

On October 25, 2004, President Musharraf announced a new approach to solve Kashmir dispute during a speech at Iftar dinner. It was received all over the country with a great surprise.

For the first time such an idea was broadcast for public consumption. He enunciated that there are seven regions in Kashmir – two under Pakistan and five under India. The elements for settlement of dispute aim at 'no loss to India, Pakistan and Kashmiris'.

To me this approach looks like a crystallized version of American road map. The framework can produce a picture on the following lines:

a. Northern Areas and AK may go to Pakistan.

b. Hindus' districts Kathua, Udhampur, Jammu and Ladakh the Buddhist area may go to India.

c. The Kashmir Valley (about 3000-3500 sq miles territory) may be administered by India and Pakistan, condominium or administered by UN or given some status.

It is obvious that three most important, pivotal and vital factors/principles: UN resolutions and Kashmiris' rights of self determination will be thrown to winds. That as India had no right to be in Kashmir, its claim (accession of Kashmir to India) was rejected by UN and India herself had accepted the settlement through plebi-

Tailor-made Kashmir solution

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A Nation

scite under UN have been given up in favour of India which had evaded UN resolutions and commitment to the world.

Any solution outside UN will mean that Kashmir 84741 sq miles area with a population of over 15 million people will be fractured: Kashmir as such will be no more. Even if Kashmiris had chosen India or Pakistan as per UN resolutions, they would have enjoyed the status of a province without losing personality. The solution on above lines is a very cruel attempt to negate human problem and rights of Kashmiris who have been subjected to genocide and naked state terrorism. By ignoring Indian state terrorism in Kashmir, the UN and the powers aided the destruction of a community in their hearths and homes where they had lived for centuries.

The proposed settlement on grouping of regions revealed by the President of Pakistan will hurt Pakistan most. India has been working deliberately to gain control of waters flowing from Kashmir to Pakistan. India having violated IWT, latest being the Baglihar dam near Ramban, has constructed dams and number of power-

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houses on Rivers Chenab and Jhelum. India has completed the groundwork to implement the fatal policy. Elated by the future prospects of the vicious plan, Mr. Chakaravarty, the Indian Minister of water and power, blurted out during IW Commission Conference at Delhi on 29 May, 2002: "when we stop waters, Pakistanis will cry for drops of water." Any settlement violating the right of self-determination and human rights of Kashmiris and exercising control over waters will prove disastrous for Kashmiris as well as Pakistan.

Besides the above package, both India and Pakistan must know that the demilitarization of Siachen was voiced by Kashmir Study Group (American professors) in April 1997. Will US have any interest in this game, a kick-back or its presence in the

heaven on earth which was made a hell for the sons and daughters of the soil?

India, despite being the culprit was able to extract concessions from Pakistan through US pressure on Pakistan. It is the Kashmiris whose lives and honour have been violated. It is their territory and lives which have been decimated by India yet Kashmiris are to be placed in a position to receive an award against their birthright. Pakistan cannot afford to accept any solution where the control of waters is left in the hands of hostile party.

Why Pakistan should be anxious for a settlement only to lose and place Kashmiris in hell? I was expecting another solution: "A hypothetical Kashmiri state" visualized by Kashmir Study Group – *A Way Forward* – (US team of Professors) published in September 1999 (widely distributed) gave a large chunk to Kashmiris (300 miles by 150 miles), AK as it is and Northern Areas to Pakistan and India to have Jammu and Ladakh regions. Even this chunk for Kashmiris has something serious in store for them.

Our keenness and even anxiety to

settle problems with India, especially the core issue of Kashmir, we made liberal use of CBMs – but India in response erected iron-fence along LOC and declared – "LOC will not be changed and plebiscite will not be held". Now we have staged the Seven Regions to be shared amicably by three parties to bury their worries. This solution will create unending problems. One can keep correct direction and bearing only if the grid and datum points are well placed and maintained. By giving up UN resolutions and plebiscite India cannot be tied down to any formula. Are we not choosing to go into wilderness – by freeing India from her commitment?

The Resistance Movement has life left in it. We could not save them from barbarities and genocide – we cannot settle terms with India only to see Kashmiris lose Kashmir. The hour of reckoning of our people and challenge to sovereignty of Pakistan are no more on the other side of the hill. It is in the air that the supreme rulers of the world may like to have presence in some form in South Asia (Siachen).

The President has done well to ask his people to deliberate on this issue. I feel those who are not concerned or pinched by this created tragedy, should desist from creating further tragedies. The ambassadors of peace have been doing great damage in the past.