

World Affairs

Pakistan must End Subservient Relationship with US

For some time, America is not happy with the Pakistan rulers. It can be seen in what US President Trump has recently complained: “The US has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools. They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more.” In the first week of Jan 2018, the US has suspended most of its security assistance to Pakistan until it “takes decisive action against the groups, including the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network.”

We need to go deep into the US – Pakistan relations to understand this development.

Many governments had come and gone in Pakistan in the last seven decades. However, the ruling classes here were always subservient to imperialist powers in general and US in particular. Pakistan remained a major non-NATO US partner. It extended all its services to the US in its policy of domination in the region. It helped the US imperialism in creating the Islamic terrorist groups and using them in the interests of US. The entire world knows that in 1980s the Pakistani rulers acted as the main tool of US imperialism in organising Mujahedeen in Afghanistan to overthrow the Soviet – backed government in Kabul. Again, the Pakistani rulers did not hesitate to extend their services to the US imperialists when they unleashed a war of invasion against Afghanistan in 2001. The 16 – year old Afghan war has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of innocent Afghan people and forced millions to flee their homes. In their shameless attempt to serve the US in its war of invasion against the Afghanistan, the Pakistani rulers had allowed the US to freely use the Pakistan territories, transport systems and resources. Much against the wishes and protests of Pakistani people, they remained silent when the US was dropping bombs and carrying on drone attacks right inside the Pakistan in the name of wiping out the Taliban and their safe havens. By agreeing to play this kind of role, the Pakistani rulers had placed themselves in a totally unequal and subservient relationship with the US.

This is one part of the story. Another part is the US imperialists have a larger strategic aim of imposing their domination over the entire Asia – Pacific region. Isolating and encircling China has become an important part of this strategy as US considers China as a potential hurdle on its way to realise its aim. The US had taken series of moves to give a shape to an US led strategic alliance of US, Japan and Australia. It roped the Indian rulers into this alliance with a view to use India’s vast territories and resources to push through its politics of domination. In its strategy, the US has singled out India for special attention. On their part, the Indian rulers have thrown open India’s ports, military bases to US warplanes and battle ships; share intelligence with the Pentagon about Chinese ships and submarines in the Indian Ocean and parrot the provocative US stances on the South China Sea dispute and even North Korea.

The relations between the US and India have developed to a new level in Trump’s period. In October 2017, the US State secretary Rex Tillerson said: “our relationship with India is of strategic importance, not for this specific region,” but for “a free and open Indo-Pacific region stretching all the way from Japan to India.” The US gave priority to drawing India into the US led US – Japan – Australia strategic –military partnership, called “Quad” - a chief tool for US to pursue its politics of domination in the Asia – Pacific region. The Pakistani rulers view the fast developing strategic relations between US and India with serious concern.

Pakistani rulers chose to enhance their relations further with neighbouring China which has come up as a powerful and prominent power in the Asia – Pacific region. They joined the 57 billion dollar China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which aims at building transportation infrastructure between China and Pakistan. This project connects China to the Arabian Sea port of Gwadar. The CPEC is a part of China’s more comprehensive One Belt, One Road (OBOR) strategy which seeks to expand China’s economic ties to Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Naturally, this development is not palatable to US as not only it helps America’s ‘rival’ China to strengthen itself, but also makes Pakistan’s bondage with China stronger. How to reverse the

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Pakistani rulers from this course or how to face the consequences of growing Pakistan and China relationship are the questions of serious concern for the US.

Another development is: US could not reap the expected fruits from its war of invasion in Afghanistan.

Earlier, when Obama had declared the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, of course, there existed a govt. But it was most unpopular among the people. Vast areas of Afghanistan were controlled by the Taliban. The Afghan armed forces were facing heavy losses and defeats in the Taliban attacks in spite of having help and guidance from the US military officials who stayed back in Afghanistan. America's so called peace diplomacy which sought to win over a section of Taliban by dividing them as "good" and "bad" Taliban has miserably failed. By the time Trump became the US President, the US Afghan policy was in a state of crisis. On the other side, other powers, including China were busy in enhancing their economic and political influences in Afghanistan taking advantage of US difficulties.

Trump's August 2017 new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia came only in this wake: This strategy vowed to maintain an indefinite, ie., permanent, US occupation of Afghanistan and further intensify the military actions there. US dropped the 'Mother of Bombs' in Afghanistan only as part of it. The ideas to deploy more US armed forces in Afghanistan, enhance India's role in Afghanistan and the allegations that Pakistan was not taking decisive steps against the Taliban only came in the wake of this new strategy.

In their experience, the Pakistani rulers came to see that the place and recognition they get from the US will depend on how best they can serve the US politics of domination. So while maintaining the relations with the US, they sought to develop relations with China whom they consider as dependable.

Though the US has limited its criticism to Pakistan's role in Afghanistan, all these developments have their impact on the growing rift between the US and Pakistani rulers.

America's question is straight and simple: 'we paid you money to liquidate the terrorist groups, Afghan Taliban and Haqqani network. But you are not doing it effectively. Then, why should we pay you the money?'

In reply, the Pakistan leaders said: US is blaming Pakistan for the collective failure in Afghanistan; huge sacrifices made by Pakistan are being trivialised by pushing it behind a monetary value – and that too an imagined one; bilateral co-operation in fighting terrorism has served US national security interests as well as the larger interests of the international community; working towards enduring peace requires mutual respect and trust along with patience and persistence. Pakistan's opposition leader Imran Khan has reacted more sharply against the US. The people of Pakistan have widely come out expressing their protest against the whole attitude of US imperialists.

It is time for the Pakistani rulers to re – examine and redefine their relations with the US imperialism. It is true that they acted as a tool of US imperialists in carrying out their strategy and politics of imposing US domination in South Asia. In Afghanistan, they helped the imperialists in brutally crushing the rights of Afghan people. In this course, they reduced themselves into those who work for the oppressors on a wage. For an oppressed nation like Pakistan helping the imperialist invaders in the suppression of another oppressed nation like Afghanistan is quite shameful. So what the Pakistan people and world people want from the Pakistani rulers is not begging America to give a 'due recognition' for the 'sacrifices' they made in the course of serving the US imperialists, but to renounce and take a complete break once for ever from the shameful past.

It seems the Indian ruling classes are happy with the growing rift between the US and Pakistan. But the kinds of relations the Indian rulers are developing with the US are basically no different. The relations are unequal and subservient. They are aimed at serving the US in imposing their domination over the Asia and Pacific region. By agreeing to play this role, they are only inviting a worst fate for our Country and people. The Indian people are totally opposed to this kind of India's relationship with the US and they are already in struggle against it.
