

**Statement of Cameron Munter**  
**Ambassador-Designate to Pakistan**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**September 23, 2010**

Senator Casey, Ranking Member Lugar, Committee members,

It's a privilege and an honor to appear before you this morning, seeking your consent to my candidacy as America's next ambassador to Pakistan. I have many to thank for this opportunity: the President and Secretary Clinton for their confidence in my abilities; Senator Casey for making this hearing possible on such short notice and thus emphasizing our common commitment to American interests in and relations with Pakistan; Ambassador Holbrooke for his support and guidance. I also express my thanks in an even more profound way to my parents, Helen-Jeanne and Len Munter, who have joined us today from California, whose wisdom has guided me all my life. My wife Marilyn is not here today, but she has been strong and consistent in her love and support during three decades of marriage; if I am confirmed, Marilyn will join me in Islamabad to end more than two years of separation, during my recent service in Baghdad and before that, following the evacuation of American dependents from Belgrade after the attack on our embassy there. And thanks also to my children, Dan and Anna, whose lives have also been shaped by the challenges of a Foreign Service career.

I'm well aware that the job of American ambassador in Pakistan is extraordinarily difficult, and I hope that the challenging Foreign Service career to which I alluded has prepared me well for it, should I be confirmed. In Baghdad, I ran the day-to-day operations of the largest embassy in the world in wartime, and am most proud of my contribution to interagency

cooperation and especially to strong civil-military relations during a pivotal year in Iraq. In Belgrade, I tackled the issues of Serbia's post-Kosovo status and aspirations, kept my people safe, and engaged energetically in diplomacy, public and private, to improve our standing and interests in the Balkans. Throughout my career I have contributed to U.S. goals in countries in transition to prosperity and democracy. Our Pakistani friends are sophisticated and experienced, and they deserve our unstinting respect and our unfailing honesty as we face daunting problems together; I hope that my experience presages a cooperation that rests on both idealism and realism.

Success will come in Pakistan by building confidence in, and with, a strong civilian government. It will be the result of patient efforts on our part to define and address areas of interest that America and Pakistan share: our counterinsurgency against violent extremists who attack Pakistan's civilian population and security forces, as well as innocents in the region and around the world; our ability to help Pakistanis realize the full economic potential of their large and talented nation, so that its prosperity improves the welfare of its people and helps build a stable peace in the region; our commitment to social development so that our cultural affinities can flourish. We can only achieve this common success with a strong partner in Pakistan's democratically elected civilian government. The Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, also known as the Kerry-Lugar-Berman bill, has demonstrated that Congress and indeed, the American people, are giving equally strong backing to this approach, providing generously for our efforts to build a long-term partnership between the people of the United States and Pakistan.

But the floodwaters that struck Pakistan just weeks ago, and are only subsiding now, have made the challenges much more difficult. As Senator Kerry pointed out after his recent trip to

view the damage wrought by the flooding, the devastation created by the floods is gut-wrenching. Some 1,700 Pakistanis have died, and 20 million have been affected; there is an immediate need for shelter, food, medicine, and there will be a long-term challenge to rebuild Pakistan's infrastructure. America can be proud that it has been the "first with the most" in responding to the crisis, providing nearly \$345 million dollars to assist with relief and recovery efforts, not to mention nearly \$50 million dollars worth of in-kind assistance from the U.S. military to include halal meals, temporary bridges, and air support for rescue and transport, evacuating more than 15,000 people and delivering 7 million pounds of relief supplies. We have worked closely with international partners, and the U.S. private sector has also given generously. We have provided relief, and will continue to assist with the longer-term recovery and reconstruction, because it's the right thing to do. Pakistan needs our support to overcome this terrible tragedy – and the United States will be a source of support in the years to come.

This last is a key point I wish to stress: we are in this for the long haul. Not only will we supply immediate humanitarian help. We will do all we can to help Pakistani institutions as they deal with this challenge, knowing that they will serve Pakistan well for years to come. We will do all we can to increase transparency of the relief and recovery effort because this transparency is in the long-term interest of the Pakistani people, donors from abroad, and the businesses that ultimately must support a more stable and secure Pakistan. Now is the time that the Pakistani government can serve its people in a time of need: now, and tomorrow, and the day after, we have shown that we will be there to help.

This will require an even closer relation to the people of Pakistan. That is why, even before the floods struck in late July, the Administration had created and begun to implement an ambitious agenda under the Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and the United States. The

Strategic Dialogue gets to the heart of our mutual interests by engaging top leadership of both countries in key areas such as health, agriculture, and economic reform, which, in the aftermath of the floods, will be top priorities for us all. In addition, the Strategic Dialogue addresses energy issues, defense and counterterrorism cooperation, non-proliferation, and water management, to name just a few areas. The Strategic Dialogue is comprehensive, and creates an effective working environment to engage on these and other key issues in coming years. It is providing the framework for a lasting partnership.

Of course this partnership has a crucial security element. Pakistan's security is vital for us and for the region, and a secure and stable Pakistan will strengthen security globally. In 2009, extremists had seized the Swat Valley just 100 miles from Islamabad. Now the Pakistani military is actively engaged and more effectively fighting such extremists. This progress must be sustained – terrorists are still inflicting a terrible toll on Pakistanis, are still able to undermine our efforts in Afghanistan, and are planning attacks on American people and American cities. If confirmed, I will make sure we are doing all we can to encourage and enable Pakistan to continue and expand its efforts against militants.

We must help Pakistan fight the terrorist elements that threaten its own safety and all of our long-term security. It is appropriate that we work closely with our Pakistani friends to ensure the success of democracy and prosperity in neighboring Afghanistan. It is appropriate that we work closely with our Pakistani friends to build confidence in our commitment to non-proliferation. On the American side, this will be a true expression of our unity of purpose, as the civilian and military personnel serving in Pakistan pull together to give clear and purposeful help to our hosts. If confirmed, I pledge to lead a unified team of Americans from across the U.S. government to address these difficult security challenges as it builds a lasting relationship with

Pakistani counterparts based on honesty and mutual respect. We will not always agree with Pakistan on every priority, but we will work through our differences as partners, with our eyes on a vision we can share of a strong, independent Pakistan at peace with its neighbors and free from terrorism.

The Administration and the Congress have thus put forth our vision of Pakistan in the years to come: Pakistan as a friend of democracy, Pakistan as a partner in regional security. This vision requires hard work, because our policy initiatives must rest upon a strong and confident social and economic base in Pakistan; and that base is not yet as strong and confident as either country would like. So we must help foster educational and employment opportunities for Pakistan's large and growing population of young people, and the development of markets for Pakistan's products to enhance its self-reliance and prosperity. Without a strong civil society, economic growth and reform cannot be sustained, so we will continue our robust assistance to the Pakistani government and to the Pakistani NGO sector to strengthen public support for strong democratic institutions. These institutions defend the rule of law, protect human rights and the rights of religious and ethnic minorities, and empower women – in short, they make a country great. Pakistan has a very vibrant and strong civil society that fights for the well being of the Pakistani people. We will support such institutions with determination, and we will do so humbly as well, with respect for the impressive traditions of Pakistan's people, so that the universal values of equality and justice are pursued as the people of Pakistan would have them pursued.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, these are the key elements of the agenda of the United States in Pakistan: Our common fight against terrorism; our common commitment to stability in the region; our common task of building civil institutions in Pakistan to recover and

rebuild from the floods and by doing so, strengthen those institutions for years to come. To do these and many other tasks, the U.S. Mission to Pakistan will increase its staffing, and I thank the Congress for recognizing the need for greater resources, especially in these very tough times. If confirmed, I pledge to do my utmost to ensure that these resources are applied effectively and transparently; that Americans serving in Pakistan, from AID or the military, consuls to analysts, will all be part of a unified team providing a clear message. Effective communication with the people of Pakistan, Pakistani institutions, and indeed the people back home, is not just the task of State Department officials or ambassadors, but rather, it is the task of everyone on the team. Let's be honest about this: we need to overcome historical skepticism among Pakistanis about American motives in South Asia, and this will require ceaseless engagement, energy, and outreach; it will also require wisdom and the ability to listen. Our excellent press office in Islamabad must do even more, our cultural exchange programs, including the world's largest Fulbright scholar exchange, must be constant, confident, and most of all, focused on the goals we seek to achieve.

Because if we are to say, as I do, that Pakistanis and Americans are natural friends and natural partners, we must back our words with deeds. We are both diverse cultures; we are both open and generous peoples; we are both young countries priding ourselves on traditions we embody. This diversity, this generosity, this pride is tested at times like these, as Pakistan and its friend America face great challenges. But it is from great challenges that even greater friendships are forged.

Thank you for your commitment to the task ahead, and thank you for your attention to my comments. I welcome the opportunity to take your questions.