

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER SYED YUSUF RAZA GILANI TO SPAIN

REMARKS AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER JOSE RODRÍGUEZ ZAPATERO (02 JUNE 2010)

Your Excellency Prime Minister Jose Rodríguez Zapatero,
Honourable Members of the Cabinet,
Distinguished Guests,

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege for me to visit the Kingdom of Spain. We are grateful for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

Prime Minister Zapatero and I have exchanged views today on a range of bilateral and global issues. Our discussions were marked by cordiality and friendship, which are the hallmark of our relations. We have decided to enhance our consultation and coordination with a view to advance the cause of global peace and prosperity. I am happy to state that our mutual desire to further strengthen the friendly relations has crystallised into a Framework of Cooperation on Developing a Comprehensive Partnership.

We wish to promote our economic and trade cooperation and to build win-win partnership. We wish to forge a vibrant people to people relationship in unison with our shared aspiration for peace and progress. We are grateful to Spain for its valuable support to Pakistan's efforts to establish wide ranging cooperation with the EU. Spain's co-presidency of the EU has been instrumental in ensuring progress. We thank you for your efforts and support. We, in Pakistan, greatly admire your rich history and heritage ranging from architectural beauty of

Grenada, Cordoba and Seville to the work of Picasso and Goya. Our great national philosopher and poet Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal was fascinated by Spain, which finds special mention in his literary work. Cordoba and Lahore enjoy the status of the sister cities.

Your Excellency,

Pakistan and Spain are together in the worldwide fight against terrorism. We are committed to eradicate this evil through a comprehensive approach. We are also together to advance the “Alliance of Civilisations”; bring about the inter-faith harmony and make our world a safer place to live in. The democratic Pakistan that I proudly represent today is happy to be a close partner with Spain in promoting shared values, human rights and the cause of peace in the world. May I say how happy I am to be in this splendid City. We will cherish the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation. May I invite you to join me in a toast to:

- the health, happiness and well being of Prime Minister Zapatero;
- To the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Spain; and
- Long lasting friendship between Pakistan and Spain.

I thank you.