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COMMITTEES:  
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# United States Senate

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November 9, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
Washington, DC

Dear Madam Secretary:

I write to express my grave concern about the current situation in Pakistan and to request that the State Department quickly complete its review of U.S. assistance to Pakistan and report to Congress. To that end, as the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Economic Affairs, and International Environmental Protection, I will be holding a hearing the first week in December to review U.S. assistance to Pakistan and ask that you make the appropriate officials available to brief my subcommittee on the findings of your review.

In light of the instability created by President Musharraf's emergency declaration over the past weekend and questions that have been raised about the assistance we have provided since 9/11, I believe the United States Congress has a responsibility to fully review the billions of dollars in foreign assistance we have provided to Pakistan to ensure that it is indeed being used for the purposes we intended, that we are getting the results we should be, and that this assistance is not simply being used to prop up a particular leader at the expense of the safety and security of the people of Pakistan or the United States.

American taxpayers expect and deserve to have an accounting of the billions of American dollars sent to President Musharraf's government – where it has gone and what progress it has spurred.

As you know, the Center for Strategic and International Studies estimates that the United States has provided over \$10 billion in assistance to Pakistan since 9/11, the overwhelming majority of which is in the form of military assistance with some direct support of the Pakistani government and a small percentage for development or humanitarian assistance.

The justification used to support this assistance has been the strategic importance of Pakistan to the United States. While you have commented recently on the importance of Pakistan in our counterterrorism mission, there are simultaneous reports that the Taliban and Al Qaeda continue to gain strength to a large extent because of their ability to operate along the Pakistan border. Similar reports further allege that Osama bin

Laden, the mastermind behind the horrific attacks against America on 9/11, is likely hiding in this region, as well. Now, President Musharraf has declared a state of emergency, removed judges from their posts, arrested dissidents, censored independent media and threatened to delay democratic elections.

By almost any standard, it's difficult to argue that this aid has been an overall success when the bottom line result is failure to stem the growth of terrorist operations, failure to capture Osama bin Laden, and failure to maintain a stable government and ensure democratic elections. Pakistan is certainly a key strategic ally, but it makes little sense to send these enormous amounts of aid if we don't see results, if the Taliban and Al Qaeda continue to gain strength and if human rights are suppressed.

Therefore, I believe we cannot afford to continue throwing money at a problem when we have no idea whether it's helping to fight terrorists or helping to fund a crackdown on human rights and delay democratic elections. I ask you in your review to provide details about results of the assistance we have sent and report those findings to the subcommittee in December. I look forward to hearing the results of your review and working with you to develop a new strategy based on results, not just goodwill.

Sincerely,



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ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator