

Ambassador's Remarks for Pakistan Defense and Martyrs' Day
Beijing, 6 September 2021

Lt. General Shao Yuanming,

Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission of Peoples' Republic of China

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening and Da Jia Hao!

It is my distinct honour to welcome you all to Pakistan's Defense and Martyrs' Day. We have gathered here today to pay tribute to the brave soldiers of our armed forces, law enforcement agencies and people of Pakistan for their sacrifices and heroic struggle in the defense of our motherland and nation against all threats.

56 years ago, on this day, Pakistan rose to defend itself against a cowardly attack. The treacherous enemy tacking cover of the darkness of the night attacked our borders without a declaration of war. This was an act of naked aggression, a blatant violation of international law and norms of inter-state behaviour.

Imbued with unconquerable spirit and unity of purpose, Pakistan's armed forces with the support of the entire nation, resisted the enemy's onslaught and succeeded in foiling its sinister aims. With its blood and sweat, Pakistani nation wrote a new chapter of courage and conviction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The spirit of this day has timeless resonance. It signifies Pakistani's abiding commitment to peace and unyielding resolve to resist aggression. 'Peace within and peace without' has remained a guiding principle of our foreign policy.

I would like to reiterate that we do not believe in unilateralism, power politics of hegemonism or containment.

We believe that inter-state relations should be conducted on the basis of mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual cooperation.

We believe that differences should be resolved through dialogue and constructive engagement.

We believe in global solidarity and cooperation to address global challenges like poverty, disease, climate change and terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan has therefore always spearheaded global efforts to further the cause of peace and development, in line with the vision of our founding fathers and aspirations of Pakistani nation.

Pakistan has remained one of the largest contributors to the UN peacekeeping missions. Our active participation and sacrifices have won global recognition and accolades.

As a responsible member of United Nations and subscribing to its purposes and principles, Pakistan has always supported the legitimate rights and causes of peoples under subjugation and foreign occupation, be it in Palestine or Kashmir.

Today, the people of India's Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are still reeling under the crushing weight of Indian tyranny and oppression. Kashmiris are still awaiting the fulfillment of pledges given to them by Indian leaders. Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to their just struggle and calls for the peaceful resolution of Kashmir Dispute in accordance with UNSC resolutions.

Distinguished Guests,

The unfolding scenario in Afghanistan brings forth fresh challenges and prospects of peace for a country and the region afflicted by conflict for the last four decades. It has also vindicated Pakistan's stand that there was never a military solution to the Afghan conflict.

Being the next-door neighbour of Afghanistan, Pakistan and its people have suffered the most after the people of Afghanistan. We have paid a heavy price in fighting the menace of terrorism and extremism. 70,000 of our people have lost their lives with over US\$ 150 billion losses to our economy. Through these sacrifices and the indomitable spirit of its people, Pakistan was able to succeed in its fight against the scourge of terrorism and dismantle the terror networks on its territory. Now, we cannot afford to lose the hard-won gains; we cannot let the sacrifices of our people go in vain. Peace and stability in Afghanistan is therefore in vital interest of Pakistan.

Pakistan supports an inclusive political settlement that can ensure a stable Afghanistan and continued engagement of international community to address

urgent humanitarian needs, secure economic stability and prevent mass exodus of refugees.

Pakistan Embassy remains open in Kabul and our diplomats are working round the clock to assist in evacuation and other humanitarian operations. So far, over 12000 diplomats and members of international organizations and media have been evacuated through Islamabad.

Distinguished Guests,

In these unprecedented global challenges, Pakistan-China iron-brotherhood and all-weather strategic cooperative partnership shine as an excellent model of inter-state relations. Over the last seven decades, we have forged closer ties in diverse fields of bilateral cooperation including between the armed forces of Pakistan and People's Liberation Army of China. Through joint production of high-tech military equipment, bilateral exchanges, joint exercises and training, our two militaries have formed a strong bond of friendship and cooperation. Our defence ties are not targeted against any third country. As partners in peace and progress, our relationship remains a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond.

I take this opportunity to thank the People's Government of China and the People's Liberation Army for their generous donations of vaccines and essential medical supplies during pandemic which have saved many lives in Pakistan.

This year, as our two countries celebrate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations, let me reaffirm our resolve to carry forward this epic march of fraternity and comradeship. Pakistan would continue working with China and the international community for attainment of shared goals and a common vision for a peaceful and beautiful world.

I Thank You All!

Ba Zhong You Yi Wan Sui!

Long Live China-Pakistan friendship.