

Capital calling

National interest

BY FARRUKH KHAN PITAFI

The man who declared the Line of

Control 'international border' during a recent press briefing by the president is worried about the national interest. What is national interest then? Neo-liberals do not realize that most of the things they do in the name of 'unconventional approach towards national interest' go against the nation's interest. And since this country is their own home they not only serve their own petty interests but also placate their western overlords. But there is limit to everything. If you cannot contribute anything substantial to the country's longevity then for heaven's sake do not flirt with your integrity.

Now only the neo-liberals are taking keener interest in the Okara Military Farm for they are dying to hide the fact that they themselves have their vested interest in it. The problem is that such



elements leave no opportunity to malign the army and the country's very image. Who incited the tenants of the Okara Farms? Indeed neither army nor the rangers can be blamed for it. It was only a group of young neo-liberals, much influenced by Karl Marx and Lenin, who mistook themselves to be the incarnation of Marx and Lenin. They got carried away on various issues without even knowing what their slogans imply. When it comes to Pakistan's defense and security such friends immediately reject the notion claiming that it is an outdated and conventional concept. They often suggest as panacea the unilateral nuclear and military disarmament in the subcontinent. Folks if you have courage to expose their agendas go ahead. It is only then that they would know the fallacy of their argument.

There does not exist any provision in law (not to my knowledge at least) that arbitrarily grants the right of ownership of land to the tenants. Why then our

friends instigate the poor people of Okara to fight for such a wild goose chase. Perhaps they are bent upon destroying the image of army and this time their target is Okara Military Farm. Let them do it and see whether they could gain anything. Their fate would be more instructive for others. No matter how serious the issue may be, it should be resolved within our country and writing letters to the UN, EU or other countries would only tarnish the national image.

Army also needs to realize that 'enlightened moderation' by slogans like 'Sab sey pehley Pakistan' is losing its effectiveness and its staunch supporters are also disillusioned. The task of reinterpreting Islam should be left to the clerics instead of creating meaningless ideologies and offending rhetoric.

I don't understand what enmity do the neo-liberals have against Pakistan's national symbols. This year when we are celebrating the year of the Madar-e-Milar,

a renowned weekly tries to 'remind' us how 'cruel' she was that she slapped an air-hostess and did not allow a young girl to be seated in her car. Those who are the custodians of human rights in Pakistan should be asked if they would spend the money on public good instead of buying alcohol.

The youth who readily carry out the propaganda of their neo-liberal bosses should spend their time in serious studies. Marx's philosophy and the spirit of his works are more important than his words or proposed panacea. Secondly, it is historically important to note that Marx could not study Islam from its original sources and hence his opinion on religions does not essentially reflect the true essence of Islam. For Marx all religions including Islam are 'opium of mind'. We are facing a tough time and need to strive hard to rebuild our nation's ideological frontiers and hence cannot afford any more social fragmentation or polarization. This is what actual national interest is all about.

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