

## Are the Americans coming?

The White House has "refused to rule out striking at suspected terrorist targets inside Pakistan and would not say whether U.S. forces would first seek permission from Islamabad." On 6 November 2001, President Bush told us "you are either with us or against us....." We immediately rolled our tactical carpet from under the Taliban but nourished them as our strategic asset. On 3 July 2007, President Jintao also told us "you are either with us or against us". We brought down Lal Masjid. Is it all tactical or strategic? Here's the American mind hard at work:

The CIA, the FBI, Army Intelligence, Air Force Intelligence, Office of Naval Intelligence, Homeland Security, DEA, Marine Corps Intelligence and the National Security Agency have put out their latest National Intelligence Estimates (NIE) titled "The Terrorist Threat to the U.S. Homeland" (the NIE is the highest level analysis produced by the U.S. intelligence community). According to this report, "Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri are increasingly directing global terrorist operations from a haven in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas bordering Afghanistan..."

John Kringen, CIA's Director for Intelligence, says, "We actually see the Al-Qaida central being resurgent in their role in planning operations. They seem to be fairly well-settled into the safe haven and the ungoverned spaces of Pakistan" adding that, "sooner or later you have to quit permitting them to have a safe haven."

Thomas Fingar, Chairman National Intelligence Council, in a written testimony to the U.S. Congress, wrote: "They continue to maintain active connections and relationships that radiate outward from their leaders hiding in Pakistan..."

Richard Clarke, a one-time chief counter-terrorism adviser on the U.S. NSC, told ABC News "It's feeling a lot like summer of 2001."

On July 12, Bill Kristol, a one-time Bush aid and editor of The Weekly Standard, was a guest at Fox News. A Fox host, citing "Al Qaida Better Positioned to Strike the West", asked Kristol if the new report has come out "on purpose so that we will have the right to go after Pakistan now?" Kristol responded, "I think the president's going to have to take military action there over the next few weeks or months. ... Bush has to disrupt that sanctuary. I think, frankly, we won't even tell Musharraf. We'll do what we have to do in Western Pakistan and Musharraf can say, 'Hey, they didn't tell me.'"

On July 14, Stephen Hadley, Bush's National Security Advisor, the man who replaced Condoleezza Rice, told Bloomberg Television: "The failure of Musharraf's tribal strategy has allowed the re-establishment of some operational training areas."

What's next? For America, militancy in and around Pakistan is now "top priority" (Hadley; Bloomberg Television, July 14). They are going to take out sanctuaries with or without our help; end safe heavens with or without our help. Bush has bipartisan support and Republicans could use the mileage. For us, the moment of truth has arrived; our chicks have been in the fields, in the woods, scratching around in the barnyard and are now coming home to roost.

Islamabad that used to be 14 kilometers from Pakistan is now part of Waziristan. They have brought the war to Islamabad; we cannot avoid but reap what we sow because they are coming back to bite the hand that fed them. Suicide bombings are to dissuade Musharraf from taking out their strongholds in the border badlands. There's going to be a series of joint military operations against our one-time allies. Their weapon of choice is suicide bombings and they have a large stockpile of suicide bombers.

Welcome the US Special Operations Forces; rapid insertion and extraction. Welcome Green Berets, Delta Force, Centra Pike, Torn Victor and Night Stalkers. Welcome dumb bombs, smart bombs, Laser guided bombs and GPS guided bombs. We do it or they'll do it for us.

Jihadis are at war with Pakistan. Pakistan is at war with herself, and with her past--and that's the most difficult of wars to fight.