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## Pakistan

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# State Dept. feeds anti-American wave

by Ramtanu Maitra

In an unprecedented display of unity, members of the Pakistan parliament from both the ruling and opposition parties stood up on Sept. 2 to denounce the United States as an unreliable friend and accused Washington of humiliating Pakistan by demanding unacceptable conditions for aid.

The surge of anti-Americanism in Pakistan is a direct result of the Yalta gamesmanship of the U.S. State Department and the Kremlin. It is aimed at undermining the present U.S. Gulf policy, already under fire in the U.S. Congress, one step in the overall collapse and withdrawal of any U.S. presence in Pakistan and South Asia as a whole.

The long arm of Iran's Khomeini within Pakistan is fueling this anti-American bandwagon, taking full advantage of the pressure plays by the State Department and U.S. Congress to isolate Pakistan and back it into a corner. The U.S. Gulf policy has become a specific focus of attack.

On Aug. 30, Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky met in Washington, giving a new boost to the "Yalta" process. State Department officials stated the meeting was "routine"—and, "not linked to the Geneva talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan."

But the meeting was held only nine days before the 11th round of the U.N.-sponsored negotiations between occupied Afghanistan and Pakistan, ostensibly to end the eight-year occupation of Afghanistan. The terms on which the Soviet Union would agree to withdraw its 150,000 troops have not yet been settled.

And, three days later, the State Department announced that Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Edward P. Djerejian would go to Geneva on Aug. 10 for two days of talks on Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Alekseyev.

### The 'bomb' ploy

The credibility of the State Department in Pakistan is wearing very thin. It hit a low with Armacost's early August visit to Islamabad to attempt to arm-twist Pakistan President Zia ul-Haq to open up Pakistan's nuclear installations for inspection, in exchange for releasing the congressional hold

on the \$4.02 billion Pakistani aid package.

The U.S. House Appropriations Committee had approved the aid package, but then threw it into the deep freeze for several months, until a new certification that Pakistan is not making bombs is obtained. This move was prompted by the scandal created when a Pakistani businessman was accused by the U.S. Justice Department of trying to illegally export nuclear-related materials.

The reaction in Pakistan, both officially and from the public, has been sharp. On Sept. 1, Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan reiterated Pakistan's determination not to submit to the blackmail at a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. "The five weapons states can ask other countries not to acquire nuclear weapons only when they themselves are sincerely ready to destroy their own nuclear weapons," he said.

Meanwhile, Khomeini's Iran is cashing in on the State Department-sponsored anti-Americanism that is spreading across the political spectrum. Pro-Khomeini Iranians operating in Pakistan, as well as pro-Khomeini factions among Pakistanis themselves, have stepped up

An Aug. 23 editorial in an Urdu-language daily from Karachi, *Nawa-De-Waqt*, illustrates the point. Titled "The New U.S. Force in the Gulf: Repercussions and Implications," the editorial is an open attack on what it calls "U.S. gunboat diplomacy."

"Indeed, the darkening clouds of danger in the Gulf may also engulf the neighboring countries and the implications of this conflict for Pakistan need no explanation," *Nawa-e-Waqt* says. "The U.S. CENTCOM chief, General Crist, has visited Pakistan several times. This has created various doubts and suspicions in the minds of the people."

Incredibly, *Nawa-e-Waqt* charges that it was U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger who masterminded the aid suspension, in retaliation for Pakistan's refusal to take a stand against Iran. "The \$4.02 billion U.S. aid package seems to be extremely attractive," *Nawa-e-Waqt* states, "but in view of the rapidly rising storm and the flames of war in the Gulf, wisdom dictates that Pakistan must not bow to U.S. pressure and must not involve itself in the dangers of the Gulf."

The pressure from Iran and its minions is noticeable at the official level. In mid-August, Pakistan Defense Secretary Ijlal Haider Zaidi told the press in Lahore that the Pakistan government had made it clear to the United States that it will not become involved with Gulf disputes, nor will it allow its territory to be used against the brotherly country of Iran.

In the same breath, the Defense Secretary pointedly underplayed the large-scale infiltration by the Afghan secret service, the KHAD, into Pakistan. Violent incidents in Karachi between local Mohajirs and Phaktoon-speaking settlers, in which KHAD agents are commonly known to have an important hand, have increased over the past month with a series of bloody clashes and a police crackdown that resulted in the arrest at the end of August of more than 400 individuals.