

RELEASE IN FULL

From: McHale, Judith A <McHaleJA@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2010 10:00 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: "A Bag of Flour," an op-ed by Javed Chaudhry in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (11/02)

Nice piece on Cameron Munter.

Safe travels.

Jm

From: Schwartz, Larry
To: McHale, Judith A
Sent: Tue Nov 02 09:32:22 2010
Subject: FW: "A Bag of Flour," an op-ed by Javed Chaudhry in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (11/02)

Dear Boss,
Still working it down the last day.
We got the Amb some good photo ops in the flood zone...
Larry

"A Bag of Flour," an op-ed by Javed Chaudhry in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (11/02)

"... It was the picture of a U.S. helicopter parked at a helipad in Sukkur. Many people clad in military uniforms were unloading the relief goods for flood-affected people in the Sindh province. A middle-aged American national, wearing a shirt and grey pants and carrying a 40-kg flour bag, immediately caught my attention. It took me hardly a few seconds to recognize him. He was no other than the new U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Cameron Munter. During my recent visit to the United States, I had the chance to meet him at the residence of our Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Hussain Haqqani. In a lighter vein, he (Ambassador Munter) asked me and other Pakistani journalists, present on the occasion, that 'please don't pester me during my stay in Pakistan because I am very scared of the Pakistani media even now in my own country.' These words garnered a resounding laughter from all of us. It was my first meeting with Ambassador Munter. Now he is in Pakistan where the U.S. Ambassador is always more busy even than the host country's president. Within a week after his arrival in Pakistan, the U.S. Ambassador reached Sukkur along with relief goods for the flood-affected people who are still languishing in makeshift tents. To the much astonishment of common Pakistanis, he, along with other ordinary officials, started unloading the relief goods with his own hands, and all major newspapers of the country gave front-page coverage to this picture. This photo conveyed two messages to us: first, the great nations also have great traditions, and second, relatively small nations, like us, possess low status because our leaders are totally devoid of such humbleness. The U.S. ambassadors virtually

enjoy the viceregal status in third world countries, but despite enjoying such kingly powers they adopt very humble attitude towards other people. They treat even the attendants, drivers, and other employees in their personal staff as human beings. And whenever some natural disaster visits the populations of the host countries, the U.S. ambassadors in those states rush to help the devastated people. Ambassador Cameron Munter could also have behaved like our rulers and distribute relief goods among affected people while himself dressed in precious costumes... Even if his attitude was part of the U.S. propaganda, why our rulers cannot display such ostentations for the welfare of their subjects? The second message this picture conveyed is that we Pakistanis lack humbleness. For our politicians, the ordinary people are nothing more than votes who catapult them into the corridors of power. On the other hand, after winning the elections, American politicians live among their people. They travel side by side with the common man in public transport and shake hands with them in ordinary restaurants. This picture says that until Prime Minister Gilani picks up a flour bag on his shoulders and carries it to a common Pakistani, he cannot change the destiny of this nation."