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The Frontier Post

## Uncertain partner

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11/7/2009

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has returned back after “the successful visit”, the diplomatic term used for such visits. There was no doubt in Secretary Clinton’s truthful efforts in the shape of meetings with all walks of life, in Pakistani society. This might be a part of Obama administration’s sincere efforts for helping Pakistan, as a front line State in the war against terrorism. But at the same time, there are a lot of things happening on the part of United States which make their efforts suspicious in the eyes of Pakistanis. The Indian factor is always there in Pakistan, since independence. United States has always preferred India, in the time of need of Pakistan. In recent days, Pakistan has pointed out the growing Indian influence in Afghanistan and the negative impact, time and again but has no effect. Even a time came when an American Commander General Stanley McChrystal, in his report to the Pentagon admitted that the growing Indian influence in Afghanistan was against their interest there. American authorities were provided with proof of Indian involvements in anti-Pakistan activities based from there but for the US, Pakistani concern is less important while the so-called reconstruction activities of India are more important. The time will decide but Indian influence is not in the interest of US itself and it is certainly one of the reasons, the US is not successful in Afghanistan besides eight years long occupation. The US government has even considered Indian interests in the Kerry-Lugar Bill, (which is now an Act), where it was mentioned that Pakistan would not allow its territory to be used against its neighbours (means India) by terrorists. It clearly means that for United States the Indian interests are far better as compared to Pakistan’s. The matter of Blackwater has already discussed a lot and its presence has created a sense of panic among Pakistanis but US is not paying attention to it. The matter is of a serious concern for Pakistanis. In this connection mere denial will not be enough as there are reports in media regarding the presence of Blackwater, while no one can deny the fact that (according to the New York Times) CIA had hired contractors from Blackwater in 1994. It was also said that the deal was made for

hunting al-Qaeda leaders and for such purposes its services were availed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Another thing beyond the logic on the part of US is that besides the loss of thousands of lives, both Security Personnel and Civilians; a sense of satisfaction is lacking and mutual confidence missing. Both the parties are consistently claiming shared partnership against the so-called war against terrorism but other side of the picture is somehow different. The reports of American spying Pakistan's nuclear installations at Kahuta from Sihala training centre is an example of this mistrust, where again governments both the allies are silent. Those reports at the same time, confirm the idea that the world powers are against the nuclear assets and programme of Pakistan. Pakistani Military has recently started its offensive in South Waziristan as a crucial and important move against militants in the region. Soon after the operation started, Nato forces vacated security posts on the Afghan side near the area. This act on their part have no justification at all and a strange one itself too. Leaving the important posts vacant clearly means allowing the infiltrations on both sides. The militants from the area, which have already spread the terror all over Pakistan, might have a safe exit from the area through those posts. But Ms Clinton termed the matter as strategy, when she was asked by Pakistani journalists. She said that those vacant posts were less important but the questions arise that why those posts were guarded before the operation Rah-e-Nijat and why the decision was made soon after the operation get started? Besides those mentioned matters, there are a lot of others, which have no justification from the United States or Allied forces in Afghanistan but expect Pakistan to do more and more. If the US is sincere in war against terror and wants to cut the roots of terror loving elements, related to the area, then it must avoid acts which make her role suspicious in the eyes of Pakistanis. In fact it was not a problem of Pakistan at all but America has successfully brought the battle to our soil. The common enemy, as both the nations term it, is not an ordinary one and need to be tackled jointly with full confidence over each partner, otherwise the problems will increase with the passage of time.