



**General Martin E. Dempsey
Chairman Joint Chief of Staff
U.S Armed Forces**

December 9, 2011

My Dear General Dempsey:

Following a recent attack by NATO forces on a Pakistani military post in the Mahmud Agency in Northern Pakistan, the Senate of Pakistan has endorsed the government decision of blocking NATO supply, evacuation of Shamsi Air Base and not attending the Bonn Conference on Afghanistan. It may be pointed out that such unilateral actions by the NATO and American forces have rapidly shifted anti-extremism sentiments into anti-American feelings in the region.

The general impression in Pakistan is that the trigger happy US forces have no respect for the life of Pakistani people including Pakistani soldiers. This recent unfortunate incident has seriously harmed, if not completely destroyed the deeply troubled relationship between the two supposedly friendly nations. The United States needs Pakistan's cooperation to pursue the fight against extremism. But US leaders have failed to feel the public pulse, and military rage, in Pakistan and amongst over one million expatriate Pakistanis in America. Washington must realize that the public back lash, the fury among political parties and rage in Pakistan's military because of US aggression and arrogance, has led to this crisis. Constantly avoiding or delaying to offer an apology is tantamount to rubbing salt to the wounds.

Considering Pakistan's economic and geo-strategic situation, NATO attacks are too risky not only for the Pakistani forces, the ISAF and the U.S Troops but also extremely counterproductive for the world community at-large. Washington and Islamabad should realize that they need each other to shut down extremists' safe heavens and bring militants to the conference table. In this partnership of mutual interest, Washington has a wider role to play. President Obama, Secretary Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panneta have deeply regretted the NATO attack, yet all have refused to apologize. This must change in the larger interest of all the stake holders. Any hard posture by Washington will be unwise and against US interests in the region.

I urge you to play your vital role in fine tuning the U.S and NATO modus operandi, and support a thorough and impartial examination into the circumstances that precipitated this event and the risk that the Pakistani and the coalition military service members face in performing their duty in this volatile region.

Sincerely,

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