



The US-India axis of evil

(By: Jalees Hazir, Published in “The Nation” on 1st September 2016)

So now it is official: India is no longer a non-aligned country but an enlisted member of the hegemonic US-led cabal. As if the signing of the defence deal between the two countries in Washington was not enough to drive home this point, Kerry arrived in New Delhi hours after it was signed and, duly assisted by his Indian counterpart, unveiled the blue-print for Uncle Sam’s divide-and-rule agenda for the region. This is a daunting development but there is a bright side to it as well.

To begin with, the Indian cat is out of the bag and its confusing multipolar pretensions in BRICS and SCO have been thoroughly exposed. The wishful thinking of multipolar well-wishers about India being a pillar of multi-polarity can now be conclusively laid to rest. The hostility of Modi’s India towards China and Pakistan was never a secret but its recent moves would help Russia and Iran to see through its deceptive engagement with them. It would also bring clarity to those in charge of Pakistan’s destiny.

Let there be no mistake: Other than the stated goal of containing China, the US-India alliance aims to speed up the hybrid war against Pakistan in the garb of ‘stabilising Afghanistan’ and ‘countering terrorism’. Other than creating problems for China in the South China Sea, it is aimed at subverting the CPEC with its

immense potential for regional integration and win-win cooperation. And it is this undeclared thrust of this axis of evil aimed directly at Pakistan that we must prepare ourselves to fight.

The announcement by the US-India alliance to hold trilateral talks with the puppet government in Afghanistan is actually a blatant admission of what this troika has been up to in any case, working jointly to destabilise Balochistan and orchestrating terrorist attacks in other parts of the country. Despite mounting evidence of this collusion, and prodding by the military, the Nawaz government has been reluctant to treat the issue seriously. There would be more pressure on the prime minister to address it now. The question is: Will he rise up to the occasion?

After all, the war against Pakistan didn't start with the announcement of the US-India alliance. And though he has lately gathered up the courage to admit that we are in a state of war, there's little he has done to suggest that he is interested in fighting it. In fact, his policies, statements and actions have consistently compromised our capacity to meet the challenges we face. So is the prime minister just clueless or is he knowingly and willingly playing the imperial game?

Take the case of MQM and Altaf Hussain, for instance. Didn't he hear what Altaf said to his workers and see what they did afterwards? Why is he reluctant to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for banning the party? Why is his government so keen on protecting the party known for its militancy, RAW-links and hate-filled politics of identity? Why is he so eager to accept the piecemeal verbal assurances of those claiming to have broken their links to their leader?

Clearly, Altaf is a pawn of the empire doing all he can from London to foment chaos and violence in Karachi. Despite piles of evidence against him, the British government has continued to protect him. The oh-so-efficient Scotland Yard is

taking forever to act against him. And now the duplicitous American diplomats in Pakistan are lobbying for the political rights of his terrorist outfit that calls itself a political party. Why should it be so hard for the prime minister to read what is written on the wall in big bold letters?

This is not all, of course. Whether it was the appeasement of the TTP or the push to send our troops to join the Saudi war against Yemen, the reluctance to regulate madrassahs and NGOs or a refusal to effectively check sectarianism, resisting a military operation in Punjab or maligning the military through ministers and innuendoes, Nawaz Sharif and his government have done what certified pawns of the empire would do. The list could go on and on.

It is not only the ruling party or its allies in government. The entire political leadership seems to be co-opted by the empire. The scope of their wrangling matches is limited to discrediting each other in an unashamed naked quest for power. Listen to their fiery speeches and the gamut of issues they throw up and you won't find a word about things that really matter.

You won't hear a word about how unrepresentative our fraudulent parliamentary system really is. You won't hear anyone question the cruel framework of the equally fraudulent dollar-based neo-liberal economics. Listen to the leading lights of our democracy, in government or opposition, and you won't get a clue about the war that hangs over the world or the fact that we are bang in the middle of it.

The military is the only institution in the country that is alive to the threat we face and is actually fighting the war ably and bravely. Under the leadership of General Raheel, it has spearheaded our crucial security realignment, from the stranglehold of the US to the friendly embrace of China. Will the US-India alliance now make the political leadership wiser and see the great game at our doorstep? Will they feel the heat through their thick skins?

The US-India alliance is a missile aimed at the heart of multi-polarity and all that it stands for, a threat that should drive home the urgent need for closer cooperation among other countries in the region. It could very well provide the decisive impetus for Russia and Iran to focus on a comprehensive strategic cooperation with Pakistan and China to save their neighbourhood from the disruptive fallout of this latest unipolar machination. It could lead to a concerted effort to bring the Central Asian states to the fold of this natural alliance.

India has decided which side it is on in the Third World War. And there should be no confusion on our part on this count.