

**TWENTY YEARS OF PAK-UZBEK TIES  
(1992-2011)**

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## PREFACE

Uzbekistan with a total population of over 27 million is spread over an area of about 447,400 square kilometers. It is doubly landlocked bordering other landlocked countries — Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan were established on May 10, 1992, but both countries have had close links since the mediaeval times. Amir Temur, the ruler of Samarqand (Uzbekistan) and world conqueror occupied Delhi in 1398 and declared himself the Emperor of India. One of his descendents, Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur established his dynastic rule (1526-30) in Delhi which lasted for over three centuries till 1857 when it was replaced by the British. It was during the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Britain occupied the areas which now constitute Pakistan and Russia conquered Uzbekistan. Thus the occupation of the two countries by two colonial powers — Russia and Britain — had temporarily terminated the intimate relationship between the people of Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations are based on geographical proximity, common history, religion, culture, traditions and values. Pakistan and Uzbekistan are cooperating in several spheres, notably, the war against terrorism, combating religious extremism, etc. They need to further strengthen and enhance their collaboration in areas such as science and technology, banking and insurance, pharmaceutical industry, tourism, energy, information, broadcasting and media development. Academic and cultural exchanges also need to be promoted. More than anything else it is most important to develop bilateral trade, which is much below people's expectations.

Being members of regional organizations such as Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Conference on Interaction on Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA), they have common platforms to institutionalize their mutually beneficial relations. It is hoped, when there would be peace in Afghanistan, it would be possible to develop rail and road connectivity and modern communication network, to help boost trade and commerce between the two countries. Uzbekistan can use Afghanistan and Pakistani ports which provide the shortest and cheapest routes for access to global markets.

The *IPRI Factfile* is a compilation of selected articles, reports, joint statements and other documents relating to the period between 1992 and 2011.

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## UZBEKISTAN

Amir Temur (1336—1405) is known in the history not only as a conqueror, but also as a great statesman, experienced warlord, builder and protector of science, culture and Islam.

In the middle of XIV century Mawaraunnahr and Turkestan were divided apparently into ten belligerent beks (small kingdoms). After hard and series of battles (1360 — 1370) Amir Temur had liberated the country from Mongol domination. Ten years were required to overcome the resistance of separate ulus (clan) rulers. By 1380 Temur united the country and established centralized state of Temurid's Empire, which became worldwide famous and developed country.

The history of Temur and Temurids, that accounts 466 years — it is not only the history of Temur and his descendants, but first of all it is the history of the people of Middle Asia, Middle and Near East and South Asia.

Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur (1483-1530), popularly known as “Babur”, was the founder of Baburid's or Mughal Empire. He was born in Fergana, now in Uzbekistan on February 14, 1483. Babur was a descendant of Amir Timur on his father's side and of Chingiz Khan on his mother's side.

When Babur's father Umar Sheikh Mirza died in 1494, he inherited the ancestral kingdom of Fergana. He was only 12 years old at that time. He was driven out of his father's state and for two years he became a wanderer. 1504 he came to Afghanistan where he assumed the title of Padishah, and later became a ruler of India in 1525. Babur didn't live long to rule his Kingdom. He died in Agra on December 26, 1530. The empire founded by him lasted 331 years and tied forever the nations of Central and South Asia.

Russia conquered Uzbekistan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Stiff resistance to the red army after World War I was eventually suppressed and a socialist republic set up in 1924. During the soviet era, intensive production of "white gold" (cotton) and grain led to overuse of agrochemicals and the depletion of water supplies, which have left the land poisoned and the Aral Sea and certain rivers half dry. In 2011 Uzbekistan has celebrated 20 Years of Independence. The country has turned from Agrarian country to industrial and economic power of the region.

**Area:** *Total:* 447,400 sq km

*Land:* 425,400 sq km

*Water:* 22,000 sq km

**Land Boundaries:** *Total:* 6,221 km

*Border Countries:* Afghanistan 137 km, Kazakhstan 2,203 km, Kyrgyzstan 1,099 km, Tajikistan 1,161 km, Turkmenistan 1,621 km.

**Climate:** mostly mid-latitude desert, long, hot summers, mild winters; semiarid grassland in east.

**Terrain:** mostly flat-to-rolling sandy desert with dunes; broad, flat intensely irrigated river valleys along course of Amu Darya, Syr Darya (Sirdaryo), and Zarafshon; Fergana Valley in east surrounded by mountainous Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan; shrinking Aral Sea in west.

**Natural Resources:** natural gas, petroleum, coal, gold, uranium, silver, copper, lead and zinc, tungsten, molybdenum.

**Geography - note:** along with Liechtenstein, one of the only two doubly landlocked countries in the world.

**Population:** 27,307,134 (July 2006 est.)

**Life Expectancy at Birth:** *total population:* 64.58 years

*male:* 61.19 years

*female:* 68.14 years (2006 est.)

**Ethnic Groups:** Uzbek 80%, Russian 5.5%, Tajik 5%, Kazakh 3%, Karakalpak 2.5%, Tatar 1.5%, other 2.5% (1996 est.)

**Religions:** Muslim 88% (mostly Sunnis), Eastern Orthodox 9%, other 3%

**Languages:** Uzbek 74.3%, Russian 14.2%, Tajik 4.4%, other 7.1%

**Literacy:** *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write

*total population:* 99.3%

*male:* 99.6%

*female:* 99% (2003 est.)

**Government Type:** Presidential Republic

**Capital:** Tashkent (Toshkent)

**Independence:** 1 September 1991 (from Soviet Union)

**Executive Branch:** *Chief of state:* President Islam KARIMOV (since 24 March 1990, when he was elected president by the then Supreme Soviet)

*Head of government:* Prime Minister Shavkat MIRZIYAYEV (since 11 December 2003).

*Cabinet:* Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the president with approval of the Supreme Assembly.

*Elections:* President elected by popular vote for a seven-year term (previously was a five-year term, extended by constitutional amendment in 2002); election last held in 2007; prime minister, ministers, and deputy ministers nominated by the Parliament and approved by the President.

**Economy – Overview:** Uzbekistan has denied the obsolete totalitarian, administrative-command and planning-distributive system and has chosen open market economy based on its own Uzbek model of development.

The essence and substance of the model are as follows: radical changing and renewal of the state and constitutional order; implementing political, economic and social reforms based on principles of deideologization of economy and its priority over politics, giving the state the role of a major reformer, ensuring rule of law, providing strong social policy and implementing the reforms on the gradual basis.

From the onset Uzbekistan has denied the methods of “shock therapy” and deceptive ideas about self-regulation of market economy and chosen the evolutionary approach in the transition from administrative-command towards market system of management, while acting in line with the principle: “do not destroy the old house, until you build a new one” and “reforms are not for the sake of reforms, but for a common man”.

Uzbek Government has announced the year 2011 as the Year of small and medium enterprises to further strengthen the business activities with the regional countries.

Despite the serious impact of the global financial and economic crisis, Uzbekistan among few states in the world maintains stably high growth rates of economy and a reliable financial and banking system.

For the last 10 consecutive years Uzbekistan is securing 8-9 % of GDP growth annually. In 2009-2010 the growth rates of economy made up 8.1 and 8.5 % respectively, and this year this index is expected at the level of 8.5 percent. The external state debt does not exceed 10 percent of the GDP.

The growth of Uzbekistan’s GDP during 20 years of our independent development made up 3.5 times, and per capita ratio accounted for 2.5 times, the growth of population’s real incomes made up 3.8 times and the achieved considerable improvement of living standards, which have resulted in decrease of maternal mortality rate to more than 2 times, children’s mortality rate – to 3 times, increase of average life expectancy made up from 67 to 73, and the life expectancy of women – up to 75 years.

In Uzbekistan, annual expenditures for education make up 10-12 percent of the GDP, while this indicator does not exceed 3-5 percent in international practice. A mandatory 12-year education system is introduced from 2009. Annually, over 50 percent of the national budget is earmarked to social sphere.

**Currency (code):** Uzbekistani soum (UZS)

### **Uzbek Model of Development**

Only 20 years have passed since the time when the Republic of Uzbekistan became an Independent State and joined the ranks of full-fledged members of

the United Nations. September 1, 1991, the day when Uzbekistan's independence was proclaimed, came as new starting point.

Following the end of "Cold War" and the collapse of the USSR, the newly independent countries faced a range of political, economic and social challenges, which coupled with the rise of international terrorism and drug-trafficking, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and organized crime.

For over the years of independent development, Uzbekistan – with its one-sided hypertrophied, raw-based economy, destructive monopoly of cotton raw production, primitive manufacturing and social infrastructure and low per capita consumption level – has managed to secure achievements that have entirely changed its image and place in the world community.

The elaboration and implementation at the next phase of our reforms of such laws as "On guarantees of freedom of entrepreneurship", "On private enterprise", "On currency regulation", "On foreign economic activity", "On farms", the new wording of the tax code and more than 400 laws on reforming the economy, served not only as a solid legal foundation of further liberalization and modernization of economy, but also stood as a guarantee of irreversibility of market reforms underway. ...

### **Fostering Political and Judicial Reforms**

The reforms being carried out for over the past period in political and judicial spheres were aimed at consistent implementing the constitutional principle of separation of powers, creating an effective system of checks and balances, strengthening the role of powers and controlling functions of the legislative and representative branch of power in the center and on the local level, as well as accomplishing measures on liberalization and independence of judicial system.

The Government has paid a lot of attention to decentralization of governance, delegating the part of functions from republican level to the bodies of regional, city and district levels, and establishing such a unique system of local self-governance in Uzbekistan as makhalla.

The outcomes of referendum held on January 27, 2002 on establishing the bicameral national parliament as well as adoption of the Law "On the results of referendum and the main principles of organizing the state power" defined the basis for a deep reforming the legislative power.

In Uzbekistan we have implemented a set of organizational and legal measures aimed at consistent consolidation of judicial power, ensuring independence of court, turning it from the repressive instrument and punitive apparatus in the past into a truly independent institution of state called upon to reliably protect and safeguard the rights and freedoms of a citizen.

Thanks to these and other measures on liberalization of the criminal punishments, today Uzbekistan has one of the lowest indicators in the world in terms of the number of imprisoned per 100 thousand people of the country, i.e. 166 people. Let us compare: in Russia this indicator makes up 611 and in the United States – 738 people.

It was an act of exclusive importance to abolish the death penalty in Uzbekistan from January 2008 and replacing it with the punishment in the form of life and long-term imprisonment.

The introduction of “habeas corpus” became a principal step forward, i.e. in 2008 the prosecutor’s office delegated to court the right to issue the arrest warrant as a measure of restraint.

Since 2001 the institute of reconciliation was introduced to the law-enforcement and judicial practice and it is now effectively working. According to this practice, the person who commits a crime that does not pose grave public danger and fully compensates material and moral damage to victims shall not be a subject for criminal liability.

### **Towards an Independent Media**

For over the past years, and particularly, for over the last 10 years, the large-scale set of organizational and legal measures was implemented in the country to ensure the freedom of speech and liberalize the mass media.

We have established the improved legislative basis of developing the mass media, which meets the democratic requirements and standards. For over this period about 10 acts of legislation were adopted to provide the effective functioning of the information space and to develop vibrant and independent media.

As a result of this extensive work for over the last ten years alone, the number of print mass media grew to 1.5 times, and the number of electronic mass media – to 7 times and now makes up about 1200 mass media outlets. About 53 percent of all television channels and 85 percent of radio channels are the non-state.

The objective assessment of the path Uzbekistan has passed during the past 20 years and accumulated experience, and the analysis of achievements secured during the past years of Independence convincingly prove that we have chosen the right model of evolutionary, step by step and gradual development of the country.

Today, we have all grounds to assert that we have achieved the main thing – the process of reforming and democratization of the country has acquired an irrevocable, irreversible and consistent nature. In fact, it is these changes and these transformations in the mindset of people and our entire

society that now become a dominant powertrain which ensures the country's advancement along the path of progress and prosperity.

### **Boosting Brotherly Ties with Pakistan**

The Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan maintain close relations, which are based on strong historical, cultural and religious ties. Uzbek-Pakistani relations were developing on the basis of principles of traditional friendship, mutual respect and interest.

Regular high-level meetings are an important factor in development of relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Reached agreements and signed documents contribute to the deepening of bilateral cooperation in the political, trade-economic, and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

The economic relations between the two states are based upon more than 30 bilateral agreements, including on avoiding double taxation, on mutual stimulation and protection of investments and on cooperation in the trade, economic, investment and customs spheres.

On June 2010 (10-12 June) the high level talks between the Presidents of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Islam Karimov and his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ali Zardari were held on the sidelines of SCO Summit in Tashkent.

In March 2011, the 5th JMC was held in Islamabad. As a follow-up, the successful visit of H.E. Mr. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani to Uzbekistan in March 2011 has taken place and meaningful talks with Uzbek counterpart – PM Shaukat Mirziaev and President Islam Karimov have been held. During the talks, it was mutually agreed to boost and strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields and to encourage the business community of the two brotherly countries to exchange business delegations.

Though the bilateral trade turnover has increased twofold - from 20 million USD in 2005 up to 40 million in 2010, it is believed that the true potential of the bilateral cooperation is yet to be employed.

In March 2011, during the meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, H.E. Shaukat Mirziaev, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan has rightly pointed out that two sides would aim to increase the bilateral trade five-fold. He added that Uzbekistan could sell locally made trucks, buses and machinery to Pakistan's farming sector.

Among the other issues, the sides have discussed deepening of the multilateral cooperation, strengthening understanding, stability and security related issues in the world and development of regional cooperation.

The leaders of two brotherly countries once more reiterated their firm commitment to continue the relentless efforts in boosting bilateral cooperation

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and coordinated steps for the peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict in the frameworks of the regional initiatives.

Press Release of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad,  
October 20, 2011.

## **REPORT ON THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN TO PAKISTAN FROM 13-14 AUGUST 1992**

The President of Uzbekistan Mr. Islam Karimov visited Pakistan from 13 to 14 August 1992 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. President Karimov was also the Guest of Honour at the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Pakistan's Independence Day.

President Karimov had a cordial meeting with the President of Pakistan for over an hour in which the two leaders agreed to give a fillip to bilateral relations.

President Karimov had a *tete-e-tete* meeting with the Prime Minister and two rounds of official talks in which they discussed measures to strengthen bilateral relations. The talks were constructive and held in a very cordial atmosphere. They also provided an opportunity for exchange of views on issues of regional and international concern.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish short term and long term routes for commencement of Transit trade through Karachi. It has also been decided to examine the feasibility of laying a railway line. A Pakistan technical delegation will visit Uzbekistan shortly to explore prospects for cooperation in the field of natural gas.

The following bilateral Agreements were also signed during the visit:

- a. Agreement on the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments.
- b. Agreement on cooperation in the sphere of Post and Telecommunication.
- c. Agreement on cooperation in the sphere of water resources, power generation, irrigation and land reclamation.
- d. Agreement on cooperation between the State Bank of Pakistan and the Central Bank of Uzbekistan.
- e. Agency agreement between the National Bank of Pakistan and the National Bank of Foreign Economic Activity of Uzbekistan.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, vol. XIX, issue 5-12 (May-December 1992): 230-231.

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN ON COOPERATION IN THE  
SPHERES OF WATER RESOURCES, POWER GENERATION,  
IRRIGATION AND LAND RECLAMATION**

Islamabad; August 13, 1992

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan hereinafter referred to as parties, expressing their readiness to establish and develop cooperation in the sphere of water resources, power generation and transmission, irrigation and land reclamation, have agreed on the following:

**Article 1**

For the purpose of strengthening of long-standing mutually beneficial direct ties the parties shall promote development of diversified forms of cooperation between (enterprise, amalgamations, organizations, institutions of) the Ministry of Water and Power of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Ministry of Power and Electrification of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with legislation acting in the two countries with present Agreement and other documents.

**Article 2**

Cooperation on the scope of the Agreement between the two countries shall include unexclusively to the following:

- i. Design and construction of electricity transmission, power substations and hydro-electric and thermal power stations.
- ii. Design and construction of dams, reservoirs, irrigation and land reclamation and their exploitation with participation of enterprises of state and private sectors with possible cooperation of firms and companies of third countries.
- iii. Design of tube-wells for water supply of rural areas.
- iv. Storage, utilization and conservation of water resources.
- v. Joint engineering and consulting for design, construction and technical supervision in construction and exploitation of water and Power projects.
- vi. Training of specialists in Water and Power Sector and establishment of training centres.

- vii. Exchange of delegations of technical experts on scientific research, project design, construction works and exploitation of water and power projects.
- viii. Manufacture of equipment and mutual transfer of technologies.
- ix. Utilization of drop irrigation system, water meters and appliances for irrigation systems.
- x. Preservation, reclamation, desaltation of irrigated lands and raising the productivity level to the world standards.
- xi. Cooperation in the sphere of relevant industrial production, agricultural and water resources fields and transfer of technology for new processes.
- xii. Exchange between nominated representatives of the ministries.
- xiii. In case of necessity, the parties shall consider other avenues for joint cooperation. One each of such projects mutually agreed protocol would be signed.

### **Article 3**

For the purpose of realization of the present Agreement representatives of the ministries shall hold working meetings with mutual agreements in Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

### **Article 4**

Within the period of force of the present Agreement the parties shall on mutual basis provide each other necessary documents and materials relating to specifics of those works and commercial operations will be arranged that shall serve the interests of the present Agreement.

### **Article 5**

The present Agreement shall come into force from the date of its signing.

### **Article 6**

The present Agreement shall remain in force for five years. If none of the parties notifies to the other party six months before expiry date about its termination, its force shall automatically be prolonged for another five years.

Done in Islamabad on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1992, in two originals in English and Uzbek languages, both texts being equally valid.

-Sd-

For the Government of the  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

-Sd-

For the Government of  
The Republic of Uzbekistan

## **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN ON COOPERATION IN THE SPHERES OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Islamabad; August 13, 1992

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan hereinafter called "Parties".

Following the aspiration for the development of good neighbourly relations based on the equality rights and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Desiring to develop and extend mutual relations in the sphere of telecommunications, have agreed on the following:

### **Article 1**

The parties will endeavour to develop cooperation in the sphere of telecommunications within the framework of the present agreement by arrangement and carry out mail exchange, bank's mail exchange and telecommunications between the appropriate units of both parties and in case of necessity they can conclude separate treaties concerning the above mentioned activities.

### **Article 2**

The parties will carry out electronic mail and communications on the basis of the Conventions in force of the Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union and also on the basis of additional agreements.

### **Article 3**

The parties by mutual agreement will create all required conditions for the establishment and improvement of the telecommunications.

### **Article 4**

The parties shall keep a watch on the development and quality of the telecommunications between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan and in the case of emergency, keeping within the bounds of their competence, undertake measures for satisfying the ever increasing demand in the sphere of modern and high quality services of telecommunications.

The parties shall facilitate access to the telecommunication network from the designated gateway exchange and services of common utilization to promote the development of services within the states of the Parties and between them.

The parties shall study the matter of establishment of direct satellite communication links between Islamabad and Tashkent through Intelsat satellite at 63 degrees East, on mutually agreed basis.

### **Article 5**

The parties shall do their best to:

- a. Establish Expedited Mail Service/International Speed Post and International Fax Mail Links in order to provide fast and reliable mail communication network between them.
- b. Maintain and promote mutual cooperation and assistance for the improvement of mail services.
- c. Make arrangements for the exchange of mail through the shortest profitable routes.
- d. Help each other in the introduction of fast mail and money order service, both domestic and foreign.
- e. Provide freedom of transit to each other with regard to its inward and outward international mail. For this purpose, the office of exchange at Karachi and Tashkent will serve as the focal points. The transit facility under this agreement shall be governed by the provision of article 1 of U.P.U Convention.
- f. Exchange of specialist/experts for sharing each other's expertise.

### **Article 6**

The parties shall cooperate in the fields of philately and printing of postage stamps. They will also hold philatelic exhibitions by rotation, exchange visit of philatelic delegations, as well as issue commemorative stamps on mutually agreed themes on appointed dates.

### **Article 7**

The parties shall provide close and mutually beneficial cooperation in the sphere of radio frequency management and coordination including expeditious processing of all coordination applications. If necessary, the parties shall hold special coordination meetings on issues relating to utilization of radio frequency.

**Article 8**

The parties shall develop and cooperate in the sphere of standardization of telecommunications services and equipment in both states to meet the prescribed International telecommunications standards.

**Article 9**

The parties shall develop cooperation in training and exchange of specialists in field of telecommunications. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall extend facilities in its training institutes for training of Uzbek Specialists.

**Article 10**

The parties shall discuss the matters of setting up joint ventures for production of telecommunications equipment, including telephone sets, exchange equipment, telephone cables etc.

**Article 11**

The parties shall regularly exchange information according to this Agreement, and also on other related issues including matters of international organization's activities concerning mail and telecommunication.

**Article 12**

The parties shall establish joint commission for implementing this agreement, forwarding new proposals and recommendations in the concerned fields. It will meet once a year, in Islamabad and Tashkent alternatively. The parties will have equal number of representatives in this Commission.

**Article 13**

This agreement shall enter into force on the date of signing and shall be effective for a period of five years.

Period of validity of this agreement shall be automatically prolonged every five years if no alternative proposal is offered by either of the parties six months prior to the expiration of the Agreement.

Done at Islamabad on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1992, in two originals each in English and Uzbek languages, both text equally authentic.

-Sd-

For the Government of  
The Republic of Uzbekistan

-Sd-

For the Government of  
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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## AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN ON THE RECIPROCAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

Islamabad; August 13, 1992

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan hereinafter referred to as Parties, desiring to create favorable conditions for investments by investors of one Party on the territory of the other Party, taking into account that reciprocal promotion and protection of such investment shall encourage development of mutually beneficial trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

Agreeing that a favorable and fair status of investments is desirable in order to maintain a stable framework of investment and maximum effective utilization of economic resources, and having resolved to conclude an agreement concerning the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments, hereby resolved to conclude an agreement concerning the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments, hereby have agreed as follows.

### **Article 1**

1. For the present Agreement the following terms shall stand for:
  - a. "Investor" any physical entity being citizen of either Party and any legal entity constituted in accordance with either Party's legislation;
  - b. "Investment", shall encompass all types of property values which the "Investors" of either Party shall invest on the territory of either Party in conformity with its legislation and in particular:
    - Invested property, whether movable or immovable and any property rights;
    - Monetary values as well as shares, stocks and other forms of participation in companies;
    - Rights of pledging for money invested to operate economic values or for services having economic value;
    - Movable property including patent rights, trademarks, industrial samples, as well as technology and know-how;
    - Copyrights;
    - Rights for business activities rendered according to legislation or contracts, including in particular the rights for exploration, elaboration and exploitation of natural resources.

- c) “Returns” the amount yielded by an investment according to subparagraph (b), paragraph 1 of the present Article, in particular payments, as well as those for technical assistance and technical services and other payments;
2. The present Agreement shall be valid on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

## **Article 2**

1. Each party shall encourage investors of the other party to invests on its territory and in accordance with its legislation admit such investments.
2. Each party guarantees full and unconditional legal protection to the other party’s investments, in accordance with the national legislation of the Parties.

## **Article 3**

1. Each party shall ensure a fair and equitable regime excluding discriminative measures preventing from management and disposing investments, for the other party’s investments on its territory.
2. The regime indicated in paragraph 1 of the present Article can not be less favorable than that granted to its own or any third country investors for investments and similar activities.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of both parties relating to entry, sojourn and employment of aliens:

- a. Nationals of either party shall be permitted to enter and remain on the territory of the other party for purposes of establishing, developing, administering or advising on the operation of an investment to which they, or an investor of the first party that employs them, have committed or are in the process of committing a substantial amount of capital or other resources;
- b. Legal entities legally constituted under the rules and regulations of one party, and which are investors of the other party, shall be permitted to employ management and technical personnel of their choice;
3. Each party shall receive the right to determine branches of economy and spheres of activities restricted or limited for foreign investments.
4. The regime of most favorable nation granted in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present Article shall not be applied to favours granted or to be granted by the Party in future; In connection with

participation in a free economic zone, customs or economic unions;  
On the basis of a double taxation prevention agreement or any other  
taxation accords.

#### **Article 4**

Investments of either party accomplished on the other party's territory shall not be subject for nationalization or measures of similar effect (herein after referred to as "Nationalization") except for cases when such measures are taken in public interests, as stipulated by legislation in non-discriminatory manner, upon payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation. Compensation shall be equivalent to the real value of nationalized investment at the moment of practical nationalization or future nationalization being promulgated. Until the moment of payment interest shall be put down to the compensation sum according to the interests rate of the party hosting the investment.

#### **Article 5**

1. Each party guarantees to the other party's investors free transfer of money resulting from investments after all relevant taxes and duties paid, in particular those of:
  - a) Returns as stipulated in subparagraph (c), paragraph 1, Article 1 of the present Agreement;
  - b) Sums paid of for loans recognized by the Parties as investments;
  - c) Proceeds from partial or full liquidation or sail of investments;
  - d) Salaries, wages and other remunerations earned by those nationals of a Party having received permission for employment connected with investment's on territory of the other party;
  - e) Compensation pursuant to the Article 4 of the present Agreement;
  - f) Payment arising from investment disputes.

#### **Article 6**

Disputes between one of the parties and an investor of other party, arising from investment, including disputes over measure, conditions or procedures of compensation, payments shall be settled, preferably through negotiations. In case a dispute is not resolved in that matter within 6 months from the moment of its origin, the dispute may be submitted to;

- a) A competent court of arbitration of a party hosting the investment;
- b) One of the internationally recognized organs of arbitration according to mutual agreement to disputing parties;

- c) An Ad Hoc court of arbitration laid down under the arbitration rules of procedure of United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

### **Article 7**

At the request of either they may hold consultations on issues of interpretation or application of the present agreement.

### **Article 8**

1. Disputes between the parties concerning interpretation and application of the present agreement shall be resolved through negotiation.

In case a dispute is not resolved in that manner, at the request of either it may be submitted to arbitration court.

2. The arbitration court shall be established separately for each concrete case. The parties shall appoint one member of the court and jointly a national of a third country as the court chairman.

Members of the court shall be appointed within two months and chairman-within months from the moment when either party declares its intentions to submit the issue to the arbitration court.

3. The court of arbitration shall take decisions by majority vote. The decision shall be imperative for the parties. Each of the parties shall bear expenses originating from the activities of the relevant court members appointed by them. Expenses relating to the chairman's activities as well as other court expenses shall be borne by the parties in equal parts. The court of the arbitration shall take independent decisions on all other issues of its procedures.

### **Article 9**

The present agreement shall be applied to all investments accomplished after its coming into force.

### **Article 10**

The present agreement shall enter into force on the fifth day after the parties notify each other on fulfillment of their necessary constitutional procedures to that end.

The present agreement shall remain valid for ten years.

The agreement may be terminated through notification by either of the parties 6 months before the date of expiry.

In relation to investments accomplished before the date of termination of the present Agreement, provisions of Article 1-9 shall remain valid for further 10 years after the date.

Done at the Islamabad on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1992, in two originals each in English and Uzbek, both texts being equality valid.

-Sd-  
For the Government of  
The Islamic Republic of  
Pakistan

-Sd-  
For the Government of  
The Republic of  
Uzbekistan

*Foreign affairs Pakistan*, vol. XIX, issue 5-12 (May-December 1992): 319-324.

**REPORT ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE  
CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN,  
TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN  
FROM 7-14 JANUARY, 1994**

The Foreign Minister paid a week long (7-14 January) visit to the Central Asian Republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. In Almaty, he presided over Regional Envoys Conference of our ambassadors to the central Asian republics. The foreign ministers tour of the Central Asian Republics was not only meant to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to promoting the closest possible relations with these states but also to identify ways and means to provide further impetus to strengthening bilateral relations especially in the economic field. ...

While in Uzbekistan, the Foreign Minister held discussions with President Islam Karimov and his Uzbek counterpart and the two sides agreed to cooperate in fields of narcotics and anti-terrorism.

Sardar Aseff in his one-and-a-hour talks with President Karimov apprised him on the volatile political situation in held Kashmir and drew his attention to the flagrant human rights violations by Indian security forces of innocent Kashmiris, especially the custodial deaths he said freedom movement in occupied Kashmir could not be branded as terrorism.

He also discussed nuclear issue with Uzbek President and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to non-proliferation.

The Foreign Minister shared with Uzbek President Pakistan's profound concerns over highly volatile situation in Afghanistan. He briefed the Uzbek leader about Pakistan's continuing efforts to revive the process of conciliation for a lasting political settlement. The two leaders agreed that the continuing turmoil in Afghanistan posed a serious threat to regional peace and stability.

They agreed to remain in close contact for promoting peace and conciliation in Afghanistan.

President Karimov expressed his keen interest in the development of road links between Uzbekistan and Pakistan via Afghanistan. The two countries are expected to reinvigorate the process of consultations within the framework of the Pak-Afghan-Uzbek memorandum of understanding.

On bilateral matters, President Karimov conveyed his full support to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in every possible field. He expressed his appreciation for the enthusiasm shown by Pakistani enterprise in strengthening bilateral relations.

The Uzbek President asked Sardar Aseff to convey his warm greetings to President Farooq Laghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Later, briefing members of the media team accompanying him on his Central Asian odyssey, the Foreign Minister termed his talks with Uzbek President extremely useful. "I am very satisfied with the talks", he told journalists. He said the "element of confidence" characterized these talks. He hoped that they will lead to a breakthrough in relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile, the Uzbek Minister for Highways Mr. Yunusov hosted a luncheon in honour of Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali. Also present on the occasion was the Uzbek minister for Foreign Economic Relations Mr. Muratbek Roustambekov. The Foreign Minister conveyed his felicitations to the Uzbek authorities on their decision to repair and construct the road from Termex Port to Herat in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister responded positively to the Uzbek suggestion that Pakistan should reinvigorate efforts for assisting Afghanistan in the repair of the road from Chamman to Herat so that the Central Asian Republics could use the Karachi port for the transit trade. During the luncheon a number of proposals were discussed between the two ministries. It was decided that Pakistan would try and benefit from the approach of Uzbek authorities in building road in Afghanistan at an extremely low cost of one hundred thousand dollars per kilometer. It was decided that very soon Uzbek technical delegation will visit Pakistan to exchange views for facilitating further progress.

The Foreign minister also met the Uzbek minister for Foreign Economic Relations Otkur T. Sultanov and held a detailed discussion that focused on joint ventures and utilization of Pakistan's communication system for exports of goods from Uzbekistan via Karachi Port.

The Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali held wide-ranging talks with his Uzbek counter part Mr. Saidmukhtar Saidgazievich Saidkasimov at the Foreign Ministry. The talks were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere characterizing the close bilateral relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

They covered a detailed review of bilateral issues and the regional situation. Agreement in principle was reached on mutual cooperation in

diverse areas of bilateral interests including cooperation in the field of anti-terrorism and anti-narcotics. Uzbekistan also indicated its desire to open its embassy in Islamabad.

The two Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, as well as the Afghan-Tajik problem.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, Vol.XXI, issue 1-6 (Jan-June 1994):230-232.

## REPORT ON A CALL ON PRESIDENT FAROOQ AHMED KHAN LEGHARI BY THE VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER OF UZBEKISTAN

Islamabad; July 26, 1995

President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, while speaking to the visiting foreign minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Hafizovich Kamilov, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr said that a moderate, democratic and progressive Pakistan can act as a bridge between the Muslim countries and the Western world.

The President said that Pakistan could also play a crucial role for peace and stability in the region and in the world. "He said Pakistan has cordial relations with all countries in the region except India with which we have tension due to the unresolved Kashmir problem. More than six lack Indian troops have ruthlessly brutalized, and as a consequence, alienate the entire Kashmiri population."

He thanked Uzbekistan for its continued support for the just cause self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The President emphasized the need to open up Central Asian region by building communications network in the region which could enormous benefit all the countries in the South East, the Middle East, the Central Asia & republics and even the southern Russia and the eastern Syberia.

"For this, we must have peace and stability in the war-to Afghanistan and Pakistan was willing to play its role in the restoration peace and in the reconstruction of Afghanistan." Referring to the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, the President observed that both the countries should focus on vital areas for economic cooperation and joint ventures in agricultural, industrial and mining sectors.

He said that banks and financial institutions were also very important for mutually beneficial economic and business activities and offered Pakistan's assistance to Uzbekistan in building its financial institutions for the purpose.

The Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan agreed with the President and stressed the need to have frequent and regular visits and meetings of the leaders and experts of two countries to exchange views and to meaningfully

improve their cultural, economic and trade co-operation. He also assured of his government's full support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

Earlier, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Hafizovich Kamilov also called on Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali at the Foreign Office and held bilateral talks on matters of mutual interest. Foreign Secretary Najamuddin Shaikh was also present.

The Pak-Uzbek bilateral talks ranged from review of the follow-up of Prime Minister's visit to Uzbekistan in May 1995 to the situation in the region including Kashmir.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister briefed the Pakistan Foreign Minister on President Islam Karimov's proposal for holding a UN seminar on peace and security in Central Asia.

The bilateral talks were held in an atmosphere of warmth and cordiality and were followed by a lunch hosted by the Foreign Minister in the honour of the guest.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, vol. XXII, issue 7-8 (July-Aug 1995): 1-2.

### **EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECHES BY PRIME MINISTER MOHTARMA BENAZIR BHUTTO AND PRESIDENT ISLAM KARIMOV AT A LUNCH HOSTED IN HER HONOUR BY THE PRESIDENT DURING HER VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN**

Tashkent; November 11, 1995

Speaking at a lunch hosted in her honour, Prime Minister Bhutto said, any power-sharing arrangement which is acceptable to the Afghan people and the leaders would have full support of the Government of Pakistan.

"We seek your cooperation to undertake joint efforts to ensure that the Afghan conflict does not spill-over into other countries of the region and the Afghan people reach their much deserved destiny of peace by forming a broad-base government in Afghanistan", she said.

"Pakistan has no preference to any group and new conflicts foster", she said, adding, the people of Afghanistan, Kashmir and Tajikistan yearn for peace."

The Prime Minister said, Pakistan has emerged on the international scene as a Muslim democracy with a constitution and rule of law, a stable macro-economic structure, a responsible international player contributing to freedom the world over through UN peace keeping operations.

Pakistan, she declared, does not believe in interference in internal affairs of other countries. She reiterated Pakistan's resolve to work together in advancing peace and stability in the region for the economic development and well-being of our peoples.

The Prime Minister said, we are deeply concerned about the mindless perpetration of conflict and bloodshed in Afghanistan. “Being an immediate neighbour, Pakistan is directly affected by the turmoil in Afghanistan. We are awaiting an early return of peace and stability in Afghanistan that more than 1.5 million Afghan refugees currently on our soil are able to return to their homeland with dignity and honour”, she added.

“We hope that wisdom would prevail and the Afghan leaders would be able to resolve their differences through peaceful means”, the Prime Minister said.

About Kashmir, she said, “the situation in Jammu and Kashmir remained grave.”

“The Kashmir dispute is the root cause of tension in the subcontinent. It has led to an arms race. India cannot deny the Kashmiris the right to self-determination, a right promised to them by the international community through United Nations’ Security Council resolutions. The United Nations’ Secretary-General has called the Kashmir dispute the oldest incomplete item on the agenda of the UN”, she said.

The Indian authorities recently declared that they would hold elections in the occupied area. However, these elections have been rejected by the Kashmiri leaders who are demanding plebiscite.

The present uprising in Kashmir, the Prime Minister said, came about as a consequence of the rigged elections of 1987. Therefore, we do not see how yet another rigged elections can resolve the crisis.

Another grave concern, she said, is the situation in Tajikistan. “Pakistan supports the efforts of the United Nations and the regional countries to promote peace in Tajikistan”, she declared.

She referred to the third round of intra-Tajik talks held in Islamabad, and said, agreement signed between the parties was a step forward in the peace process. During the fourth round of talks in Almaty, both the sides had agreed to take confidence-building measures. However, peace cannot return to Tajikistan until the two sides address all the core issues and amicably resolve their problems in the fifth round of talks.

### **Speech by the Uzbek President**

In his speech the Uzbek President Islam Karimov, said that we are convinced that the Afghan issue could be resolved only through conducting peaceful negotiations between all political forces in Afghanistan.

He lauded the significant role Pakistan is playing in the region and the world.

“As I have stated many times, the development of Uzbek-Pakistan relations is of great importance for us”, he declared. “Our relations are developing successfully in the cultural, trade, economic and certainly, in the

political spheres”, the Uzbek President said, amidst prolonged clapping.

“According to our agreement”, he said, “multilateral high level meetings would be held in Islamabad with the participation of representatives of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We pay great attention to this forthcoming meeting”, he stated.

He said, the exchange of views between the two states have taken place today on the important regional problems and it has again amply revealed the striving of our governments and the peoples to establish durable peace and stability in the region, to pave the way to peace and reduced tension in the neighbouring Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

He said, recently at the meeting on the issues of security and cooperation in Central Asia held in Tashkent, where the representatives of Pakistan also participated, Uzbekistan definitely made its position clear on this issue.

Referring to the celebration of 50th anniversary of UN, he said, his country raised this matter once again to draw attention of the world community that, “Afghanistan should not turn as an object of contradiction but one of peace and stability.”

President Karimov said that the presence of Ms. Benazir Bhutto today confirms the rapid development of relations between the two countries and the same are expanding and deepening for mutual advantage.

He expressed his confidence that Pakistan Premier’s visit to the peace loving Uzbek land and exchange of views on important problems of the region “will bear their fruits.”

He wished peace and prosperity to the fraternal Pakistani people and for progress of the bilateral relations.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, vol. XXII, issue 11-12 (Nov-Dec 1995): 21-24.

## **REPORT ON THE TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO AND PRESIDENT ISLAM KARIMOV DURING HER VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN**

Tashkent; 11 November 1995

It was agreed during talks between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Uzbek President Islam Karimov in Tashkent on November 11, that Pakistan and Uzbekistan would cooperate with the United Nations and OIC in their efforts to assist the Afghans arrive at an agreement among themselves “for peace and durable solution of Afghan conflict.”

Afghanistan, Kashmir and Tajikistan “with main focus on Afghanistan” were discussed elaborately by both the leaders. The Uzbek President emphasized that because of unrest in Afghanistan, “no other country has suffered as much as Pakistan, and the continued instability in Afghanistan has

also affected Pakistan more than any other country.”

Uzbekistan was deeply interested in the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan and would offer its full cooperation to Pakistan, the UN and OIC for a lasting settlement of the problem.

President Islam Karimov agreed that a broad-based government representing all ethnic and other groups in Afghanistan, “would be the most suitable solution of the crisis.”

Both the sides agreed that “Afghans must arrive at a solution without external interference and noted that there might be certain powers who might be interested in prolonging the period of instability in Afghanistan.”

Both the sides agreed that they would cooperate with the UN Secretary-General’s personal representative, Mahmoud Mestiri, for this purpose.

On Kashmir, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto briefed President Karimov about the situation there and recalled that “Kashmiris have rejected the Indian Government’s proposal for elections which are no substitute for demand of the Kashmiri people for a plebiscite”.

President Islam Karimov stated that Uzbekistan sympathies with the Kashmiri people and reiterated his country’s well-known stand of finding a solution of the Kashmir problem, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

On Tajikistan, both the sides expressed their concern for the continued fighting and expressed the hope that positive results would be forthcoming at the fifth round of intra-Tajik talks, beginning in Ashakabad from Nov. 20. The talks lasted about two and a half hours and covered bilateral relations, situation in the region with particular reference to Afghanistan.

On bilateral scene, both sides agreed that development of these relations was extremely beneficial for both sides and one of the principal impediment to further development of these relations was the absence of quick communication links. That is why, both the countries have deep commercial, economic and strategic interest in the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The two leaders continued their discussion and exchanged views during lunch hosted by President Islam Karimov.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan, Vol. XXII, Issue 11-12, (Nov-Dec 1995): 25-26.*

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## REPORT ON CALLS ON THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER BY THE VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER OF UZBEKISTAN

Islamabad; 26 November 1998

### **Call on Prime Minister**

On 26 November, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Abdul Aziz Kamilov, accompanied by a delegation of senior Uzbek officials, called on the Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. He conveyed the fraternal greetings and good wishes of President Islam Karimov which were warmly reciprocated by the Prime Minister.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister said that his country attached the highest of importance to its relations with Pakistan. He delivered a letter from President Karimov extending a cordial invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Uzbekistan on mutually convenient dates.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The two countries should try to further expand trade, air links, people to people contacts and cultural exchanges. He stressed the need for the immediate restoration of durable peace in Afghanistan so that the enormous potential for commercial and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan could be fully developed. The Prime Minister stated that the whole region would stand to benefit through the establishment of trade routes, road and rail links, oil and gas pipeline projects etc.

Foreign Minister Kamilov agreed with the Prime Minister that Pakistan and Uzbekistan shared many affinities which provided a sound basis for further enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. He held out the assurance that his country would work closely with Pakistan for promoting the Afghan peace process. He conveyed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for sparing the time to receive him.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Siddique Khan Kanju, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, were also present during the meeting.

### **Talks with Foreign Minister**

Later the Foreign Minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, had talks with his Uzbek counterpart, Mr. Abdul Aziz Kamilov. The discussions, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, focused on the situation in Afghanistan and also on ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse areas between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The Pakistan delegation included the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Siddique Khan Kanju, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Sharnshad Ahmad, and senior Foreign Ministry officials. Foreign Minister Kamilov was assisted by the heads of the relevant departments of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry.

The two sides agreed on the need to take steps to enhance bilateral Cooperation in various areas including trade investment, banking, aviation, people-to-people contact and culture.

On Afghanistan, the two Foreign Ministers agreed on the urgency of restoring durable peace and stability in that country. This, they felt, would open up enormous possibilities of economic and commercial cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The two sides reiterated their complete support for the UN and OIC efforts to bring peace and normalcy to Afghanistan.

Views were also exchanged on the proposed meeting of the “Six plus Two” in Tashkent as per the “Points of Common Understanding” reached by the Foreign Ministers of the Group in September in New York. The “Six Plus Two” consists of the countries with common borders with Afghanistan plus Russia and the United States. They also welcomed the positive response of the Taliban to some of the elements in the “Points of Common Understanding” and expressed the hope that the remaining issues would also be accepted by the Taliban.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister stated that his country wanted to work closely with Pakistan for ending the Afghan conflict. He appreciated the leading role played by Pakistan in promoting this objective.

The visit of Foreign Minister Kamilov was in line with the growing interaction between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. It would be recalled that the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Siddique Khan Kanju, visited Tashkent earlier this month-November 1998.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, vol. XXV, issue 11-12 (Nov-Dec 1998): 169-170.

## **REPORT ON A CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER BY THE VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER OF UZBEKISTAN**

Islamabad; 30 May 1999

On 30 May, Pakistan and Uzbekistan reaffirmed their fullest support for an establishment of a multiethnic government in Afghanistan through an indigenous process of talks between the Afghan parties.

Visiting Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov and Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz in two hours talks at the Foreign Ministry agreed that the immediate restoration of durable peace in Afghanistan would bring enormous economic and commercial benefits to the entire region.

They reaffirmed their fullest support for the promotion of an Afghan peace process through the UN, the OIC and any other means. They also agreed that establishment of a multiethnic government in Afghanistan through an indigenous Afghan talks process could only guarantee peace and stability in Afghanistan. Both Pakistan and Uzbekistan reiterated to continue mutual efforts for the promotion of contact between the Afghan parties, especially those who control territory.

Both the Foreign Ministers were of the view that early convening of a “Six Plus Two” meeting in Tashkent would provide grounds to settle Afghan crisis. The Afghan parties controlling territory would be invited to the meeting of “Six Plus Two” at Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Pakistan and Uzbekistan urged the international community to contribute generously towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the rehabilitation of the refugees.

In the talks between the two Foreign Ministers, bilateral cooperation in multiple areas was exhaustively discussed. The two sides urged to work closely to enhance economic and commercial interaction. The need to encourage greater people-to-people contact, promote tourism, cooperation in banking culture and technical exchanges, transportation and communication links, oil and gas pipelines were emphasized.

During his visit to Islamabad last year the Uzbek Foreign Minister met Mulla Wakil, the Adviser to the Supreme Taliban leader, Mulla Omar. The Uzbek government has decided to further upgrade its contacts with the Taliban.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Siddique Khan Kanju, Foreign Secretary Shamsad Ahmad and the concerned officials also participated in the talks. The Uzbek Ambassador in Pakistan and other senior officials from both the sides also attended the meeting.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister extended an invitation to Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz to visit Tashkent. The invitation was accepted and will take place on mutually convenient dates.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, vol. XXVI, issue 3 (March 1999): 174-175.

## **REPORT ON A CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER OF UZBEKISTAN**

Islamabad; 1 June 1999

The Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Kamilov, called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He was accompanied by the Uzbek Ambassador and senior officials from the Foreign Ministry of Uzbekistan.

Foreign Minister Kamilov conveyed the cordial greetings and good wishes of President Islam Karimov to the Prime Minister which was warmly

reciprocated. He also handed over a letter to the Prime Minister from the Uzbek President on the Afghanistan issue.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stressed the importance of giving substance to the excellent relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan through enhanced economic and commercial cooperation.

He emphasised that the two countries should fully exploit the enormous potential that exists through the establishment of oil and gas pipelines, trade routes, communication networks as well as transport and road links.

In fact, the entire region could be transformed to one of economic vibrance, self-sustained growth and prosperity, for which it was essential that durable peace should return to Afghanistan, he said.

The Prime Minister underscored the paramount importance of the countries ordering Afghanistan to concert their efforts to promote the Afghan peace process. He stressed the need for Pakistan and Uzbekistan to work closely to facilitate the realisation of this objective.

Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz, Minister of State Siddiqu Khan Kanju, Foreign Secretary Shamshad Ahmad Khan and the Foreign Ministry Officials were also present during the meeting.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, vol. XXVI, issue 4-6 (April-June 1999): 93.

## TRANSCRIPT OF THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF PAKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN ON 25 JANUARY 2001

### **Statement by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan**

It gives me great pleasure to join His Excellency Abdulaziz Kamilov at this press conference.

All of us in Pakistan will join me in extending [him] a particularly warm welcome to Pakistan. For, he brings with him the fragrance of a land with which the people of Pakistan have deep-rooted ties of history and culture. We have a shared tradition in art and architecture, as well as strong spiritual bonds.

Imam Ismail Bukhari and Imam Tirmizi, compilers of the treasures of Hadith, and Hazrat Bahauddin Naqshbandi are part of our memory as much as they are of the Uzbek people. Emir Temur not only built an empire but a grand civilization which is a source of pride also for people beyond the territories of Uzbekistan. Astronomer-King Ulgh Beg's discoveries benefited sailors for centuries and helped advance scientific knowledge for benefit of mankind.

Like his great ancestor, Zaheeruddin Babar founded not only an empire but a new civilization. He brought with him not only soldiers and administrators but also creative writers and artists, architects and artisans, and tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of people who mixed and merged into

the people of our land. Forts and gardens, mosques and mausoleums in various parts of Pakistan testify to that heritage. Truly we can say that Uzbekistan is a cradle of our culture and civilization.

I wish more of us were familiar with the poetry of Ali Sher Navoi, whom Babar aspired to emulate, the historical novels of contemporary *Pirimqul Kadirov* and Adil Yakubov, short stories by fiction writers, and paintings by Changhez Ahmar. We would then be even more impressed and inspired by the close cultural affinities between our nations.

Standing on the bank of Amu Darya in 1990 along with other participants in the Imam Tirmizi Centenary celebrations, I looked across and dreamed of a day when Afghanistan at peace would provide a bridge between Pakistan and Central Asian Republics. Starting from Peshawar, travelers and traders could reach Termez in a day and see sights, relish delicious fruits and dishes, listen to music and meet people to discover and savor the commonalities that link and bind our two peoples.

And that jolts one to lament the realities of today. Afghanistan, devastated by Soviet intervention and internecine war, has become a barrier instead of providing a bridge. Complexities of politics, confounded by divergent interests and interpretations, and at times defying understanding, cast a shadow on relations between neighbours.

Taking advantage of Foreign Minister Kamilov's presence with us, I want to assure him publicly, as I have done during our talks in the afternoon, that Pakistan can never entertain even the notion of harming the security of Uzbekistan. We respect the principle of non-interference in internal affairs. We do not and will not allow any activities on our territory that the Government of Uzbekistan considers prejudicial to its peace and security. We shall extend unstinted cooperation in arresting and deporting terrorists and saboteurs. We are prepared to join with Uzbekistan in great effort to ensure compliance with laws and regulations regarding travel between the countries, passports and visas must be obligatory.

Peace in Afghanistan is the key to the realization of better understanding and closer cooperation among the neighbours. To that end, Pakistan has extended cooperation to the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference. To same end, Pakistan is ready to work with Uzbekistan in and outside the Six-Plus-Two forum. The two of us and the other member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization will reap great gains from return of peace to fraternal Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan is a progressive country with many blessings. It has a highly developed physical infrastructure of communications and education. The excellence of scientific research in Uzbekistan is illustrated by success in evolving varieties of cotton that are internationally prized for their quality.

With nearly 100 percent literacy, the people of Uzbekistan are sophisticated, aware that economic progress requires hard work, maintenance

of peace and harmony. They reject violence extremism in all its forms and manifestations.

Our founding fathers envisioned Pakistan as a forward-looking, modern Islamic State. As far back as the 19th century, Syed Ahmad Khan distressed by the political decline of Muslims in South Asia, urged them to acquire knowledge in fields of science and technology which are indispensable for achievement of progress and economic development. For the sake of our renaissance, the aim of our Government is to translate the vision of Allama Mohammad Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah into reality.

Expansion of cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will be manifestly beneficial. Despite current obstacles, we can enlarge and intensify interaction. Air travel between Islamabad and Tashkent takes just 70 minutes.

Excellency Kamilov's visit has given us an opportunity to exchange views on bilateral relations, and on the issues of common interest. We share a desire for early establishment of peace in Afghanistan. I have informed him of the fall-out of UNSC resolution 1333. Also I have apprised him of recent developments in regard to Kashmir. Also I have assured him of our desire to expand cooperation with Uzbekistan in all fields.

### **Statement by the Uzbek Foreign Minister**

Your Excellency, the Foreign Minister, thank you very much first of all for the invitation to visit Islamabad. Today, we have had very useful talks with H. E. the Foreign Minister and the Interior Minister. We have also signed three agreements between Uzbekistan and Pakistan; first is a Consular Agreement, the second one is about Cooperation between Customs Services of the two countries and the third is an Extradition Treaty. I think all the three agreements signed today, together with all those reached previously between the two countries, are very important to create a juridical base for our cooperation.

We have also discussed with his Excellency the Foreign Minister our bilateral relations and the regional situation, specially the situation in Afghanistan. We have agreed to continue bilateral cooperation on this issue, as well as, our cooperation in the Six Plus Two forum. We want to have good relations with Afghanistan as a neighbour and the fact remains that we never have had problems with this country throughout our history. During the last two decades, after the foreign invasion and the continuing civil war in Afghanistan, the position, however, has unfortunately changed. We have our well known position that the principle of non-interference into others internal affairs be respected; there should be guarantees from both sides for security on our common borders; and, of course, we do not want Afghanistan to have camps on its soil for elements from Central Asia, including Uzbekistan. I would like to thank Mr. Minister once again for this invitation and would add

that His Excellency knows Central Asia, especially Uzbekistan very well; not only the country, its history, civilization and culture but also many famous personalities of our history. I hope we will continue contacts in the near future at all levels to strengthen the existing mutual cooperation between the countries.

### **Question-Answer Session**

When his comments were sought on recent UN sanction against Afghanistan and continued supply of arms to that war-torn country, the Uzbek Foreign Minister said:

As a neighbour, we favour the implementation of the United Nations decision. Many years ago there was an Uzbek initiative for arms embargo against Afghanistan. This embargo needs to be for whole of the country and should not be implemented selectively in one part of the country or the other.

Asked if he requested Pakistan for help in seeking Taliban's assistance to deal with the Uzbek opposition elements present in Afghanistan, and if he could give the exact number of such people, the Uzbek Foreign Minister said:

We discussed this problem and handed over a list. We are cooperating in this field with each other and the agreement on extradition signed today is very important in this regard. Of course, there are some difficulties to find those elements from this list but we hope that our friend Pakistan would try its level best to find them out. So far as the number, I do not remember exactly. According to our old lists, they could be 30 to 35 and the news appearing in a section of the foreign media, giving the figures in thousands, is not believable. At the most, they could be 100-150, but in no case in thousands in Afghanistan, and some of them are unfortunately in Tajikistan now.

When his comments were sought on a proposed meeting of the Afghan parties, at a time when the Taliban have denounced any concern with the UN mediation, following of the sanctions, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan said:

Actually the efforts to convene that meeting are being made by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General. Uzbekistan has been generous enough to offer hospitality; but on the particular question you have asked, an answer or a comment can be best made by the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

*Supplementing this Reply, the Uzbek Foreign Minister Observed:*

We also think in Uzbekistan that the United Nations should play the important role in this process, and it must not be dominated by one country, big or small.

Asked as to how the Taliban being the biggest partner could be drawn into the process, the Uzbek Foreign Minister said:

We have participated in this process in the Six Plus Two forum. We also held meetings with the Taliban and hopefully today we would be meeting their representative in Islamabad. We, in Uzbekistan, do not agree with the ideology of the Taliban; but at the same time we recognize them as a reality, controlling 90 to 95 percent of the Afghan territory. They should be involved in this process; we should have dialogue with them without caring that we agree or disagree with them.

To a question with regard to Pak-India relations and proposed visit of the APHC delegation to Islamabad, the Uzbek Foreign Minister said:

We were briefed by his Excellency the Foreign Minister on the subject and we support any progress towards dialogue between India and Pakistan.

Asked if the Extradition Treaty signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan could also be effective to extradite Uzbek nationals residing in Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan said:

Let me clarify, it is a Treaty between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Under the provisions of this Treaty if a criminal of Uzbek citizenship is found to be on Pakistani territory, the Government of Pakistan would, in accordance with this Treaty, proceed against that person with a view to his extradition. It does not deal with Afghanistan.

When his comments were sought on a broad-based government in Afghanistan, the Uzbek Foreign Minister said:

We will recognize and respect any government in Afghanistan which comes into being as a choice of the people of Afghanistan.

Asked if Uzbekistan was prepared to give recognition to the Taliban government in Kabul, as the guest Foreign Minister has just stated that his country respects the ground realities, and the reality is that the Taliban control 90 to 95 percent area of the county, the Uzbek Foreign Minister said:

We have been talking with the Taliban. We have had meetings with their leaders including Mulla Umar, Mulla Mutawakkal and the Afghan Ambassador in Islamabad. But this does not mean that Uzbekistan recognizes their government as the central government of Afghanistan. This is our position. We wish the United Nations to play an important role in Afghanistan, as it remains the only international mechanism on the issue. In order to bring both the conflicting groups close, we discussed this issue with all the neighbours of Afghanistan and three permanent members of the Security Council, namely United States, Russia and China. China is a neighbour of Afghanistan and also a member of the Security Council. All of them think that the only mechanism which can help is the mechanism of the United Nations.

## PAKISTAN-UZBEKISTAN RELATIONS: HOPES AND HURDLES

### Introduction

Relations between states depend upon their historical background, geographical proximity, absence of territorial disputes, a common ideology, no clash of interests, common views on major world issues, a permanent need for each other and freedom from outside pressures especially from those on whom a nation is dependent for financial, military and technological assistance.

If some of the factors mentioned above are present in making ground for good relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, at the same time others are absent to mar the relations.

Though lying in close proximity to the Central Asian Republics, Pakistan is not geographically linked with any of them. The territory of Afghanistan has to be crossed before entering the nearest state of Central Asia.

Therefore, political stability in and friendly relations with Afghanistan necessary to make any substantial headway in this direction. But by being a country away there can be no territorial disputes with them, which often mars the relations between nations.

Geographical proximity, a common faith and historical ties alone are not enough to bind Pakistan with Uzbekistan. Many other factors have drawn these two countries away from each other.

Conquered by the Tsar of Russia (1865), Tashkent later succumbed to the Soviets and remained in the Union of Socialist Republics for more than seventy years. Pakistan on the other hand, soon after independence joined the anti-Communist pact against the former Soviet Union for its own reason. The cold war between the two super powers adversely affected Pak-Soviet relations and consequently the Central Asian republics looked at Pakistan with tinted glasses. Pakistan too paid little attention to towards Uzbekistan as long as it remained a member of the anti-Soviet military pact.

The Mayor of Tashkent visited Pakistan in 1960 but the visit was not returned till 1989.

Although a few Pakistani students did go to Uzbekistan for study, non from Uzbekistan came to Pakistan. The military support given by Islamabad to the Afghan Mujahedin during their eleven years struggle to evict the Soviet troops from Afghanistan further added to the cool relations that had developed between the two countries. Despite of many hurdles, Pakistan always sustained hope that some-day its shortest port facilities would serve as a gate to Central Asian Republics. There are four routes from the capital of Uzbekistan to the ports of Pakistan.

- i. Tashkent-Karachi via Termez – Kabul – Torkham and via N-5.....3209 km.

- ii. Tashkent-Karachi via Termez – Kabul – Torkham and via Indus Highway.... 2852 km.
- iii. Tashkent-Karachi via Termez – Mazar-i-Sharif – Herat – Kandahar – Chaman – Khuzdar..... 2983 km.
- iv. Tashkent-Gwadar via Termez – Herat – Kandahar – Chaman – Khuzdar - Turbat.....3276 km.

It is expected that once the Gwadar port complex is completed, nearly 20 countries of Central Asia, Middle East and South Asia will benefit from this mega project. The complex will provide facilities of warehousing, transshipment, transit coastal trade and provision of commercial and industrial facilities for international export-import trade particularly that of Central Asia and Afghanistan.

The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and independent Uzbekistan established on 10 May 1992 and Pakistan opened its embassy in Tashkent on June 22, 1992. Despite of the fact that many higher level delegations visited each other, no significant success has been achieved so far. From Pakistan the former President: Farooq Khan Leghari (Oct 1996), former Prime Ministers: Nawaz Sharif (June 1992), Benazir Bhutto (May 1994, May 1995, Nov 1995), former Foreign Ministers: Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali (Dec 1991, Jan 1994, Mar 1996), Gohar Ayub Khan (Jun 1997), and Siddique Khan Kanju (Oct 1998) visited Uzbekistan. From Uzbekistan the President Islam Karimov (Aug 1992), Foreign Ministers: Saidmukhtar Saidkasimov (Jul 1994), and Abdulaziz H. Kamilov (Mar 1997, Nov 1998, May 1999) visited Pakistan. This paper deals with the problems that have adversely affected the Pak-Uzbek relations in the post-Soviet era that are political, economic and lacking of academic interaction.

### ... Afghanistan

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The strategic importance of the ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will only increase if they are connected by a modern communication network. The ongoing fighting and disputes in Afghanistan and the destroyed infrastructure in that country in turn has retarded the development of trade links between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan via Afghanistan provides the shortest routes for access to international markets but the political instability in Afghanistan has been curtailing utilization of these cheapest ways of trade and access to global market for the landlocked Uzbekistan and consequently creating gap between the two countries.

### Common Faith Perceptions

When the Soviet system collapsed, Pakistan assumed that in the Muslim

republics of Central Asia greater religious freedom had released pent-up yearnings for closer ties with the Islamic world. It was apparently assumed that under the cloak of a Soviet citizen in the Central Asian Republic a true Muslim was hidden who had struggled all the time to come to the forefront but was prevented from doing so by adverse circumstances. Uzbekistan was approached on the basis of same assumption; a common faith and civilization.

Pakistan hoped to replace the ruins of Cold War alliances through the Islamic factor. It is a fact that religious freedom has come to Uzbekistan after decades of repression but as breathing fresh air for the first time, they are attempting to develop their own Islamic orientation and heritage.

In fact Communist era has given Uzbekistan a better quality of life and a sound agriculture sector. The literacy rate is 95% and there are more than 900 Ph.Ds in Uzbekistan.

Uzbek leadership is firmly rooted in the previous social, political and cultural set-up. One faces more elements of continuity than of change. New mosques are being built and the number of people attending the prayers increasing, however, this does not mean that the leadership of Uzbekistan is welcoming the emergence of Islam as political force. They are scared of potential challenge to the status quo and are keeping religion and politics separate to maintain their secular outlook. Thus there has been an increasing opposition towards grouping the Central Asian states with other Muslim states under the aspect of Islamic civilization. Uzbekistan's relations with Pakistan and other Muslim states under the umbrella of 'Islam' has been opposed and discouraged by not only its own leadership but also by Russia and the West.

Here I would also mention that the Muslim world has been facing two severe problems since very long. First they are politically divided and second, they are economically weak. Almost all the Muslim states are belonging to the category of third world countries and have created differences among them for acquiring economic assistance from the west.

### **Economic Prospects and Problems**

Pakistan was probably the first to send a 23 member delegation to Central Asia headed by the then Minister of Commerce Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Dec 1991. A US \$30 million credit facility was given to Uzbekistan in comparison to \$10 million to all other Central Asian Republics. Since then economic relations have been established between the two countries but the trade is being nominal. Pakistan and Uzbekistan both are basically agricultural states and are among the big producers of cotton in the world.

The two countries can benefit from each others experience in the field of agricultural organization and management and trade in this sector as well as in light industry and banking sector. Uzbekistan's heavy dependence on raw cotton exports, which to the countries outside the CIS has increased many

Since independence meant that the trade exchange with Pakistan i.e. raw cotton for textile goods has great potential and mutually beneficial. Uzbekistan remained the biggest buyer for the Pakistani goods worth Rs.1.32 million in 1991-92 and Rs.84.41 millions in 1992-93. In 1998 Pakistan imported raw cotton of worth \$ 53.852 million from Uzbekistan and the total trade between the two countries recorded at \$ 72.655 million but the figure for total trade (exports, imports) between the countries fell to \$ 8.783 million in 2000.

It was stated that Uzbekistan had sixty times the natural gas of Pakistan and that gas and power could be available to Pakistan and for further exports after the building of a 1200 km pipeline. This trade could be balanced by the demand of textiles, leather goods, and other consumer products from Pakistan.

Pakistan can supply ready made cotton clothes, shoes, leather goods, sports equipment, medical instruments, drugs, long terms goods, ferrous metal industry, cheap cosmetics and soft razors etc because Uzbekistan's market is in great need of consumer goods and other Central Asian states are also big importers of consumer products.

Uzbekistan, having largest population among the Central Asian states, cheap labor, raw material and with the development of basic infrastructure like railways, roads and telecommunication presents attractive investment opportunities.

Pakistani businessmen can invest in the light engineering industry, textile factories, cotton cleaning plants, fertilizer plants, fabrics on Production of soap, sugar, telephone apparatus & many other. The project of more immediate interest and practicality included the opening of a Pakistani Commercial Bank in Tashkent. But the efforts to open full-fledged NBP(National Bank of Pakistan) met with complete failure. The NBP representative office was set up in 1995 in Tashkent but it could not facilitate the opening of a branch till 2002, though the government of Uzbekistan had granted a license for the purpose in 1992. Similarly many agreements signed between the two governments but the progress on ground was slow and therefore no improvement in situation.

In fact Uzbekistan is looking towards west and more industrialized states for huge investment in oil, gas and other sectors of the economy. For financial and technical support Uzbekistan looking towards the west and for security purpose to Russia. Common factors in Pakistan and Uzbekistan are: the agrarian society and lack of capital resources.

Uzbekistan, with the democracy-development dilemma and transition from command to market economy has weak institutions comparatively. On the other hand, there are lessons for Uzbekistan to learn from the gradual introduction of reforms and acceleration of economic growth in Pakistan.

Pakistan with the GDP growth of 5.1% for the year 2002-2003 and with the development of communication infrastructure will not leave its neighbours

untouched. It should be realized that Uzbekistan and Pakistan need each other for the stability and economic uplift of their countries and the whole region.

### **Indian and Russian Factors**

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### **Lack of Academic Interaction**

In the field of academics, there are vast opportunities for the enhancement of cooperative relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

There is a dire need to develop academic and cultural exchange programmes. In this regard the memorandum of understanding that signed between Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar Pakistan and Institute of Oriental Studies Academy of Sciences Tashkent Uzbekistan is a great step.

It envisaged that the terms would include:

- i. Exchange of faculty staff on equal terms.
- ii. Joint research publications.
- iii. Training of a limited number of staff members in selected area languages.
- iv. Holding of seminars/conferences.
- iv. Series of lectures by faculty staff on mutually agreed selected topics.
- v. Exchange of research material.

This kind of interaction improves the relations between states and in this case, undoubtedly, would facilitate the creation of better understanding between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. But here again, like many other agreements that signed between the two states, the progress on ground is almost nil. On the other hand it is the duty of academia on both sides to work seriously on materializing this kind of agreements for better environment between the two states. Besides, academic interaction would necessarily enhance cooperative relations between the two states and would develop academic and cultural exchange in different areas of research in various disciplines.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

1. The September 11 and afterward events has changed the world scenario, consequently affecting the international relations of states to a great extent. The allies became aliens and aliens became partners, as the states have to adjust their foreign policies to the changing global scenario.

Similarly, Pakistan and Uzbekistan became the members of coalition against terrorism. But still the main political hurdle to the fulfillment of Pakistan's hopes regarding Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states is the situation in Afghanistan. The immediate cause of tension that has created

distance between the two states is the continuing civil war in Afghanistan.

This civil war has nothing to do with the religion, but is the result of rising ethnicity, complete absence of leadership and lack of credible institutions. Due to the Afghan civil war many ECO schemes have been shelved also because it links almost all ECO member states.

The positive role of Pakistan and Uzbekistan is of vital importance for the stability in Afghanistan. Both the countries should contribute to the economic development and political stability in Afghanistan as partners and the task could be accomplished through mutual policy co-ordination and information sharing.

2. Pakistan's support to the Afghan Mujahidin in their effort to oust a communist regime in Afghanistan made the pro-Communist leaders in Uzbekistan a little concerned about their own stability if they open their doors too wide towards Pakistan. While the Islamic connection is a positive factor no attempt should be made to make the Uzbeks better Muslims than what they choose to be. The religious-political organizations in Pakistan should be kept in check in this regard. It should be realized that the ruling junta in Central Asia is from urban society, Moscow trained, secularized and is scared of religious fundamentalism.

3. Both the countries should further cement and consolidate the ECO by making sure that the organization is utilized for the exploitation of economic opportunities in member states. The region as whole is going to gain a lot from the successful working of this institute, as all member states, who are basically agricultural states, are linked by the cheapest way of trade i.e., roads and railways.

4. Pakistan and Uzbekistan should locate areas of friction with each other, as there seems no determinate reason for future antagonism. Pakistan must ensure Uzbekistan that it harbors no ill will against her and is rather promoter of its economic interests in South and South East Asia. Both the countries should eliminate the unnecessary visa and business restrictions. The air links should be resumed immediately with consultation of experts in relevant field and mutual cooperation, as it would promote relations on every level.

5. Pakistan itself faced internal political instability and there seems a lack of consistent foreign policy towards Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states.

There have been more than seven governments (including caretaker governments) in Pakistan for the last decade or so. The foreign policy towards Uzbekistan and Central Asia has changed with every change in government, while Muslim League (N) concentrated on the issue of a Muslim foreign policy and solidarity with Muslim Central Asia, with People Party emphasis seemed to the nationalistic issue of delimitation from India. It should be realized that in this geo-economic era viable relations between states are possible only on mutually beneficial economic terms. It is in the field of economic development and political stability where the future security options

will be decided, not in the military field. This is equally true of both the countries in regional cooperation.

6. In the race for Central Asia, Pakistan and India are still involved in a zero-sum game which belongs to another era, that of the cold war, where one's gain is considered the other side's loss. But now both the countries should realize that it is self-defeating and one's gain is not always on other's loss but a win-win situation can be created on both sides. Russia and Uzbekistan can have better relation with both Pakistan and India at the same time.

7. For a meaningful trade and commercial activity it is important that an adequate network both for internal and external communication in the region comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan is developed. Further, Pakistani bureaucrats and businessmen must be careful not to treat the Uzbeks as if they know nothing about management or international trade.

8. Both the countries should follow the phrase "do respect and have respect". The policy of intervention in each other politics or domestic affairs is always against the international laws and therefore it should be explained through policy coordination that both the countries have no territorial or political ambitions in each other direction.

9. In the field of academics each state should grant scholarships to the students of other state, study chairs in major academic institutions of both the countries should be established, exchange of scholars and setting up of joint research projects in agriculture, water resources, energy and other sectors must be encouraged. Similarly, exchange of training programmes in Banking, Finance and Management are to be encouraged. The holding of joint seminars and conferences, undoubtedly, boost the relations on every level.

Shabir Ahmad, *Turkish Weekly* online, March 5, 2005,  
<http://www.turkishweekly.net/op-ed/368/pakistan-uzbekistan-relations-hopes-and-hurdles.html>

## PAKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN AGREE TO ENHANCE ANTI-TERROR COOPERATION

**Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Sunday agreed to upgrade their economic and commercial relations and enhance bilateral cooperation to fight international terrorism.**

Addressing a joint news conference after meeting Uzbek President Islam Karimof here on Sunday, President General Pervez Musharraf termed his visit to the country a voyage of friendship.

He said he had a strong desire that Pakistan and Uzbekistan enhance their cooperation in sector like economy, trade, energy etc.

He said he was not satisfied with the current Pak-Uzbek trade volume and therefore, decided to come to Tashkent for discussing its official ways and means for more economic and commercial cooperation.

He said the two countries had been enjoying longstanding historic and friendly relations and they would further grow in future.

The president had a one-on-one meeting with his Uzbek counterpart that lasted for almost one hour at the presidential palace.

Earlier, President General Pervez Musharraf arrived in Tashkent late on Saturday night for talks with Uzbek leaders to enhance bilateral cooperation in economy, commerce, energy and anti-terror war.

Accompanied by Uzbek deputy prime minister, foreign minister, Pakistan's envoy to Uzbekistan, Uzbek ambassador to Islamabad and senior officials, Uzbek Prime Minister Shafkat Mirzayov received the president at the Tashkent international airport.

Soon after his arrival, the president had a brief meeting with the Uzbek prime minister at the airport.

President Gen Musharraf said Pakistan had longstanding historic and brotherly relations with Uzbekistan and Pakistanis attached great importance to its ties with Uzbek people.

He said he would formally discuss with Uzbek top officials ways and means to enhance bilateral cooperation in economy, commerce, energy like sectors. He said since both Pakistan and Uzbekistan had been victims of terrorism, they should get and act together to fight international terrorism.

He said sharing of terror-related intelligence between the two countries would also come up for discussion in the meetings.

The Uzbek prime minister, on the occasion, said Uzbekistan was interested in upgrading its political, economic, and commercial relations with Pakistan, and would extend every possible support and cooperation to it for purging the world especially the region of terrorists.

*Pak Tribune* online, March 6, 2005,  
<http://paktribune.com/news/Pak-Uzbekistan-agree-to-enhance-anti-terror-coop-96532.html>

## UZBEKISTAN, PAKISTAN INK SEVERAL AGREEMENTS

Senior Uzbek and Pakistani officials held negotiations in Tashkent to boost relations between two nations on 6 March.

The President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf arrived in the Uzbek capital city of Tashkent on 5 March within his Central Asian tour.

On 6 February, the official welcoming ceremony was held at the presidential residence Durmen. Afterwards, the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov and the President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf held face to-face talks to discuss current affairs and perspectives of bilateral relations and

strengthening regional security.

Uzbekistan national news agency reported that establishment of firm and long-term relations between Tashkent and Islamabad will open wide opportunities for Uzbekistan to develop relations with Persian Gulf, while for Pakistan with Central Asian states.

Presidents considered issued on stirring up and enriching cooperation in all spheres with new content. The sides also exchanged opinion on strategy to strengthen ties.

The heads of states considered issues on assisting Afghanistan. The sides achieved agreement to hold regular dialogue on Afghan issue, exchange experience and information on fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and extremism.

The sides expressed single view that Islam must not be equated with terrorism and religious extremism. Pakistani president said that the country would combat terrorists locating in Pakistan.

During the talks, the presidents also discussed issues on reforming the United Nations and joining of Pakistan to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

In the meeting in expended structure, the official delegations of Uzbekistan and Pakistan discussed issued of bilateral trade-economic collaboration and regional integration.

Pakistan is interested in energy resources of Central Asia and establishment of transport corridor between regions and the country. Both sides will benefit if Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries have access to Arabian Sea through Pakistan.

Pakistani companies are also interested in exploration and studying oil and gas fields in Uzbekistan. The Pakistani side wants to attract Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries to construction of transport communication in Afghanistan, which will unite the region with Pakistan. The construction of corridor will serve to expansion of Pakistan goods to Central Asia through Uzbekistan.

On the other hand, Uzbekistan will have opportunity to expand export volume to Pakistan, including export of cotton, liquefied gas, mineral fertilisers, wheat and others. Currently, Pakistan purchases Uzbek cotton via third courtiers. Last year trade turnover between two states was US\$8.4 million. At the same time, Pakistan purchased cotton for US\$43 million through Iranian seaports.

In this regard, the sides paid attention to establishment of direct trade ties and the sides agreed that they would entrust prime ministers to improve activity of the Uzbek-Pakistani commission on trade-economic cooperation.

The sides also considered issues on expansion of joint ventures. Today, there are 42 enterprises in Uzbekistan with participation of Pakistani investments. Last year. They produced goods for 19.5 billion soums and

exported products for US\$4.4 million.

It was noted that both sides are not satisfied with figures and there are unused opportunities to boost relations. The sides discussed issues on further stimulation and support to interaction of business circles of two states, including relations in banking-finance sector.

On the result of the talks, the senior officials of two countries signed number of documents. The presidents of Uzbekistan and Pakistan signed joint statement on further development of relations between countries. The governments also inked programme of cultural exchanges for 2005-2009 and agreement on fight against international terrorism.

President Karimov and President Musharraf noted at the press conference that the negotiations were warm and fruitful and expressed assurance that achieved agreements will lift bilateral relations to new level.

On the same day, the Pakistani president visited National Park of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi in accompaniment of Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyayev. Musharraf honoured Alisher Navoi and placed a wreath under monument of Uzbek poet.

The guest also visited State History Museum of Uzbekistan and got acquainted with exponents. Within the visit, Musharraf will also visit Samarkand.

*Turkish weekly* online, March 7, 2005,  
<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/5841/uzbekistan-pakistan-ink-several-agreements.html>

## **A WRITE UP AS APPEARED IN DAILY 'PAKISTAN OBSERVER' ON 2 MAY 2006 ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF H.E. MR. ISLAM KARIMOV, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO PAKISTAN**

### **Uzbek-Pakistan Relations**

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov noted that among the Pakistanis there are many relating themselves to Temurids, Boburids and with the names as "Barlos" "Chigatay" "Mirzo" and "Bukhari". This emphasizes ties, which existed between our states since the most ancient times as well as necessity of the new steps in its development. A Mahallya in Tashkent is named in honour of well-known poet Mirza Galib.

One of the ancient streets in Bukhara named after the eminent figure and one of the founders of Pakistan - Allama Iqbal.

The diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan have been established on May 10, 1992. Until the end of 1996 two countries had active exchange of delegations, both at a high level and at Ministries and Agencies

level. A number of the important treaties and agreements were signed as a result of the visits and negotiations.

At the same time both sides got in touch within the framework of the international and Regional Organizations. In particular the military political situation in Afghanistan remained the main obstacle for development of relations and implementation a treaty-legal base. On January, 2001 the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan has visited Pakistan during which 3 Agreements were signed Extradition Treaty, Consular Agreement as well as the Agreement on cooperation between customs bodies.

During the meetings and negotiations both countries had shown the aspiration to find the common approaches for resolving the regional problems, in particular the Afghan crisis which could open in future good opportunities for close trade and economic cooperation, implementation of transport communications projects.

By the invitation of Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan, General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan visited Uzbekistan on March 5-7 2005, during which a joint declaration on the further development of cooperation, a Programme of cultural exchange for 2005-2009 and an Agreement on cooperation against international terrorism were signed.

During the visit, Presidents of Uzbekistan and Pakistan discussed the issues related to stirring up and saturation of cooperation in many new areas. They agreed to discuss Afghanistan related issues on regular basis and exchange of information in fight against international terrorism and drug smuggling.

The Presidents also discussed reforming the UN and the possibility of Pakistan joining the SCO. The official delegations discussed bilateral trade-economic ties and regional integration in a broad format. The sides agreed that Prime Ministers of both countries would work on stir up the Uzbek-Pakistani Joint Commission for trade economic cooperation. The issue of increase [in] a number of joint ventures and measures to increase contacts of business circles and In Banking Financial sector were also discussed. The visit of General Pervez Musharraf to Uzbekistan on March and negotiation with Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan have created preconditions for cooperation in many areas, including studying of Pakistan experience of textile products, modern medical equipment, medicines, mineral oil and also transfer of Uzbek experience on cotton-growing, irrigation and health protection; establishment of cooperation on construction of alternative highways connecting Uzbekistan with ports of Karachi and Gawadar establishment of cooperation between our countries in agricultural and poultry farming sphere as well as in power and aircraft construction branches.

After a devastating earthquake in Pakistan on October 8, 2005 two special flights with a humanitarian aid with more than 40 tons of necessary equipment, food, tents and medicines on behalf of the Government of the

Republic Uzbekistan arrived in Islamabad from Tashkent. At Present time the opportunities of opening a direct flight Lahore-Islamabad-Tashkent or Karachi-Islamabad-Tashkent are under consideration. In this connection, on July 4-5, 2005 the delegation of "Uzbekistan Airways" visited Lahore. The issue of opening in Tashkent the branch of National Bank of Pakistan is also under consideration. The Second Meeting of the Joint Commission on Trade Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republics of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was held on December 29, 2006 in Tashkent to provide the practical realization of agreements, reached between the Presidents of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on March 06, 2005.

During the Commission Meeting, the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan was headed by Mr. S. Ismailov, Minister of agriculture and water resources and the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by Mr. Liaquat Ali Jatoi, Minister for Water and power.

The following issues were discussed:

- 1- Social and economic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- 2- Prospective directions of trade and economic cooperation (cooperation in transit trade and transportation, review of visa regimes).
- 3- Investment cooperation, investment conditions for foreign investors in the Republic of Uzbekistan (cooperation in petroleum, natural resources and power sectors).
- 4- Scientific and technical cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan (cooperation in food and agriculture, tourism, culture, sports and youth affairs, information technologies and telecommunications).

The Commission Meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere of mutual understanding.

The visit of the delegation of Trading Corporation of Pakistan headed by Mr. Asif Ansari was held on February 8, 2006 in Tashkent in a number of the foreign Trade companies of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main purpose of the visit was to hold the negotiations on conditions of direct deliveries of the Uzbek cotton fiber to the market of Pakistan by overland.

There is a prospect of cooperation development between Uzbekistan and Pakistan also in the field of science, culture, tourism and sports.

At present time 37 Joint ventures and Pakistan firms are involved in their business activity in Uzbekistan.

First ever in the history of two countries the Subdivision of Uzbek

commodities exchange has been opened in Islamabad on April, 2006.

The Uzbek-Pakistan cooperation with the allocation of Pakistani capital in Uzbekistan covers wide spheres: production of the consumer goods, manufacture and processing of agricultural products, wool, leather and silk, implementation of transport transportations, information technology services. Participation of the Pakistani musical groups in the 5<sup>th</sup> International Musical Festival “Shark Taronalari” (Melodies of Orient) on August 24-31, 2005 in Samarkand city promoted further mutual understanding and rapprochement between the peoples of two countries.

Participation of Uzbek sportsmen in the Asian Junior Boxing Championship on June 2005 in Karachi became other important event in the development of bilateral relations, in the field of sports. Boxers from Uzbekistan won five gold medals. Uzbekistan took 1/5<sup>th</sup> place by quantity of gold medals. The Uzbek sportsmen also won one silver and three bronze medals. During stay in Uzbekistan on March, 2005 the President of Pakistan H.E. General Pervez Musharraf had declared: “I have made this visit to strike up a friendship and partnership. The visit is also proof of Pakistan’s sincere intention of establishing friendly ties with Uzbekistan.”

The traced aspiration of Uzbekistan and Pakistan towards the even greater rapprochement as well as presence of the unused potential of two countries in many spheres, allows drawing a conclusion on perspective of relations between these states.

*Foreign Affairs Pakistan*, vol. XXXIII, issue V (May 2006): 211-215.

## **PAKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN AGREE TO BOLSTER COOPERATION IN TRADE, ECONOMIC AREAS**

President General Pervez Musharraf and his Uzbek counterpart Islam Karimov have agreed to bolster bilateral cooperation in trade and economic areas.

In a joint Press conference held after the official talks late Tuesday, both the leaders expressed their commitment in joint efforts to fight the growing menace of terrorism, and Uzbekistan announced its full support for Pakistan’s complete membership in the Shangai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

President Pervez Musharraf expressed his keen desire to extend railways and inland trade routes with the Central Asian States and announced his full consent to Uzbekistan’s use of Pakistan’s seaports for its worldwide exports.

President Musharraf said that both of them discussed regional and mutual matters, in which a complete harmony and mutual consensus existed.

President Musharraf said that he requested Uzbekistan’s support in enlisting Pakistan’s membership into the Shangai Cooperation Organization,

for which the Uzbek President had consented with pleasure, assuring of his full unconditional support for Pakistan's entry.

Both the countries also agreed to enhance mutual trade, and economic links, however the scope for them was quite limited at the moment.

Speaking on the occasion, Uzbek President also expressed his keen desire for an enhanced economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He said that President Musharraf had already visited his country in 2005, and had discussed matters of mutual interest.

Earlier the two presidents discussed a variety of mutual issues in a comprehensive one-on-one conversation, which lasted for almost an hour.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed six memorandums of understanding and one protocol pertaining to cooperation in such issues as war on terrorism, agriculture, banking, exchange of database relating to customs, and promoting mutual trade and economic relations.

The signing of documents was held in President House, Islamabad, in which both the Presidents also participated.

Earlier, President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov when arrived in Islamabad on a two-days official visit.

He was accorded a warm welcome at Chaklala airbase by foreign minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, minister for water and power Liaqat Ali Jatoi and law minister Wasi Zafar.

Islam Karimov is scheduled to meet President General Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and other high officials.

Later on formal welcome ceremony for the visiting dignitary was held at Aiwan-e-Sadar. On arrival at the Aiwan-e-Sadar, President General Pervez Musharraf welcomed the honorable guest. On this occasion the national anthems of both the brotherly countries were played. A smartly turned out contingent of the three services presented a guard of honour to the Uzbek President.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was also present on the occasion. Uzbek President Islam Karimov introduced members of his delegation to the President.

Online learnt that up to eight Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and agreements to bolster bilateral cooperation in trade and commerce — establishment of Business Council and cooperation against terrorism would be inked.

Both the countries would also explore ways to enhance cooperation in agriculture sector.

During the course of meetings with President Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Uzbek President would exchange views on Iran nuclear issue, latest Afghanistan and Iraq situation, Pak-India dialogue process and

other important international and regional issues.

*Pak Tribune* online, May 3, 2006,  
<http://paktribune.com/news/Pakistan-Uzbekistan-agree-to-bolster-cooperation-in-trade-economic-areas-142597.html>

## PAKISTAN VALUES HIGH ITS TIES WITH UZBEKISTAN - PAKISTANI SPEAKER

Speaker National Assembly Chaudhry Amir Hussain has said that Pakistan values high its relations with Uzbekistan and both countries have same stance on all important regional and international issues.

Speaker National Assembly observed this in a meeting with President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov on Wednesday. During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual interest and exchanged views on different aspects of the ties between two countries. He said that two countries have similar history, culture, religion and geography and both the countries are having deep interest in promoting peace in the region. The Speaker expressed hope that Mr Karimov's visit to Pakistan will bring two countries closer. The economies of both the countries can flourish by increasing cooperation and mutual exchange of experiences in all sectors of the economy, he said. The Speaker said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan wanted peace in Afghanistan and curb terrorism for the promotion of regional and bilateral cooperation in all sectors of the economy. He noted that President Pervez Musharraf's vision of enlightened moderation has helped in removing the west's misconception against Pakistan and Islam.

The Speaker also apprised the Uzbek President about strengthening of democratic institutions in Pakistan, empowerment of women and masses at the grass root level through the local bodies. He underlined the need for strengthening of democratic institutions through enhanced interaction between the parliamentarians and intellectuals of the two countries and sharing their experiences. Speaking on the occasion, President of Uzbekistan said that bilateral ties between the two countries will be strengthened with every passing day.

He appreciated the economic progress and stability achieved by Pakistan during the past few years. Mr Karimov said that there exists similarity in many aspects of life and intuitions of two countries. He underlined the need for increased interaction between the people of Uzbekistan and Pakistan for economic cooperation. Uzbek President also emphasized the need for exchanging more Parliamentary delegations between two countries. He underlined the importance of Gawadar port for Uzbekistan and the whole central Asian States besides its advantages for Pakistan. Mr Karimov also

appreciated President Musharraf's vision of enlightened moderation and said that he enjoys high profile image beyond the boundaries of Pakistan.

*Turkish Weekly*, May 4, 2006,  
<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news.php?id=31204>

## UZBEK PRESIDENT KARIMOV VISITS PAKISTAN

Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan were established on May 10, 1992, and as a result Pakistan established its embassy in Tashkent in June 1992. Pakistan had an early interest, sending a 23-member delegation to Uzbekistan in December 1991. Relations have not been unproblematic, though. In the mid-1990s, the issue of Afghanistan was a rough edge in the formation of mutually beneficial relations, and Islam Karimov often accused Pakistan of designs on Central Asia given its support for the Taliban movement. Now, in the context of establishing durable peace and promoting regional trade, both countries have common objectives of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

In addition, the Uzbek President has expressed admiration for President Musharraf's vision of enlightened moderation, as a way out of international turmoil. On reciprocal basis, Uzbekistan supports the Kashmiri' right of self-determination as set out in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, while Pakistan has made a point of keeping the Human Rights issue out of its dialogue with Uzbek officials.

Uzbekistan and Pakistan view each other as valuable neighbours and are trying to forge improved bilateral trade, commercial and cultural relations. Uzbekistan views Pakistan as a large South Asian state, which possesses huge economic, political and military potential. Some analysts also see the latest visit as an effort to extend bilateral defense cooperation.

Pakistan, for its part, is not interested in merely becoming a pipeline or trade route for Central Asian States, but it is interested in developing trade, economic and political partnership, including in the defense field. Therefore Pakistan is pursuing a two-fold policy towards Uzbekistan. Firstly, it is forging economic cooperation by improving bilateral relations, and secondly through the common platforms of various organizations such as the ECO, SCO etc. President Musharraf expressed the mutual desire to develop road and rail links and the use of its seaports to develop commerce with other regions of the world.

President Karimov signed four agreements and six Memoranda of Understanding with Pakistan, including an agreement on cooperation in small and private entrepreneurship, a MoU on trade, economic and investment cooperation, an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, an MoU on cooperation in customs and foreign trade, a protocol on cooperation

in combating terrorism, an agreement on cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries, an agreement on cooperation in the field of plant quarantine, an MoU on cooperation in food, agriculture and livestock, and finally, an MoU on cooperation between the Tashkent Islamic University and the International Islamic University of Islamabad.

### **Implications**

There is a great potential of expansion of trade, economic, and cultural interaction between the two countries, yet Uzbekistan remains heavily dependent on Russia, which is its biggest trading partner. Russia provides almost 58 per cent of Uzbekistan's imports and is the recipient of almost 61 per cent of Uzbek exports. Since Uzbekistan is pursuing a policy of diversification, due to its strategy of 'transition to a mixed economy', there are vast areas in which the two states can cooperate and lay the foundation of mutually beneficial economic and political relations. For instance, Uzbekistan is the fourth largest cotton producer in the world, and the second largest exporter after the U.S. Therefore Pakistan can help Uzbekistan export cotton, which it already does. In 1998, Pakistan imported cotton for US\$53 million from Uzbekistan, when total imports equaled \$72 million. This figure fell to \$8.7 million in 2000, and lately rose by over 50 per cent during 2005. Uzbekistan is the only country in Central Asia to produce many metals, aircraft, cars, motors, cotton-picking machines and other agricultural technology, cable products, excavators, cranes, lifts and equipment for the textile and cotton-cleaning industries and weaving machines. Uzbekistan has sixty times more natural gas than does Pakistan. Another sphere of mutual relations is the potential construction of a gas pipeline.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan are also looking for Defense cooperation; hence Uzbekistan has offered the sale or lease aircraft IL-76 and IL-114 aircraft for civil aviation to Pakistan. Now both states are looking for cooperation in the field of defence and security. They have already signed an extradition treaty during January 2001. Therefore Pakistani forces have apprehended Uzbek terrorists during military operations in Wana, Waziristan and handed them over to Uzbek officials. Pakistan even agreed upon intelligence sharing with Uzbekistan to deal with the financial linkages of terrorists. Pakistan has several times expressed its willingness to curb terrorism and cooperate with Central Asian states through the SCO platform. President Karimov has assured Mr. Musharraf that his country will support the Pakistan's pledge for the full membership in the SCO.

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## Conclusions

Improved bilateral relations with Uzbekistan are on the priority list of Pakistani decision makers. As an export route, Pakistan's importance for the international energy market could imply deeper international interest in its stability and security. Uzbekistanis looking at Pakistan as reliable security partner after the bitter denouement of its ties with U.S.

The economies of Pakistan and Uzbekistan are complementary. For instance, Uzbekistan can supply gas, electricity, cotton and such minerals as copper, gold, iron, chromium and lead to Pakistan, while in return Pakistan can supply textiles, cement, medicines, shoes, machinery, garments, military and telecommunication equipments. Uzbekistan has the fifth largest gold deposits in the world and ranks seventh in gold production. Barter trade among them is being discussed to save their foreign exchange. 'Human capital' is another area of cooperation as Uzbekistan can provide Pakistan with educated human capital. In comparison with Pakistan's literacy rate, Uzbekistan has a more than 95 percent literate population, including more than 900 PhDs. Pakistan can also provide Uzbekistan with technological help and skilled labour. It can also offer education and training facilities to Uzbek students, technocrats and military personnel. However, to boost bilateral trade, they both need to conclude trade agreements, including provisions for tax exemptions, on a reciprocal basis. That could include establishing business and trade houses, banks, insurance groups, professional services and helping each other towards the development of communication links. Central Asia has been termed a potential annual market of US\$80 billion. If Pakistan secures only five per cent of that market, it could earn up to US\$4 billion per year.

A project of more immediate interest and practicality was the opening of a Pakistani Commercial Bank in Tashkent. The NBP (National Bank of Pakistan) representative office was set up in 1995 in Tashkent but it could not facilitate the opening of a branch till 2005, though the government of Uzbekistan had granted a license for the purpose in 1992. If both states really want to move forward, then such bureaucratic delays need to be avoided. Despite the political will to improve relations they both need infrastructure and economic support to implement their agenda of cooperation.

Asma Shakir Khawaja, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, May 31, 2006,  
<http://www.cacianalyst.org/newsite/?q=node/3979>

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## SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO IRAN AND UZBEKISTAN

### **Executive Summary**

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee visited Iran and Uzbekistan (January 5 - 15, 2007) at the invitation of the Parliaments of these countries; led by its Chairman, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

These visits were highly useful and substantive and on a number of issues misgivings were removed and understanding of mutual constraints and perspectives was developed. ...

### **Visit to Uzbekistan**

The visit to Uzbekistan was equally informative and rewarding. The engagements with the top policy planners and discussions on regional issues were extremely useful.

The delegation met with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan. Mrs. Mukhitdinova termed the visit a continuation of good relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and expressed Uzbekistan's interest in developing relations with Pakistan in the political and economic fields. The foundation of the relations between the two countries was laid by President Musharraf and President Karimov which have strengthened due to agreements to fight against terrorism which was recently ratified by the Uzbek Senate. She also explained the composition and working of the Uzbek Parliament and the Senate.

Senator Mushahid Hussain then explained the working of the Pakistan's Parliament, the Senate and the Committees, to the Vice President. He termed the visit as historic as it was the first visit of a Committee to Uzbekistan. He thanked the Uzbek Government for supporting Pakistan's membership of the SCO. He said that another area which unites the two countries is the fight against extremism and terrorism as both Pakistan and Uzbekistan are victims of terrorism.

The delegation also held a meeting with Mr. Botirjon Hudoyberdiev, Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) and the senior staff of the Institute. The Director explained the objectives and functioning of the Institute which functions directly under the President of Uzbekistan and informed that the Institute had signed an agreement of cooperation with Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Senator Mushahid Hussain gave a perspective on three issues namely; Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations, Pakistan's regional issues in reference to Afghanistan and India, and the war on terror.

Speaking on Pakistan - Uzbekistan relations, Senator Mushahid stressed that both countries have long historic ties based on shared culture, geography and history and people in Pakistan trace their lineage to Samarqand and Bukhara.

Uzbekistan supported Pakistan's candidature for Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have cooperated in the war on terror and in the arrest of terrorists. The agreement between IPRI and ISRS would be an additional source of strength between the two countries.

On Pakistan - India relations, Senator Mushahid informed that the process of normalization initiated by President Musharraf is moving on.

The dialogue between the two countries focuses on regional security issues, commerce, culture and sports. In April, SAARC Conference will be held in India and the peace process will move further. Pakistan has the biggest stake in the territorial integrity of Afghanistan. Since 1979, Pakistan is hosting about 3.5 million refugees at the peak level. In 2004, Pakistan facilitated the election of President Karzai and Pakistan is not supporting any faction or group in Afghanistan. In fact, terrorism emanates from Afghanistan and they should control the situation.

Speaking on war on terrorism Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that this war has no end. The way out in Afghanistan is not the use of force but of political settlement like the one suggested for Iraq by the Iraq Study Group. The Muslim countries think that the war was directed against their great religion of peace and harmony - 'Islam'. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have special responsibility in the region as whatever happens in Afghanistan has a fall out in Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Mr. Botirjon shared Senator Mushahid's concern about the threat and challenges faced by the region. He was of the view that both countries have huge potential of cooperation.

Unfortunately, while dealing with Afghanistan the interest of Pakistan and Central Asia was not taken into consideration. Uzbekistan will always welcome all initiatives of Pakistan in resolving issues pertaining to Afghanistan and the region.

In a meeting, Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, underlined Uzbekistan desire for expanded trade and economic relations with Pakistan but the main obstacle is the situation in Afghanistan which hampered economic integration with Pakistan. He informed that the Presidents of Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have signed an agreement for transport route between their countries and when Gwadar is complete there will be trade through that Port as well. Drug money is going into terrorism and Uzbekistan is ready to cooperate against terrorism. Mr. Norov also briefed the Committee on the economic progress made by Uzbekistan including the progress on the religious front stating that after independence in 1991 the number of Mosques and Madrassahs have multiplied in Uzbekistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain, recalling that the Bolshevik Revolution had cut off relations between Pakistan and Central Asia, expressed happiness that President Musharraf and President Karimov have laid the foundations of good relations. He thanked the Foreign Minister for supporting Pakistan in joining SCO. Pakistan is not supporting any faction in Afghanistan. The US, NATO and Afghan Government have failed in Afghanistan, therefore, the neighbours of Afghanistan should be involved in bringing peace to that country. The Foreign Minister reiterated that top priority should be given to Pakistan-Uzbekistan economic cooperation and parliamentary cooperation. The airline service between the two countries is giving impetus to our relations.

The delegation also visited the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. The Institute, besides teaching other regional languages, offers a bachelor degree in Urdu language where a large number of Uzbek students are enrolled.

Addressing the faculty and students of the Urdu Department Senator Mushahid Hussain said that Urdu as a language was either spoken or understood by almost 500 million people living in the South Asian Sub-Continent as well as all over the world and it could serve as the link language between Pakistan and Uzbekistan as well, since there were 2500 common words in the Urdu and Uzbek languages. He announced formation of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Friendship Society with Senator Talha Mahmood as President and stated that this new Society would organize a conference of friendship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in October, 2007 to mark 60 years both of Pakistan's Independence and Urdu language teaching in Uzbekistan. He also invited a 10-member delegation of scholars and students from the Institute of Oriental Studies to visit Pakistan and participate in this conference.

He added that visiting Uzbekistan was like 'home coming' for members of the delegation as a large number of Pakistanis trace their roots and family origin to Uzbekistan.

The delegation also visited Samarqand and Bukhara where they paid their homage to great Islamic saints and visited their shrines. The delegation was received by the respective Governor Generals of those areas. In Samarqand the delegation visited Mausoleum of Imam Bukhari (RA) where Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq led the Fateha prayers and recited the first and last Hadiths quoted by Imam Bukhari, along with its *tafseer*. The delegation offered Friday prayers in the Mosque of the Mausoleum compound. People in the Mosque were excited to see Pakistani Muslim brethren in their midst.

In Bukhara the delegation visited the Mausoleums of Sheikh-ul-Mashaikh, Bahauddin aqshband (RA), Sheikh Abdul Khaliq (RA) and Madrassah Mir Arab.

The visits to Iran and Uzbekistan were highly significant for Pakistan's standing in these countries. For the first time, parliamentarians of these

countries met and their discussions undoubtedly strengthened the bilateral relations.

### **Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Delegation to Iran and Uzbekistan January 5 -15, 2007**

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee visited Iran and Uzbekistan on the invitation of Iranian and Uzbek Parliaments from 5th to 15th January, 2007 under the leadership of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. The following members formed part of the delegation:-

1. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Chairman of the Committee
2. Senator Wasim Sajjad Member
3. Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi Member
4. Senator S.M. Zafar Member
5. Senator Nisar Ahmed Memon Member
6. Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq Member
7. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood Member
8. Senator Sardar Mahtab Ahmed Member
9. Senator Naeem Hussain Chatta Member
10. Mr. Iftikharullah Babar Additional Secretary (Secretary Committee)
11. Mr. Riaz Ahmed Khan PS to Chairman

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### **The following meetings were held at Tashkent:-**

- i. Meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan.
- ii. Meeting with Mr. Botirjon Hudoyberdiev, Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) headed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- iii. Meeting with Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan.
- iv. Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies.

The delegation also visited Samarqand and Bukhara.

### **Meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan**

On 11th January, 2007 the delegation had a meeting with Mrs. Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President Senate of Uzbekistan. In her introductory remarks Mrs. Mukhitdinova welcomed the distinguished delegation from Pakistan to Uzbekistan and the Uzbek Senate.

She said that we see this visit as a continuation of good relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. We treat Pakistan and its people with respect. We are neighbours and we see the existing relations as good. We are interested in developing relations with Pakistan on the political and economic levels. We think that the foundation of the relations was laid by President Musharraf and President Karimov. This visit will give strong impetus to our good relations. We support the anti terrorism policy adopted by President Musharraf. The basis of relations is strengthened by fight against terrorism which was recently ratified by our Senate. We look forward to strengthening parliamentary relations as our people are keen to develop cooperation with the people of Pakistan. This visit of the delegation is the first visit from this part of the world and we want to learn from your experiences.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked the Vice President for her warm welcoming remarks and introduced the members of his delegation.

Mrs. Mukhitdinova stated that the Senate of Uzbekistan is there to establish our statehood.

On 21st August, 1991 our President Mr. Islam Karimov announced independence of Uzbekistan. Fifteen years is not long enough in the history of a nation but during the last fifteen years we have managed to achieve goals which can otherwise be reached in hundred years.

During these fifteen years we developed all sectors of national life. Had you visited fifteen years ago you would not have recognized our cities today. One of the principles of our reforms, as stipulated in the Constitution of December, 1992, is the establishment of a state which is open for establishing relations. Thirteen years ago we had one Chamber of Parliament. Since the last three years, we have a bicameral Parliament. This idea was initiated by President Karimov. In 2002, we carried out a referendum on that idea. After the approval of our people we worked on laws that would run the House.

Certain changes were made in the Constitution and rules were adopted. Explaining the composition of the Senate Mrs. Mukhitdinova said the Uzbek Senate has 100 members and gives representation to territories or regions. 6 Senators each are elected from 14 regions, who are elected from the people's delegates who represent the local councils in the Senate. These Senators have a dual role of Senators and as well as the local representatives.

16 Senators, who are people of high caliber, are chosen by the President. There are three plenary sessions in one year. 25 members of Parliament are full time workers. They are at the Parliament all the year around. The others go to their constituencies and their field of work.

The Parliament has two main functions. The first is approval of the budget including taxes, determining the foreign and domestic policy and reforms in different sectors. The other power which mainly lies with the Senate is the selection of Judges of the Supreme Court and other courts.

The approval of President's decree on appointments of public prosecutor, amnesty granted by the President, appointments and dismissals of diplomats and consideration of reports by prosecutor general and state bank.

As far as the structure is concerned, we presently have six committees and the number cannot go beyond eight. The committees consider laws passed the lower house in the plenary sessions.

All the functions are carried out by the committees. Usually, the members of the Committees travel to the regions to monitor the implementation of the laws and check the general condition of the area. Another important function is interaction with delegates of local councils in order to study the situation and development in the region.

Bills cannot be initiated in the Senate, therefore, only those laws passed by the Lower House are sent to the Senate for approval. When there is dissent between the two Houses we form a Consensus Commission to discuss the law jointly and come to a decision which will satisfy both the Houses. Until now we have had 8 plenary sessions where we passed 86 laws. In order to have constructive dialogue with the legislative chamber we have a Coordinating Council to coordinate issues with the Senate as it is a new structure in the statehood.

Initially, we were involved with setting up the institution but now we are involved in serious business and we monitor implementation of laws. Our concern is not only to adopt the law but see its implementation as well.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that this meeting provided a great learning experience for us. There are great similarities between our two Senates. I must compliment you for the good work by the Senate in institution building and I agree with your President that implementation is important. We have an active committee system including this Committee on Foreign Relations. We hold public hearings and the proceedings of this Committee are published and available on the website.

We in Pakistan have four provinces and two regions. We also have 100 members, of which 17 are women; 57 members from the Treasury benches and 43 from the Opposition benches. In the National Assembly, there are 342 members, of which 73 are women; 201 members belong to the Government parties while 141 belong to the Opposition. Our two parliaments should build this relationship which has been carved out by our Presidents. I am glad this visit is historic because this is the first visit of a committee to Uzbekistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain continued and stated that we have shared historical background as Samarqand and Bukhara are mentioned in our literature and folklore. I have seen remarkable transformation in your country compared to what I saw in 1985 when I visited as a journalist. Again, I visited in 1992 with Rabbani and it was the year when President Karimov and Mr. Rabbani announced the construction of a highway from Tashkent to Termiz

to Karachi. In my last visit in 1996, I traveled to Andijon, Fergana and Termiz and things have transformed and Tashkent has become a modern city.

We not only have a common history and culture but a common future as well. Our geographical location, particularly the short distance for Uzbekistan through Pakistan to the warm waters, will benefit not only Uzbekistan but the entire region. I am grateful that Uzbekistan supported Pakistan for membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This will further enhance our relationship.

One new area that unites us is the fight against extremism and terrorism. Terrorism has no religion and is different for different nations.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan are victims of terrorism. Some Uzbek terrorists were arrested by joint effort and people like Juma Amangani were eliminated. We have stake in the territorial integrity of Afghanistan because that has been the source of extremism, terrorism and drug trafficking.

I want to extend special greetings from Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, to you and your colleagues. Mr. Soomro called from Makkah and asked me to invite you to visit Pakistan with a delegation. On behalf of the Senate Committee I extend an invitation to your Foreign Affairs Committee to visit Pakistan. All these invitations will be extended in writing through the Ambassador of Pakistan in Tashkent.

Concluding the meeting, Mrs. Mukhitdinova stated that she fully agreed with the Pakistan side on the position taken on terrorism and Afghanistan and hoped that there would be meetings between the two parliaments on a regular basis.

### **Meeting with Mr. Botirjon Hudoyberdiev, Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS), headed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The Foreign Relations Committee had a meeting at the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) at 11:15 a.m. on 11th January, 2007. Mr. Botirjon, Director of the Institute, welcomed the delegation. Explaining the activities of the Institute he informed that ISRS was established in 1994 and has 4 main directions of research:-

- i. Study of international relations and sustainable economic development.
- ii. Studies in the military field.
- iii. Regional studies.
- v. Social and economic development of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Botirjon stated that our Institute has established cooperation around the world and in October, 2006 has signed an agreement of cooperation with Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). In February,

2007 we are hosting a conference on security in Asia. We have signed 30 interstate agreements. Relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan are gradually increasing. Trade between our two countries is \$16 million, which is not much and should increase. I hope during this visit we will be able to discuss this issue and broaden our cooperation. In this context you may like to ask questions.

Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the Director and the staff for the invitation to the Institute. He stated that I am happy about the agreement with IPRI, of which I am the founder Chairman since 1998. I am glad that the first institutional arrangement of cooperation has been established. We are planning an international conference on security issues in Islamabad in 2007 and we will invite you for that conference.

We are coming from Tehran and Mr. Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran has accepted an invitation to this conference. It would be a good idea if we can establish a bilateral annual security dialogue alternatively in Islamabad and Tashkent.

This interaction on a regular basis will help the two countries to come together and cooperate with each other. I will give you a brief perspective on three issues:-

- a. Pakistan - Uzbekistan relations.
- b. Pakistan's regional issues in reference to Afghanistan and India.
- c. War on terror and how Pakistan sees the situation?  
Pakistan and Uzbekistan have long historic ties based on shared culture, geography and history.

Most members of our delegation share some lineage to Samarqand and Bukhara. These ties have been reaffirmed by two important visits, one by President Musharraf to Uzbekistan and the other by President Karimov to Pakistan. In 1966, President Ayub Khan, Prime Minister Shastri of India and Prime Minister Kosygin of USSR signed an agreement between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue following the September, 1965 war between the two countries.

We thank Uzbekistan for supporting Pakistan's candidature for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). We feel that terrorism has no religion and it is the enemy of humanity. Like Uzbekistan, Pakistan has been a victim of extremism. We have cooperated with Uzbekistan and Juma Amangani was eliminated. So we have multifaceted relations between our two countries. This is the first Parliamentary delegation to visit this country and establish long term cooperation between the two Parliaments. Now the agreement between IPRI and ISRS will be an additional source of strength between our countries and the initiation of 'National Security Dialogue' on an annual basis will establish the relations further.

On Pakistan - India relations Senator Mushahid said there is a process of normalization with India, initiated by President Musharraf. The focus is on the core issue of Kashmir. The dialogue between the two countries focuses on regional security issues as both countries have nuclear arms but commerce, culture and sports are also discussed and this process will be intensified in the next two months. Next month, the Foreign Minister of India will be in Pakistan. On 18<sup>th</sup> January APHC leaders will be in Islamabad who are opposed to Indian occupation. In February, Indian Foreign Secretary will come to discuss regional issues. In April, SAARC Conference will be held in India and President Musharraf will attend. In Afghanistan we have the biggest stake in the territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

No other country has supported Afghanistan like Pakistan. Since 1979 we are hosting about 3.5 million refugees at the peak level. We are looking after them using our own resources. Terrorism emanates from Afghanistan and they should control the situation. In 2004, Pakistan facilitated President Karzai's election and Pakistan is not supporting any faction or group in Afghanistan.

We regret the insinuation by Kabul that Pakistan is responsible for happenings in Afghanistan. In fact, they should be responsible for their failure. 6.1 million metric tons of poppy production is the failure of Afghanistan, the US and the NATO forces. They should not accuse others for their failures. We feel the best way out should be the involvement of all 6 neighbours of Afghanistan as they have stake in Afghanistan's stability. We can involve Russia and the US also. 6+2 was the formula given by the UN as well.

Speaking on the war on terrorism, Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that this is a war with no end. The way out is not the use of force but of political settlement like the one suggested for Iraq by the Iraq Study Group. Immediately after 9/11, the international community was united for protecting mankind against terrorism but it became an ideological agenda coming from neocons. Three strategic mistakes were made by the Western nations. Firstly, without settling Afghanistan, they attacked Iraq, although it had nothing to do with terrorism. It was not sanctioned by the UN, so it was an illegal war. Secondly, the core issue is Palestine and no serious effort has been made to solve that problem. Even the roadmap by Bush and endorsed by the quartet (the US, China, Russia and the UN) is being violated. Thirdly, the Muslim countries think that the war was directed against their great religion of peace and harmony - Islam. The world today, therefore, is violent and unsafe. We have to restore the primacy of International Law and rule of law to establish peace in the world. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have especial responsibility in the region as both are at the centre of gravity in the region. Anything that happens in Afghanistan has a fall out in Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

I am glad that we are cooperating on regional issues and this cooperation should also be based on economic issues. The future is the

convergence of South Asia and Central Asia in world stability. We are building the Port of Gwadar which will provide short route to Central Asia and to the warm waters and energy corridor to China. This, again, will strengthen cooperation in the region. We are optimistic about the future and Pakistan will be a pivot for all this and it will bring prosperity to our peoples.

Mr. Botirjon thanked Senator Mushahid for the warm wishes. He said, I expect that our cooperation will strengthen in future. I share your concerns about the threat and challenges we face today. We have huge potential of cooperation. We are sorry that the situation has not stabilized in 20 years. Unfortunately, while dealing with Afghanistan the interest of Pakistan and Central Asia was not taken into consideration. The NATO forces have not been able to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. You have correctly mentioned that Afghans are cultivating opium. 8 out of 34 provinces are cultivating opium. Drug business feeds various terrorist organizations and its activities.

Uzbekistan always welcomed all initiatives of Pakistan in resolving these issues. I am sure we have common opinion and position on drugs and terrorism. We share your concern that no state can guarantee its security on its own. We are glad that we signed contract with IPRI and discussed prospects of cooperation in the future.

I propose certain areas for research:

- a. Issues of regional security.
- b. Transport corridor for the region.
- c. Exchange of experts and specialists.
- d. Organize bilateral or multilateral conferences and publish books and articles and papers.
- e. Discuss prospects of fostering SCO in the future.

We hope this cooperation will be a strong factor at various levels and intuitions. In this context our researcher will attend the proposed conference in February, 2007.

Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that two researchers each from Uzbekistan and Pakistan should work in each other country from 3-6 months. The proposal of transport corridor is very important. There should be a joint research conducted by our researchers on this subject.

We have done this with China and Uzbekistan can join and then the three countries can conduct research. In SCO we do not want a symbolic presence but want to play a proactive role and are applying for membership. We hope that 2007 will be auspicious for Pakistan – Uzbekistan relations, especially for think tanks. The role of think tanks is important as new ideas emanate from them. I hope there will be a follow up on our discussion. Two researchers can come for follow up report. Give dates at your convenience to the Ambassador. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema will send two researchers.

Mr. Botirjon once again welcomed the members to the Institute and said that it is high time for a dialogue between our two countries. By your visit to Samarqand and Bukhara your spiritual bond with Uzbekistan will strengthen further.

### **Meeting with Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan**

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed held a meeting with Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan on 11th January, 2007 at the Foreign Ministry in Tashkent.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister welcomed the delegation and termed it the first historical visit.

He said, we share history, culture and tradition.

We are proud and happy to look to the future. We want to expand trade and economic relations but the main obstacle is the situation in Afghanistan. Therefore, economic integration of Pakistan and Uzbekistan could not take place.

In 1924, our borders were closed to the world and we could trade only through Moscow. Before that, it was through Bukhara. Uzbekistan, like Pakistan, is supporting anti terrorism. 11 bridges from Mazar-e-Sharif to Kabul have been built by Uzbekistan. 16 million tons of humanitarian goods have been sent to Afghanistan. The Presidents of Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have signed an agreement for transport route between their countries and when Gwadar is complete there will be trade through that Port as well. Before independence, I was a Criminal Prosecutor in Bukhara and there were no cases of drugs. Money from drugs is going into terrorism. We, therefore, are ready for cooperation against terrorism and we agree when President Musharraf says that terrorism should not be linked to any religion. In January, 2002, President Musharraf said that Pakistani Madrassahs should be transformed into similar Madrassahs where Ibne Khaldun and Ibne Sina were educated. We are proud that our ancestors made contribution to the cause of education and Aristotle was rejected by these scholars through the Christians. You will see the difference in Naqshbandi and Imam Bukhari Mausoleums before and after independence. Islam came to our country in 8th century A.D.

Mr. Vladimir Norov stated that we are a multiethnic country and we have developed our economic and political system. Last year, GDP growth was 7 percent. We produce and supply cotton. Previously, 9 percent was being processed locally and now 40 percent is processed in Uzbekistan. We are the main supplier of cotton to the US. We export minerals, canned food and fruit to different countries. We are also trying to develop tourism. We renovated mosques and mausoleums so that Muslims of the world can come and see our

heritage. Before independence, there was only one Madrassah, now we have ten. In the Madrassahs the students study religion and other subjects and they are equipped to work anywhere. I welcome you and your delegation once again and thank the Pakistan Embassy for supporting Uzbekistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the Foreign Minister for his warm welcome. After introducing the members of his delegation he said that there is tremendous potential for developing our relations. The Bolshevik Revolution cut off our relations. President Islam Karimov and President Musharraf have laid the foundations of good relations. When I was a journalist, I remember your President had talked about a highway from Karachi to Termiz. In this short visit we have achieved a few landmarks. I have invited Farruha Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Senate of Uzbekistan and the Foreign Affairs Committee to visit Pakistan. Secondly, the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) and the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) will cooperate in research and bilateral visits wherein two researchers, each from Uzbekistan and Pakistan, will work in each other's countries.

Thank you for supporting Pakistan in joining Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

President Karimov and President Musharraf are now good friends. The Ambassador has briefed me on some problems and we will remove them. Pakistan is not supporting any faction in Afghanistan. The US, NATO and the Afghan Government have failed in Afghanistan. We feel that the neighbours of Afghanistan should be involved in bringing peace to Afghanistan. Terrorism has no religion and it is against humanity. We helped in eliminating Juma Namangani.

Senator Mushahid Hussain further stated that everyone has links to Samarqand and Bukhara.

We are going there tomorrow and the feeling is that we are going home. There is so much compatibility. Tosh Mirza has produced a dictionary which has 2500 common words in Urdu and Uzbek. Let us break the bureaucratic tap and establish strong relations. Gwadar will be another important link as Uzbekistan will get access to warm waters. Mr. Maroof Usmanov is looking after us very well. We owe a lot to you and Taimur and Babar.

Mr. Vladimir Norov said that after passing out from the Academy in 1985, I was serving in Bukhara Police. Gorbachev was ruling USSR and the main language was Russian. Only the religion maintained our identity. We could not go to mosque for prayers. Our ancestors prayed privately and if one was in the Communist Party one could not attend a Nimaz-e-Jinaza. Islam Karimov did a lot for Islam after independence and to give an example, the number of mosques has gone up from 60 to 2000. We had one Madrassah but now we have ten. People contributed money for their construction. People from Chechnya and Azerbaijan come to Uzbekistan to study in these Madrassahs.

Previously, Madrassah was considered a place for studying Quran but now we teach every subject in the Madrassah. We have translated the Hadiths of Imam Bukhari in the Uzbek language. We study Quran and recognize Torah and Bible. We know Allah has 100 names. Allah made man like Him and if you have all the qualities of Allah you will be close to Him.

Creativity is Allah's characteristic. Therefore, one should be creative. My grandfather was a cleric and taught for 20 years. After his death my mother collected all his books and saved them otherwise one could be sent to Siberia for keeping those books.

For us, security and stability is important. Our aim is democracy, development of economy and respect for human rights. I appreciate your assessment of the drafting of laws in Uzbekistan by President Karimov. We are reforming our school system. We are going for 9 years schooling and 3 years professional education.

We should give top priority to economic cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and cooperation between parliaments is also very important. We can extend any support that you require. The airline service is giving impetus to our relations.

Senate of Pakistan, Report 14, May 2007,  
[http://www.foreignaffairscommittee.org/includes/content\\_files/Visit%20to%20Iran.pdf](http://www.foreignaffairscommittee.org/includes/content_files/Visit%20to%20Iran.pdf)

## **SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN: PAST AND PRESENT**

Like the ancient Egypt, Babylon, China and Central Asia, India is a leading link between Orient and West. It played an important role in forming of Silk Road. It is mentioned in an ancient work of Buddhist times "Djataki" (3-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) that trade caravans traveled from India to Central Asia. Central Asia's geographic conditions were convenient for it and they played an important role in being a mediator between East and West. Central Asia was not only mediator, but also it traded with India.

Indian science was a main source for creative work of scientists of the Middle Ages. Thanks to Horizmi's works scientists all over the world were the first who knew about the Indian decimal scale of notation and Indian numerals.

The great scientist Beruni played an important role in the development of scientific-cultural cooperation between Central Asia and India scientists. The great name of Beruni and all his life have become a personification of Central Asia and Indian commonwealth.

The first President of independent Uzbekistan Islam Karimov mentioned in one of his speeches: "The priceless heritage of our ancestors

Beruni, Ibn Sino, Horazmi, Ahmad al-Fergani, Imam al-Buhari, at-Termizi, al-Motruodi, Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek, Bahaudin Naqshbandi, Alisher Navoi, Zahir-al-din Muhammad Bobur will constantly support us in an important issue of establishment of the strong state and in finding of the worthy place in global mutual relations”.

Beruni’s famous work “India” and his great contribution to the study of India have been highly appreciated by modern Indian scientists and public figures. “Probably none of the medieval and modern authors hasn’t approximated in such understanding of difficult problems of the Indian civilization as the immortal Abu Rayhon Beruni whose “India” has been still a classic example of the author’s appreciation the ancient culture and science”, wrote Halid Riza in the book “The Cultural Role of India”. During 16-18<sup>th</sup> centuries the peoples of Central Asia and India going on with centuries - old traditions of their ancestors were in close cultured interrelations. Their cooperation concerned all spheres of cultural life: poetry, study of literature, art, creation of historical and other scientific works, etc. Cultural – literary links between Central Asia and India were established by personal contacts and co-operation of the representatives of science and culture by their exchange of scientific and literary ideas. Bobur and his dynasty played a great role in the development of cultural links between Central Asia and India.

Speaking about the cultural links between Central Asian and Indian people we should point to the important role of Amir Husrav [Khusrav] Dehlavi (1253-1325).

The historic sources say that during the period of the Middle Ages when Islam was a predominant religion in Hindustan, Bobur came into close contacts with the sheikhs of Chishty and Nakshbandia’s orders of Sufies. In proof of that Bobur gave one of his daughters in marriage to one of the sheikhs.

On August 14, 1947 Pakistan was declared an independent state.

Since that time, the close scientific, cultural, economic relations of the former USSR and Pakistan and India have been established. So, in Karachi a plant for metal works has been constructed by the Soviet engineers.

It is necessary to notice that pilgrims and tourists had an opportunity to visit ancient relics of Pakistan and got acquainted more closely with Samarkand, Bukhara.

Uzbek poet and scientist Musa Tash Muhammad Oybek, the founder of Uzbek nasr tradition, was the first Uzbek writer who visited Pakistan. He expressed his feelings in the novel “In Search of Light” which serves as one more symbol of friendly relations between our countries.

We shall not make a mistake if we tell that verses and gazelles of the winner of the international literature competition Faiz Ahmad Faiz has managed to leave deep impression on the heart of each Uzbek person which has familiarized with his creativity.

It is known, that in honour of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the collection “Stories of Pakistani writers” in Russian was published. In the collection alongside with stories and compositions of such famous Pakistan writers as Ahmad Nadim Kasimy, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, the works of young perspective Pakistani writers were included. Later, the collection of the selected poems of Faiz Ahmad Faiz in Uzbek was published in publishing house named after Gafur Gulam.

In 1967 in the same publishing house, the collection of poems “Poets of India” was published which included more than 20 poems of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. In 1971 the publishing house “Fan” published a sketch “Historical Sketch of the Advanced Social and Philosophical Ideas of People of Oriental Abroad” under academician I. Muminov’s edition which was written by the group of scientists-orientalists of Institute of Philosophy and Law at the Science Academy of Uzbekistan. In this sketch, there is a scientific article “Muhammad Iqbal” of orientalist Saadulla Yuldashev which the author writes about life, activity, philosophical and social views. In cooperation with the national poets of Uzbekistan, Erkin Vahidov and Jumaniyaz Jabbarov Saadulla Yuldashev had translated more than hundred of Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s poems into Uzbek.

While learning Iqbal’s life, Saadulla Yuldashev translated more than 80 poems from Urdu and Persian into Uzbek and such poets as Erkin Vahidov and Jumaniyaz Jabbarov helped him. These poems were published in 1973 by the publishing house “Gafur Gulam”. Saadulla Yuldashev did the prolong and word-by-word translation. Such poem as “Asrar-i khudi”, “Payame mashriq”, “Bonge daro”, “Bale Jabroil”, “Zarbe kalim” are also included in the book. We can undoubtedly say this book was a unique present for the learners of Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s life and creative works. The poet’s outlooks really associates with such poets as Chulpan, Abdullah Qodiriy, Oybek, Gafur Gulam,

On December 15-17, 1974 in the capital of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Islamabad a seminar “History of Science in Central Asia” devoted to studying of Central Asia civilizations was organized. In the seminar the President of the International Association on Studying of Central Asia cultures academician Bahodir Gofurov participated.

During the seminar the works of Pakistan philosophers such as Prof Talpur (“Al-Horazmi”), Dr. Anvarhan Ulugbek (“Zijii”), Prof. Samad Husain Razvi (“Some aspects of Al-Beruni’s work “Saidina”), Shah (“Ibu Sino’s Contribution in Medicine”) were presented. These works concluded a monograph published in the printing house of University of Kajd Azam in Islamabad in 1978.

In May, 1976 in the journal “Mehnatkar” published in Lahore the articles in Urdu under the name “Uzbekistan Pakistan-ke sikafati taalukat” and “Allama Iqbal ek azim insan” by Saadulla Yuldashev were published.

In November, 1977 under the initiative of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and the Institute of Oriental Studies named after Abu Reyhan Beruni, National University of Uzbekistan and the public organizations an international scientific seminar on the theme “Muhammad Iqbal – an Outstanding Poet and Philosopher of the Orient” was organized.

After the Independence of Uzbekistan the bilateral relationships between the Republics have begun to develop rapidly. So, Uzbek readers have become acquainted with Pakistan culture philosophy in Uzbek, i.e. state language.

In 1995 under the protection of the Executive Director of Literature Academy of Pakistan in Islamabad Ifthar Arif with the Chief Editor of Academy Fahri Zaman the collection in two volumes “Great Poets and Mystics of Pakistan” in English was translated into Uzbek by the group of orientologists and published in Tashkent.

In 1996 there was one more important event in history of two great nations for the purposes of strengthening scientific and cultural connections between our countries the scientific group of literature Academy of Pakistan a book “Alisher Navoi – the Great Poet of Uzbekistan” in Urdu was presented to attention of the Pakistan readers. In that book the life, creativity and heritage of the Uzbek literature founder Alisher Navoi were described.

On the basis of the book there are academician Rahman Muhammadjanov (translation), Prof. Tash Mirza Halmirzaev’s (edition), Fahri Zaman (preface)’s works.

Academician Rahman Muhammadjanov not only wrote about Alisher Navoi’s life creativity but also included fragments from his masnavi “Layli and Majnun” and “Farhad and Shireen” translated in Urdu.

In 2003 the famous Urdu scientist Prof. Tash Mirza Halmirzaev was the first who published the Uzbek and Urdu dictionary of 500 copies for students in publishing house “Qaumi Zaman” in Pakistan. It became a great step in development of bilateral cultural and scientific interrelations. The dictionary has been published under the edition of Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik, chairman of the National language Authority of Pakistan.

We should mention doctor Ansoriddin Ibragimov who in 1994, in Lahore published the Urdu-Uzbek phrase book which was called to facilitate studying of languages of two nations.

In 1997 Dr. Ansoriidin Ibragimov translated in Urdu a drama “Gold wall” by Uzbek poet Erkin Vahidov which was performed. Also in 1997 Dr. Ansoriddin Ibragimov translated in Urdu and published in Lahore “History of A Century” by the Uzbek comedian writer Neemat Aminov.

In 1994 in Lahore Dr. Ansoriddin Ibragimov published the Urdu-Uzbek phrase book and in 1998 published it in Uzbekistan in the publishing house “Uqituvchi”. In 2007 this phrase book was published of large circulation in the

capital of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Islamabad. The presentation of the phrase book leads in January, 2007.

For strengthening cultural and scientific connections between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Uzbekistan, we are the Urdu scientists plan to fulfill the following actions:

1. The scientific seminar on a theme “Pakistan and Uzbekistan - Scientific, Cultural Connections: History and Present”.
2. Translation and edition of works in Urdu (nast and nazm).
3. Publishing an Urdu course book.
4. Publication of scientific articles on following themes: “Language and Literature of Urdu”, “Social, Philosophical and Ethical views of Pakistan Philosophers”.
5. Carrying out of the international scientific conferences devoted to the great Oriental philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Students prepare their diploma works on Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s views. For example, in 2005 Alexandra Jelobenko (National University of Uzbekistan) wrote her work “Problems of Freedom in Philosophy of Kierkegaard and Iqbal” for taking B.A.’s degree.

Prof. Saadulla Yuldashev is preparing the monography “Iqbal’s Literature” which will be published in Uzbekistan soon.

The people of Uzbekistan always get a chance to meet the valuable historical culture of the Pakistan people and would like to read the books by famous Pakistani scientists, writers and poets in their own language and in Urdu. The main task of scientists-orientalists of both countries is to constantly develop and bring scientific and cultural connections between Pakistan and Uzbekistan up to new, qualitative level.

Saadulla A. Yuldashev, “Scientific and Cultural Connections between Pakistan and Uzbekistan: Past and Present,” *Central Asia Journal*, no. 60(Summer 2007): 219-224.

## PAKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN TO BOOST DEFENCE COOPERATION

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have underscored the need for further increasing cooperation in areas of mutual interest particularly defence collaboration, said an release.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Tariq Majid, who is currently on four-day visit of Republic of Uzbekistan, called on Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and exchanged views on matters of bilateral cooperation and other areas of specific interest, the statement said.

Uzbek Premier expressed hope that visit by Pakistan’s senior military leadership will pave the way for further strengthening military to military

relationship between both the countries. Uzbekistan appreciates Pakistan's efforts in fighting extremism/terrorism and is interested in benefiting from the experiences of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, he added.

The meeting also stressed the need for increasing cooperation in the areas of defence production. General Tariq said that Pakistan values its brotherly ties with Uzbekistan as we are facing common challenges and share similarity of views on security and stability in the region.

"Our relations are based on mutual respect and trust. We need to adopt a collaborative and integrated approach to bring peace and stability to the region", he added. Earlier, in the day, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee called on Ruslan Mirzayev, Defence Minister of Uzbekistan at Ministry of Defence.

The meeting with the Uzbek Defence Minister reflected the warmth and friendship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. It dwelt upon enhancing mutual cooperation between the two brotherly countries, which shared a common view on international and regional issues.

The main focus of the discussion was aimed at measures for enhancing defence industry and military to military cooperation amongst the two brotherly countries. Later, both sides signed an agreement on military training and measures to enhance military to military cooperation including exchange of expert delegations from both sides to identify specific areas of cooperation.

*Uzbekistan Daily* online, July 6, 2008,  
<http://www.uzdaily.com/articles-id-3329.htm>

## UZBEKISTAN'S REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Pakistan and Uzbekistan and other regional countries are natural partners, sharing the identical threats and united by the common interests for the peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict.

Being a leading country of the region, Uzbekistan is undertaking efforts aimed at ensuring regional stability and socio-economic development.

Uzbekistan has made timely and repeated calls to the world community to resolve these issues and in 1992 addressing the problem of civil war in Tajikistan (1992-1997) initiated the establishment of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT).

The civil war in Tajikistan which had started in 1992 had been the most violent consequence of the Soviet breakup in our Central Asia. Uzbekistan in the years of war in Tajikistan offered the greatest economic and humanitarian assistance.

After a direct appeal by Uzbekistan United Nations Secretary-General sent missions to the area for fact-finding and observation of the humanitarian situation. And UNMOT was established in 1994 to monitor the ceasefire

agreement between the Government of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition. The parties signed general peace agreement in 1997.

Here are some significant initiatives and positions implemented by Uzbekistan on the International Arena.

### **2009 - Creation of Nuclear Free Zone in Central Asia**

The initiative on establishing a Nuclear Free Zone in Central Asia was initiated by Uzbekistan at the 48th session of the UN General Assembly on September 28 1993, has been implemented recently.

The initiative was fully supported by our neighbours – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Process was not easy and required a long period of negotiations with the nuclear five and the Treaty came into effect on March 21, 2009. It confirms our commitments on enhancing the regional and international peace and security, as well as practical contribution into the global drive of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

### **Uzbekistan`s Regional Initiative “6+3”**

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the first leader who initiated the regional approach for the Afghan imbroglio. On April, 3, 2008 at the summit of NATO in Bucharest, the President Islam Karimov had proposed the restoration of the contact group "6+2" with its expansion to "6+3" format by including NATO.

The framework of contact group 6+2 has proven to be effective during 1997-2001 with support of the United Nations. The task of the contact group, consisting of the countries, neighbouring Afghanistan - China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan plus the United States of America and Russia, was to seek the common and consolidated principles and approaches on achieving peace in Afghanistan.

The proposed mechanism stipulates that all the neighbouring countries under the patronage of UN are 1) to guarantee the non-interference to intra-afghan talks, to refrain from providing political, military and financial aid to any warring factions, and 2) to advocate talks within Afghans for ensuring peace, stability and progress in their country.

In initial stage, Uzbekistan proposes for the 6 regional countries being immediate neighbours to Afghanistan to form the Contact Group and conduct the political talks for the promotion of the full commitment to the resolution of Afghanistan imbroglio.

The role of the so called "superpowers" will be to guarantee the non-interference, ban on arm's imports, de-militarization and denial of the use of

force, assistance to the socio-economic projects and support for the population of Afghanistan.

Even in the case of military and political stabilization in the country, Afghanistan would be challenged to meet the basic social and economic needs for its people, so an international economic and humanitarian assistance will remain to be a key factor for the post-war reconstruction of the country.

For now, every country in the region and Afghans themselves rightly criticizing the performance of international community in providing the financial assistance, and consider it to be ineffective. The efficiency of the donor assistance actually does not exceed 15-20 % that could be explained by corruption starting from the highest levels – the officials of the international community in charge of distributing financial means, representatives of NGOs, and also owners of foreign and local private entities, participating in the implementation of a specific economic project.

In spite of many decisions and pledges made by the countries during the Bonn, London, Kabul and other international conferences there is a real lack of coordination in this direction.

In the given context, it is obviously necessary to review the new ways of regional and multilateral coordination in these matters, and it is desirable to conduct it under the strict control of the United Nations and the UN Special representative on Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan's position to other global initiatives on Afghanistan is that the term "Af-Pak" do not be used. Uzbekistan fully supports the notion that this term does not correspond to real situation and Pakistan shall be considered not as object of any policy but equal partner in maintaining of regional security and peaceful solution of Afghan crisis.

President Islam Karimov in his opening address at the SCO Summit in Tashkent on June 11, 2010 stressed the fundamental nature of Uzbekistan's proposal to tackle the crisis in Afghanistan:

**First** There is no military solution to the Afghan problem. Uzbek leadership has mentioned this in April 2008 at a meeting of EAPC/NATO in Bucharest and other international forums, while today it is the subject of discussion by many leaders of nations, involved in resolving the crisis in Afghanistan.

**Second** In addressing the conflict and stability in Afghanistan, priority should be given to the provision of targeted economic assistance to the long-suffering Afghan people, to the construction of transport communications and social infrastructure, ensuring population's employment, and resolution of pressing problems of combating poverty.

**Third** It is necessary that the historical, ethno-demographic characteristics of Afghanistan, ages-old customs, traditional values of Islam that are adhered to by the multinational and multi-religious people of the country, be taken into account and respected.

**Fourth** Without engaging the people of Afghanistan and all - without exception - opposing forces, ethnic and religious groups in the process of reconciliation, and without reaching consensus among them, the war in Afghanistan may last long.

**Fifth** An active participation of three key players - the United States, Russia and NATO - in this process is important and another major condition is reliance on neighbouring nations, the countries that directly border with Afghanistan. Only with engaging these countries to influence ethnic groups in Afghanistan, it will be possible to hope for a positive outcome.

Therefore Uzbekistan advocates regional approach as the only way for solving the regional disputes and achieving peace. The stability in the region can only be achieved when the regional countries cooperate at various levels including economic and political fields.

The speech of H.E. Ambassador Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad, delivered at the conference on Afghanistan, organized by IPRI in August 2010.

## UZBEK EMBASSY CELEBRATES ARMED FORCES' DAY

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Oybek Arif Usmanov and Defence Attaché Major Lutfulla Umurzakov on Friday hosted a reception at a local hotel to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the Day of the Defenders of the Motherland generally called the Armed Forces' Day.

It is for the first time in the history of Pak-Uzbek relations that the Embassy of Uzbekistan has celebrated the day in Pakistan. This signifies the ever-growing level of brotherly relations between the two countries.

A large number of military attachés from various mission attended the ceremony. Military Secretary at the General Headquarters Lieutenant General Mohsin Kemal and some other officers of the armed forces represented Pakistan on the occasion.

The day is celebrated in Uzbekistan on January 14, showing a new vigour of Uzbek people to defend their sovereignty at every odd. The country had introduced a completely new system of management of the Armed Forces after reforms in Uzbekistan's army, and formed a reliable defense of the country.

In November 2008, Uzbek President Islam Karimov signed a decree on improvement of the statutory military service in the armed forces, which called up people to the military service once a year instead of the previous two times, and newly-established sergeant schools and higher military colleges with modern facilities for training of the servicemen.

The country has well established Special Operation Forces, Counter Terrorism Corps, Search and Intelligence Platoons, and Helicopter-Striking Platoons supported through an intensified training and latest armament.

At the Uzbek Armed Forces' Day function, the guests expressed keen interest in various defence matters including the London Conference and Pakistan's role in bringing peace and security in Afghanistan. They also were keen to know about Indo-Pak relations.

The Uzbek Embassy also organised a photograph exhibition, featuring defence relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Sajjad Malik, *Daily Times* (Lahore) January 29, 2011,  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C01%5C29%5Cstory\\_29-1-2010\\_pg11\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C01%5C29%5Cstory_29-1-2010_pg11_7)

## PM FOR ENHANCED PAKISTAN-UZBEKISTAN TRADE, ECONOMIC TIES

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Thursday that tremendous potential existed to enhance the trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in various sectors requiring focused attention through identification of specific projects. He emphasized upon the need to enhance the level of trade that commensurate with the close friendly and brotherly ties. The Prime Minister was talking to an Uzbek delegation led by Minister for Agriculture and Water Management Ruziev Zafar Sharipovich here at the PM House.

Both Pakistan and Uzbekistan, the Prime Minister said, had large agricultural base and could share the experiences in this sector to enhance production of agriculture crops particularly cotton.

Uzbekistan being the sixth largest producer and second largest exporter of cotton, besides, sharing knowledge and technology can supply quality cotton for Pakistan's textile sector, he added.

The Prime Minister while underlining Pakistan's energy requirements, mentioned that Pakistan was prepared to buy surplus electricity from the neighbouring Central Asian countries.

The two brotherly countries can also have close collaboration in the oil and gas sector for which possibilities have to be explored to the mutual benefit of the two states, he added.

Highlighting the importance of Gwadar and Karachi seaports to facilitate trade between Central Asian Republics and Middle East, Africa and beyond, the Prime Minister proposed that a trilateral trade agreement between Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan could be reached at in this regard. On regional peace and stability, the Prime Minister reiterated that Pakistan was part of solution and prepared to extend any help in this context. Pakistan, he

added, supported Afghan led and Afghan owned efforts for stability in that country.

The Prime Minister mentioned that he had very useful interaction with the Afghan leadership, including President Karzai during his last visit to Afghanistan and expressed confidence that the talks at the highest level would prove fruitful in establishing better understanding between the two countries. The common threat of terrorism and extremism being faced by the entire region requires a common strategy to eliminate this menace, he said and emphasized that the strategy needed to be supported and complemented with political and socio-economic development of all the regional countries to bring about economic prosperity.

The Prime Minister said that he was pleased to note that the Joint Ministerial Level dialogue between Pakistan and Uzbekistan was progressing well and hoped that both sides would be able to take strides in the right direction for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. The banking sector in both the countries needs to be encouraged to play their role in promoting trade and economic ties, he added. In the same context, he expressed the hope that the National Bank of Pakistan would be facilitated to open its branch in Tashkent.

The Prime Minister said that he would be visiting Uzbekistan soon to interact with the Uzbek leadership to further promote the existing bilateral relations.

Leader of the Uzbekistan delegation Ruziev Zafar Sharipovich said that Uzbekistan recognized Pakistan's leading role in the region including its efforts to fight terrorism which was a challenge not only for this region but the entire world.

Pakistan's role for peace in Afghanistan is equally appreciable, which will not only help stability in that country but will also help bring about economic development in the entire region particularly in the Central Asian Republics, he added.

In the same context, the Uzbek Minister said that his country was developing connectivity, through both road and railways, with Afghanistan which could be further extended to Pakistan as well.

The Uzbekistan Minister for Agriculture and Water Management agreed with the Prime Minister that great potential existed in both the countries which could be effectively utilized for the benefit of the people of two countries.

He assured that Uzbekistan would extend complete cooperation to Pakistan in the agricultural and energy sectors.

The Uzbek Minister said that the government and the people of Uzbekistan were eagerly waiting for the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Gilani to their country, which he said, would further strengthen bilateral relations and better understanding.

He expressed satisfaction over the progress on the on-going Joint Ministerial Talks and mentioned that these talks would prepare ground for reaching agreements likely to be signed during the visit of the Prime Minister. Other members of the Uzbek delegation included Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Anvar Salihbaev and Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Oybek A. Usmanov.

Minister for Water and Power Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Secretaries Economic Affairs, Food and Agriculture and other senior officers were also present in the meeting.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, March 18, 2011,  
<http://www.primeministerofpakistan.co/?page=detail&p=news&id=500>

## **PAK-UZBEK JMC TO STRENGTHEN TRADE, CULTURAL TIES, SAYS QAMAR**

Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) will provide a solid base to build economic and cultural partnership on rising trajectory, Syed Naveed Qamar Federal Minister for Privatisation, Water & Power said Thursday. Speaking at the 5th session of Pak-Uzbek JMC, Qamar hoped that deliberations of the session would provide the scope for materialising full potential of both the economies and “it would also provide opportunity to move forward for cooperation in transportation, textile, energy, tourism, agriculture, IT & Telecommunication, banking, finance and similar fields.” Naveed Qamar stressed the need to further improve the bilateral trade by vigorously involving the private sector and strengthening cooperation between the chambers and industry of the two countries. Agreements on establishing banking channels and liberal visa regimes were imperative to improve bilateral trade and investment and to increase business-to-business contact through the mechanism of Joint Business Council, he added. The minister underlined the need for forging cooperation in the field of agriculture, energy, petroleum & natural resources and science and technology and offered Pakistan’s assistance for the development of Uzbek Human Resources for training in various fields. Giving an overview of Pakistan’s economy, Naveed Qamar informed that the persistent economic reforms introduced in Pakistan have provided good platform to attract foreign direct investment. Pakistan has a stock of more than \$60 billion as FDI and almost all international companies are operating in various fields of Pakistan. The areas of intent for FDI include energy, finance, telecommunication and consumer goods. Country’s foreign exchange reserves have been built beyond \$17 billion from as low as \$6.4 billion in October 2008 while during the current fiscal year, Pakistan has estimated its exports to cross \$22 billion against \$19.7 billion during the previous fiscal year, he added.

Addressing the JMC, the leader of the Uzbek delegation, Ruziev Zafar Shripovich Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources informed that his country is working on modernisation and diversification of economy while the energy resources are sufficient to cover the demand of the economy for the next 100 years. The Uzbek delegation expressed satisfaction over the progress made by both countries for trade and economic cooperation and termed Pakistan an important partner of Uzbekistan in South Asia region. There was a need to accelerate the pace of exploiting available bilateral trade potential of both countries, he added. The opening session was followed by discussions during technical sessions at the experts' level of both the countries.

*Daily Times* (Lahore), March 18, 2011,  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\03\18\story\\_18-3-2011\\_pg5\\_2](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\03\18\story_18-3-2011_pg5_2)

## UZBEKISTAN FOR PROMOTING FREE TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

Uzbekistan Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Zafar Ruziev Sharipovich on Thursday stressed the need for promoting free trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan to enhance trade volume between the two countries. He was addressing the 5th session of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Ministerial Commission which was chaired by Federal Minister for Privatization, Syed Naveed Qamar.

The Uzbek Minister said that the sessions of Pak-Uzbek JMC were going on positively, expressing the hope that the current session would result in further boosting trade between the two countries.

He was of the view that both the countries were having huge trade and investment potential, which needed to be exploited for the mutual benefit. "We are working in close relations with Pakistani investors in order to fully utilize the potential areas of trade and investment", he said.

Zafar Ruziev said that Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani was planning to visit Uzbekistan adding the visit would improve the bilateral relations and trade between the two countries.

On the occasion, Syed Naveed Qamar said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan were enjoying friendly relations. "We want to further deepen the relations by enhancing trade with Uzbekistan", he added.

He said tourism industry has a big potential where both the countries could jointly work to take benefit of this potential and earn foreign exchange.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan had signed a protocol to cooperate in water, power, agriculture, leather, textile, tourism and pharmaceutical sectors and to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries. The agreement was signed in Tashkent after the conclusion of 4th session of Pak-Uzbek JMC in April

2009 and in the 5th session the two sides would also review the progress of the agreement.

*Pakistan Observer* (Islamabad), March 18, 2011,  
<http://pakobserver.net/201103/18/detailnews.asp?id=81699>

## PAKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN SIGN JOINT PROTOCOL TO FURTHER ENHANCE BILATERAL TRADE

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed a joint protocol of mutual cooperation in the field of trade, economic, finance, scientific technical cooperation, transportation and transit of goods, bilateral investment, power sector, food and agriculture, IT and telecom, culture and environment. The fifth session of Pak-Uzbek JMC was held here. The session was co-chaired by Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Water and Power and Mr. Ruziev Zafar Sharipovich, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan. Both the delegations acknowledge deep historical, cultural and political relation between the two countries and hoped that the current momentum in translating excellent political relations into commercial and economic opportunities would further promote bilateral cooperation. Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Water and Power from Pakistan side and Mr. Ruziev Zafar Sharipovich from Uzbek side signed the protocol on behalf of their countries. Both sides agreed to facilitate the business community to participate in fairs and exhibitions in both countries. Both sides also agreed to continue their dialogue on visa policy. The sides have discussed the issue of NATIONAL Bank of Pakistan Rep office in Uzbekistan and agreed to continue the dialogue on this matter. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have also agreed to form a Joint Working Group (JWG) on implementation of joint investment projects. It was also decided to consider the possibility of extending cooperation in oil and gas, leather, pharmaceuticals and other sectors of economy. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation between institute of Genetics and Experimental Biology of plants of the Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan and Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) for Research and Development in the field of Cotton growing. Cultural Exchange Programme for the next four years (2011-2015) was also agreed. The Pakistani side had forwarded a proposal to the Uzbek side for establishing optic fibre link from Pakistan to Uzbekistan, engineering consultancy service of NATIONAL Engineering Service of Pakistan (NESPAC), establishing of citizens data base and consultancy and training service in this regard. Both sides agreed to hold the 6th session of the Joint Ministerial Commission in Tashkent in 2013 on mutually agreed dates.

March 19, 2011,  
<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Pakistan,+Uzbekistan+sign+joint+protocol+to+further+enhance+bilateral...-a0252339509>

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**PROTOCOL OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF  
PAKISTAN - UZBEKISTAN JOINT INTER GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION ON TRADE, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC –  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION, HELD IN ISLAMABAD ON  
MARCH 17, 2011**

In pursuance of the Agreement between the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation, signed in Islamabad on March 31, 1993, the fifth Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission was held in Islamabad on March 17, 2011.

The Pakistani delegation was led by His Excellency Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Water and Power and the Uzbek delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Zafar Ruziev, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources. The lists of the two delegations are attached at Annex I and II.

The Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in a cordial and amicable atmosphere.

In their opening remarks, the heads of the two delegations highlighted the excellent and long-standing relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, characterized by a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity and reaffirmed the commitment of their respective countries to further promote and enhance the existing bilateral cooperation.

Both sides noted that the volume of bilateral trade did not reflect the real potential of the two economies and expressed hope that the Fifth Joint Ministerial Commission would elaborate tangible and mutually beneficial measures for trade promotion.

The two delegations reviewed the decisions taken during the fourth JMC Session. During the deliberations following recommendations were concluded:

### **I. Trade**

1. The Pakistani side has requested Uzbek side to exchange information on customs and tariff regulations. The Uzbek side in its turn informed about readiness to submit the relevant information as soon as the Pakistani request is received and also to discuss the existing issues at the expert's level. The sides agreed to discuss ways and means to promote trade between the two countries.

2. Both sides agreed to facilitate the business community to participate in fairs and exhibitions in both countries. The Trade promotion authorities of the two countries would directly interact to make such participation successful.

3. The Pakistani side welcomed the business delegation from Uzbekistan comprising of pharmaceuticals and leather companies. Both sides agreed to increase cooperation in these sectors through facilitating trade in these items, increasing interaction between the business communities and establishing joint ventures.
4. Both sides agreed to sign MoU for cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industries to facilitate trade, arranging business to business meetings and holding seminars and other arrangements. Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) will prepare the draft MoU within two months and submit to the Uzbek side for consideration.
5. Both sides agreed to continue their dialogue on visa policy. Pakistan side will forward a draft of visa abolition agreement through diplomatic channels.
6. Pakistan side expressed its interest to buy the cotton fiber from Uzbekistan on regular basis and proposed an active interaction between business community of both countries. Uzbek side mentioned that in order to extend and optimize export of cotton fiber and increasing of effectiveness of its sale, ensuring transparent mechanism of conclusion of contracts by the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan since 2005 annually the International Cotton Fair being held wherein the Pakistani companies also take part.

## **II. Cooperation in the Field of Transportation and Transit of Goods**

7. Both sides expressed satisfaction on approval of the Protocol on ratification of agreement on cooperation in the field of transportation and transit of goods, which would be signed during the forthcoming high-level visit from Pakistan to Uzbekistan.

## **III. Cooperation in Banking and Finance**

8. Pakistani side proposed Uzbek side to consider the possibility of signing the MoU between Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the authorized body of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Uzbek side will consider this proposal as soon as it is received through diplomatic channels.
9. The sides have discussed the issue of National Bank of Pakistan Rep office in Uzbekistan and agreed to continue the dialogue on this matter.

## **IV. Expansion of Bilateral Investment Cooperation.**

10. Both sides agreed to form a Joint Working Group (JWG) on implementation of joint investment projects. Both sides will convey the

composition for JWG within two months to identify dates and venue of the first meeting.

11. Both sides agreed to consider the possibility of extending cooperation in oil and gas, leather, pharmaceuticals and other sectors of economy.

## **V. Cooperation in Power Sector**

12. The Pakistani side offered the services of National Engineering Service of Pakistan (NESPAK) by providing engineering consultancy services. The Uzbek side has welcomed the participation of this company on carrying out the construction works on mutually beneficial terms as per Uzbek National Regulations.

## **VI. Scientific and Technical Cooperation**

13. A Joint Working Group on Science and Technology has been established between the two countries. Both sides agreed to hold its first meeting in 2011 in Islamabad. The Pakistani side will host the meeting and dates of the meeting would be communicated to the Uzbek side through diplomatic channels.

14. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation between Institute of Genetics and Experimental Biology of Plants of the Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan and Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) for Research and Development in the field of Cotton growing. For this purpose, both sides would exchange names and contact details of focal persons through diplomatic channels.

## **VII. Cooperation under Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme**

15. Pakistan side reiterated its offer in rendering training facilities to Uzbek specialists under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme.

## **VIII. Cooperation in Food & Agriculture**

16. Pakistan side offered hosting of first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture in 2011 for identification of joint projects and preparation of action plan for implementation of two MoUs already signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Uzbek side will send delegation on the dates agreed between the two countries.

## **IX. Cooperation in Culture**

17. Both sides agreed to extend Cultural Exchange Programme for the next four years (2011-2015) and the Extension Protocol would be signed shortly.

## **X. Cooperation in Information & Broadcasting**

18. Pakistani side proposed to sign an Agreement on News Exchange between Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) and Uzbekistan National Information Agency (UzA). The Uzbek side will consider this offer in the nearest future on formal receipt of draft of agreement through diplomatic channels.

## **XI. Cooperation in Information Technology and Telecommunication**

19. The Pakistani side had forwarded a proposal to the Uzbek side for establishing optic fiber link from Pakistan to Uzbekistan. The Uzbek side offered to discuss this issue on the experts' level.

20. The Pakistani side has also informed that the Government of Pakistan has world class services in the following fields, which could facilitate the personal identification and registration of the both countries' citizens, visiting with the business, touristic and private purposes:

- a. Establishing of citizen's data base;
- b. Consultancy and Training services.

## **XII. Cooperation in the field of Environment**

21. The sides will consider the issue of establishing mechanism of cooperation between the environmental agencies of both countries.

## **XIII. Time Frame and Place for Holding the Next Meeting of the Commission**

22. Both sides agreed to hold the 6th session of the Joint Ministerial Commission in Tashkent in 2013 on mutually agreed dates.

Done and signed in Islamabad on March 17, 2011 in two originals in the English Language.

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Syed Naveed Qamar	Zafar Ruziev
Minister for Water and Power	Minister of Agriculture and Water

Source: Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad.

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## PAKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN VOW TO ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY; COOPERATE IN TRADE, ENERGY

Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Thursday pledged to move forward in all spheres, with a particular focus on cooperation in energy sector, bilateral investments and increased connectivity to boost trade. Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in their exclusive and delegation level talks held here at the International Business Centre covered a whole range of issues. The two sides discussed bilateral ties, situation in the region with particular focus on transition in Afghanistan and the need for peace and stability to the war-ravaged country.

The two leaders discussed enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism and ensuring strict control on drug trafficking. Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which already share an agreement on intelligence sharing, agreed on enhancing collaboration for ensuring greater peace in the region.

The two leaders in an informal chat with the reporters termed their talks as “excellent”. Both termed peace and stability in Afghanistan vital for regional peace and said the two countries had high stakes in their common neighbour.

The Prime Minister pointing at Pakistan’s energy requirements said Pakistan was prepared to buy surplus electricity from the neighbouring Central Asian countries including Uzbekistan. He said the two countries can also have close collaboration in the oil and gas sector and urged the need to explore possibilities to the mutual benefit of the two states and their peoples.

Gilani said Pakistan’s Gwadar and Karachi seaports could facilitate trade between Central Asian Republics, Middle East, Africa and beyond. He proposed that a trilateral trade agreement between Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan can be reached at in this regard.

The leaders of Pakistan and Uzbekistan also discussed various proposals to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation and agreed on pursuing a joint strategy in this regard.

Prime Minister Gilani noted that trade between the two countries was around a mere \$40 million per annum, far below the potential and said closer collaboration was required to raise it to a reasonable level.

Uzbek Prime Minister said the two countries can increase trade by five times and offered its locally manufactured buses, trucks, machinery and cooperation in agriculture sector.

The two leaders agreed on greater involvement of their private sectors and strengthening of cooperation between the chambers and industry of the two countries. Prime Minister Gilani was of the view that agreements on establishing banking channels and liberal visa regimes were imperative to improve bilateral trade and investment and to increase business-to-business contact through the Joint Business Council.

Gilani called for closer cooperation in the field of agriculture, energy, petroleum and natural resources and science and technology. He also offered Pakistan's assistance for the development of Uzbek Human Resources for training in various fields.

Both the leaders while noting their close friendly relations expressed the resolve to make all efforts to deepen and expand these mutually beneficial relationships in all fields.

Gilani noted that both Pakistan and Uzbekistan have a large agricultural base and can share experiences in this sector to enhance production, particularly in cotton. He said Uzbekistan being the sixth largest producer and second largest exporter of cotton, could share knowledge and technology with Pakistan and also supply quality cotton for Pakistan's textile sector.

The two leaders also noted the recent signing of the joint protocol of mutual cooperation in the field of trade, economic, finance, scientific technical cooperation, transportation and transit of goods, bilateral investment, power sector, food and agriculture, IT and telecom, culture and environment at a meeting of their Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad.

Prime Minister Gilani proposed formation of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on implementation of joint investment projects and to facilitate their business community to participate in fairs and exhibitions.

Gilani said Pakistan would be ready to help security and defence cooperation with Uzbekistan. He said both the countries have common threats and challenges, created by extremists and criminal elements and have stakes in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan desires frequent exchange of views in this regard.

He agreed with Uzbek Prime Minister that the "6 + 3" approach was right to address the security challenges.

The Uzbekistan's "6 + 3" proposal was first floated at the April 2008 by Uzbek President Islam Karimov during the NATO summit in Bucharest. President Karimov proposed that the UN's Afghanistan "6+2" assembly, established in 1999, be revived by expanding it into a "6+3" ensemble by including NATO because of its anti-terrorist operations in Afghanistan among the "six" members Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, China and Iran and the "two," the United States and Russia.

Both the leaders agreed to jointly work for regional and international peace. Gilani also highlighted Pakistan's role in regional peace and stability and said Pakistan supports Afghan led and Afghan owned efforts for stability. He recalled his interaction with the Afghan President Hamid Karzai during his last visit to Afghanistan and expressed confidence that the talks at the highest level would prove fruitful in establishing better understanding between the two countries.

Gilani said the common threat of terrorism and extremism being faced by the entire region requires a common strategy for its elimination. However,

he pointed that this could not be achieved without bringing about political and socio-economic development and economic prosperity in the region.

The Prime Minister noted the progress on the Joint Ministerial level dialogue between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and hoped both sides would be able to move forward in the right direction. He said the Banking sector in both the countries needs to be encouraged to play its role in promoting trade and economic ties and urged that the opening up of a branch of the National Bank of Pakistan in Tashkent be expedited.

The Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev said Uzbekistan recognizes Pakistan's leading role in the region including its efforts to fight terrorism which has emerged as a challenge not only for the region but for the entire world.

He said Pakistan's role for peace in Afghanistan was equally appreciable and said it would not only help bring stability but would also help bring about economic development in the entire region particularly in the Central Asian Republics.

He said Uzbekistan was developing road and Railways connectivity with Afghanistan. Shavkat Mirziyoyev said Uzbekistan is already building a rail link up to Mazar-e-Sharif and it could be further extended to Gwadar to promote trade. He said Uzbekistan would extend full cooperation to Pakistan in the agricultural and energy sectors.

He offered help in water resources, livestock and dairy farming. He also said Urdu Chair in Tashkent and Uzbek Chair in Islamabad would promote their national languages and help bring the two people together.

He said peace and stability in Afghanistan would have similar impact in the entire region and said his country supported the idea of 6 + 2 and would now support the 6 + 3 forum.

The two sides also agreed on the exchange of parliamentary delegations and to improve people-to-people contacts. Both the leaders were unanimous that cooperation in tourism and trade could prove mutually beneficial between the two countries.

Gilani also sought Uzbekistan's support to help get it full membership of the regional security forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). He thanked Uzbekistan for its support in getting the Observer status and being the current Chairman, urged support for its request for full membership of this important regional organization.

Pakistan, due to its geo-strategic location and important role for peace and security in the region, is seeking permanent membership in the SCO, which has Iran, India and Mangolia as observers and Belarus and Sri Lanka as dialogue partners.

Uzbek prime minister greeted Prime Minister Gilani on Pakistan Day and also on completion of his three years in his office. Gilani greeted him on Nauroz and invited him to visit Pakistan.

Minister for Food and Agriculture Israr Ullah Zehri, Minister for Privatisation Syed Naveed Qamar and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar are part of Prime Minister Gilani's delegation

*Times of Pakistan* online, March 24, 2011,  
<http://timesofpakistan.pk/pakistan/2011-03-25/pakistan-uzbekistan-vow-to-enhance-connectivity-cooperate-in-trade-energy/28888/>

## PAK-UZBEK TRADE TIES DISCUSSED

MoU signed on goods' transport, veterinary sciences: Pakistan on Thursday pledged to move forward with Uzbekistan in all spheres, with a particular focus on cooperation in energy sector while increasing the bilateral trade. Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in their exclusive and delegation level talks held here at the International Business Centre covered a whole range of issues. Region with particular focus on transition in Afghanistan and the need for peace and stability to the war-ravaged country, the two leaders discussed enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism and ensuring strict control on drug trafficking.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which already share an agreement on intelligence sharing, agreed on enhancing collaboration for ensuring greater peace in the region. The two leaders in an informal chat with the reporters termed their talks as "excellent". Both termed peace and stability in Afghanistan vital for regional peace and said the two countries had high stakes in their common neighbour.

Prime Minister Gilani pointing at Pakistan's energy requirements said Pakistan was prepared to buy surplus electricity from the neighbouring Central Asian countries including Uzbekistan.

He said the two countries can also have close collaboration in the oil and gas sector and urged the need to explore possibilities to the mutual benefit of the two states and their peoples. He proposed that a trilateral trade agreement between Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan can be reached at in this regard. The leaders of Pakistan and Uzbekistan also discussed various proposals to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation and agreed on pursuing a joint strategy in this regard.

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He said the Banking sector in both the countries needs to be encouraged to play its role in promoting trade and economic ties and urged that the opening up of a branch of the National Bank of Pakistan in Tashkent be expedited. Meanwhile, Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Thursday inked an Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding on ease in transport and transit of goods, and cooperation in veterinary sciences. Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev witnessed the signing ceremony as the representatives of Pakistan and Uzbekistan inked the documents. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar signed the Agreement that included its ratification on transport and transit of goods. Minister for Privatization Syed Naveed Qamar inked the MoU on cooperation in the fields of animal husbandry and veterinary sciences. Prime Minister Gilani is in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent to meet its leadership and discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

*Financial Daily* online, March 25, 2005,  
<http://thefinancialdaily.com/news/top-stories/more-pak-uzbek-trade-ties-talked-66396.aspx>

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## GILANI IN UZBEKISTAN: PM SEEKS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PAKISTANI STUDENTS

**On the second day of his two-day visit to Uzbekistan, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani toured the city's information technology institutes and said that Pakistani students should be awarded scholarships to study in Uzbekistan.**

“This would greatly help our government's information technology project worth Rs5 million, which we will be announcing soon,” Gilani said, during his visit to the Tashkent Information Technology College. “I believe that the future of any country is dependent on the development of its information technology sector.” He said that under the ambitious IT programme of the government, every district of Pakistan would have its own IT training institute. The project, he said, would particularly focus on the less-developed districts of the country.

Gilani said that he was very impressed with the work of the institution and took a tour of the entire campus. He also interacted with students.

An Uzbek official said that the country's literacy rate was 99.8 per cent and that 50 per cent of their budget is spent on health and education. The prime minister said that his government was focusing on the education and health sectors.

The prime minister also visited the Turin Polytechnic University, which is collaborating with General Motors in Uzbekistan and Turin Polytechnic University, Italy. He was shown models of Uzbek-produced cars and other mechanical products that were being displayed in the main hall of the university.

Gilani also visited the Hazrat Imam complex, which was constructed in 2007 and encompasses the centuries-old Jama Mosque, a madrassa, a museum and a library. The prime minister, along with his delegation, also got the opportunity to see the original copy of the Holy Quran. Gilani was briefed about how the copy had been preserved.

Maha Mussadaq, *Express Tribune* (Islamabad), March 26, 2011,  
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/137864/gilani-in-uzbekistan-pm-seeks-scholarships-for-pakistani-students/>

## UZBEK-PAK-AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT EXPECTED

Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan soon will sign a Trilateral Transit Trade and Transportation Agreement to facilitate trade, The News International reported April 28.

Afghanistan stands to earn transit fees if it expedites delivery of goods, Pakistani Ambassador to Uzbekistan Mohammad Waheed-ul-Hasan told The News. Pakistan proposed that trucks passing through Afghanistan between Uzbekistan and Pakistan undergo inspection only when entering and leaving Afghanistan. Afghan officials have been inspecting those trucks at checkpoints inside Afghanistan, too.

If Uzbekistan and Pakistan sign a Preferential Trade Agreement that Pakistan has drafted, annual bilateral trade could reach \$400m, Waheed-ul-Hasan said. Currently, it is US \$40m.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov agreed during Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's visit to Uzbekistan in March to ship 100,000 tonnes of Uzbek cotton directly to Pakistan, rather than on the usual route through Dubai, Waheed-ul-Hasan added, saying the gesture would lower costs for Pakistani textile mills.

*Central Asia Online*, April 29, 2011,  
[http://centralasiaonline.com/cocoon/caii/xhtml/en\\_GB/newsbriefs/caii/newsbriefs/2011/04/29/newsbrief-09](http://centralasiaonline.com/cocoon/caii/xhtml/en_GB/newsbriefs/caii/newsbriefs/2011/04/29/newsbrief-09)

## **UZBEKISTAN WILL BACK PAKISTAN'S BID FOR FULL SCO MEMBERSHIP**

Visiting Uzbek President Islam Karimov has said that his country will support Pakistan's bid for full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

He said this while addressing a joint press conference with President Pervez Musharraf following talks between the two leaders. The Uzbekistan president arrived in Pakistan earlier in the day.

The two countries also signed agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on Tuesday evening for the promotion of cooperation in trade and economic relations. The agreements were signed at the Aiwan-e-Sadr following talks between the two leaders. Both countries also signed a joint statement expressing common resolve to "reinforce bilateral ties".

Agreements were signed on cooperation in private entrepreneurship, plant quarantine and the ratification of the agreement to fight international terrorism. MoUs were signed between the two countries on cooperation in agriculture, exchange of information on custom statistics of bilateral trade, and the establishment of a Joint Business Council between the two states' Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Both leaders said that the two countries had also agreed to coordinate their efforts to fight terror for the common goal of sustainable peace, security and development in the region.

Musharraf said that Pakistan will develop rail and road links with the Central Asian state as part of its efforts to "take bilateral trade to new levels"

and provide the world access to Uzbekistan through its ports. “We expressed the mutual desire to develop links, and Pakistan has offered Uzbekistan the use of its seaports to develop trade with other regions of the world,” Musharraf said. The two leaders also expressed the desire for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

About cooperation in counter-terrorism, President Musharraf said that the two sides can share intelligence to “deal with the financial linkages of terrorists”.

Karimov said that Uzbekistan fully supports Musharraf’s vision of enlightened moderation “as a way out of international turmoil”. He also backed President Musharraf’s efforts to make the Organisation of Islamic Conference “a dynamic body”.

The Uzbekistan president hoped that the agreements between the two countries would help them “make the most of the vast existing trade potential”. He said that the development of communication links between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and stability in Afghanistan would enable his landlocked country to have access to other regions through the Gwadar and Karachi ports.

*Daily Times* (Lahore), May 3, 2011,

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2006%5C05%5C03%5Cstory\\_3-5-2006\\_pg7\\_11](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2006%5C05%5C03%5Cstory_3-5-2006_pg7_11)

## UZBEKISTAN OFFERS CHEAP ELECTRICITY

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Oybek Arif Usmanov Wednesday said that his country aims to further enhance bilateral cooperation with Pakistan.

Talking to a delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry headed by Chairman Coordination Raza Khan, he said, “Pakistan is trying to overcome energy shortages and we can help them seek access to surplus central Asian electricity”.

He further said that Uzbekistan is already providing power to Afghanistan. “We can provide electricity to Pakistan via Peshawar on very reasonable rates,” he added.

The ambassador said that they are looking forward for enhanced exchange of business delegation and increased cooperation sectors like textiles, leather, cotton, pharmaceuticals and agriculture. Uzbekistan is the world’s second largest cotton exporter and sixth largest cotton producer, it can share expertise on insect-resistant cotton and anti-cotton virus technology, said Usmanov.

On the occasion, Raza Khan demanded that the brotherly nation should offer electricity on most affordable rates so that the economy can be bailed out without burdening other sectors.

He said that cargo transportation; transit, telecom, IT and public health engineering are some sectors that need attention of the policymakers of both countries.

During the meeting, modalities of visit of 30-member delegation to Uzbekistan headed by Senator Ghulam Ali, President FPCCI were also finalised. This visit will be an opportunity to improve friendly relations in diverse fields including economics.

*Nation* (Islamabad), May 5, 2011,  
<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Business/05-May-2011/Uzbekistan-offers-cheap-electricity>

## PAK, UZBEKISTAN TO MEET FREQUENTLY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHERS' PERSPECTIVE

Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Tuesday agreed to meet more frequently to share and understand each others perspective, arrives at common policy objectives and coordinated response to safeguard their respective national interest. This understanding was made in a meeting held here between Defence Minister, Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar and his Uzbek counterpart, Lt. Gen *Berdiev* Kabul Raimovich. As an immediate neighbour of Afghanistan like Pakistan, Uzbekistan undoubtedly has an important role to promote peace and security in the region. It was emphasized and pledged that both the countries would promote friendly ties encompassing all fields including defence. As an initiative Pakistan offered the shortest sea route to Uzbek goods through Gawadar and Karachi ports. It merits mentioned here that Pakistan was amongst the first three countries to open embassy in Tashkent in June 1992, the situation in Afghanistan was also discussed in detail. Both Pakistan and Uzbekistan face similar security challenges due to evolving situation in Afghanistan. Ahmad Mukhtar thanked the Uzbek Military leadership for supporting Pakistan's bid for full membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The Uzbek Defence Minister will stay in Pakistan till October 7 and he will have important meetings with various high ups of the country.

*Frontier Post* (Peshawar), October 5, 2011,  
[HTTP://WWW.THEFRONTIERPOST.COM/?P=63871](http://WWW.THEFRONTIERPOST.COM/?P=63871)

**Information on trade turnover between the Republic of Uzbekistan and  
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
(2000-2010 f.y.)**

*In Million US Dollars*

№	Pakistan	2000r.	2001r.	2002r.	2003r.	2004r.	2005r.	2006r.	2007r.	2008r.	2009r.	2010r.
	Trade turnover	8.5	4.9	6.0	9.2	8.4	9.4	18.8	22.1	22.7	40.1	22.0
	Export to Pakistan	3.7	2.3	2.1	3.6	2.3	1.2	8.0	14.0	16.3	29.6	17.4
	Import from Pakistan	4.8	2.6	3.9	5.6	6.1	8.2	10.8	8.1	6.4	10.5	4.6

Source: The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad, October 20, 2011.