

US and South Asia

Divide and Rule Game

Recently, the US leaders made some blunt comments on the Pakistan leaders, especially in relation to Taliban of Afghanistan.

The US President Donald Trump said: “we have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars, at the same time they are housing the very terrorists we are fighting.” “US can no longer be silent about Pakistan’s safe havens for terrorist Organisations.” Rex Tillerson, the US Secretary of State, said: “US help for Pakistan will be conditional on Pakistan’s change in behaviour.”

The Pakistan leaders too have reacted in their own way. The Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif said: Trump had disrespected and disregarded Pakistan’s contributions to the war against terrorism. Pakistan’s Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa said: “We are not looking for any material or financial assistance from the US, but trust, understanding and acknowledgement of our contribution.” Pakistan’s National Security Committee said: “Scapegoating Pakistan will not help in stabilising Afghanistan.” It also stressed that India cannot be a net security provider in South Asia as it has conflictual relationships with its neighbours and is “pursuing a policy of destabilising Pakistan from the east and from the west.”

Imran Khan, the leader of Pakistan Tehreek – I – Insaaf said: Pakistan should once and for all learn a valuable lesson: “Never to fight others’ wars for the lure of dollars.” “We fought two wars in Afghanistan at the US behest paying heavy human and economic costs both times. We sacrificed 70,000 Pakistan lives in US war on terrorism.” “Our economy suffered over 100 billion dollars in losses. In addition, there were intangible costs on our Society. Time for Pakistan to say: Never again.”

In their comments, the US leaders have only shown the behaviour of an arrogant employer. The US imperialists had been using the Pakistan ruling classes as virtual contractors or commission agents who recruit, train and supply the mercenaries to fight their war in Afghanistan. The entire world knows that the present Taliban who are now called as ‘terrorists’ were called as the ‘national liberation fighters’ by the US and other imperialists when they were fighting against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. These ‘fighters’ were funded, recruited and trained by the US, their CIA and helped by Pakistan rulers. Again, after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, when the Taliban regime became a target of US invasion and the Taliban rose in revolt against it, the US and its allies, including Pakistan began to call Taliban as “terrorists” and “enemies.” Pakistan rulers began extending all support and help to the US war of invasion.

In their 16 years long war of invasion and occupation, the US imperialists had used the Pakistan territories, human and material resources as their own. The US acts of encroachment, interference and use of Pakistan territories and resources encountered massive opposition and protest from the Pakistan people. But the Pakistan rulers had sought to silence the people by brute force instead of opposing the US acts. The US had resorted to drone attacks, aerial bombardments inside Pakistan all in the name of hunting the terrorists and Osama – bin Laden. The Pakistan rulers had either Okayed or tolerated or colluded with all these attacks. It was really shameful for any rulers who claim to respect the country’s right to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Then what is the conflict between the US and Pakistan rulers today? Did it arise from a realisation among the Pakistan rulers that they had committed a serious crime in serving an unjust cause and in allowing themselves to be used as a tool of US in waging a war of invasion and occupation and in suppressing the right of Afghan people to live as an independent and sovereign nation? No not at all. The Pakistan rulers are angry with their masters because they feel that their services were not given due recognition by their masters and the masters seem to be promoting new actors who are in conflict with them either to replace the Pakistan rulers or act as their competitors in the service of masters. This attitude of Pakistan rulers will not help the Pakistan people to break free from the enslaving shackles of imperialism.

The US imperialists, on their part, are clear that the Pakistan rulers still have an important role to play in dealing with the Taliban in the way they want. They know that the Pakistan rulers remain tied to US by thousand and one strings and they cannot break free from them. At the same time, the US is worried about fast growing Pakistan's relations with China and it apprehends that it may create new difficulties for US in dealing with the Pakistan rulers. So it is using 'blow hot, blow cold' method in dealing with them.

The Indian people respect the right of Afghan people to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Their sympathies and solidarity will always be with the just struggle

of Afghan people against the US invasion. So the Indian people oppose any move on the part of the Indian rulers to extend their services to the US imperialists in their unjust war against the Afghan people. Similarly, the Indian people oppose any high handed behaviour of imperialists in general and US in particular towards Pakistan and its people. The Indian people will welcome and support any attempt or struggle of Pakistan people to end Pakistan's subservience to imperialism. It will be ideal for the people of both countries to unite in a common cause to oppose the imperialist policies of interference, division and domination and strive for peace, peaceful resolution of problems and common good.
