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Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) Establishes Links with Republican Party through National Indian American Coalition (NIAC)

BJP Leader Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman meets with GOP lawmakers and Jewish Leaders on her visit to Washington DC

August 1st, 2012, Capitol Hill, Washington DC:

NIAC leaders from Illinois, Texas, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Virginia and Florida converged on the Capitol Hill on July 31st and August 1st, and met with 40 Congressmen from 14 different states to educate them on the issues of Terrorism, Foreign Aid to Pakistan as well as other visa issues important to the 3.2 million Indian Americans in the United States of America. The Congressmen included Adam Kinzinger, Bobby Schilling, Joe Walsh, Randy Hultgren, Bob Dold, all from Illinois, Congressmen Ted Poe, Pete Olsen and Ron Paul of Texas, Kevin Yoder of Kansas, Reid Ribble of Wisconsin, Phil Gingrey of Georgia and Chris Gibson of New York, to name a few.

NIAC leadership also made a special call on House Leadership including Chief Dy. Whip Peter Roskam of Illinois and Majority Leader Hon. Eric Cantor, who pledged to work with NIAC to reactivate Republican Outreach program to Indian Americans, originally started by President Reagan and House Leader Jack Kemp in the early eighties.

National Indian American Coalition (www.niac.co) is a national advocacy group headquartered in Chicago suburbs with a mission to “build strong relationship between Indian Americans and all those community leaders and decision makers in the country who believe in self-reliance, fiscal discipline and pro-growth agenda, to influence national policy in support of causes important to Indian Americans, while advocating same ideas and policies within the Indian American community”.

NIAC started on a mission to have the US Congress cut off foreign aid to Pakistan in June of 2011. It supported HR 1699 introduced by Congressman Ted Poe of Texas, followed by HR 3013



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and then Poe amendment to HR 5836 appropriation bill to cut military aid to Pakistan by half of \$1.3 Billion for the 2013 fiscal year. NIAC focused on Republican Congressmen from Illinois to push this amendment which passed the House on June 18th, 2012. It still needs passage through the Senate. Not sitting on its laurels, NIAC brought 42 of its delegates from 7 states to thank the Congressmen for their support as well as educate them further. In this context, NIAC also brought in one of country's foremost experts on Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, Mr. Stephen Yates, ex Dy. NSA to Dick Cheney, to speak to the Congressmen on this subject.

Mr. Shalli Kumar, Founder of NIAC, in introducing National Indian American Coalition, told the Congressmen that there are 3.2 million Indian Americans in the US with the highest education as well as highest per capita income as compared to any other ethnic groups including the Jewish American community. Not only that, one out of seven owns a business, employing over 1.2 million workers and generating \$150 billion worth of goods and services annually.

At the Coffee with Congress event Kumar said: "It is high time that US Congress pays attention to the needs and desires of Indian Americans" including "the need to cut off foreign aid to Pakistan until they completely abandon terrorist activities". NIAC then proceeded to show two heart-wrenching video clips of 9/11 as well as Mumbai terror on 26/11.

The videos were followed by a recorded speech of US Senator from Illinois, Mark Kirk, who as a naval reserve intelligence officer personally reviewed the situation on the ground which led him to conclude that "foreign aid to Pakistan is naïve at best and counter-productive as worst" adding further "Pakistan also poses a tremendous threat to the lives of American troops and let me be clear that many Americans died in Afghanistan because of Pakistan's ISI...statements by Pakistani Government officials to the contrary are direct lies....Given the outright lying and duplicity of Pakistan, we need an American tilt towards India."

Stephen Yates, Dy. NSA to Dick Cheney, made a strong case for cutting off foreign aid to Pakistan based upon his personal knowledge of the facts on the ground including the Pakistani military and their Intelligence service called the ISI. For those who advocate a more cautionary approach towards Pakistan because of the supply routes and Pakistan's threat to lose its nuclear weapons to the terrorists, he said: "The lone super power on this planet should not allow itself to be blackmailed by a failed state...there are alternate routes for transportation through central Asian countries and US can and should do everything to safe guard Pakistan's nuclear arsenal"



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Congressman Ted Poe told the audience "Pakistan is the 'Benedict Arnold' to America in the war on terror. They are disloyal, deceptive and a danger to the United States. This so-called ally continues to take billions in US aid, while funding the militants who attack us. And we've kept the money flowing. It's time we turn off the tap". Judge Poe also announced that he will shortly introduce another bill to declare the Haqqani Network funded and controlled by Pakistan's ISI to be a terrorist organization as well as remove Pakistan's status as a Non NATO ally.

Bhartiya Janata Party of India (BJP) sent one of the members of its high command, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, to attend the NIAC function. She told the audience that "This aid seems to be misdirected towards encouraging and facilitating terrorists groups in Pakistan, who seem to be moving freely in Afghanistan and also probably targeting India," adding "The suspicion that any aid that goes to Pakistan may get misused is increasingly getting affirmed by Senators and Congressmen in the US who are approaching their own government to cut aid to Pakistan. We from India feel that not only as a collateral damage India faces disastrous consequences, but we also are prime targets for these non-State operators in Pakistan"