

## **Remarks as Prepared**

**By General Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.)  
Before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**

**June 25, 2008**

### **“A New Strategy for Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan”**

Mr. Chairman, Senator Lugar, Members of the Committee, as always it is a great honor and my pleasure to be before you again, and I truly appreciate the opportunity to discuss U.S. / Pakistan Relations. I believe that this relationship is absolutely critical to the national security of the United States, and I know that you and the members of this Committee share that view. In that spirit, I thank you for the critical thinking and effort that have gone into developing your comprehensive strategy for an enhanced partnership with Pakistan.

Things are tense in Pakistan today, and I believe it is safe to say that the U.S. / Pakistan relationship is similarly under stress. I just reviewed the recently released poll by Terror Free Tomorrow, and I was surprised and disturbed by many of the findings. Specifically, half of all Pakistanis want their government to negotiate with Al Qaeda rather than fight. Seventy-four percent oppose U.S. Military action against Al Qaeda and the Taliban, and 52 percent believe that the United States is most responsible for the violence that is occurring in Pakistan today. How did we get to this? How can the people of this country -- a country that has lost thousands of soldiers and citizens to violent extremists, a country that saw one of its great political leaders assassinated by terrorists, a country whose citizens are clearly on the front lines in the war on terror -- believe that the United States is responsible for the violence they face?

Results such as these require an urgent and comprehensive evaluation of our policy, and more importantly, a prescription to put our relationship on surer footing for our mutual benefit. Despite the disturbing aspects of this poll, it also provided insight into what hope remains for our relationship. There is a silver lining to be found. According to the poll results, the Pakistani people remain eager to have a strong and vibrant relationship with the United States, and they identify very specific actions that we can take to

make a difference. According to the poll, two-thirds of Pakistanis said that increased American business investment, free trade, and U.S. assistance in education, disaster relief, and medical care and training would significantly improve their image of the United States. We should not seek to improve our image for the sake of improving our image; improving our image is valuable insofar as it creates a climate that fosters greater cooperation in the areas that are important to both countries. An atmosphere of resentment, suspicion, and ill will makes it difficult for many Pakistanis to see the many common interests our two countries have. Changing this climate will allow us to work together.

I have reviewed the legislation that this Committee is considering, and I believe that it provides a framework for just such a positive change. Specifically, the increased financial assistance would provide for the expanded programs that are needed to return our relationship to a more sound footing. More significantly, the legislation recognizes that money and programs alone will not move the U.S. / Pakistan relationship from where it is today to where it needs to be in order to improve the security of both countries. That is why I was particularly pleased to see that your legislation included operating expenses for an increased U.S. diplomatic and development presence in Pakistan, and that non-military tools designed to improve and highlight additional facets of our relationship were included.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, I am the Co-Chairman of the National Security Advisory Council at the U.S. Center for Global Engagement. Our council, which includes more than 50 retired flag officers, endorses exactly this kind of Smart Power. I believe we could use this legislation to endorse other "Smart" initiatives, such as the Reconstruction Opportunity Zones concept, agricultural initiatives, energy proposals, and efforts to increase access to health care. I urge you to explore and endorse all of these.

Smart Power alone is not enough, of course; our robust engagement with the Pakistan military and security services is and will remain vitally important. While the draft legislation I reviewed includes a discussion of security assistance, it outlines a number of "security benchmarks" that will undoubtedly cause more tensions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Security assistance is critically important today and will remain so, and I recommend that you authorize a robust package of support. Moreover, while I recognize and support the goals of your security benchmarks, I believe that at this time

we would be better served to have these important discussions in private -- military to military, diplomat to diplomat, Senator to Member of Parliament.

In addition, on the security side, Pakistani security forces still lack "force multipliers" such as night vision and other capabilities that alter the battle space. Restrictions in the Foreign Assistance Act make it virtually impossible for us to provide those capabilities. Even they have a chilling effect on the actual use of some equipment because of extensive end-use monitoring requirements. I hope that this Committee will look to streamline those sections of the Foreign Assistance Act that deal with arms transfers in order to truly enable the Pakistani military to have the kind of advantage that will build their security and ours and encourage them into a more fruitful and trusting relationship with the United States.

There is much the United States can do to help address the most critical security, economic and development needs of Pakistan. Pakistan will continue to be one of the most strategically important nations in the world for a good time to come, and our safety and security will continue to depend on its stability. I hope that this Administration, the next Administration and the Congress will make it their priority to work together to increase U.S. engagement with Pakistan across the board. There is almost no task more important to our future, and I, and many others outside the Government, stand ready to help.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss this vital relationship and to comment on the important work that you and this Committee are undertaking. I look forward to answering your questions.