

STATEMENT FOR AMENDMENT TO CUT OFF MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN

While the discovery that Osama Bin Laden had been living for years in a garrison town in Pakistan has raised the issue of Pakistan's reliability as an ally in the war on terror, it is not the core of the issue. Pakistan maintains its ties to terrorist groups operating in both Afghanistan and India because it believes such groups serve its strategic interests in the region; interests that run counter to the security strategy of the United States.

It will be argued that aid to Pakistan is necessary to get Islamabad to cooperate with the U.S., and this act authorizes over a billion dollars of such aid.

In other words, we must bribe the Pakistanis to do things they would not otherwise do. This is because what we ask them to do is not in line with Pakistan's own chosen regional agenda, which

is to dominate Afghanistan and strip Kashmir away from India. Bribery is not a sound long-term strategy for us. It is not sustainable when dealing with a government that does not share our interests or values.

Pakistan's real source of support is the expansionist dictatorship of Communist China, which provides Pakistan with most of its military hardware and training. Pakistan and China are developing a new jet fighter (JF-17) and are planning to cooperate in the design of a new submarine. Without Chinese help, Pakistan would not have nuclear weapons or the missiles to deliver them. China was working in support of the Taliban in Afghanistan on 9/11, because Beijing shares Islamabad's strategic vision for the region. There are more Chinese working with the Pakistani government and military than there are Americans.

Pakistan Prime Minister Gilani said at Peking University on May 19, "Our all-weather friendship and strategic cooperative partnership [with China] has stood the test of time and the changes in the international and regional situation." This is the same Pakistani official who threatened to shoot down U.S. aircraft in the wake of the Bin Laden raid.

American aid only helps fund the ambitions of the China-Pakistan alliance. Our natural ally in the region is India, towards which the U.S. focus should shift.

We should be supporting India's interests in Afghanistan, not Pakistan's. And on a larger canvas, we should be working to build an alliance of democratic states in Asia, running from India through Australia to Japan, rather than fooling ourselves into believing we can buy the cooperation of failed states and dictators whose core objectives are hostile to our own.