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PRESS COVERAGE: (DAY 1)

Two-Day National Conference

Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward

9-10 October 2018

International

KashmirWatch

Two day conference begins in Islamabad to discuss 'Pakistan-US Relations'

October 9, 2018 Editor

Islamabad:



- To remove the mutual mistrust between Pakistan and the United States (US) and to revive cooperation, it is important to holistically debate key irritants that mar bilateral ties, understand each other's security concerns, acknowledge contributions made in achieving peace in the region and work on commonalities, in which, both sides can work together and expand cooperation.

- The key challenge for both Pakistan and the US is to build a relationship that transcends the security-centric approach of bilateral engagements to focus on furthering cooperation in areas of economics, trade, development and culture. Such an approach will help achieve the goal of a peaceful and prosperous region.
- It is important for Pakistan to look inwards because only economic autonomy can give the country an independent foreign policy and a sustainable future.
- Both the US and China are super powers. Pakistan needs friendly and close relations with both countries. Pakistan's relations with each cannot be at the expense of one over the other.

These were some of the recommendations discussed at the Two-Day National Conference on *Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward* organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, here in Islamabad today.

In his welcome address, Acting President IPRI, **Brig (R) Sohail Tirmizi, SI(M)** welcomed the distinguished Chief Guest, the chairpersons and the distinguished speakers. He said that the present Pakistan-US relationship suffers from mutual mistrust and suspicion due to divergent approaches and interests in the region. To further put pressure, the US administration has ceased military training for defense personnel and the Collation Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan, resorted to the use of diplomatically harsh language and exercised its influence in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Brig Tirmizi pointed out that the US' relations with India and Afghanistan have been instrumental in formulating its policy towards Pakistan. 'US disregard of Pakistan's sensitivities, its legitimate security interests vis-a-vis these states has not helped to bridge the mistrust in their relationship', he said.

Delivering his eloquent inaugural address **Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq**, Former Foreign Minister and Chairman BOG, IPRI said that the Conference was timely and important since it provides an opportunity to assess the present state of Pakistan's relations with the US and their future trajectory in the wake of the recent meetings in Washington of Pakistan's Foreign Minister with the US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and National Security Advisory John Bolton.

Ambassador Haq stressed that the 'US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China. It will use all the means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole super power of the world. Full spectrum domination is its primary objective.' He pointed out that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion, and false assumptions. Foreign policy framers have to be clear, objective and logical, and must factor into policymaking the complex strategic, political and economic development and the constantly emerging new equations. 'Without an autonomous economy, no country can have an autonomous foreign policy', he said. On the issue of recent Pakistan-US meetings, he cautioned that 'we should note that the discussions have so far been primarily on the end game in Afghanistan. Bilateral relations were not discussed at any length. Bilateral ties will improve only

if Pakistan is seen to be helping the US achieve its objectives in Afghanistan.’ Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq also predicted that the interrupted strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the US, which was initiated during the Obama Administration, is unlikely to be resumed in its original form. ‘We must find alternative ways to move forward on the issues that are of interest to us, such as energy, security, strategic stability, education, science and technology. Free-flowing discussions on regional issues like Afghanistan, South Asia, and West Asia, including Iran could be held by policy planning groups in the two countries. A reset or rebuild of the bilateral relationship is essential, but it will be a slow process of rebuilding trust between the two countries not through statements, but by actions on the ground. He concluded that the ‘US remains the most important relationship for Pakistan, since it has the maximum capacity to help the country, and also to inflict pain and damage directly as well as through proxies.’

In the first session, **Ambassador (R) Shamshad Ahmed**, Former Foreign Secretary gave an overview of Pakistan-US relations and their strengths and weaknesses. He argued that unlike other government policies, foreign policy is neither scripted nor has any bullet points, ‘it is an external reflection of a country’s internal conditions. So if a country is weak and crippled from inside, its foreign policy will not be robust and strong either.’ Ambassador Ahmed explained that for the US, Pakistan is not a ‘lost friend’ because Pakistan’s geopolitical situation is virtually important for peace in South Asia. He said that ‘Pakistan has not disappeared from the US’ radar screen rather looms large for US stakes in Asia.’ He remarked that no relationship is without problems, and Pakistan-US relationship is no exception. ‘The time has come for focusing on a state-to-state relationship based on sovereign equality, rather than one which is transactional or based on expediency of personal interests and agendas.’ He was of the view that ‘Pakistan needs to realize that what is important is not what we are required to do, but what is in our own national interest. Strengthen Pakistan’s economy and governance systems so that we are not at the beck and call of any country, including the US’, he recommended.

Discussing his views on the *Making of US Foreign Policy and Pakistan*, Ambassador (R) Riaz Hussain Khokhar, Former Foreign Secretary remarked that the Pak-US relationship should be evaluated from a dispassionate lens rather than emotionally. ‘We should be frank with the Trump administration about what Pakistan can actually deliver in Afghanistan especially in terms of the Taliban because at the end of the day, Pakistan does not have the kind of influence which is often projected.’ He remarked that ‘having a “strategic relationship” with the US is out-of-the-window and one should not have high hopes for that since the US has already courted India.’ Ambassador Khokhar reminded the audience that the US is still unable to stomach Pakistan’s nuclear program which it is keeping an eye on more keenly than even Iran’s program. He recommended that Pakistan should adopt an assertive message that it is sincere and committed to having a good and sustainable relationship with the US; activate Pakistan’s diaspora in the US; instead of being enamored with lobbyists, Pakistan’s embassy in Washington needs to be strengthened.

In the session on *Identifying Factors of Trust Deficit in Pakistan-US Relations*, chaired by Lt General (R) Asif Yasin Malik, HI (M), Former Defence Secretary, Government of Pakistan, **Dr Salma Malik** from the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad expounded on the relationship between regional actors, especially India-Pakistan and the role of the US. She said that Pakistan's relations with India and the US can be examined at bilateral, triadal and even at the multilateral level where Pakistan has consistently strived for good relations with India, never missing on the initiative towards normalization of ties, while fully cognizant of the general negative issues such as Kashmir to be a priority. She said that there has not been a reciprocation of warmth and good will from New Delhi. Over the seven decades, there have been many up and down swings in bilateral relations between the two neighbours – with the US playing a proactive role of moderator during time of crises much to India's displeasure. 'However', she said that 'the last two decades have seen this balance tilting in India's favour – with the landmark strategic partnership, signing of recent 2+ 2 agreement, US support to a nuclear normalization attempt by India and shift in the Asia pivot has taken the India-Pakistan rivalry into a very different direction.' Dr Malik pointed that 'the challenges for Pakistan have increased manifold as a result of these developments, further affected by the arrogant, antagonistic and dismissive attitude of the Indian leadership which leaves little space for an open, unconditional engagement and dialogue.' She recommended that 'in this situation, for Pakistan to rely on Washington as a neutral mediator is no longer an option – but what is imperative for Islamabad is to develop indigenous capabilities, strengthen its economic profile, engage with world capitals and work towards sustainable governance to negotiate from a position of strength.'

On the issue of promoting Pakistan-US cooperation in countering extremism and terrorism, **Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi**, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, said that Pakistan has been at the forefront of the war on terror for the US which has had its own severe backlash. 'Leaving it alone with a few accusations is not the solution to the problem. More economic and financial assistance to Pakistan will contribute to the emergence of a more tolerant society. 'The US putting Pakistan in the grey list of the FATF will be counterproductive', he said. Dr Soherwordi concluded that Washington needs to craft a vision of the future that places Pakistan into a much larger regional context beyond the prism of looking at it from the Afghan and Indian perspective.

In the interactive and packed Q/A session, the eminent speakers reiterated that Pakistan needs to take advantage of its geographical location as its biggest asset. For stability and security, there should be no pockets of alienation in the country, otherwise alien forces can take advantage of such issues. Pakistan needs to maintain credibility of its policy positions because once credibility is gone, no one on the international stage will trust such a country or its leaders.

<<http://kashmirwatch.com/44217-2/>>

National

INTERNATIONAL **THE NEWS**

‘US Won’t Allow Anyone To Challenge Its Dominance’

By Rasheed Khalid

October 11, 2018

Print: Islamabad

Islamabad: Former Foreign Minister Inam ul Haq has said that the US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China. Mr Haq was delivering his inaugural address at two-day National Conference on ‘Irritants in Pakistan-US relations: Way Forward’ organised here by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Mr Haq said that United States will use all means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole super power of the world. Full spectrum domination is its primary objective, he said. He opined that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion and false assumptions. Foreign policy framers have to be clear, objective, logical, and must factor into policymaking the complex strategic, political and economic development and the constantly emerging new equations he said adding that without an autonomous economy, no country can have an autonomous foreign policy. He warned that we should note that the discussions have so far been primarily on the end game in Afghanistan and bilateral relations were not discussed at any length. Bilateral ties will improve only if Pakistan is seen to be helping the US achieve its objectives in Afghanistan, he stressed.

Inam-ul-Haq also predicted that the interrupted strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the US, which was initiated during the Obama Administration, is unlikely to be resumed in its original form. We must find alternative ways to move forward on the issues that are of interest to us, such as energy, security, strategic stability, education, science and technology. He concluded that the

US remains the most important relationship for Pakistan since it has the maximum capacity to help the country and also to inflict “pain and damage directly as well as through proxies.”

Ambassador (r) Shamshad Ahmed, ex-Foreign Secretary, argued that unlike other government policies, foreign policy is neither scripted nor has any bullet points, which according to him “is an external reflection of a country’s internal conditions. So if a country is weak and crippled from inside, its foreign policy will not be robust and strong either.’ He reiterated that our geopolitical situation is virtually important for peace in South Asia. He said that Pakistan has not disappeared from the US radar or screen rather looms large for US stakes in Asia. He remarked that no relationship is without problems, and Pakistan-US relationship is no exception. The time has come for focusing on a state-to-state relationship based on sovereign equality, rather than one which is transactional or based on expediency of personal interests and agendas he said and continued that Pakistan needs to realise that what is important is not what we are required to do but what is in our own national interest.

Former Foreign Secretary Riaz Hussain Khokhar said that we should be frank with the Trump administration about what Pakistan can actually deliver in Afghanistan especially in terms of the Taliban because at the end of the day, Pakistan does not have the kind of influence which is often projected. He pointed out that having a “strategic relationship” with the US is out-of-the-window and one should not have high hopes for that since the US has already courted India.

Acting President, IPRI, Brigadier (r) Sohail Tirmizi, Former Defence Secretary Lt General (r) Asif also spoke on the occasion.

<<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/379441-us-won-t-allow-anyone-to-challenge-its-dominance>>

Think beyond security in Pak-US ties: speakers

By Our Correspondent

Published: October 10, 2018



PHOTO: FILE

ISLAMABAD: The key challenge for both Pakistan and the US is to build a relationship that transcends the security-centric approach of bilateral engagements, speakers at a two-day national conference on Pak-US ties recommended on Tuesday.

Both the countries need to focus on furthering cooperation in areas of economics, trade, development and culture. Such an approach will help achieve the goal of a peaceful and prosperous region, they said at the moot titled Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

The eminent scholars proposed that to remove the mutual mistrust between Pakistan and the US and to revive cooperation, it is important to holistically debate key irritants that mar bilateral ties, understand each other's security concerns, acknowledge contributions made in achieving peace in the region and work on commonalities, in which, both sides can work together and expand cooperation. It is important for Pakistan to look inwards because only economic autonomy can give the country an independent foreign policy and a sustainable future. Both the US and China are superpowers. Pakistan needs friendly and close relations with both countries. Pakistan's relations with each cannot be at the expense of one over the other.

IPRI Acting President Brig (ret'd) Sohail Tirmizi said that the present Pakistan-US relationship suffers from mutual mistrust and suspicion due to divergent approaches and interests in the region. To further put pressure, the US administration has ceased military training for defence personnel and the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan, resorted to the use of diplomatically harsh language and exercised its influence in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Brig Tirmizi pointed out that the US' relations with India and Afghanistan have been instrumental in formulating its policy towards Pakistan. "US disregard of Pakistan's sensitivities, its legitimate security interests vis-a-vis these states has not helped to bridge the mistrust in their relationship," he said.

Ambassador Inamul Haq stressed that the US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China. It will use all the means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole superpower of the world. "Full spectrum domination is primary objective of the US." The former foreign minister and IPRI Board of Governors chairman pointed out that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion, and false assumptions. "Without an autonomous economy, no country can have an autonomous foreign policy," he said.

In the first session, former ambassador Shamsahd Ahmed said: "foreign policy is an external reflection of a country's internal conditions. So if a country is weak and crippled from inside, its foreign policy will not be robust and strong either."

He was of the view that: "Strengthen Pakistan's economy and governance systems so that we are not at the beck and call of any country, including the US."

Discussing his views on the Making of US Foreign Policy and Pakistan, ex-foreign secretary and ambassador (ret'd) Riaz Hussain Khokhar remarked: "We should be frank with the Trump administration about what Pakistan can actually deliver in Afghanistan especially in terms of the Taliban because at the end of the day, Pakistan does not have the kind of influence which is often projected."

Lt General (R) Asif Yasin Malik chaired the session on Identifying Factors of Trust Deficit in Pakistan-US Relations. Dr Salma Malik who is currently working at QAU Department of Defence and Strategic Studies said balance of US is tilting in India's favour – with the landmark strategic partnership signing of recent 2+ 2 agreement, US support to a nuclear normalization attempt by India and shift in the Asia pivot has taken the India-Pakistan rivalry into a very different direction. On the issue of promoting Pakistan-US cooperation in countering extremism and terrorism, Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar, said Washington needs to craft a vision of the future that places Pakistan into a much larger regional context beyond the prism of looking at it from the Afghan and Indian perspective.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 10th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1822202/1-think-beyond-security-pak-us-ties-speakers/>

Pakistan, US urged to hold candid debate on bilateral ties

Abdullah Malik

OCTOBER 10, 2018



Islamabad: To remove mutual mistrust between Pakistan and the United States (US) and to revive cooperation, it is important to holistically debate key irritants that affect bilateral ties, as well as to understand each other's security concerns and acknowledge contributions made in achieving peace in the region and work on commonalities.

The key challenge for both Pakistan and the US is to build a relationship that transcends security-centric approach to bilateral engagements and focus on furthering cooperation in areas of economics, trade, development and culture. Such an approach will help achieve the goal of a peaceful and prosperous region.

It is important for Pakistan to look inwards because only economic autonomy can give the country an independent foreign policy and a sustainable future. Both the US and China are super powers. Pakistan needs friendly and close relations with both countries. Pakistan's relations with each cannot be at the expense of the other.

These were some of the recommendations put forth at the two-day National Conference on Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, here in Islamabad.

In his welcome address, Acting President IPRI, Brig (R) Sohail Tirmizi said that Pakistan-US relationship suffers from mutual mistrust and suspicion due to divergent approaches and interests in the region. To further put pressure on Pakistan, the US administration has ceased military training for defense personnel and the Collation Support Fund (CSF), besides resorting to use diplomatically harsh language and exercising its influence in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Brig Tirmizi pointed out that the US' relations with India and Afghanistan have been instrumental in formulating its policy towards Pakistan.

In his inaugural address, Ambassador Inamul Haq, former foreign minister, said that the Conference was timely and important since it provided an opportunity to assess the present state of Pakistan's relations with the US and their future trajectory in the wake of the recent meetings in Washington.

He pointed out that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion, and false assumptions. Foreign policy framers have to be clear, objective and logical, and they must factor into policy-making the complex strategic, political and economic developments, and the constantly emerging new equations. "Without an autonomous economy, no country can have an autonomous foreign policy," he said.

On the issue of recent Pakistan-US meetings, he cautioned that 'we should note that the discussions have so far been primarily on the end game in Afghanistan. Bilateral relations were not discussed at any length. Bilateral ties will improve only if Pakistan is seen to be helping the US achieve its objectives in Afghanistan'.

In the first session, Ambassador (R) Shamshad Ahmed, former foreign secretary, gave an overview of Pakistan-US relations. He argued that unlike other government policies, foreign policy is neither scripted nor has any bullet points, 'it is an external reflection of a country's internal conditions. So if a country is weak and crippled from inside, its foreign policy will not be robust and strong either.' Ambassador Ahmed explained that for the US, Pakistan is not a 'lost friend' because Pakistan's geopolitical situation is virtually important for peace in South Asia. He said that 'Pakistan has not disappeared from the US' radar screen rather looms large for US stakes in Asia.' He remarked that no relationship is without problems, and Pakistan-US relationship is no exception.

Discussing his views on the making of US foreign policy, Ambassador (R) Riaz Hussain Khokhar, former foreign secretary, remarked that the Pak-US relationship should be evaluated from a dispassionate lens rather than an emotional one. "We should be frank with the Trump administration about what Pakistan can actually deliver in Afghanistan especially in terms of the Taliban because at the end of the day, Pakistan doesn't have the kind of influence which is often

projected.” He remarked that ‘having a “strategic relationship” with the US is out-of-the-window, and one should not have high hopes in that regard since the US has already courted India.

In the session on Identifying Factors of Trust Deficit in Pakistan-US Relations, chaired by Lt General (R) Asif Yasin Malik, and Dr Salma Malik from the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, expounded on the relationship between regional actors, especially India-Pakistan and the role of the US. She said that Pakistan’s relations with India and the US can be examined at bilateral, trilateral as well as at the multilateral level, where Pakistan has consistently strived for good relations with India. She said that there has not been a reciprocation of warmth and goodwill from New Delhi. Over seven decades, there have been many ups and downs in bilateral relations between the two neighbours with the US playing a proactive role of moderator during times of crises.

On the issue of promoting Pakistan-US cooperation in countering extremism and terrorism, Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardi from the Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar, said that Pakistan has been at the forefront of the war on terror. “Leaving it alone with a few accusations is not the solution to the problem. More economic and financial assistance to Pakistan will contribute to the emergence of a more tolerant society. The US putting Pakistan in the grey list of the FATF will be counterproductive,” he said, adding that Washington needed to craft a vision of the future that places Pakistan into a much larger regional context beyond the prism of looking at it from the Afghan and Indian perspective.

Published in Daily Times, October 10th 2018.

<<https://dailytimes.com.pk/308522/pakistan-us-urged-to-hold-candid-debate-on-bilateral-ties/>>

Pakistan-US: Ex-diplomats identify key challenges for building relationship

Ali Hussain

Oct 10th, 2018

Islamabad

Veteran former diplomats on Tuesday identified key challenges for both Pakistan and the US in building a relationship that transcends the security-centric approach of bilateral engagements to focus on furthering cooperation in areas of economics, trade, development and culture.

Former Foreign Minister Inam-ul-Haq, former Foreign Minister Shamshad Ahmad and former foreign secretary, former Ambassador Riaz Hussain Khokhar while speaking at a two-day national conference on "Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward", organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), emphasized the need for removing mutual mistrust between the two countries. To remove the mutual mistrust and revive cooperation, they pointed out, it is important to holistically debate key irritants that mar bilateral ties, understand each other's security concerns, acknowledge contributions made in achieving peace in the region and work on commonalities, in which, both sides can work together and expand cooperation.

Former Foreign Minister Inam-ul-Haq said that it is important for Pakistan to look inwards because only economic autonomy can give the country an independent foreign policy and a sustainable future. "Both the US and China are superpowers. Pakistan needs friendly and close relations with both the countries. Pakistan's relations with each country cannot be at the expense of the other," he said. He said that the US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China, adding that Washington will use all the means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole superpower of the world. Full spectrum domination is its primary objective, he added. He pointed out that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion and false assumptions. Foreign policy framers have to be clear, objective and logical, and must factorize into policymaking the complex strategic, political and economic development and the constantly emerging new equations, he said. "Without an autonomous economy, no country can have an autonomous foreign policy," he added.

Referring to the ongoing Pakistan-US engagement, he said that the discussions have so far been primarily focused on the end game in Afghanistan, adding that bilateral relations were not discussed at any length. "Bilateral ties will improve only if Pakistan is seen to be helping the US achieve its objectives in Afghanistan," he said. He also predicted that the interrupted strategic

dialogue between Pakistan and the US, which was initiated during the Obama administration, is unlikely to be resumed in its original form. He said that Pakistan needs to find alternative ways to move forward on the issues that are of interest to the country, such as energy, security, strategic stability, education, science and technology. He said that the US remains the most important relationship for Pakistan, since it has the maximum capacity to help the country, and also to inflict pain and damage directly as well as through proxies.

Former Ambassador Shamshad Ahmed gave an overview of Pakistan-US relations and their strengths and weaknesses, saying that unlike other government policies, foreign policy is neither scripted nor has any bullet points. "Foreign policy is an external reflection of a country's internal conditions. So if a country is weak and crippled from inside, its foreign policy will not be robust and strong either," he added. For the US, he insisted, Pakistan is not a 'lost friend' because Pakistan's geopolitical situation is virtually important for peace in South Asia. "Pakistan has not disappeared from the US's radar screen rather looms large for the US stakes in Asia," he said, adding that no relationship is without problems, and Pakistan-US relationship is no exception. He emphasized that the time has come for focusing on a state-to-state relationship based on sovereign equality, rather than one which is transactional or based on expediency of personal interests and agendas. He said, "Pakistan needs to realize what is important and what is not. What we are required to do, but what is in our own national interest. Strengthen Pakistan's economy and governance system so that we are not at the beck and call of any country, including the US."

Giving his views on "Making of US Foreign Policy and Pakistan," Ambassador Riaz Hussain Khokhar (retd) said that Pak-US relationship should be evaluated from a dispassionate lens rather than emotionally. "We should be frank with the Trump administration about what Pakistan can actually deliver in Afghanistan especially in terms of the Taliban because at the end of the day, Pakistan does not have the kind of influence which is often projected," he pointed out.

According to Khokhar, having a strategic relationship with the US is out-of-the-window and one should not have high hopes for that since the US has already courted India. "The US is still unable to stomach Pakistan's nuclear program which it is keeping an eye on more keenly than even Iran's program," he said, adding that Pakistan should adopt an assertive message that it is sincere and committed to having a good and sustainable relationship with the US. For this purpose, he pointed out that it needs to activate Pakistan's Diaspora in the US, instead of being enamored with lobbyists. He further said Pakistan's embassy in Washington needs to be strengthened.

In his welcome address, Acting President IPRI, Brigadier Sohail Tirmizi (retd) pointed out that Pakistan-US relationship suffers from mutual mistrust and suspicion due to divergent approaches and interests in the region. To further put pressure, he said, the US administration has ceased military training for defense personnel and the Collation Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan,

resorted to the use of diplomatically harsh language and exercised its influence in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). He pointed out that the US' relations with India and Afghanistan have been instrumental in formulating its policy towards Pakistan. "The US disregard of Pakistan's sensitivities, its legitimate security interests vis-a-vis these states has not helped bridge the mistrust in their relationship," he added.

<<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/10/20181010413961/>>

Irritants in Pakistan-US relations: way forward

October 10, 2018

Two-Day National Conference

Staff Reporter

Two-Day National Conference on Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute began on Tuesday. In his welcome address, Acting President IPRI, Brig (R) Sohail Tirmizi, SI(M) said that the present Pakistan-US relationship suffers from mutual mistrust and suspicion due to divergent approaches and interests in the region. To further put pressure, the US administration has ceased military training for defense personnel and the Collation Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan, resorted to the use of diplomatically harsh language and exercised its influence in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Brig Tirmizi pointed out that the US' relations with India and Afghanistan have been instrumental in formulating its policy towards Pakistan. 'US disregard of Pakistan's sensitivities, its legitimate security interests vis-a-vis these states has not helped to bridge the mistrust in their relationship', he said.

Delivering his eloquent inaugural address Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq stressed that the 'US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China. It will use all the means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole super power of the world. Full spectrum domination is its primary objective.' He pointed out that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion, and false assumptions. Foreign policy framers have to be clear, objective and logical, and must factor into policymaking the complex strategic, political and economic development and the constantly emerging new equations.

<https://pakobserver.net/irritants-in-pakistan-us-relations-way-forward/>

Crucial Pak-US engagements

Editorial

October 11, 2018

SEVEN decades of Pak-US ties have been marked both by cordiality and mistrust. Since assumption of power by Donald Trump, relationship between the two countries continue to be on the downward slide yet recent engagements between the two sides appeared to be positive as there was no demand of do more from the other side when Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi met his American counterpart for the second time in Washington. Now the US special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad held talks with Pakistani leadership on the Afghan reconciliation at the Foreign Office on Tuesday. During talks the two sides agreed to continue cooperation on Afghan reconciliation process. Undoubtedly, this is the way forward to find politically negotiated solution of the decades' long conflict in the war-torn country in which both Pakistan and the US have to play an important role and they only can do so if they engage more frequently and deeply on the issue. Currently there are irritants in relationship and these are marred by mistrust due to issues in Kabul yet we understand that time has come that the US stop seeing Pakistan only in the perspective of its role in Afghanistan. On Pakistan-US relations, Islamabad Policy Research Institute organised a special seminar in the Capital on Tuesday in which former foreign secretaries and ambassadors rightly emphasised the need of building Pak-US relationships that transcends security centric approach to economic cooperation. Such a multidimensional level cooperation indeed will not only help reduce trust deficit but also enable the two countries to build a strong partnership for the cause of greater regional peace and security. Besides discussing and making forward movement on Afghan reconciliation, we will urge both sides to discuss cooperation in various sectors. The US is a major trading partner of Pakistan with trade between the two countries hovering around \$6b. Both the countries should work towards reactivating the working groups established under strategic framework and explore avenues of cooperation in different fields.

<<https://pakobserver.net/crucial-pak-us-engagements/>>

Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward

Posted By: Sabah News on: October 09, 2018 In: National

Islamabad 09 Oct (SABAH) :



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- The key challenge for both Pakistan and the US is to build a relationship that transcends the security-centric approach of bilateral engagements to focus on furthering cooperation in areas of economics, trade, development and culture. Such an approach will help achieve the goal of a peaceful and prosperous region.
- It is important for Pakistan to look inwards because only economic autonomy can give the country an independent foreign policy and a sustainable future.
- Both the US and China are super powers. Pakistan needs friendly and close relations with both countries. Pakistan's relations with each cannot be at the expense of one over the other.

These were some of the recommendations discussed at the Two-Day National Conference on Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, here in Islamabad today.

In his welcome address, Acting President IPRI, Brig (R) Sohail Tirmizi, SI(M) welcomed the distinguished Chief Guest, the chairpersons and the distinguished speakers. He said that the present Pakistan-US relationship suffers from mutual mistrust and suspicion due to divergent approaches and interests in the region. To further put pressure, the US administration has ceased

military training for defense personnel and the Collation Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan, resorted to the use of diplomatically harsh language and exercised its influence in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Brig Tirmizi pointed out that the US' relations with India and Afghanistan have been instrumental in formulating its policy towards Pakistan. 'US disregard of Pakistan's sensitivities, its legitimate security interests vis-a-vis these states has not helped to bridge the mistrust in their relationship', he said.

Delivering his eloquent inaugural address Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq, Former Foreign Minister and Chairman BOG, IPRI said that the Conference was timely and important since it provides an opportunity to assess the present state of Pakistan's relations with the US and their future trajectory in the wake of the recent meetings in Washington of Pakistan's Foreign Minister with the US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and National Security Advisory John Bolton.



Ambassador Haq stressed that the 'US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China. It will use all the means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole super power of the world. Full spectrum domination is its primary objective.'

He pointed out that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion, and false assumptions. Foreign policy framers have to be clear, objective and logical, and must factor into policymaking the complex strategic, political and economic development and the constantly emerging new equations. 'Without an autonomous economy, no country can have an autonomous foreign policy', he said. On the issue of recent Pakistan-US meetings, he cautioned that 'we should note that the discussions have so far been primarily on the end game in Afghanistan. Bilateral relations were not discussed at any length. Bilateral ties will improve only if Pakistan is seen to be helping the US achieve its objectives in Afghanistan.' Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq also predicted that the interrupted strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the US, which was initiated during the Obama Administration, is unlikely to be resumed in its original form. 'We must find alternative ways to move forward on the issues that are of interest to us, such as energy, security, strategic stability, education, science and technology. Free-flowing discussions on regional issues like Afghanistan, South Asia, and West Asia, including Iran could be held by policy planning groups in the two countries. A reset or rebuild of the bilateral relationship is

essential, but it will be a slow process of rebuilding trust between the two countries not through statements, but by actions on the ground. He concluded that the ‘US remains the most important relationship for Pakistan, since it has the maximum capacity to help the country, and also to inflict pain and damage directly as well as through proxies.’

In the first session, Ambassador (R) Shamshad Ahmed, Former Foreign Secretary gave an overview of Pakistan-US relations and their strengths and weaknesses. He argued that unlike other government policies, foreign policy is neither scripted nor has any bullet points, ‘it is an external reflection of a country’s internal conditions. So if a country is weak and crippled from inside, its foreign policy will not be robust and strong either.’ Ambassador Ahmed explained that for the US, Pakistan is not a ‘lost friend’ because Pakistan’s geopolitical situation is virtually important for peace in South Asia. He said that ‘Pakistan has not disappeared from the US’ radar screen rather looms large for US stakes in Asia.’ He remarked that no relationship is without problems, and Pakistan-US relationship is no exception. ‘The time has come for focusing on a state-to-state relationship based on sovereign equality, rather than one which is transactional or based on expediency of personal interests and agendas.’ He was of the view that ‘Pakistan needs to realize that what is important is not what we are required to do, but what is in our own national interest. Strengthen Pakistan’s economy and governance systems so that we are not at the beck and call of any country, including the US’, he recommended.



Discussing his views on the Making of US Foreign Policy and Pakistan, Ambassador (R) Riaz Hussain Khokhar, Former Foreign Secretary remarked that the Pak-US relationship should be evaluated from a dispassionate lens rather than emotionally. ‘We should be frank with the Trump administration about what Pakistan can actually deliver in Afghanistan especially in terms of the Taliban because at the end of the day, Pakistan does not have the kind of influence which is often projected.’ He remarked that ‘having a “strategic relationship” with the US is out-of-the-window and one should not have high hopes for that since the US has already courted India.’ Ambassador Khokhar reminded the audience that the US is still unable to stomach Pakistan’s nuclear program which it is keeping an eye on more keenly than even Iran’s program. He recommended that Pakistan should adopt an assertive message that it is sincere and committed to having a good and sustainable relationship with the US; activate Pakistan’s diaspora in the US; instead of being enamored with lobbyists, Pakistan’s embassy in Washington needs to be strengthened.

In the session on Identifying Factors of Trust Deficit in Pakistan-US Relations, chaired by Lt General (R) Asif Yasin Malik, HI (M), Former Defence Secretary, Government of Pakistan, Dr Salma Malik from the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad expounded on the relationship between regional actors, especially India-Pakistan and the role of the US. She said that Pakistan's relations with India and the US can be examined at bilateral, triadal and even at the multilateral level where Pakistan has consistently strived for good relations with India, never missing on the initiative towards normalization of ties, while fully cognizant of the general negative issues such as Kashmir to be a priority. She said that there has not been a reciprocation of warmth and good will from New Delhi. Over the seven decades, there have been many up and down swings in bilateral relations between the two neighbours – with the US playing a proactive role of moderator during time of crises much to India's displeasure. 'However', she said that 'the last two decades have seen this balance tilting in India's favour – with the landmark strategic partnership, signing of recent 2+ 2 agreement, US support to a nuclear normalization attempt by India and shift in the Asia pivot has taken the India-Pakistan rivalry into a very different direction.' Dr Malik pointed that 'the challenges for Pakistan have increased manifold as a result of these developments, further affected by the arrogant, antagonistic and dismissive attitude of the Indian leadership which leaves little space for an open, unconditional engagement and dialogue.' She recommended that 'in this situation, for Pakistan to rely on Washington as a neutral mediator is no longer an option – but what is imperative for Islamabad is to develop indigenous capabilities, strengthen its economic profile, engage with world capitals and work towards sustainable governance to negotiate from a position of strength.'

On the issue of promoting Pakistan-US cooperation in countering extremism and terrorism, Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, said that Pakistan has been at the forefront of the war on terror for the US which has had its own severe backlash. 'Leaving it alone with a few accusations is not the solution to the problem. More economic and financial assistance to Pakistan will contribute to the emergence of a more tolerant society. 'The US putting Pakistan in the grey list of the FATF will be counterproductive', he said. Dr Soherwordi concluded that Washington needs to craft a vision of the future that places Pakistan into a much larger regional context beyond the prism of looking at it from the Afghan and Indian perspective.

In the interactive and packed Q/A session, the eminent speakers reiterated that Pakistan needs to take advantage of its geographical location as its biggest asset. For stability and security, there should be no pockets of alienation in the country, otherwise alien forces can take advantage of such issues. Pakistan needs to maintain credibility of its policy positions because once credibility is gone, no one on the international stage will trust such a country or its leaders.

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Think Beyond Security in Pak-US Ties: Speakers

ISLAMABAD: The key challenge for both Pakistan and the US is to build a relationship that transcends the security-centric approach of bilateral engagements, speakers at a two-day national conference on Pak-US ties recommended on Tuesday. Both the countries need to focus on furthering cooperation in areas of economics, trade, development and culture. Such an approach will help achieve the goal of a peaceful and prosperous region, they said at the moot titled Irritants in Pakistan-US Relations: Way Forward organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). The eminent scholars proposed that to remove the mutual mistrust between Pakistan and the US and to revive cooperation, it is important to holistically debate key irritants that mar bilateral ties, understand each others security concerns, acknowledge contributions made in achieving peace in the region and work on commonalities, in which, both sides can work together and expand cooperation. It is important for Pakistan to look inwards because only economic autonomy can give the country an independent foreign policy and a sustainable future. Both the US and China are superpowers. Pakistan needs friendly and close relations with both countries. Pakistans relations with each cannot be at the expense of one over the other.

IPRI Acting President Brig (ret'd) Sohail Tirmizi said that the present Pakistan-US relationship suffers from mutual mistrust and suspicion due to divergent approaches and interests in the region. To further put pressure, the US administration has ceased military training for defence personnel and the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan, resorted to the use of diplomatically harsh language and exercised its influence in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Brig Tirmizi pointed out that the US relations with India and Afghanistan have been instrumental in formulating its policy towards Pakistan. US disregard of Pakistans sensitivities, its legitimate security interests vis-a-vis these states has not helped to bridge the mistrust in their relationship, he said.

Ambassador Inamul Haq stressed that the US has no intention of allowing a challenge to its primacy in the world by any country, including China. It will use all the means at its disposal to remain the undisputed and sole superpower of the world. Full spectrum domination is primary objective of the US. The former foreign minister and IPRI Board of Governors chairman pointed out that foreign policy cannot be based on self-delusion, and false assumptions. Without an autonomous economy, no country can have an autonomous foreign policy, he said.

In the first session, former ambassador Shamshad Ahmed said: foreign policy is an external reflection of a country's internal conditions. So if a country is weak and crippled from inside, its foreign policy will not be robust and strong either. He was of the view that Pakistan's economy and governance systems should be strengthened so that we are not at the beck and call of any country, including the US.

Discussing his views on the Making of US Foreign Policy and Pakistan, ex-foreign secretary and

ambassador (ret'd) Riaz Hussain Khokhar remarked: We should be frank with the Trump administration about what Pakistan can actually deliver in Afghanistan especially in terms of the Taliban because at the end of the day, Pakistan does not have the kind of influence which is often projected.

Lt General (R) Asif Yasin Malik chaired the session on Identifying Factors of Trust Deficit in Pakistan-US Relations. Dr Salma Malik who is currently working at QAU Department of Defence and Strategic Studies said balance of US is tilting in India's favour with the landmark strategic partnership signing of recent 2+ 2 agreement, US support to a nuclear normalization attempt by India and shift in the Asia pivot has taken the India-Pakistan rivalry into a very different direction.

On the issue of promoting Pakistan-US cooperation in countering extremism and terrorism, Dr Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar, said Washington needs to craft a vision of the future that places Pakistan into a much larger regional context beyond the prism of looking at it from the Afghan and Indian perspective.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 10th, 2018.

<<https://www.igreen.pk/en/news/50770-Think-beyond-security-in-PakUS-ties-speakers.html>>