

THE *pakistani american*

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PAKISTANI AMERICAN CONGRESS • VOLUME FIVE • ISSUE ONE • JUNE 2001

EDITOR'S NOTE

Unfortunately, this issue is a sad one because the letters and resolutions contained herein portray how fractured Pakistani American Congress has become. Personal animosity and grudges have destroyed the unity, harmony and togetherness of our organization. But as a humble member of the Congress from its inception, I earnestly hope that the indictments of some of our leaders reflected through the contents of this newsletter should serve as a lesson. We should learn from our mistakes and try to elect a consensus slate of Executive Committee members which can bring all factions of the Congress together and develop an agenda of positive achievements that we are certainly capable of making.

After almost ten years of the PAC's founding, we made significant changes in the original constitution which was approved in March 1991. The new constitution, or any other one for that matter, is only as good as our collective intention to follow it. Whatever is happening in PAC at least since March 1999 is only a microcosm of Pakistan's political history. Democracy is an ideal which must be pursued with honesty and commitment. If we refer to the constitution only when its articles suit our personal ends, and then twist its requirements when such ends are not served, we actually destroy the institutional framework of the organization that the constitution was initially adopted to promote.

I am confident the Pakistani American Congress will come through the present crisis and will grow stronger and stronger. May God Almighty protect us from evil and guide us on the path of those He blessed and those who are successful. Amen.

Dr M Wasiullah Khan

DATELINE: June 14, 2001

Letter from Law Office of Harry A Schroeder to President, PAC

Law Office of Harry A. Schroeder, P.C.

1619 Western Avenue, Chicago Heights, IL 60411, Ph: (708) 747- 4700, Fax: (708) 481-3033

June 14, 2001

Dr Riaz Ahmad
President
Pakistani American Congress
29482 West Ten Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

VIA FAX @248-474-3280 and Certified Mail

Dear Dr Riaz:

I am writing you on behalf of Dr Wasiullah Khan and Dr Arshad Mirza in their capacities as officers of the Pakistani American Congress and members of the Executive Committee.

As you are aware the Executive Committee met on May 19, 2001 in Oakbrook, IL and unanimously held the current election null and void for failing to comply with Article 10 of the PAC constitution. The Advisory Council members also were not consulted in the appointment of an election committee.

In addition there were grave concerns about the large number of organizations which were allowed to vote even though those organizations were not reviewed for compliance with the admission requirements as set forth in Article 4 of the Constitution. You will recall that this was also the subject of both the September and October Board of Directors meetings.

Therefore, we respectfully demand to know whether you intend to follow the decision of the Executive Committee which would require a screening of new member organizations for compliance with the Constitutional requirements. Your written response must be received within one week from the date of this letter in order for appropriate plans for the June 27, 2001 meeting to be made. Your refusal or failure to answer within the allotted time will be taken as an admission that you do not intend to follow the Constitutional requirements we have previously outlined. The Executive Committee will then consider all of its options including legal action.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

Harry A Schroeder

DATELINE: May 19, 2001

**Executive Committee of the Pakistani American Congress
Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday, May 19, 2001**

**Executive Committee of the Pakistani American Congress
Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday, May 19, 2001
at the Oakbrook Hills Hotel, Oakbrook, IL 60523**

The Executive Committee of the Pakistani American Congress met on Saturday, May 19, 2001 at 11:30am and again at 5:30pm at the Oakbrook Hills Hotel, Oakbrook, Illinois 60521. Dr M Arshad Mirza (IL), Senior Vice President of the PAC chaired the meeting which was attended by Dr Wasiullah Khan (IL), General Secretary, Mr Shahid A Khan (MA), Treasurer and Dr Salahuddin Malik (NY), Vice President (who attended the evening session of the meeting only). Dr Salman Zafar(NY), and Dr Abdul Bari Lateef(OH), Vice Presidents of the PAC were involved in the deliberations by telephone and have completely concurred with the decisions of the Executive Committee summarized in these minutes.

The Executive Committee met in lieu of the Board of Directors in deference to the advice given by some distinguished members of the Board. Mr Saleem Akhtar (IL), a member of the PAC Board of Directors representing Indus Society Chicago, also attended both sessions of the Executive Committee meeting. Mr Nasim Sarwar, Mr Arif Vadaria and Mr Raja Razzaq were in attendance in the late morning session and Mr Munir Chaudhry in the evening session. Besides, many members of the Board of Directors sent their proxies authorizing one or the other member of the Executive Committee to vote on their behalf in regard to the decisions summarized in these minutes. They included Mr Zubair Mansori (FL), Mr M Yunus Chaudhry and Dr Manzoor Khalid (GA), Dr Kimat Gul Khatak and Mr Tariq Malik (MA), Mr Faiz M Khan (MI), Mr Faizan Haq, Dr Syed S Jaffri, Ms Farah Malik, and Dr M Akram Sandhu (NY), Dr Ihsan-ul-Haque and Mr Fareed Siddiq (OH), and Dr Mian M Saeed and Mrs Abida Saeed (VA), thus representing over eleven constituent organizations of the Pakistani American Congress.

The Executive Committee deliberated long upon the events of the last four months relative to the election of members of the new Executive Committee for 2001-2003. The Committee members were unanimous in expressing their heartfelt regret over the personal animosity between the past president of the PAC Dr Ziaur Rahman Khan and the present president Dr Riaz Ahmad which has all but destroyed the unity and brotherly cooperation among many directors of the Pakistani American Congress. They were also unanimous in their conviction that democratic elections in accordance with the constitutional provisions of PAC are the only way to ensure integrity, strength and progress of the Congress for all time to come.

The Executive Committee reviewed the letter dated April 2, 2001 of the past president Dr Ziaur Rahman Khan which stated that the Advisory Council had appointed an election committee under his chairmanship which received seven nominations, one each for the seven offices of the Executive Committee, through the cutoff date of March 31, 2001 and that he will certify the new seven member Executive Committee as elected for 2001- 2003 so it takes charge in the annual June 2001 meeting of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee unanimously determined that election to be null and void since it did not meet the requirements of article 10 of the PAC constitution.

The Executive Committee observed that according to the PAC constitution, President Riaz Ahmad has only one vote in the Executive Committee of seven members but he took all decisions unilaterally without involving the Executive Committee for the conduct of elections of which the results have been announced on May 17, 2001. In the last one year, President Riaz Ahmad had added 25 new organizations to PAC membership. Articles 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 of the PAC constitution require specific conditions and procedure for admitting new organizations to PAC membership. But inspite of repeated verbal requests and through the General Secretary's letter of May 2, 2001, President Riaz Ahmad was asked to share with the Executive Committee members all documentation proving that the new organizations meet the constitutional requirements. But he has never done so. Five of the six Executive Committee members had also written a request to Drs Ashraf Toor, Sakhawat Hussain and Zaheer Chaudhry on April 23, 2001 that until the new member organizations' delegates are determined to be voting members of the Board of Directors which is the electoral college, the election process be suspended and after the Executive Committee finalizes the voters list as the Board of Directors had asked it to do in the Boston meeting of October 1, 2000, new ballots to all eligible voters be sent. But the Executive Committee never received any response from the Election Committee. Without imputing any motives to anyone that predetermined election results have been secured, the Executive Committee unanimously determined the election results announced on May 17, 2001 to be null and void.

The Executive Committee resolved to request President Riaz Ahmad to meet with the Committee members in Detroit on Sunday May 27, 2001 or June 3, 2001 so he chairs the process of authenticating the membership of all organizations and eligibility of the voting members of the Board of Directors. The Election Committee members and other distinguished directors are also being invited to this meeting. Until this process is completed, the present Executive Committee will continue functioning according to the PAC constitution.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Constituent Organizations of The Pakistani American Congress (AS OF JUNE 27, 2001)

APSENA	Sugarland, Texas
Friends of Pakistan-Ohio	Toledo, Ohio
Indus Society of North America	Chicago, Illinois
Islamic Association of Northern Virginia	Annandale, Virginia
Memon Association of North America	Chicago, Illinois
Pakistan Chamber of Commerce - USA	Sugarland, Texas
Pakistan Education Foundation	Richmond, California
Pakistan League of America	Edison, New Jersey
Pakistan Society of Atlanta	Kannesaw, Georgia
Pakistani American Arts Council	Los Angeles, California
Pakistani American Association of Western New York	Buffalo, New York
Pakistani American Forum	Columbia, Maryland
Pakistani American Friendship Society	Farmington Hills, Michigan
Pakistani American League of Northeast Ohio	Ravenna, Ohio
Pakistani American Society of Greater Philadelphia	Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
Pakistani American Society of Rochester	Rochester, New York
Pakistani Association of Greater Boston	Wellesley, Massachussets
Pakistani Association of Greater Houston	Houston, Texas
Pakistani Association of Western Massachussets	South Adley, Massachussets
Pakistani Community Association	Gretna, Louisiana
Pakistani Cultural Association of Staten Island	Staten Island, New York
Pakistani Cultural Association of Wisconsin	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
United Muslims of America	Union City, California

DATELINE: May 2, 2001
Letter to President, PAC

May 2, 2001

Dr Riaz Ahmad
29482 West Ten Mile Road,
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
Fax: 248/ 474-3280

Most respected Riaz Bhai,

Assalamo Alaikum

It is most unfortunate that in spite of my being so close to you for many years, I have to put this request to you in writing, after my innumerable verbal requests have failed.

You have with you the final minutes of the last three PAC Board of Directors' meetings held on September 10, 2000 (New York), October 1, 2000 (Boston) and February 24, 2001 (Silver Spring, Maryland). Many new organizations have been admitted to the Pakistani American Congress in the last two years. Kindly send me, by overnight mail delivery, all documentation of these organizations indicating they meet the criteria outlined in Article 3.2.1 of the PAC constitution. You confirmed in these meetings that they do meet those criteria. As General Secretary of the Congress, it is my responsibility to keep all PAC records. I don't even have the addresses of the delegates of these organizations and as recently as yesterday, you declined my request to send me those addresses.

The Board of Directors had unanimously resolved in their Boston meeting of October 1, 2000 "to ask the PAC Executive Committee to finalize the list of all voting members of the Board of Directors in the light of the amended constitution for the next election of PAC officers". To the best of my knowledge, you never made available this information to members of the Executive Committee so they could complete this job. Now I want to be able to report to the Board of Directors in their forthcoming meeting the status of all constituent organizations of the Congress and their nominated delegates. I am sure you will graciously accede to this request of mine and send me this information forthwith.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

Dr M Wasiullah Khan
General Secretary
Pakistani American Congress

May 3, 2001
Respected Riaz Bhai,
Today I have myself sent to you by express mail a packet of about 100 envelopes with the directors' names and organizations typed on them. I don't have their addresses, so please have them mailed. I am sure you're coming to the 5/19/2001 Board of Director's meeting and will stay with me as always.
Wasi

DATELINE: April 23, 2001

Letter to PAC Election Committee

April 23, 2001

Hon'ble Chairman and Members of the Election Committee
Pakistani American Congress
Dr M Ashraf Toor, Dr Sakhawat Hussain, Dr Zaheer Chaudhry

Assalamo Alaikum

We, the undersigned, are members of the Executive Committee of the Pakistani American Congress, unanimously elected in June 1999 for the positions listed against each of our signatures.

Vide Article 10 of the PAC constitution, elections to the seven member Executive Committee are to be held in April and May 2001 for the next two year term and the results to be announced by May 27, 2001. Since the electoral college for these elections consists of all members of the PAC Board of Directors, the Board unanimously decided in the meeting held in Boston on October 1, 2000 that the Executive Committee will finalize the list of all voting members of the Board. (Para 6 of the minutes of the meeting).

We have never been involved to finalize such a list. Instead ballots have been mailed on April 15, 2001 to persons some of whom purportedly represent organizations which the Board has not admitted to PAC vide Article 3.2.1 of the constitution. On the other hand, some well recognized representatives of the duly admitted organizations of the PAC do not appear on the voters list mailed with the ballots.

We respectfully request the Election Committee of the PAC to suspend the present election process and send new ballots to all voting members of the Board of Directors after the Executive Committee finalizes the voters list and submits it to you.

We would be grateful if you could kindly fax your response by April 25, 2001.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

Dr Arshad Mirza SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr Salahuddin Malik VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr Salman Zafar VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr Abdul Bari Lateef VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr Wasiullah Khan GENERAL SECRETARY

(NOTORIZED)

DATELINE: May 4, 2001
Letter to Dr M Ashraf Toor
Chairman, Election Committee

May 4, 2001

Dr M Ashraf Toor
Chairman, Election Committee
Pakistani American Congress

Respected Brother Dr Toor Sahib

Assalamo Alaikum

I never thought I will see the tragic day when I will have to respond to very irresponsible and baseless allegations that, of all people, Dr Riaz Ahmad Sahib has levelled against me in his letter of May 1, 2001 addressed to you. It only proves that for some people, friendship and camaraderie only lasts till the moment their personal ends are served and then suddenly they become mean adversaries.

If you wish, please ask all six members of the present Executive Committee including Mr Shahid Ahmad Khan, who didn't even sign, whether or not they fully supported our letter of April 23, 2001 requesting the Election Committee to suspend the present election process and send new ballots to all voting members of the Board of Directors after the Executive Committee finalizes the voters list and submits it to you. The letter was notarized when Dr Mirza and I signed it in my office and Dr Salman Zafar later that afternoon authorized a friend of his in Chicago to sign it on his behalf.

Actually this allegation of Dr Riaz makes it very evident how desperate he is to see that Dr Mirza doesn't become the next President of the PAC. Two years ago I had upheld the PAC tradition that the Senior Vice President should automatically become the PAC President. That is why Drs Hafeez Malik, Sakhawat Hussain, Zaheer Chaudhry, you and I persuaded Dr Mirza to have in June 1999 a toss by which Dr Riaz became President for 1999-2001 and Dr Arshad Mirza was to follow him for 2001-2003.

When Dr Riaz and I met you in the evening of March 29, 2001 at your home, you told us that no one sent in nomination for PAC presidency. Dr Riaz stayed with me that night and the next day Zafar Malik and I saw him off at Midway Airport at 5pm. Six hours later he called me from Detroit and said I should accept Dr Nisar Chaudhry as President for two years and then I will automatically become President. The next day, March 31, 2001, he again asked me to send in my own nomination for presidency and he will support me fully. Two days later, April 2, 2001, he and Dr Nisar both called me separately and said Dr Nisar should become President only for one year and then he will hand over presidency to me. All these times and many more times later, I told them it is immoral for me to see anyone else but Dr Mirza as the next PAC president. Dr Riaz then asked me on Sunday, April 8, 2001, to draft a letter so he could recommend some names for the seven offices including Dr Mirza for presidency. He never sent that letter. On Friday, April 13, 2001, you had so graciously taken me to an event and I stayed with you till midnight. You told me that the Election Committee had decided not to send any ballots now but to call a meeting of the Board of Directors on May 5 in Chicago so a widely agreed upon

formula can be worked out concerning the election. Everyone knows PAC has never held any elections before and we Pakistanis have strange ways to twist elections in whichever way our ends are served. On April 17, Dr Zaheer called me and explained in detail this idea of holding a meeting on May 5 and I immediately agreed with him as I had agreed with you provided you chair that meeting. But Dr Riaz was very angry when he heard about this idea and asked me to talk to Dr Salman and Shahid A Khan on Sunday, April 15 so we four of the Executive Committee pass a resolution on the telephone opposing this idea. Neither one of us three agreed with Dr Riaz Ahmad. Only on April 19, I received a fax from you that the ballots were already mailed on April 15.

The issue of voters list is the only genuine concern about the present election process. In the Board of Directors' meeting held on October 1, 2000 in Boston, many members had complained that very doubtful organizations, such as Pakistan Cultural Association of Chicago, have been admitted to the Congress and they do not meet the membership criteria laid down in article 3.2.1 of the PAC constitution. Dr Zaheer volunteered to meet with Dr Riaz and Dr Zia to finalize the voters' list. I proposed instead that the Executive Committee should do this job and a resolution to this effect was unanimously passed. I have found Dr Riaz very hesitant to call any Executive Committee meetings. That's why we only met once in two years on October 24, 1999 in Edison NJ. At my insistence, five of the seven Executive Committee members met on March 18, 2001 at Dr Salman Zafar's residence in New York. Dr Riaz neither at that time nor at any time before or after had shown member organizations documents to any one or more members of the Executive Committee for them to finalize the voters' list.

When Dr Riaz and I met at your home on March 29, 2001 I gave you a copy of the amended constitution and minutes of the Board of Directors' New York meeting of September 10, 2001 which listed old and new organizations affiliated to the Congress. Neither Dr Riaz nor I had any voters' list with us at that time to give you. Dr Riaz faxed me a complete list of 3 pages only on April 17, 2001. A copy of that list and his Urdu cover letter which bear the date and fax number on the top are hereby enclosed.

I had met you at your home on Sunday April 22 when you explained to me why you set aside the May 5 meeting idea and ballots were mailed. I offered to you that Zafar Malik and I can go to Detroit in the next two or three days if you call Dr Riaz and he agrees to show us the affiliated organizations' documents. But I didn't hear from you or him. That is why five of the Executive Committee members sent you the letter of April 23, 2001. On May 2, 2001, I had to send to Dr Riaz another letter (copy enclosed) requesting him to let me have the data of member organizations and their delegates. I don't think he will ever share those data with anyone. So the Board of Directors is meeting in Chicago on May 19, 2001. If Dr Riaz's position has any legitimacy he will present his data and facts to the Board of Directors who will then decide what to do with this election which has not yet involved any authentic voters' list.

My fear is that Dr Riaz who we all made President and worked diligently for whose success wants to keep PAC as his personal fiefdom for all time to come. Unfortunately your impartial and above-board position is being maligned by his implementing a personal agenda.

With warm personal regards.

(SIGNED)

Dr M Wasiullah Khan
General Secretary
Pakistani American Congress

DATELINE: May 1, 2001

**Dr Riaz Ahmad's letter to Dr Ashraf Toor,
Chairman PAC Election Committee**

May 1st, 2001

Dear Toor Sahab, Assalam-o-Alaikum!

I am sorry I was out of town for a few days and could not reply to your inquiry on the letter originated by our good friend Dr Wasiullah Khan that carries signatures from him, Arshad Mirza and Salman Zafar. This letter is also notarized by a notary public in Chicago.

First of all I want to question the legality of this letter. It is illegal for a notary public to notarize a document carrying some body's signatures in the absence of that person. How could this letter be notarized in Chicago when Salman Zafar lives in New York? This questionable notarized letter would not hold a legal merit and I suggest you confirm this on your own.

Secondly, the letter states that the voter list used for the elections of Pakistani American Congress is invalid because it was not authorized by the Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee met on March 18th at Salman Zafar's residence. It was attended by Arshad Mirza, Wasiullah Khan, Salman Zafar, Shahid Ahmad Khan and myself. Bari Lateef and Salahuddin Malik did not attend this meeting despite sufficient notices. It was decided in that meeting that the final voter list will be finalized by Wasiullah Khan and myself since the two of us had worked on this issue more than any one else in the Executive Committee, while preparing the minutes of September 10th, 2000 and October 1, 2000 Board meetings. Both Shahid and Salman have sent me letters supporting that the final list was referred to Wasi and myself for completion.

You would remember that Wasiullah Khan and I had met you at your residence on March 29th, 2001 and hand delivered the final voter list to you as the authorized list. Surprisingly, Wasiullah Khan has now turned around and says that he does not know anything about this list. I find his actions very disappointing and disturbing.

The standard norms for conducting the Executive Committee business is that the President calls the meeting and presides over it. There are deliberations and analysis of the situation at hand before any decisions are made. But this kind of exercise of collecting signatures on a concocted notarized letter is a clear attempt to sabotage the democratic process of elections. What amazes me is that all candidates including Arshad Mirza and Wasi are lobbying for votes by calling the voters while at the same time they are also trying to subvert the same process.

It has been brought to the attention of the election committee repeatedly that some of the old guards of Pakistani American Congress are attempting to block the policy of democratic elections in our organizations. I view Dr Wasiullah Khan's letter as one such tactic. This attitude is very negative and is against the very norms of the country that we live in.

Mr Chairman, the election process must not stop. The democratic process should be supported by all members and should be given a chance to establish roots in our organization. Open elections for all positions are important so that more and more competent, patriotic and selfless community members can become part of the mainstream of PAC. All our old friends should continue to serve the Pakistani American community in general and the Pakistani American Congress in particular, regardless of the results of the elections. The sole purpose of our affiliation with the PAC should not be to hold some office by hook or by crook. Instead we should aim for community building and take up whatever role available that suits our expertise and commitment.

Best regards,

(SIGNED)

Dr Riaz Ahmad
President PAC
1999-2001

CC: Election Committee, Executive Committee & others

DATELINE: April 3, 2001

Letter to PAC Election Committee

April 3, 2001

Dr M Ashraf Toor (Chairman), Dr Sakhawat Hussain (Member), Dr Zaheer Chaudhry (Member)
(PAC Election Committee 2001)

Re: Nominations for the Pakistani American Congress Executive for 2001-2003

Respected Brothers, Assalamo Alaikum

Reference your letter dated today which reached here at 7:30 p.m. I want to first congratulate you three for assuming this great responsibility of respectably conducting this very first election of the PAC Executive in the ten year history of our organization. I am sure, in the years to come, hundreds and thousands of Pakistani Americans who will belong to PAC in various ways will honor and emulate your courage and integrity. Of course, Dr Sakhawat Hussain and Dr Zaheer were the presidents in the first six years of PAC's history and Dr Toor has just taken over the chairmanship of our Advisory Council from Dr Hafeez Malik who very admirably held this position through the entire ten year period. May God bless you all.

I am respectfully submitting this letter in my capacity as General Secretary of PAC since 1997. You remember I was one of the eleven members of the Ad-hoc Committee which took over in July 1990 the task of organizing the Pakistani American Congress and along with four other colleagues drafted the PAC constitution in 1991. Dr Zaheer had also honored me in 1995 through inclusion in his executive as a vice-president.

Dr Sakhawat and Dr Zaheer had set the noble tradition of developing consensus slates for the next executive committees and letting the senior vice-president take over as the next president of PAC. Unfortunately in 1999, Dr Zia Khan wanted to break this tradition. But only through the efforts of you three, Dr Arshad Mirza and Dr Riaz rose to the occasion and accepted to have a toss in June 1999 in order to decide who will become PAC president first and who will follow. I was personally present at the time of the toss. We are all highly successful professionals and the work of PAC is just a "labor of love" for us. We must implement high moral standards by our behavior and set noble precedents for those who will follow us. I honestly believe that you three along with Dr Riaz and myself and all concerned are morally bound by the toss of 1999 to elect Dr Arshad Mirza as PAC president after Dr Riaz Ahmad. Therefore, I propose that any other nomination for PAC presidency that you may have received should be set aside and excluded from the ballot and Dr Arshad Mirza be declared unanimously elected to be the next PAC president after the completion of Dr Riaz Ahmad's term. I don't think anybody will raise any objection to this decision of yours and the full Board of Directors will certainly uphold it and over-rule any possible objections.

It goes without saying that Dr Arshad Mirza's contributions to the Congress since the very beginning are second to none. He is unquestionable capable of taking the Congress to new heights and accomplish things that will make all of us very happy and proud..

With warmest personal regards,
Sincerely,

(SIGNED)
Dr M Wasiullah Khan
Chancellor

Dear fellow Pakistani-Americans, friends and guests,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Advisory Council and Executive Committee of the Pakistani American Congress, it is my proud privilege to welcome you to the 9th Pakistan Day on the Hill. I will be humbled and honored to assume the stewardship of the Pakistani American Congress – a unique Pakistani-American organization at the national level representing the full spectrum of issues and concerns of interest to the Pakistani-Americans.

In the dawn of this new millennium when the world has really transformed into a global community of nations, the risks and rewards are unprecedented for the whole human race. The Pakistani American Congress has been a traveller in this journey over the last decade and has had its own triumphs, trials and tribulations. It can safely be stated that it came through every time when it counted.

We have together made progress but so much work needs to be done. Among the initiatives and projects the Pakistani American Congress will launch are establishment of think-tanks and networks to enhance the quality of education, healthcare and economic opportunities for the people of our cherished ancestral home, Pakistan. We, the Pakistani-Americans, can do a lot to assert Pakistan's regional position of eminence and dignity. Furthermore, when the priceless blood of Afghans and Pakistanis has led to huge budget surpluses for the U.S., why can't we the citizens of this great country ask our government to write off Pakistan's debt owed to the U.S?

I hope I can fulfill the trust and confidence reposed in me and I can assure you I will do my best to be of service to you and your causes and concerns.

I pray that I deserve the honor you place on me. I shall end by giving thanks to Almighty God, my family, friends and supporters who are too numerous to list here.

May God bless you and long live Pak-American friendship.

DR M ARSHAD MIRZA

A Brief Introduction

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 twenty organizations of Pakistani Americans in large 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 as 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 in 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 Pakistan 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