Assembly an example to the world. The Constituent Assembly has got two main functions to perform.

The first is the very onerous and responsible task of framing our future constitution of Pakistan and the second of functioning as a full and complete sovereign body as the Federal Legislature of Pakistan. We have to do the best we can in adopting a provisional constitution for the Federal Legislature of Pakistan. You know really that not only we ourselves are wondering but, I think, the whole world is wondering at this unprecedented cyclonic revolution which has brought about the plan of

means of an evolution of the greatest possible character.

Dealing with our first function in this Assembly, I cannot make any well-considered pronouncement at this moment, but I shall say a few things as they occur to me. The first and the foremost thing that I would like to emphasize is this – remember that you are now a sovereign legislative body and you have got all the powers. It, therefore, places on you the gravest responsibility as to how you should take your decisions. The first observation that I would like to make is this: You will no doubt agree with me that the first duty of a government is to maintain law and order, so that the life, property and religious beliefs of its

Black-marketing is another curse. Well, I know that black-marketeers are frequently caught and punished. Judicial sentences are passed or sometimes fines only are imposed. Now you have to tackle this monster which today is a colossal crime against society, in our distressed conditions, when we constantly face shortage of food and other essential commodities of life. A citizen who does black-marketing commits, I think, a greater crime than the biggest and most grievous of crimes. These black-marketeers are really knowing, intelligent and ordinarily responsible people, and when they indulge in black-marketing, I think they ought to be very severely punished, because they undermine the entire system of control and regulation of foodstuffs and essential commodities, and cause wholesale starvation and want and even death.

The next thing that strikes me is this: Here again it is a legacy which has been passed on to us. Alongwith many other things, good and bad, has arrived this great evil – the evil of nepotism and jobbery. This evil must be crushed relentlessly. I want to make it quite clear that I shall never tolerate any kind of jobbery, nepotism or any influence directly or indirectly brought to bear upon me. Whenever I will find that such a practice is in vogue or is continuing anywhere, low or high, I shall certainly not countenance it.

I know there are people who do not quite agree with the division of India and the partition of the Punjab and Bengal. Much has been said against it, but now that it has been accepted, it is the duty of everyone of us to loyally abide by it and honorably act according to the agreement which is now final and binding on all. But you must remember, as I have said, that this mighty revolution that has taken place is unprecedented. One can quite understand the feeling that exists between the two communities wherever one community is in majority and the other is in minority. But the question is, whether it was possible or practicable to act otherwise than what has been done. A division had to take place. On both sides, in Hindustan and Pakistan, there are sections of people who may not agree with it, who may not like it, but in my judgment there was no other solution and I am sure future history will record its verdict in favor of it. And what is more it will be proved by actual experience as we go on that was the only solution of India's constitutional problem. Any idea of a united India could never have worked and in my judgment it would have led us to terrific disaster. May be that view is correct; may be it is not; that remains to be seen. All the same, in this division it was impossible to avoid the question of minorities being in one Dominion or the other. Now that was unavoidable. There is no other solution. Now what shall we do? Now, if we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor. If you will work in co-operation, forgetting the past, burying the hatchet, you are bound to succeed. If you change your past and work together in a spirit that everyone of you, no matter to what community he belongs, no matter what relations he had with you in the past, no matter what is his color, caste or creed, is first, second and last a citizen of this State with equal rights, privileges and obligations, there will be no end to the progress you will make.

I cannot emphasize it too much. We should begin to work in that spirit and in course of time all these angularities of the majority and minority communities, the Hindu community and the Muslim community – because even as regards Muslims you have Pathans, Punjabis, Shias, Sunnis and so on and among the Hindus you have Brahmmins, Vashnavas, Khattris, also Bengalees, Madrasis, and so on – will vanish. Indeed if you ask me this has been the biggest hindrance in the way of India to attain the freedom and independence and but for this we would have been free peoples long long ago. No power can hold another nation, and specially a nation of 400 million souls in subjection; nobody could have conquered you, and even if it had happened, nobody could have continued its hold on you for any length of time but for this. Therefore, we must learn a lesson from this. You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed – that has nothing to do with the business of the State. As you know, history shows that in England conditions, some time ago, were much worse than those prevailing in India today. The Roman Catholics and the Protestants persecuted each other. Even now there are some States in existence where there are discriminations made and bars imposed against a particular class. Thank God, we are not starting in those days. We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another.

We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State. The people of England in course of time had to face the realities of the situation and had to discharge the responsibilities and burdens placed upon them by the government of their country and they went through that fire step by step. Today, you might say with justice that Roman Catholics and Protestants do not

exist; what exists now is that every man is a citizen, an equal citizen of Great Britain and they are all members of the Nation.

Now, I think we should keep that in front of us as our ideal and you will find that in course of time Hindus would cease to be Hindus and Muslims would cease to be Muslims, not in the religious sense, because that is the personal faith of each individual, but in the political sense as citizens of the State.

Well, gentlemen, I do not wish to take up any more of your time and thank you again for the honor you have done to me. I shall always be guided by the principles of justice and fairplay without any, as is put in the political language, prejudice or ill-will, in other words, partiality or favoritism. My guiding principle will be justice and complete impartiality, and I am sure that with your support and co-operation, I can look forward to Pakistan becoming one of the greatest nations of the world.

I have received a message from the United States of America addressed to me. It reads:

I have the honor to communicate to you, in Your Excellency's capacity as President of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, the following message which I have just received from the Secretary of State of the United States:

On the occasion of the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly for Pakistan, I extend to you and to the members of the Assembly, the best wishes of the Government and the people of the United States for the successful conclusion of the great work you are about to undertake.

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SOURCE: Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, *Speeches and Statements as Governor General of Pakistan 1947-48*. Published (1989) by Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Directorate of Films & Publications, Islamabad

HISTORY AND MISSION:

The Pakistani American Congress was established in the inaugural convention held in March 1991 in Chicago as a national organization of Pakistani Americans in the United States. An adhoc committee of interested Pakistani Americans was, however, formed in Washington DC in July 1990 to prepare for this inaugural convention. Over thirty organizations of Pakistani Americans in various urban areas of the US are affiliated to the Congress and function as its chapters in various states of the nation. The objectives of the Congress include representing and promoting the interests of Pakistanis residing in the US, preserving and fostering Pakistani culture and heritage, building communication networks, information clearing houses and think-tanks of talent and expertise involving and serving Pakistani Americans and their organizations, and fostering friendship,

understanding and cooperation between Pakistanis and the American society and institutions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Launched a nation-wide successful campaign in 1993 to keep Pakistan from being declared a terrorist state.
- Since July 1993, holds an annual Pakistan Day at the Capitol Hill, Washington DC, in which scores of US congressmen and senators participate and address on the importance of US-Pakistan relations. This activity has led to strengthening the Pakistan Caucus of US congressmen and senators.
- Undertook a Kashmir project in 1994 which produced a book: *Kashmir- a Happy Valley, a Valley of Death* by Prof. William Baker, and which led to many resolutions of the US Congress on Kashmir and India-Pakistan conflict.
- Led a campaign for the passage of Brown Amendment in the US Senate in 1995 which got arms worth hundreds of millions of dollars released to Pakistan.
- Vigorously participated in many successful campaigns for the replacement of anti-Pakistan senators and congressmen by more friendly ones.
- Subsequent to nuclear tests of May 1998, held effective meetings with high level State Department officials and top Pakistani leadership.
- Launched successful campaigns 1999-2000 to counter Indian lobbies' effort to malign Pakistan in the case of hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane to Afghanistan and in other "terrorist" activities, to thwart many anti-Pakistan resolutions moved in the US Congress, and to convince US legislators and the White House and State

Department staff for President Clinton's visit to Pakistan in March 2000.

- Organized as well as co-sponsored seminars and conferences on important issues in various cities of the US and Pakistan.
- Promoted relations between the US and Pakistani think-tanks to contribute more effectively to policy formation for better US-Pakistan relations and the overall development of Pakistan.
- Contributed to effective coverage in the print and electronic media on issues and views important and beneficial to Pakistan.

There is no question that much more needs to be done. The Congress invites all Pakistani Americans and their organizations to join in a united effort to pursue success which other ethnic and religious minorities have already achieved. MWK