

returns to democracy, it is not likely that the military will change its relationship with pro-Kashmir terrorist groups in Pakistan or improve relations with India. In addition, the view that civilian governments are more corrupt than military regimes is also a myth perpetuated by the Pakistani military. In Pakistan today, there is a durable desire for democracy, as demonstrated by the lack of voter turnout for his Musharraf's recent leadership referendum.

Further, the military regime has also created the myth that the level of corruption in civilian governments endangers economic growth. Expressing a contrary opinion, Templer argued that evidence exists to suggest that military governments are no less corrupt than civilian administrations. By contrast, research demonstrates that government corruption increases in military regimes. Pakistani civil society wants to see a government that can implement a long-term strategy for economic growth and social services, Templer said. However, under the military, the state will continue to erode. Long-term economic growth can only be achieved under a durable democracy.

U.S. POLICY ON PAKISTAN

Americans have misread the desires and aspirations of the Pakistani people. Templer argued that Western engagement with Pakistan should continue. However, it should concentrate on the provision of services, rebuilding the state, and ensuring that aid is properly allocated. At the moment, little is known about how budgetary funds are disbursed by the military regime. In fact, evidence suggests that the military regime is no less corrupt than the previously elected democratic governments. It also has far less accountability.

CONCLUSION

We cannot accept myths about the military regime at face value. There is a need for analysis, study and discussion. The military regime requires close scrutiny and pressure.

POLICY OPTIONS

Templer noted that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has carried out useful work in Pakistan. In future efforts, attention must be directed toward rebuilding the institutions of the state. Also, further action needs to be taken to persuade the military regime to allocate more funding for education. Pressure could also be applied to persuade Musharraf to crack down on militants operating within Pakistani borders and in Pakistani-controlled territory.