



**DEBACLE OF KARGIL WAR 1999
LAHORE DECLARATION FEBRUARY 22, 1999 TO WASHINGTON
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Abstract:

Kashmir is vital organ for Pakistan; Nation faced Wars 1949, 1965, 1971 & 1999 over Kashmir but result less. UNO fail to implement the Resolution in general assembly comprehensively. Political deadlock prevailing among both countries. Composite dialogue was not initiated since Simla Accord 1972. Kashmir's deprived the Right of Self Plebiscite since 1947. Political government was not stabilized so that Kashmir issue was lounger on. The GHQ & PM HQ had serious reservation on Kashmir Issue & Indian Diplomacy. Indian Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Pakistan on February 20, 1999, and also inaugurated "Pak-India Friendship Bus Service" from Delhi to Lahore and back. The Indian Prime Minister declared "Pakistan Resolution of 1940" as a great victory and expressed: A Stable and Prosperous Pakistan is in the best interest of India. These compliments were highly appreciated; it was first time in Indo-Pak Relations that such a positive attitude on the governmental level for Pakistan by India was adopted. "The Lahore Declaration" On the public level the renewed relations with India were applauded. But the political parties targeted this development with great criticism and it was claimed that the Kashmir issue has been dumped by the Nawaz Sharif government. On this occasion Jamat-e-Islami and PPP immensely criticized the government. In the background of all these circumstances GHQ had been observing with suspiciousness and greatly disliked this move.

Keywords: Kashmir, Peace-Talk with India, Destabilized the Political Govt.

Trust Deficit between Prime Minister & Chief of Army Staff.

Background & Introduction: Mian Nawaz Sharif secure heavy mandate in General Elections 1997 and sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan for second term. There was an eminent change in attitude of Nawaz Sharif; it was first time any political party achieved such a heavy mandate. While, Benazir Bhutto declared it was engineered. Nawaz Sharif gave an economic plan to nation and appeal for good diplomatic relation with neighborhood. So he tries to develop good relation with India. The tense Diplomatic Relations with India were inherited to the government. India was in mood to suppress Pakistan and conducted five nuclear explosions under the title of "Operation Shakti,"¹. It was done by Indian Govt. on May 13, 1998 & named "Operation Shakti". It was a threat to the peace of the third world. Due to these sudden nuclear explosions, the world organizations became active and the efforts for the prevalence of peace also commenced. But the Nawaz Government decided to reply Indian threat with spade and under the title of "Operation Chaggi I" underground experimented seven nuclear explosions at the District Chaggi, in Raas-Koh Hills, Baluchistan Province.². Pakistan first ever made nuclear test on in response of Indian reaction on May 28, 1998, named Chaggi-I. The IEAE noticed Pakistan had achieved the Nuclear Potential Capability. Now the Nuclear Test had become a reality for world & especially for Indian. Nuclear scientists had materialized

the dream of becoming a nuclear power. An amount of Five Billion \$ was unconditionally offered by the US President Bill Clinton (1946-b) in the wake of not conducting nuclear explosions.³ Singh, Inderjit, July 8, 2011, p. 6.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif did not accept pressure & conducted more nuclear explosions in response of India. It was complicated situation for India because its experts claimed that Pakistan would not go for Nuclear Test. But the situation suddenly changed in the South Asia. The race of the nuclear weapons was started in region. In past, India initiated efforts to achieve the nuclear technology since 1947 and eventually on May 13, 1972 holds Nuclear Test in Pokhran, District of Jesalmer, Rajasthan Province. It was threat for Pakistan because recently country met with the tragedy of East Pakistan separation. At that time Pakistan does not has capacity to counter the challenge to reply the Indian deterrence. In prevailing circumstances, Z. A. Bhutto prompt reacted; we will eat grass but will achieve the nuclear technology necessarily.⁴ Z.A. Bhutto, Speeches in National Assembly May 1972. Post Nuclear Test 1998; Mr. Nawaz Govt. came under severe economic stress and faced a number of sanctions from the international organizations. Nawaz Sharif began the journey of good relations and friendship despite of Nuclear Test Series. On February 20, 1999, Indian Prime Minister Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1924-2018) visited Lahore and inaugurated "Pak-India Friendship Bus Service" from Delhi to Lahore.⁵ Singh, Inderjit, July 8, 2011, p. 3.

Mr. Vajpayee also expressed about "Pakistan Resolution 1940" as a great victory and said "A Stable and Prosperous Pakistan are in best interest of India".⁶ The Daily Dawn, Lahore, February 23, 1999. These Compliments were highly appreciated by international & national level; it was first time that Indo-Pak Relations adopted such a positive attitude. In Press Conference, both PMs adopted "**The Lahore Declaration 1999**".

⁷-Both prime minister issues the joint statement is known as Lahore Declaration 1999. First time sober & descent efforts were launched by Pak-India since the Simla Accord. Nawaz Sharif said "till when we would darken the future of our youth by selling the cannon balls".⁸ Shahid Mukhtar, Lahore, 2003, p. 187. On masses level; the new relations with India were applauded. Jamat-e-Islami & PPP immensely criticized the government; the political parties targeted the recent diplomatic development with severe criticism and claimed the Kashmir issue had been dumped by the Nawaz Sharif. GHQ; too observed the recent political scenario, bilateral relation and disliked this move. The charter of Lahore Declaration was not dried yet the Kargil Operation was launched (Operation Badar II), it was surprise for the Prime Minister.⁹ Operation Badar II, Pak-Army started the operation in Kashmir and was result the Kargil War 1999. At Indian Prime Minister's visit a bitter attitude COAS can be judged, COAS said he would not salute to Indian Prime Minister until Kashmir issue was not solved on permanent basis. The Kargil dispute was initiated in October 1947, when India steps in Kashmir. Pakistan's military position was not stable that it could combat Indian military. United Nations order to cease fire. A Resolution was adopted by United Nations that both countries would end the war and recognized the location where these were as temporary borders. This ceasefire line was 780 kilometers long. On July 27, 1949, after proper signature this cease fire line was declared as Line of Control (LOC). Its detail has been divided in three parts:

1. First part is fixed for working boundary, which is 200 km long and from Sialkot to Thako Chak.



2. *Second part is 450 km long, which lies between Thako Chak to NJ 980420 Mountain.*
3. *Third undetermined part is 130 kilometers long. Which is extends from Mountain NJ 980420 to Siachen and onwards to the border of China.10- Aslam Lodhi, Lahore, 1999, p.47.*

The major issue is from Thako Chak to NJ 980420 Mountain, because the average height of the mountains in this area is about 5000 meters. Up till 1048 the Siachen area was being recognized as a part of Pakistan in the world Atlas but in 1984, after the "Operation Mehgdoot"* this area was unfairly captured by Indian Army.11-This operation was launched by Indian Forces in 1984 & captured the Siachen Glacier, still they occupied unlaw full. Kargil is situated in the Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir which possesses the status of a major district headquarters after Ladakh district. Ladakh is the only ground passage for Srinagar and Siachen and the Kargil to Siachen portion of this road remain closed for about ten months of a year due to the severe climatic conditions and is useable only in the months of May, June and July. The military equipment and ammunition is transported only through Kargil. Since 1947, the Siachen was possessed by Pakistan. In 1984, it became the part of India through the Operation Mehgdoot. Kargil is 250 km from Srinagar & 1047 km from Delhi. Kargil is located on the Line of Control (LOC) and its height is 7880 feet (2676 meters). The maximum temperature of this town is -40⁰ Fahrenheit. The altitude of Kargil on the world map is 34-01, N76- 24E. Its important towns are Daras, Mashkoh, Chhorbut, and Batalak & Tiger Hills. Kargil was upgraded as a District in 1979 and its area is 14686 Sq.Km.

February 1999; PM of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was taking the amusement of the hospitality of PM of Pakistan Mian Nawaz Sharif. The global media highlighted the mysterious movement of Kashmiri Mujahedeen was observed on the Line of Control. Indian Military was in Spring Season and returned to original check posts, they were surprised that these posts have been captured by Mujahedeen. It was very tough time had started for Indian Forces. Mujahedeen paralyzed the Indian Army for their logistic by captured the extreme significant highway of Kargil. Later, Indian Army faced huge human and property loss. A.B Vajpayee told to Nawaz Sharif that India had been stabbed in the back.12-Tehmina Mahmud, Pakistan Horizon, No. 1, January 2000, 39-50. Mr. Nawaz Sharif denied and said those were Mujahedeen and we have no control over them. Mr. Vajpayee insisted that those were the "Ghus Bethiae Intruders".13- Daily The Hindu, Delhi, May 4, 1999. In Respond, COAS said the Mujahedeen has no link with Pakistan Army. It was their indigenous movement of Kashmiri freedom fighters. A serious situation was sensed, this area had turned into a nuclear flash point and the whole of the sub-continent could be rolled in the blast of dynamite. The situation was worst day by day; U S General Mr. Zanes Anthony meet with Nawaz Sharif and showed the satellite photographs of military vehicles, and the paranormal movement of the Pak-military. It was proved that Civilian Leadership was kept unaware about military operation. Indian government loosed control in Kargil, Aircraft and Artillery was utilized but the required results were not achieved. Later, Indian Air Force launched the "Operation White Ocean".14- IAF, Indian Air Force strike against Mujahedeen on LOC during Kargil War. Indian General, Mr. Vikram Parkash Singh (1939-) suggested to cross the Line of Control and Indian Prime Minister threatened to Nuclear War.15-Daily Sun, Delhi, May 10, 1999. Nawaz Sharif was victimized of prevailing circumstances; he has long negotiations with GHQ

& Politicians. Eventually; Foreign Office fixed emergency meeting of Nawaz Sharif with President of USA, Bill Clinton (1946-) on July 4, 1999. Because it was matter of great concern and also question of nuclear war. Co-incidentally, 4th July was the national day of United States. Having national engagements Mr. Clinton held a very significant meeting with Nawaz Sharif at Camp David and finalized the deal “Washington Declaration”. 16- The Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif meet to Bill Clinton President of USA on serious situation over Kargil War, both made an agreement which named Washington Declaration. It had been reiterated that Pakistan withdraws from occupied territories and would return to the Position of “**Simla Accord 1972**”. 17- Cheema, J. Musarat, 2013, pp. 3-4. Nawaz Government had been trumpeting this declaration as its diplomatic success. While, Opposition Parties & Media were strongly criticized the government that they had lost the won battle. Indian Prime Minister announced on July 14, 1999; the Kargil War had been won due to “**Operation Vijay**”. 18- A.P. Kamath, 2000, pp. 123-132. Actually, nobody achieved an absolute victory and both leaders staking contradictory claims. In fact, heavy human loss had been inflicted for both sides. Later the Kargil War, the cordial atmosphere between the Prime Minister and COAS could not be maintained. Now they were striving to display their supremacy. Sometimes the military would be conducting media trial of the Prime Minister. Under these circumstances the working relationship of both the sides suffered a lot and their mutual coordination become almost impossible. Admiral Faseeh Bukhari, Air Chief Pervez Mehdi, Lt. General, Ali Kuli Khan and senior officers demanded the investigation Kargil Operation. Indian Government finally realized that someone had to pay the price of the Kargil issue. General Jamshed said; only General Musharraf was involved and Nawaz Sharif was kept entirely unaware about operation. 19- Jahangir Khan, P. 202-210. India presented in contradictable proofs of Pakistan Army to Nawaz Sharif involves in Kargil War, which included the extremely significant conversation between General Pervez Musharraf and General Aziz during China’s visit from May 26-29, 1999. The Operation was named by Indian Secret Agency as “Operation Blue Eyes” 20. In June; India arranged an International Foreign Secretaries Conference and disclosed the evidences about Kargil operation. Nawaz Sharif’s comrades attempted to de-characterize the Army and advertisements were given in media as title of “Rascal Military”. 21- Zaidi, S. Akbar, 2003, P. 5. Nawaz Sharif was mentally separated from Pervez Musharraf and he devised a plan to get rid of General Musharraf. The plan was disclosed to Musharraf and Nawaz Sharif faced the humiliation. After failure of plan; Govt. try to improve the relations with GHQ & General Musharraf appointed too as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee till October 6, 2001; but the grudge between the two could not be resolved. ISI keep the record of every moment of Nawaz Sharif and had made expected arrangements.

On October 12; Nawaz Sharif leaved from Islamabad to Shujabad for a public meeting & returns back in heist, about 4.00pm Nawaz Sharif sacked the COAS and appointed Lieutenant General Zia-ud-din Butt (1943-b) as new Chief of Army Staff. General Butt serving as Director General ISI. Nawaz Sharif nominated Zia-ud-din as Army Chief due to nepotism. However, it is significant to note that General Zia-ud-din was the nephew of former Lt. General Ghulam Jilani (1925-99); who brought up Nawaz Sharif as a politician during the Zia ul Haq Martial Law regime. The dismissal orders of Pervez Musharraf were issued by Nawaz Sharif and Secretary of Defense, Retd. Lt. General Iftikhar Chudhary endorsed, he was the brother of Federal Minister Chudhary Nisar Ali Khan (1954-b). Special news bulletin telecasted on media.

General Musharraf was on official visit in Sri Lanka, received this information on PIA Flight No. PK-805. Thus General Zia-ud-din was being appointed the Army Chief; every act was performed in a hurry. According to the dignity of armed forces an official ceremony arranged at GHQ and whenever senior officer promoted as four Star General and the official badges are used. While, here the matter was reverse the official investiture ceremony was held in P M House and the badges were purchased from the local market. Thus, General Zia-ud-din Butt was appointed as COAS; he informed GHQ to arrange a guard of honor as he would be presented the same on his arrival. The presentation of guard of honor meant that the Army had acknowledged his appointment. At GHQ, General Butt was received by Lt. General Aziz Ahmad, Chief of General Staff and very respectfully asked him to let him finalize the arrangements for the guard of honor. But under the cover of arrangements he discussed the serious situation with X-Corps Commander Rawalpindi, Lt. General Mahmud Ahmad, Corps Commander Peshawar, Lt. General Ali Jan Orakzai and Corps Commander Gujranwala, Lt. General Khalid Maqbool and duly informed General Zia-ud-din Butt about their decision that GHQ did not recognize him as COAS and would also not obey the termination of General Musharraf. Lt. General Aziz explained to the Military Secretary of the Prime Minister, Brigadier Javed Iqbal that the ambiguous and illegal change of the military command would not be acknowledged. General Butt returned to P M House and apprised the Nawaz Sharif about the latest situation, because their "Mission Impossible" was failed. 22-Operation Mission Impossible; the Nawaz Sharif Govt & DG ISI General Zia uddin Butt make a plan to remove the current COAS General Pervez Musharraf, in that case General Butt will be the next COAS, but the plan was failed due to the joint decision of all Crops Commanders.

In GHQ; "Operation Solidarity", was being carried out. 23- Pak-Army reacted against the illegal termination of COAS, so high military officers joint adventure is called Operation Solidarity, the Daily Jung, Lahore, October 22, 1999. Under command of Brigadier Salahuddin Satti 111-Brigade of X- Corps along with 200 soldiers had become active and after soon he control over PM House and other important installations & arrested very significant personalities. PM terminated the General Musharraf and directs the authorities for not giving the permission of concerned flight's landed in country. However, it had been too late; GHQ was highly alert and General Aziz contact to Corps Commander Karachi, Lt. General Muzaffar Usmani and acknowledge about the serious situation. Military had made strong footing there; at 8:45pm Pervez Musharraf landed at Karachi and acknowledges the prevailing situation. Pervez Musharraf directly went to GHQ and continued to chair back to back meetings till mid night. The state media had come under the control of military and first bulletin released on television about the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif government. After a long hang at 2.45AM. COAS announced, the Government of Nawaz Sharif had been toppled. The Constitution had been suspended and the Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) dissolved. Anyhow, the President of the Pakistan would continue to function as previously. At mid night, 4th Martial Law was imposed which was fourth in the series according to the statistics. If the events and circumstances are reviewed then it is assumed that the Prime Minister was disaffected with Army Chief and same was the position with Army Chief about the Prime Minister. In fact, Nawaz Sharif removed the COAS that was not admirable. Although, Nawaz Sharif enjoyed power as accorded to the constitution and he could remove COAS under Article. 243-2bc but the procedure adopted by him was not worth appreciable. 24-Article 243-2bc;

according to this Article; Prime Minister can dismissed the COAS. It has been the golden tradition of Army to bid warm send off to its seniors, but when General Jahangir Karamat was forced to resign under the enormous pressure of National Security Council issue; Pak-Army was not admired this act and expressed its reservations. Later, the dismissals of Admiral Mansoor-ul-Haq, Lt. General Tariq Pervez created a tense atmosphere between the Prime Minister & GHQ. The Corps Commander decided if any similar incident happened in future it would reply in a proper way. Hence, the inevitable incident occurred and the Army reacted strongly and the heavy mandated government pressed under its own burden.

On October 12, 1999, General Musharraf deposed the Government of Nawaz Sharif. Musharraf justifications for the coup echoed refrains similar to those offered by his military predecessors. Not only have all the institutions been played around with, and systematically destroyed, even the economy is in a state of collapse. Self-serving policies have rocked the foundations of the Federation of Pakistan. Since its inception more than fifty years ago, Pakistan has experienced four military coups. The first was staged by General Ayub Khan followed by General Yahya Khan, General Zia ul-Haq and, finally, General Pervez Musharraf. While the failure of democratic institutions in Pakistan is typically attributed to constitutional and judicial weaknesses, the poor quality of political leadership and the lack of socio economic development, the structural constraints imposed on democratic institutionalization by the political militarism of the Pakistani army remain generally under analyzed. After the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif government, the public expressed great delight and distributed sweets. Even in his native town, no agitation or protest rally was held or anywhere in country. The Kargil War proved to be the last nail in the coffin of the government. The Military Coup met with success with support of some close colleagues. While other senior officers remained unaware of the incident. Kargil had become a flash point and its basic motive was Kashmir. The Friendship Diplomacy of Nawaz Sharif's Government with India was not liked by GHQ; COAS said without the solution of Kashmir issue the friendship with India would not be durable. Mrs. Benazir Bhutto declared the Kargil expedition was stupidity, she said after the Martyrdom of 3000 soldiers Pervez Musharraf retrieved, it was the greatest blunder of Pakistan Army. 25- Benazir Bhutto, 2002 p.196 Ex-Lt. General Ali Kuli Khan said "Kargil was wasting of time". 26 Friday Times, Islamabad, December 25, 1999. The experts believe, when Musharraf led Brigade Command in Siachen 1987, since he thought about commanding and operation against India as during this period he had to observe the events and circumstances very closely. After that during 1993-95, Lt. General Musharraf gave some advices to the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (1993-96) with reference to Kargil but she rejected all of these. Thus he was Corps Commander of Mangla, then he could see his intentions could be accomplished and he materialized his plan. General Musharraf spent a night in the some kilometers inside Indian Territory and the Indian General Vikram Parkash Singh had acknowledged this fact. 27- India, Delhi TV, May 25, 1999. The global reaction was also against Pakistan. One question revolves in mind, who was the actual motivator of Kargil Mission. The experts point towards Pervez Musharraf, as its background very long. Their hatred against India was initiated at that time when Pervez Musharraf sought admission in the Army. In War of 1965 & 1971, he adopted an insane attitude and after Simla Accord its impact was sealed on him forever. Later on, the Siachen Miscarriage 1984 further put negative effects on Musharraf mind.

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