



**Mr Richard A. Boucher, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia of the United States of America meeting Mr Altaf Hussain, Founder and Leader of Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM), at the MQM International Secretariat in London on 5 December 2008,**



**London: Saturday the December 05, 2008**

Richard A. Boucher, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, called on MQM chief Altaf Hussain at the party's international secretariat here on Friday and discussed with him matters relating to US-Pakistan relations, terror attacks in Mumbai and issues of mutual interests.

They condemned the Mumbai attacks and expressed grief over the loss of lives, says a press release.

Mr Hussain said that war was not in the interest of either India or Pakistan. "It is essential that the matters are resolved through dialogue and tensions are scaled down."

He said that terrorists had no religion and that no peace-loving person could condone acts of terrorism.



### **Richard Boucher Meet MQM Leader Altaf Hussain.**

**LONDON, Dec 05 (APP)- US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher and MQM Chief Altaf Hussein at their meeting here on Friday called for a joint strategy between all the stakeholders to confront terrorism and extremism.**

While strongly condemning last week's terror attacks in Mumbai, the MQM leader said that war is neither in the interest of India nor Pakistan and it was essential that the matters be resolved through dialogue to bring down the tensions.

According to party's press release, Altaf. Hussain further stated that those who carried out these attacks have no religion and no love for peace or to live in harmony with others.

The MQM also expressed his profound shock and grief at the killings of nationals of several countries including USA, UK, Germany, Japan as well as the Indians.

The two leaders discussed in depth important matters concerning US and Pakistan relations and different aspects of mutual interests.

The MQM leader pointed out to the US official Friday's evening bomb blast in Peshawar which claimed many innocent lives and said Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism.

Boucher appreciated Altaf Hussein's thoughts and stated that US also abhors terrorism and the entire peace-loving people of the world also condemn terrorism.

He further said that the US wish to see reduction of tension between India and Pakistan and a friendly relationship redeveloping. The US diplomat stressed that co-operation between Pakistan and India would help in tackling terrorism in both countries in an effective manner.

Responding to the remarks of Boucher, the MQM Chief said President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani have repeatedly vowed to fully cooperate in the investigation of the Mumbai attack.

The meeting lasted 90 minutes and Boucher was assisted by Peter Lord, Political Officer in the United States Embassy in London while Mohammad Anwar and Syed Ahmed Tariq Mir, members of the Central Co-ordination Committee assisted Altaf Hussein.







