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**PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE: INTERNATIONAL
RESPONSE AND IMPACT ON U.S.
FOREIGN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

STAFF TRIP REPORT
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Colleague:

The committee recently sent Ms. Lisa Curtis of the professional staff to Pakistan to attend the November 19th International Donors' Conference in Islamabad and to assess international relief and recovery efforts in response to the October 8th earthquake in Pakistan.

We are pleased to share with you her trip report, which we believe provides a useful assessment of the situation in Pakistan following the earthquake as well as a careful look at the U.S. response to this monumental disaster. The report examines the implications for U.S. policies and assistance programs to Pakistan as a result of the earthquake and provides recommendations for sustaining the momentum of our assistance, which has so far successfully demonstrated a strong U.S. commitment to the country.

You also will find in the report an examination of other issues important to U.S.-Pakistan relations, including strengthening democracy and promoting peace between India and Pakistan. There are a few recommendations related to these issues that may be helpful as the Committee on Foreign Relations continues its oversight of U.S. assistance and policies toward Pakistan, where vital U.S. national security interests are at stake.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on these issues and welcome any comments you may have on this report.

Sincerely,

RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Chairman

PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE: INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE AND IMPACT ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

SUBMITTED BY LISA CURTIS, SFRC PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

SUMMARY

From November 16–23, 2005, SFRC staffer Lisa Curtis traveled to Pakistan to attend the November 19th International Donors' Conference and to assess the international relief and recovery efforts in response to the October 8th earthquake. The itinerary was designed to allow staff to assess the implications of the earthquake for U.S. assistance programs to Pakistan as well as U.S. policies related to democracy building and the India-Pakistan peace process. Staff visited earthquake-affected areas in Muzaffarabad in Pakistani Kashmir and Mansehra and Shinkiari in the Northwest Frontier Province.

The earthquake claimed more than 73,000 lives, many of them children who were attending school when the quake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck at 8:50 am on October 8th. At the Donors' Conference, the international community pledged over \$6.2 billion in cash, in-kind assistance, and soft loans. But staff found relief efforts remain difficult, given the rugged and mountainous terrain of the affected areas. Many survivors are in far-flung areas that are difficult to access and concerns remain about their ability to cope during the winter months in the absence of adequate shelter and supplies.

The response to the earthquake disaster by the U.S. Embassy and USAID Mission in close coordination with the U.S. military was reportedly rapid, efficient, and robust. This humanitarian gesture has demonstrated to the Pakistani Government and people that the U.S. is firmly committed to the country and its well-being. The U.S. must pay particular attention to the issue of transparency and accountability in the distribution of aid, a key concern among the Pakistani population.

The Pakistan military is working closely with a mobilized Pakistani civil society and an extraordinary international non-governmental organization (NGO) effort to help earthquake victims. Despite the relatively favorable view of the Pakistan Army's role in relief efforts, conversations with mainstream politicians and members of the civil society and think tank community revealed a hunger for a return to democratic politics. The U.S. needs to begin focusing its policies and assistance programs now toward the achievement of civilian government through free and fair elections in 2007. The impact of the earthquake on the Pakistan-India peace

process is still unclear, although both Pakistani President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Singh appear personally committed to moving it forward.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND RECOVERY

International Donors' Conference

The November 19th International Donors' Conference in Islamabad, attended by over 75 nations and international organizations, was successful in raising \$6.2 billion in cash, in-kind assistance, and soft loans. The most generous bilateral donors include Saudi Arabia (\$593 million in grants and soft loans); the U.S. (\$510 million in grant and in-kind assistance);¹ China (\$320 million in grants and loans); Iran (\$200 million credit line); and the United Arab Emirates (\$200 million in grants). Among the multilateral lenders, the World Bank pledged \$1 billion in soft loans; the Asian Development Bank \$1 billion in grants and loans; and the Islamic Development Bank \$500 million in soft loans.

In his remarks at the conference, Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukhat Aziz highlighted the Pakistan government's commitment to helping earthquake survivors rebuild their lives, indicating this effort would be a "marathon, not a 100-meter dash." The government created the Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (ERRA) to rapidly rehabilitate and reconstruct the devastated regions. PM Aziz said ERRA's work would be fully transparent and that all political parties would be invited to participate in reconstruction work through the mechanism of a parliamentary committee.

UN Secretary General Kofi Anan noted that Pakistan needed the enduring support of the international community, and called on donors to focus on recovery needs, such as cash grants to restore livelihoods; resumption of schooling for children; and the re-opening of roads. In helping to rehabilitate and reconstruct the affected areas, the international community would change the lives of the survivors.

President Musharraf, during his speech, pointed to the historical moment the earthquake had provided regarding Pakistan-India relations. Out of the 75 attendees from across the globe, President Musharraf singled out India's participation as historically significant and thanked the Indian government for its contribution of \$25 million in relief aid. He then laid out a detailed plan for rebuilding the devastated areas and encouraged donors to "adopt" individual homes, schools, or hospitals for construction. He vowed that his government would "turn this human catastrophe into an opportunity for human development." Musharraf acknowledged that his government initially had difficulties transporting goods to the affected populations, and that it was only through the help of the international fleet of helicopters that this problem was resolved. He said his government was on track to provide 500,000 tents to victims who lost their homes, and that the issue of providing shelter was now "satisfactory."

¹The U.S. has pledged \$300 million in relief and reconstruction assistance; \$110 million in transportation and military support; and \$100 million in private donations.

Musharraf highlighted the government's efforts to monetize the earthquake-affected areas through the provision of \$350 million in cash to earthquake victims (\$1,700 to next of kin and an additional \$450 to each of the 400,000 affected families). He said this will help generate business and economic activity. The President also announced a Pakistan Volunteer Corps to channel the "patriotic energy" and huge outpouring from Pakistani civilians that had resulted from the disaster.

U.S. Earthquake Assistance

There is tremendous appreciation among the Pakistani people for the immediate, robust, and sustained U.S. relief efforts in the country. Even our harshest critics admit that the U.S. has come through for Pakistan at a critical moment and that this generous humanitarian gesture is improving the average Pakistanis' image of America. This is no small feat, given that polling data from last summer showed that only 23 percent of the Pakistani population held a favorable view of the U.S., while 51 percent of Pakistanis had a great deal of confidence in Usama Bin Laden.²

The success of U.S. relief efforts in Pakistan is due in large part to the work of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad under the leadership of Ambassador Crocker. According to interviews with Embassy personnel, Ambassador Crocker was quick off the mark in assessing how the U.S. should respond to the devastating earthquake and has worked assiduously with Embassy staff over the last two months to ensure an effective humanitarian response.

USAID Response

USAID has so far disbursed about \$60 million in earthquake relief assistance. Immediately following the earthquake, USAID focused its efforts on providing humanitarian assistance and shelter to the earthquake victims. USAID has also taken steps to promote livelihoods and market revitalization and has so far provided about \$4.5 million for cash-for-work, cash-for-training, and voucher activities. USAID is funding distribution of shelter materials, such as metal sheeting, tools, and tarpaulins, and supports about a dozen international NGOs working in Pakistan. USAID is housed on the Embassy compound in newly-constructed facilities, but it is clear these facilities will need to be expanded to accommodate new programs related to earthquake relief operations.³

Department of Defense (DoD) Response

Within 24 hours of the earthquake, the U.S. military sent two helicopters from Afghanistan. The U.S. now has 16 helicopters involved in relief efforts in Pakistan, down from 24 in mid-November. DoD reports that there are currently four Australian helicopters and a fleet of 73 additional international helicopters (mostly Pakistani, for which the U.S. has provided spare parts) involved in the relief effort. DoD says that winter weather conditions are beginning to prohibit their ability to fly, but that they intend to retain some U.S. helicopters in Pakistan through the winter.

²PEW Global Attitudes Project, July, 2005.

³Information in this paragraph was drawn largely from the USAID "South Asia Earthquake Update" dated December 2, 2005.



U.S. Chinook at Chaklala Air Base, the staging ground for international relief efforts

Perhaps the largest contribution the U.S. military made to the relief effort was the logistical management of the air space and relief operations staged from Chaklala air base (located adjacent to the Islamabad International Airport). Given the mountainous terrain of the earthquake-affected regions, limited landing zones, and the Pakistanis' limited air traffic control capacity, the Pakistani system was initially overwhelmed and U.S. military support was crucial in ensuring a coordinated, efficient, and effective international relief effort. During the November 21st staff visit to Chaklala air base, U.S. military officers made clear that the Pakistan government was in charge of the international relief effort, but also reported that the U.S. military had worked closely with the Pakistan Army to organize and coordinate it. NATO has also played an instrumental role in providing relief, clearing roads, removing debris, and providing medical assistance. NATO is scheduled to depart Pakistan in February. Pakistani religious parties have questioned the presence of NATO troops in Pakistan and tried to whip up fears that NATO was establishing a long-term presence in the country.



Relief supplies at Chaklala Air Base

There are currently about 1,000 U.S. soldiers on the ground in Pakistan, including some from Louisiana who lost their own homes in Hurricane Katrina. Staff heard numerous stories from a wide variety of Pakistani interlocutors about the warm feelings the Pakistani population held toward the U.S. military because of their involvement in the relief efforts. Pakistanis had spontaneously thanked U.S. soldiers in the markets in Islamabad, while U.S. flags could be found flying in remote villages of Pakistani Kashmir.

During a brief stop in Muzaffarabad, staff visited a U.S. military mobile medical unit that had been established in late October. There were 16 doctors and 72 nurses at the facility, treating about 100 patients per day, mostly for broken bones and some cases of tetanus. Staff also visited a newly-established U.S. mobile medical unit in Shinkhari in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP). Nearly 200 Okinawa-based Marines and sailors set up camp in this remote village on November 15th and reportedly treat about 100–200 patients per day.⁴

⁴Information on the current number of patients was drawn from the DoD website.



Local children receiving medical attention at the U.S. mobile medical unit in Muzaffarabad

U.S. Private Sector Initiative

On October 27th, President Bush launched a private sector initiative to encourage private donations for relief and reconstruction. On November 14th, State Department Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy Karen Hughes led a delegation to Pakistan that included three distinguished U.S. CEO's: Hank Mckinnell, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer, Inc.; Anne Mulcahy, Chairman and CEO of Xerox Corporation; and Jim Kelly, former Chairman and CEO of United Parcel Service (UPS), Inc. These business leaders will work with other Americans to raise awareness and resources to help victims of the earthquake. According to an Indiana University-based tracking system, \$73 million in U.S. private donations has so far been disbursed to victims of the South Asia earthquake.

Ongoing Needs and Concerns

Pakistani interlocutors noted the importance of the U.S. disbursing its aid in a way that encourages transparent and accountable development. Pakistanis, in general, were pleased by the huge international outpouring of support at the Donors' Conference, but they questioned how this money would be disbursed and whether it would go through the President's Relief Fund or through established NGOs. During staff visit to Muzaffarabad, one of the Urdu speakers on the U.S. delegation was stopped by a local woman who

claimed that the aid was not being distributed fairly and pleaded for the U.S. to use its influence to ensure that the aid went to the people who genuinely needed it.

Staff observed a fair amount of economic activity in downtown Muzaffarabad, with shopkeepers displaying an array of food items, clothing, shoes, and other household items. Many shop owners displayed their goods in the open air, with their collapsed shops behind them. There was a tremendous amount of destruction and rubble that still needed to be cleared.



Earthquake destruction in downtown Muzaffarabad

Shelter

There was mixed feedback on the dangers winter poses to those in remote areas, but one NGO reported in early December that the grim predictions of mass deaths registered one month ago now appear unlikely. During staff visit, Pakistan government officials seemed to think the issue of shelter was under control, while some NGOs said it is still a question. One Pakistani commentator noted that since some areas had not yet been accessed, it was impossible to assess what percentage of the population might still be at risk. Most NGOs are now focusing on distributing shelter packages (roofing material and tools) to those in remote areas still without shelter, rather than trying to transport tents. The UN says it expects an exodus of refugees (100,000–200,000) from the mountains into low-lying areas in the coming weeks, as villagers flee an increasingly bitter winter.

Food

One local NGO representative working in the Balakot area reported that the availability of food was not yet a problem in these areas since many people were able to salvage food that had been

stored in the ground. Food drops had also been successful in remote areas like the Allai Valley. Other NGO representatives reported food shortages in remote areas. Inflation was also a concern, partly due to the Government's cash infusion of over \$350 million to affected families. U.S. military officers at Chaklala air base reported that food relief operations were focused largely on moving food stocks into forward areas since helicopters would not be able to fly into far-flung areas once snow started to fall.

Children

Pakistani children have suffered tremendously from this disaster, and need special attention from relief workers. It is estimated that perhaps 50 percent of the 73,000 that perished were children who were attending school when the earthquake struck. According to the Pakistan government, 16,000 schools were destroyed or badly damaged. UNICEF has identified four fundamental steps to addressing children's needs in the wake of the disaster: keeping children alive, caring for those children separated from their parents, protecting children from exploitation, and getting them back to school. Education programs provide security, a sense of normalcy, and hope for the future. They are "safe spaces" for children and provide a support system, especially for vulnerable children, such as those separated from their families.⁵

Staff visited a makeshift school in Muzaffarabad that the U.S. military, in cooperation with the local population, had established. The school, comprising about 15–20 winterized tents, was set up on a site where an elementary school had completely collapsed. U.S. soldiers were still clearing much of the debris from the area, but it was heartening to see about 150–200 children attending school in the tents. Staff visited an 11th grade class in which the teenage girls and boys were studying Physics. Some of these children reported living in camps on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad. The students appeared in good health and to be coping as best as could be expected.

⁵This information was drawn from the Basic Education Coalition's "After the Earthquake: Pakistan's Affected Children and Schools," published in October 2005.



Girls attending 11th grade Physics class in a makeshift school established by the U.S. military, in cooperation with local workers, on the site of a completely collapsed school in Muzaffarabad

Representatives from an established local NGO, the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), reported concerns immediately following the disaster that orphaned children would be trafficked. However, following the Pakistan government's institution of a "no adoption" policy and increased scrutiny by security forces of the transport of children at security check points, the dangers of child trafficking appeared to be in check.

DEMOCRACY

There were mixed feelings about the Pakistan Army's role in relief efforts, and widespread criticism that the Army had been slow to respond in the first 3–4 days, possibly because they were coping with their own losses along the Line of Control (LoC). Despite its slow start, a number of people expressed that the Pakistan Army was now doing a relatively good job with relief efforts and cooperating effectively with international and local NGOs and civilian volunteers on the ground.

The Pakistani civil society mobilized effectively to help the earthquake victims, a phenomenon that has energized and emboldened many Pakistani civilians. There was a tremendous urge to help their countrymen and many Pakistanis rushed to the affected areas to do whatever they could to help. One commentator noted that Pakistani civilians now see what they are capable of achieving when they organize and work together.

During his speech at the Donors' Conference, Gareth Thomas, UK Minister for International Development, pointed to the need for "broad political ownership" of the recovery and reconstruction ef-

forts in the country. A UK diplomat said his government saw an opportunity in the reconstruction process to encourage political reconciliation between the military and mainstream political parties.

There is widespread concern among Pakistani politicians, commentators, and journalists that the democratic process and institutions in Pakistan have been set back under the six-year rule of President Musharraf. Pakistani interlocutors expressed frustration that President Musharraf was weakening democratic institutions and contributing to an overall militarization of society. They viewed his publicized plan of “enlightened moderation” as disingenuous, noting that his government had contributed to the increasing influence of the religious parties, while closing the political space for mainstream political parties with more moderate, progressive agendas. Some voiced concern that the U.S. had failed to comment on local bodies elections held in August that were widely viewed as flawed, and urged that U.S. support for democracy in Pakistan be given a higher priority in bilateral relations.

Despite complaints about the decay of democratic institutions, interlocutors widely agreed that the media was much freer than a few years ago. One Pakistani academic told staff that he felt freer to publish what he wanted than he did ten years ago under a democratic government. Many attributed the freedom of the media to the information explosion rather than any specific government policy.

There was criticism of President Musharraf’s devolution plan and the USAID program supporting it. The Pakistan government has presented its plan for devolution as an effort to improve public services and has attracted considerable support from international donors. Some contended, however, that it was merely a plan to ensure the military regime’s survival. Others noted that USAID officials did not have appropriate monitoring mechanisms to ensure the program’s efficacy and that the program was not meeting the objective of promoting democracy. USAID officials acknowledged to staff in mid-December that there had been problems with USAID’s support to the devolution process but that they had recently identified a new contractor to redesign the USAID program and would be transitioning to a more focused initiative to support devolution. The U.S. official noted that it was important to encourage local government support for health and education programs and that USAID would focus increasingly on those districts where other USAID-supported programs are active, addressing governance issues that impede service delivery.

Education

USAID’s education program in Pakistan began in 2002 and involves both basic and higher education. The education programs are concentrated in the underdeveloped provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Education funding for Pakistan totaled \$66 million for FY 2005. The Basic Education program benefits over 367,000 Pakistani children and 18,000 teachers and includes teacher training, school improvement, policy and planning, and other basic education activities. The higher education program includes a grant to the Ful-

bright Commission to provide 500 scholarships for post-graduate degree scholarships in the U.S.⁶

Staff visited a USAID-supported girls' school on the outskirts of Islamabad. Through a grant of only \$1,500, USAID inspired the people of this community to establish a Parent Teacher's Association (PTA) and build a library for the school. Staff met with members of the PTA, visited with students in the first-grade class, and toured the library that is under construction. The community has taken responsibility for equipping the library that will serve the 517 primary and secondary level girl students and teachers.

The U.S. also is encouraging the Government of Pakistan to spend more of its own resources on education to support President Musharraf's goal of promoting a progressive, moderate society. Pakistan recently pledged to increase its spending on education to 4 percent of its GDP, according to the USAID Mission Director in Islamabad, and allocated about \$35 million to education from the FY 2005 \$200 million in U.S. direct budget support.

U.S. Assistance Issues

Many observers have noted over the last two years that U.S. assistance to Pakistan needs to focus more directly on institution building and on projects that demonstrate the U.S. is committed to uplifting the lives of average Pakistanis. A study done last year by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) argues for more programmed assistance to Pakistan, at least half of which should be dedicated to supporting a major effort to rebuild institutions. "The 9/11 Public Disclosure Project," released on November 14, 2005, states that too much of our assistance is in the form of a cash transfer and that more U.S. funding should be dedicated to education.

U.S. assistance to Pakistan since September 2001 has focused largely on debt relief, budgetary support, and to a lesser—but increasing—degree on education, health care, and development projects. The U.S. has provided about \$1.2 billion to the Government of Pakistan for foreign exchange needs and to repay debts to multilateral institutions since 2001, while USAID has obligated about \$300 million during the same period on health, governance, and economic growth programs.⁷ Although the \$1.2 billion in direct funding has helped ease macroeconomic pressures on Pakistan, such as enabling it to reduce its total government debt from 89 percent of GDP in 2000 to 64 percent in 2004,⁸ the administration should consider whether a portion of this direct assistance can now be programmed toward additional USAID education, health, and democracy building projects.

- Out of this fiscal year's \$700 million economic and military assistance package to Pakistan, only \$15 million of this funding is allocated to democracy and governance programs. Staff was pleased to learn from USAID officials that this sum is expected to increase in FY 2007 by another \$15 million, but this still ap-

⁶Information in this paragraph was drawn from USAID information sheets provided by the USAID Mission in Islamabad.

⁷These figures were provided by USAID staff in December 2005.

⁸Secretary of State Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations, fiscal year 2006.

pears to be an insufficient sum, given the need for democratic institution building in the country.

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Last month's opening of five crossing points along the Line of Control (LoC) that divides Kashmir provided a much-needed boost to peace efforts, following two weeks of public wrangling between the two governments over implementation of assistance to the earthquake survivors. The two sides wasted precious time in the days following the earthquake by arguing over the use of helicopters. Pakistan refused Indian helicopter support, saying this would allow New Delhi to collect intelligence in a sensitive part of the country, while India rebuffed Pakistan's request that the Indian helicopters be piloted by Pakistani servicemen. The LoC border openings provided a way out of the helicopter impasse, but many were disappointed by the public jockeying in the wake of the disaster.

During staff visit, Pakistani Prime Minister Aziz declared his support for demilitarization and self-rule in Kashmir. Although Aziz did not provide details on his proposal, some interlocutors in Pakistan recommended gradual demilitarization in Kashmir, beginning with urban areas. They further asserted that self-rule applied only to Azad Kashmir on the Pakistan side and the Valley and three districts of Jammu (Punch, Rajauri, and Jammu districts) on the Indian side of the LoC. When staff queried how demilitarization can occur when militant violence continues in Indian Kashmir, they argued that extremist groups will never change their minds or stop using violence.

A major issue to monitor over the next several months is whether extremist groups, such as the Jamat ul-Dawa (JUD—formerly the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, a State Department-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization), are using their increased influence with the population in Pakistani Kashmir to recruit for the Kashmir militancy. The JUD was one of the first groups to help rescue victims in Pakistani Kashmir and help families in the region bury their dead. The JUD is not only familiar with the terrain in these areas, but also experienced in social outreach and adept at raising funds at Mosques. Pakistani observers reported that several extremist groups formally banned by the Pakistan government are now fully operative and highly visible in all earthquake zones. They are seen in the market places and reportedly drive in SUVs, indicating they have substantial income sources. Observers note that these extremist organizations have a new claim to legitimacy, given their successful relief efforts in the region.

- The Pakistan Government will need to ensure that violent extremist groups like the JUD are restricted from using their resources for terrorism-related activities, such as militant recruitment or incitement toward violent jihad in Kashmir and/or Afghanistan.

One Pakistani commentator, citing the increased influence of the jihadi organizations and unprecedented international access to Pakistani Kashmir, noted that “winds of change were blowing in the region.” It is still unclear whether President Musharraf and

Prime Minister Singh will be able to harness some of the recent goodwill and capitalize on sympathetic feelings on both sides to move the peace process forward. They will need to act boldly and swiftly in this regard in order to counter some of the negative trends that could develop in the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction

1. The relief and recovery effort in Pakistan will continue over the next one to three years. The U.S. should maintain air support to relief operations through at least March 2006, especially since road travel will be increasingly limited due to severe weather conditions. USAID should begin as soon as possible efforts to reconstruct schools and health facilities in earthquake-affected areas in the Northwest Frontier Province and Pakistani Kashmir.

2. Congress should continue to monitor and evaluate whether the current package of \$150 million in 2006 funding for humanitarian relief and recovery is sufficient (as of this date, \$80 million of those funds had already been programmed).

3. U.S. earthquake assistance programs should focus on promoting democratic, self-sustaining social development as well as capacity building within civil society and community participation. The U.S. also will need to pay particular attention to the involvement of women in the reconstruction process.

Democracy

1. Focus U.S. policies and assistance programs now on ensuring free and fair elections that will produce a civilian government in 2007. This could include increasing public awareness of U.S. support for democracy and programming more funds toward democracy and institution building.

2. The U.S. administration should consider transferring more funds from the current annual \$200 million in direct cash transfer to the Pakistani Government toward USAID programs that promote democracy. These programs should focus on rooting out institutional corruption, improving the functioning of the judiciary and parliament, and strengthening the electoral process.

3. Given concerns raised about USAID's support to devolution in Pakistan, Congress will need to monitor this program, for which USAID has programmed \$17.7 million over the period of 2002–2007.

Pakistan-India Peace Process

1. Monitor activities of JUD and other militant groups that may be trying to take advantage of the situation to whip up support for militancy in Kashmir.

2. Encourage India and Pakistan to take another major confidence building step that involves participation by the local populations on both sides of the Line of Control that divides Kashmir as a way to fortify the peace process.

Staff held discussions with the following individuals in Pakistan:

U.S. Embassy/State Department

Patricia Brandemaier, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission
 Tim Wilder, Political Counselor
 Divya Swamy, Political Officer
 Andrew Quinn, Economic Counselor
 Peter Kovach, Director, Public Affairs Office
 Mary Virginia Kennedy, South Asia Bureau Earthquake Coordinator

USAID

USAID Mission Director, Lisa Chiles
 USAID Mission Deputy Director, Patricia Rader
 Julie Koenen-Grant, Senior Governance Advisor
 Thomas Crehan, Education Officer
 William Berger, DART Leader, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

U.S. Military

Navy Rear Admiral Michael LeFever, Commander of the U.S. Disaster Assistance Center in Islamabad

Pakistan Government

Syed Sail Abbas, Director (Americas), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Non-Governmental Organizations

Charles MacCormack, President, Save the Children
 Samina Khan, Executive Director, Sungi Development Foundation
 Asma Jehangir, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief of the Commission on Human Rights
 Sardar Amjad Yousef, President, Kashmir Institute of International Relations
 Sheeba Afghani, Independent Development Consultant

Commentators/Academics

Dr. Pervez Hoodbhoy, Professor of Physics, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad
 Talat Hussain, Special Correspondent with Newsweek
 Naveed Ahmad, Staff Correspondent for the Pakistani Daily, "The News"
 Farhan Bokhari, Correspondent, "Financial Times"
 Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute
 Lt. Gen. Talat Masood (Retd.), Former Secretary Defense Production, Ministry of Defense
 Major Gen. Jamshed Ayaz Khan (Retd.), President Institute of Regional Studies
 Khalid Rahman, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies

Politicians

Raja Pervez Ashraf, Secretary General of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians and Member of the National Assembly
 Senator Iqbal Haider
 Abida Hussain, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and former Ambassador to the U.S.
 Aitzaz Ahsan, Member of the National Assembly
 Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
 Shah Ghulam Qadir, Secretary General, All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference

Other

Peter Wilson, British High Commission