



'Russia seeks to undermine USA name in South Asia'

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The strategy "puts **emphasis on force**" he said.

Osama bin Laden, remember, was hiding - if you can call it that - at a compound a mere 9-iron distance from Pakistan's military academy. There were celebrations in the White House and outrage in Islamabad. People don't die for an army; *they* die for a country.

The reason was simple.

"This means, he added, that Pakistan is not really interested in any peace deal between the Taliban and Kabul". It can not take large doses of dollar aid from the U.S. and with that money protect and give shelter to the terrorists.

Doug Bandow, a foreign policy scholar at the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute, who is slated to speak at a September 13 Catholic University-sponsored foreign policy forum, wrote a blistering denunciation in Forbes.com, where he is a contributor, of Trump's new policy the day after the president's August 21 speech. Stop allowing terrorist organisations to shelter in your country or else.

Asif's previously scheduled trip to the US for bilateral talks with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has been delayed for the regional tour.

Trump's administration wants to work with Pakistan "together for peace and security of Afghanistan which will benefit the entire region", she said. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has given a clean chit to Pakistan as far as terrorism is concerned. But the language from Washington is hardening. He dubbed Pakistan as the "heaven" of terrorists and accused it of helping Taliban and other terror outfits. After saying over and over again on the campaign trail that the USA should withdraw from Afghanistan, Trump has now made a decision to increase the number of troops in that country and to extend the war indefinitely.

From now on, it's "*Trump's war*", says former United States diplomat Jim Jatras.

He got out quickly enough but miscalculated the cost - a resurgence of the Taliban, aided and abetted by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency.

The 4,000 United States troops President Trump plans to send there are not going to change the overall picture at all. Pakistan's top opposition leader, cricket-star-turned-politician Imran Khan, *also* demanded Abbasi convene a special session of Parliament to discuss Trump's threats. In 2011, when there were more than 100,000 USA troops in Afghanistan, Americans were

advising at the squad level - meaning that for every 12 Afghan troops, there were 12 American troops alongside *them*.

Equally, the Americans are delivering a simple truth.

While speaking to a private TV news at the US Embassy about Trump's latest controversial speech, Helaena defended the US president's new strategy about Pakistan saying his approach was "reflective of conditions on the ground rather than based on a timeline".

The generation of Afghans who were in their teens when the USA liberated Afghanistan from the yoke of Taliban are now in their 20's and 30's. The two countries need but no longer trust each other.

"*They say the goal is to defeat the Taliban*".

The very outlaws reviled by Washington will, it is hoped, be part of a negotiated political solution in that blighted country.

What has been ignored is the "deniable" jihad against the Soviet Union in which America and Saudi Arabia paid for global recruitment of Muslim warriors who had a free run of Pakistan.

Will our war in Afghanistan ever end? But the Taliban play a long game. For citizens of a country that has seen militant violence reach new highs on the back of the gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops there are a number of important takeaways.

And as the death toll mounted, the willingness of the USA and its allies like Australia to continue the fight faded.

SIMON: You've been highly critical President Trump. He claimed Trump's new policy showed his administration's commitment to shaping a stable future for Afghanistan.

But at the same time the USA risks alienating a shaky friend across the border. It was an attempt to portray Pakistan as an insecure state that was incapable of protecting its nuclear assets.