

THE *pakistani american*

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

I am greatly honored to greet and address you through this first issue of Volume 4 of our newsletter, *The Pakistani American*, ably produced by Mr Zafar Abbas Malik of East-West University, Chicago (Fax 312 939 0083 Email: zafar@eastwest.edu). You will *inshaallah* receive at least four issues per year of this newsletter. Let us make it a vehicle of effective communication amongst all of us, sharing news of our individual and organizational activities in various population centers of the US.

Through the fourth consensus slate of candidates proposed by the election committee, I assumed presidency of the Pakistani American Congress on June 23, 1999 in Washington DC. We have come a long way in the last eight years through competent leadership of my three predecessors Dr Sakhawat Hussain, Dr Zaheer Chaudhry and Dr Ziaur Rahman Khan. But far more still remains to be done. It will always be a labor of love and only through joint, organized efforts we can make progress towards achieving the sublime goals of PAC.

My first activity was a visit to Chicago on July 11, 1999 where I met our senior vice president Dr Arshad Mirza and general secretary Dr Wasiullah Khan. The latter had met two days earlier with vice-president Dr Salman Zafar in New York. All four of us decided that affiliate organizations of various cities should be supported and strengthened and their numbers increased. We also resolved that in these trying times of India-Pakistan and Pakistan-US relations, we must effectively campaign to seek the support of as many US senators and congressmen and officials of the White House and State Department as we can, in order to further the goals of Pakistan's foreign policy and of the Pakistani-Americans at large. Contacts have to be strengthened with the Pakistani institutions and leadership as well so we remain adequately informed. It is my feeling that in June/July 1999 crisis, immigrants from India launched a far more aggressive media campaign than we did. However, we must continually try to make a united, organized and disciplined effort towards our goals.

To this end, our past president Dr Ziaur Rahman Khan deserves our compliments that he organized for the first time a united session of PAC with APPNA (Association of Pakistani Physicians in North America) and PAK-PAC (Pakistan Political Action Committee) on July 3, 1999 during the APPNA convention at New Orleans, LA. Dr Ziaur Rahman Khan also involved Dr Arshad Mirza and Dr Sadiq Mohyuddin in this



Third from left is Congressman Benjamin Gilman of NY - Chairman Foreign Relations Committee. Third from Right is Dr Riaz Ahmad, President of the Pakistani American Congress and, fourth from right is Congressman David Bonior of Michigan, Democratic whip with other member of PAC.

effort. The session was addressed by Ambassador Riaz Khokhar and Lord Nazir Ahmed, the first Muslim member of the British House of Lords who was a guest of the Pakistani American Congress. The inspiring speeches focussed on the Kashmir issue and everyone emphasized unity, faith and discipline in the Pakistani-Americans' efforts.

From New Orleans I could visit Houston, TX where I also met with several community leaders to boost their involvement in PAC activities.

At the behest of our energetic Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, PAC joined some organizations of Pakistani Americans in an important conference held in Washington DC on July 21, 1999 which was addressed by Senator Tim Johnson (SD) and Congressman David Bonior (MI) besides our Ambassador. Our treasurer Shahid Ahmed Khan, myself and many of our directors represented PAC in this conference. Congressman Bonior presented in the conference a letter addressed to President Clinton which has by now been sent in similar form to President Clinton by over 38 congressmen and 12 senators through the combined efforts of all these organizations. One such letter appears on page 3 of this newsletter. The entire next day of July 22, 1999 we spent on the Capitol Hill and met over 80 legislators and their staff members explaining the facts about the Kashmir issue. A task force named "Americans for Justice and Peace" has been formed jointly by the participating organizations to focus on the media and PR campaign on Kashmir. News stories of this immensely successful effort were carried by many newspapers.

On July 23, 1999 our general secretary Dr Wasiullah Khan joined me in Washington DC and alongwith Dr Nisar Chaudhry of Baltimore (MD) we met the Ambassador, visited and discussed

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what has been happening...

THE SEVENTH PAKISTAN DAY AT THE CAPITOL Hill was celebrated in the afternoon of June 23, 1999 at the Rayburn Office Building with usual fanfare and prominence. Over 30 congressmen and senators, some with or represented by their staff members, came and addressed the gathering. Governor Shahid Hamid of Punjab and Ambassador Riaz Khokhar were also present and spoke. Issues close to the heart of Pakistani-Americans were addressed. Eminent Pakistani-Americans including academicians, accountants, attorneys, bankers, business executives, engineers, physicians and scientists came from 14 states to contribute to the success of the event. It was preceded by a meeting of the Pakistani American Congress' Board of Directors that morning, when Punjab Governor Shahid Hamid made the keynote address and Mr Robert Boggs of the State Department spoke on India-Pakistan relations.

Within two weeks of this event, fighting in Kashmir became very serious and the Clinton-Nawaz Sharif statement came out on July 4, 1999. PAC executive members and other directors intensified their efforts in various cities of the US to project the case of oppressed Kashmiris.

DR WASIUULLAH KHAN



Top: Ms Nadia Malik, Dr Salahuddin Malik, VP of the Pakistani American Congress, the First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Dr Sarwat Malik. Above: Dr Khalid Qazi of the Kashmiri American Council and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

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the Kashmir issue with research associates Michael Newbill and Christopher Gagné of Stimson Center and later had a very productive meeting with Senator Tim Johnson (SD) in his office on the Kashmir issue. On July 24, 1999 Dr Wasiullah Khan and I met a past president of PAC, Dr Zaheer Chaudhry and the chairman of our Advisory Council, Dr Hafeez Malik in Philadelphia. We discussed at length various suggestions that PAC directors have made from time to time for amending the PAC constitution. This document was originally drafted in 1990-91 by Dr Riaz Malik, Dr Arshad Mirza, Dr Salahuddin Malik, Dr Wasiullah Khan and myself and was adopted in the PAC's inaugural convention of March 1991. I have now called a meeting of the committee of nine members including Dr Hafeez Malik, the three past presidents and Dr Arshad Mirza, Dr Salahuddin Malik, Dr Wasiullah Khan and Dr Salman Zafar in Chicago on September 11, 1999 to finalize the proposed amendments so the Board of Directors approve them in their next meeting.

Students of the University of Michigan, Ypsilanti campus, sought the support of PAC, particularly myself, and of the Pakistani American Friendship Society of Detroit to have a large, memorable celebration of Pakistan Day on August 20, 1999 where Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai of the Kashmiri American Council and Senator Raja Aurangzeb of Pakistan made effective speeches on the present situation in Kashmir. Besides, Dr Wasiullah Khan, myself and two other Pakistani-American leaders met with Mr Abdul Ghani Lone of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in the morning of August 28, 1999 in Washington DC and enquired about his health and conditions in Kashmir.

Finally, I cannot overemphasize the need for all affiliate organizations and other Pakistanis to share information with each other and coordinate our efforts for the good of our Fatherland. We need to hear from you, know your postal and email addresses, phone, and fax numbers and receive your suggestions. Undoubtedly we face a daunting task ahead and cannot rest until the illegal, oppressive and murderous occupation of Kashmir by India is vacated. We also need to form and activate youth groups and women's groups of the Pakistani American Congress to mobilize these untapped resources for our struggle.

Pakistan Paindabad

RIAZ AHMED

JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO
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July 28, 1999

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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Dear Mr. President,

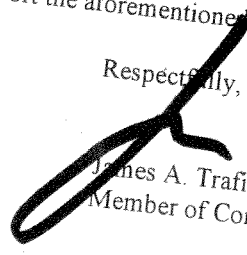
I commend your timely intervention to help defuse the immediate crisis in Kashmir. Of particular importance to me is your commitment to take a personal interest in encouraging the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan to resume and intensify their dialogue to resolve all issues between them, especially Kashmir.

Kashmir is the most dangerous nuclear flashpoint in the world today. As President Nixon noted twenty-five years ago, "nuclear powers have never fought each other, but the clash between Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India over disputed Kashmir territory could erupt into the world's first war between nuclear powers." To avert this possibility, the dispute over Kashmir's unresolved status must be settled promptly and peacefully.

The United States should help break the stalemate over Kashmir to reduce the chance of a disastrous nuclear war in the Asian subcontinent. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to:
1) consider the appointment of a Special Envoy who could recommend to you methods to reach a just and lasting settlement of the Kashmir issue, appeasing both the Pakistani and Indian people;
and 2) propose strengthening the UN Military Observers Group to monitor the situation along the Line of Control.

Once again, thank you for your efforts in this important matter. I await your prompt response and stand ready to support the aforementioned diplomatic initiatives.

Respectfully,



James A. Traficant, Jr.
Member of Congress

JAT/khb/bls
cc: Dr. Riaz Ahmad

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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 ad-hoc 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 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.
- ◆ 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 to more effective 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 successes which other ethnic and religious minorities have already achieved. **MWK**

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