

US –Pakistan Relations Blowing Hot and Cold

Donald Trump, the US President, has once again thundered at Pakistan leaders. He was blunt in his rebuke, when he said: Everyone in Pakistan knew that Osama Bin Laden was in Pakistan before his death. US gave Pakistan \$1.3 billion a year. But Pakistan leaders did not tell the US leaders about his whereabouts. US paid enough money to Pakistan. But they have done nothing to end Taliban menace in Afghanistan. “I ended the security aid of \$ 1.66 billion to Pakistan, because they did not do a damn thing for us.”

The US announced a so called new Afghan policy in August 2018. In September 2018, the US threatened to cancel the security aid of \$300 million to Pakistan. Since then, Trump went on openly rebuking the leaders of Pakistan.

True, this kind of open admonition would ‘hurt’ even the comprador leaders. So, Imran Khan the new Pakistan Prime Minister reacted to them. He pleaded that Pakistan had borne the brunt of the US war on terrorism. Pakistan was not involved in 9/11 (fall of US Towers) but it decided to participate in US war on Taliban. “Pakistan suffered 75,000 casualties in this war and over \$1.23 billion was lost in economy. US “aid” was a miniscule \$20 billion.” “Our tribal areas were devastated and millions of people uprooted from their homes. The war drastically impacted lives of ordinary people.” “Instead of making Pakistan a scapegoat for their failure, the US should do serious assessment of why despite 1,40,000 NATO troops plus 2,50,000 Afghan troops and reportedly \$1 trillion spent on the war in Afghanistan, the Taliban today are stronger than before.”

Certain things come out from the rebuke as well as the pleadings of two leaders. Both agree that nearly two decades long war of invasion and occupation by a big power like US and its NATO allies had miserably failed in crushing Taliban in Afghanistan. So called fight against terrorism – the name given by US to its war against Afghanistan – was a fraud played upon the world people. In reality, it was an unjust and oppressive war by a big power aspiring to subjugate or colonise a small and weak country and people. Taliban could withstand the imperialist onslaught, wage a battle for long time and emerge as a formidable force with vast territories and nearly half of Afghan population under their control only because they were waging a just war and are backed by the Afghan people. Curiously, the US imperialists are now in a negotiation process with Taliban whom they depicted as a most dangerous ghost of terrorism which only deserved to be crushed.

The pleadings of Pakistan leaders do not reflect the realization that they assisted an unjust war. They complain that their services are not being adequately recognized by the US leaders and they are being unreasonably blamed for the failure in the war against the Afghan people. It is only insulting for the people of Pakistan.

The US has some other reason for its open rebuke of Pakistan leaders. For some time, Pakistan rulers are focusing more on developing economic and military relations with China, without, of course, snapping their subservient relations with US. This is a disturbing event for US because, it fears, it may lead eventually to lose important strategic ally. How to stop this drift is a matter of worry for the US leaders. The US also apprehends that it may further complicate the handling of Afghan crisis and Taliban. So, US is left with no alternative but to use “stick” more at times without abandoning the “carrot” to deal with the situation and set the things right in Pakistan.

What the Pakistan leaders need to do is not to beg the US not to underplay their services and sacrifices for US in its war of invasion and occupation against Afghanistan. The need is not to beg the US to remain reasonable in deciding the causes for the failure in suppressing Taliban. The need is to admit the fact that the US and its NATO allies marched their troops into Afghanistan to wage an unjust war to subjugate a small and weak country and people by force. The Pakistan leaders, owing to their shameless subservience to imperialism, opted to place Pakistan’s territories and resources at the disposal of US and served as its mercenaries and commission agents. Acting against the wishes of the Pakistani people, the leaders of Pakistan had dragged them into a nasty and oppressive war against the people of a small neighboring country. Correct and the only way for the Pakistani leaders is rectify this grave crime is to renounce and break Pakistan’s bondage of subservience with imperialism and do whatever they can to help the Afghan people in getting rid of the US invasion and breath the air of freedom.

For long, the US imperialists had been using the disputes between Pakistan and India to stoke tensions, hostilities, clashes, wars, no war-no peace situations between the two countries. The ruling classes of both countries, who are in subservient relationship with the imperialists have joined this game instead of

themselves seeking to resolve the disputes amicably through negotiations. The imperialists, especially the US, made a big business of weapons with both countries. They had developed their own vested interests in the perpetuation of the conflict and bad blood between Pakistan and India. They used their hold on Pakistan freely in support of their war against Afghanistan. They used the so called "security aid" to reduce the Pakistani leaders into their mercenaries and commission agents. The entire world knows that the imperialists themselves had created the ghost of Osama Bin Laden, used it when ever and to whatever extent they found useful and dismantled it once the purpose was over. In the conditions when an US led alliance of US - Japan – Australia and India had come up as part of the US strategy for domination in Asia and Asia-Pacific region, we can see an increased involvement of India in Afghanistan. The growing relations of Pakistani- a traditional US ally- with China – a US foe – may reflect in the relations between the US, Pakistan and India. Yet, we must be clear that the US relations with Pakistan and India basically remain in the nature of relations between an imperialist big power and subservient powers. Making use of subservient powers as well as the contradictions among the subservient powers in the interests of their own imperialist strategy for domination will be a continuing factor. Common interests of Pakistani and Indian people demand that they must resolve the problems among themselves must not allow the imperialist intervention and forge unity in the struggle against imperialism and the politics of domination.
