(Excerpts from R.P. Saraf's interview on various aspects of Kashmir dispute in the light of the recent political development & published in Daily Greater Kashmir, *Srinagar on May 30, 2005)*

Visit by United Hurriyat Would Be Fruitful

What will be the impact of divided Hurriyat on their Pak visit?

Going under their respective signboards, the four groups of Hurriyat Conference (the APHC led by Mirwaz Omar Farooq, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Jammu-Kashmir led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, JKLF led by Yaseen Malik and Democratic Freedom Party led by Shabir Ahmad Shah will naturally cut a sorry figure among the people whether in POK or Pakistan. Everywhere the people will logically have the feelings that these leaders have not drawn any lesson from the struggle of Kashmiris and given no thought to the thousands of sacrifices made by Kashmiri people, including some members of their own families. Such a feeling simply creates the impression that these leaders have given more weight to their own views and personalities than the peoples cause in general and the Kashmiris in particular. This has definitely weakened case of Kashmiris in every sphere.

How to reunite Hurriyat?

It is difficult to reunite different groups of Hurriyat on old lines. But if genuine efforts are made from all sides, they can come closer on the basis of a united front or some sort of coordination arrangement. The fundamental point of the unity of Hurriyat groups is that each one of them will abide by the decision concerning the future of Jammu-Kashmir state that will emerge out of the deliberations of India, Pakistan and Kashmiris.

Is Hurriyat leadership of any faction the representative of the entire state?

No, there is no separatist leader having his footing in all the three regions of the state. They have focused on Kashmir valley only and neglected other regions. Besides, given their divided structure even in the valley, none of the Hurriyat group can claim to be a representative of whole of the state. All the groups should be reunited and they should concentrate on all the regions.

What is your view on General Musharaff's statement at the concluding session of the Conference of South Asian Parliamentarians on May 20?

His speech is appreciable in which the Pakistan President has termed the situation as an opportunity for rapproachement to create a better South Asia for the coming generations. The Pakistan leader has also stressed Kashmiri dispute as the single most irritant between India and Pakistan. He has also proposed making the borders in Jammu-Kashmir as irrelevant as the panacea for healing this festering sore. According to him, soft borders would facilitate movement of people and goods across the line of control in Kashmir and with the passage of time, contribute significantly in making the line of divide, irrelevant. Putting into practice President Musharaff's concept of making divided Jammu-Kashmir borders as irrelevant, demands the establishment of a firm peace in Jammu-Kashmir, particularly in the valley, internally as well as externally. And the peace could be restored by announcing unilateral ceasefire by India, by releasing all political prisoners, stopping human rights violations and withdrawal of forces from Kashmir, besides taking some more steps in this regard.

How can this vision be made sustainable?

It is necessary that it puts forth a realistic and viable global agenda and stands for the transforming of the present unjust and irrational world order into a just and rational world order. Such a transformation, first of all, needs the ending of unilateral US hegemony all over the world. Terrorism is itself an anti-human phenomenon, yet it itself is not the cause but a product of American Terrorism. The terrorism can only be eliminated by establishing a just and rational world order.