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**دهانات**  
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**Can we talk?:** Thanks to the efforts of Yaseen Al-Helali, Yemen has a museum in Sana'a dedicated to displaying antique communication equipment, including a device to send and receive morse code that dates back to 1858. Al-Helali calls it his life's work. After Aden closed its Telecommunication Museum in 2009, he had to start housing some collected devices in his home. Now the cultural heritage advocate is trying to get others excited about preserving the country's rich history of communication.

## A view from the past



British travelogue of Yemen from 1893

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The Poet's Corner

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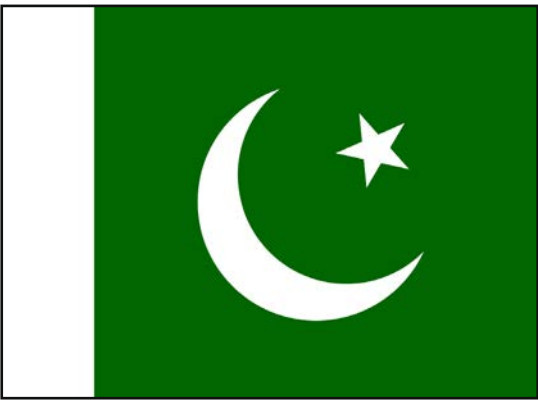
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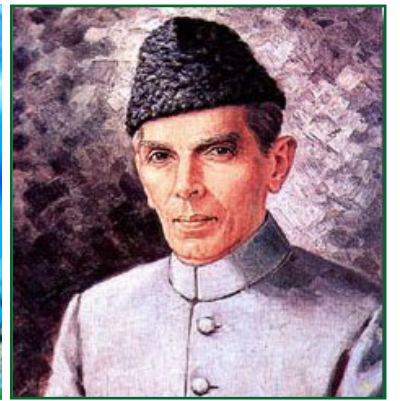
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# 66<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PAKISTAN (14 AUGUST 2013) I AM PAKISTAN



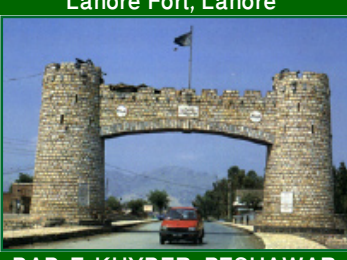
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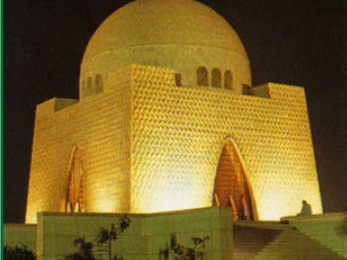
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## MESSAGE OF H.E. DR. IRFAN YUSUF SHAMI, AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

### LARGEST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY KEEN TO UNDERTAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN YEMEN



As I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all my compatriots in Yemen on the 66th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I draw immense satisfaction from the fact that Pakistani corporate firms have finally set foot on Yemeni soil to undertake mega reconstruction projects in Yemen. Pakistan's leading corporate civil engineering entity, the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) has opened its Liaison Office in Sana'a and is now looking forward to participate in the bidding process for the upcoming mega-projects such as Aden-Taiz International Corridor. In the educational sector, a Pakistani entrepreneur Majid Chaudhry

has established a Pakistani English Medium School in Aden which would be formally launched on 01 September this year. He intends to subsequently establish a Pakistan School System in all major Yemeni cities. This, I believe, is just a modest beginning of the new economic partnership and enormous potential between Pakistan and Yemen.

This year's Independence Day follows on the heels of the festive occasion of Eid ul Fitr and, therefore, brings double happiness to the 180 million Muslims of Pakistan. On this auspicious and joyous occasion, I would also express my profound gratitude to the brotherly people of Yemen whom I know have a special place in their hearts for the people of Pakistan. I particularly commend the efforts of Yemen-Pakistan Brotherhood Association, under its dynamic President Eng. Aiyed Shamiri, for strengthening the bonds of friendship between our two brotherly countries. I also acknowledge and appreciate the vital role being played by the over two thousand strong Pakistani community in the economic development of Yemen and strengthening of Pakistan-Yemen bilateral cooperation.

Sixty six years ago, on the eve of 14 August 1947, Allah Almighty crowned the struggle of the Muslims of subcontinent with success by blessing them with a sovereign and independent homeland of their own. However, this was not possible without the numerous sacrifices of the millions of Muslims of subcontinent and the legendary and charismatic leadership of the Founder of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Quaid-e-Azam had fought for Pakistan on the basis of two nation theory. He advocated that Muslims of the subcontinent were a separate nation on the basis of their distinctive faith, values and culture and hence could not be yoked under the majority rule of Hindus in a united India, which would have endangered their religious freedom, socio-economic rights and preservation of values and culture. Quaid-e-Azam had envisaged a modern, democratic and welfare state of Pakistan. He had championed the rule of law, democracy and social justice for harmonious socio-economic development. His mission is yet to be fully achieved. August 14, therefore, calls for the renewal of our pledge to these noble objectives and the determination to continue to work for shaping our lives in accordance with the Quaid's golden principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline, to make Pakistan a strong and prosperous country.

The 66th Independence Day is being celebrated at a time when our beloved country has witnessed a peaceful transfer of power from one democratic government to another democratic government through the use of ballot box. The previous government of Pakistan Peoples Party completed its full term of five years and has now handed over the baton to the newly elected government of Pakistan Muslim League (N), under its leader Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The people of Pakistan rightly hope that the new government would overcome the economic and security challenges to put Pakistan firmly on the path of political stability and economic development. Irrespective of the daunting security and economic challenges, our nation has demonstrated its ability on several occasions and has successfully overcome all previous challenges and in sha Allah it will do so this time as well.

I also note with great satisfaction that significant progress continues to be made by the brotherly Yemen towards peace and stability, under the leadership of H.E President Abdu Rabbu Mansoor Hadi and H.E Prime Minister Salim Basundwa. Since its beginning in March this year, the National Dialogue Conference has successfully completed its first session. I firmly believe that the leadership of Yemen is capable of peacefully resolving all their problems through mutual consultation, with the spirit of brotherhood and a common purpose.

As envisaged by the great Quaid, promotion of strong relations with brotherly Muslim countries remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. In this regard, the brotherly country of Yemen offers great opportunities and potential. I am confident that, with the cooperation of my Yemeni brothers and sisters, my efforts would bear fruit and further strengthen our brotherly relations.

**Pakistan Zindabad and long live Pakistan-Yemen Friendship and Brotherhood**

## I AM PAKISTAN

I am a country of 180 million people. I am strategically located on the cross roads of Central, West and South Asia. I am home to the ancient civilizations of Indus Valley, Moenjodaro, Taxila and Harappa. I boast all types geographical terrains and climatic conditions. The gigantic mountain ranges of Himalayas and the Hindu Kush guard my frontiers. The mighty River Indus irrigates my rich agricultural lands and flows all across my territory. The world's second highest mountain, K2, is my identity. I am Shandur, the highest polo ground in the world. I am Gwadar, one of the world's largest deep seaports. Karakoram Highway (the historic silk route), the eighth wonder of the world, traverses my terrain. I possess Khehra salt mines, the world's second largest and oldest mines. I am proud of Shah Faisal Mosque, the ninth largest mosque in the world. I am culturally and religiously diverse, multi-ethnic and I speak more than 60 languages.

I am the sixth largest milk producer and the fourth largest cotton producer in the world. I have the fifth largest coal and gold reserves. I am an ever-expanding middle class. I am blessed with the tenth largest workforce in UN peacekeeping missions. I have sacrificed forty thousand martyrs for global peace. I am an epitome of resilience as demonstrated in the catastrophic 2005 earthquake and the devastating floods of 2010. I am hospitable and host to millions of refugees. I am a sea of untapped potential and a goldmine of opportunities. I am one of the proudest nations in the world.

Yes, I am Pakistan

## Long live Pakistan - Yemen Brotherhood



As envisaged by founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, maintenance of close friendly relations with the Islamic world has been a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy ever since its independence in 1947. Pakistan's close brotherly and friendly relations with Yemen continue to be based on this

unshakable rock of the very foundation of Pakistan. Being a strategically important Muslim country, Yemen figures prominently amongst the friends of Pakistan around the world. The two brotherly countries enjoy a long history of mutual interaction between its people, which dates back before their emergence as independent sovereign countries. The people of the regions constituting Pakistan and Yemen were long interacting and conducting trade through the Arabian Sea routes linking Karachi and Mekran with Aden and Mukalla. The advent of Islam in the 7th century and its subsequent expansion to South Asia further fortified these fraternal bonds and gave people of both regions a common ideological perspective and a complete code of life.

The present day relations between Pakistan and Yemen are based on these strong historical links, common faith, common set of cultural and moral values and convergence of perceptions on a host of regional and international issues.

As Yemen takes strides towards political stability and economic recovery, the people and the Government of Pakistan stand ready to provide all possible political support and technical assistance to the Government of Yemen. The determination of the Government of Pakistan can be gauged from the fact that it has sent its largest public sector engineering firm, Frontier Works Organization (FWO), to establish its liaison Office in Sana'a. FWO has successfully completed several large-scale civil engineering projects in Pakistan such as the Karakoram Highway linking China and the Coastal Highway along the Arabian Sea Coast. FWO has also completed reconstruction projects in Afghanistan. With its vast national and international experience, FWO is now looking forward to replicate the same in the brotherly country of Yemen.

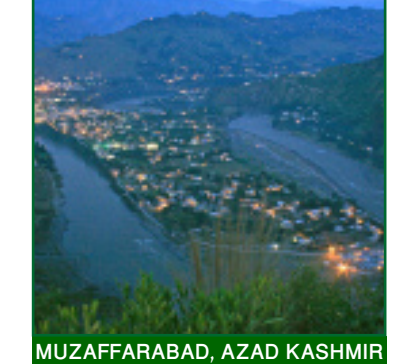
The arrival of more and more Pakistani firms in Yemen will give a fillip to the bilateral trade, which has been hovering around the mark of USD one hundred million and is far below its true potential. Both countries enjoy robust cooperation in the educational field. Forty scholarships are annually offered to Yemeni students for studies in Pakistani universities and vice versa. Yemeni graduates from Pakistani universities have formed a Yemen-Pakistan Brotherhood Association, which is an effective bridge between the two countries. There are presently over two thousand Pakistanis living in Yemen, who are contributing to the economic development of Yemen.

Pakistan School Sana'a is the first foreign English medium school in Yemen, which has been serving the children and youth of Yemen since 1984. Presently, there are about 600 Yemeni students studying in the Senior and Junior Sections of the School. The School's alumni continue to achieve positions of influence in the Yemeni society. Recently, a Pakistani entrepreneur Majid Chaudhry, has established a Pakistani English Medium School in Aden and intends to establish a Pakistani school system in all major Yemeni cities. The opening of Pakistani school in the port city of Aden would go a long way in educating the youth of Yemen and preparing them for assuming their responsibilities in the future.

A Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) oversees and steers development of bilateral relations in various socio-economic fields. The 7th session of the JMC is scheduled to be held in Islamabad by the end of this year. Similarly, the second session of bilateral political consultations is also scheduled to be held in Sana'a later this year.

Faced with common scourge of terrorism, there is considerable scope for enhancing defence and security cooperation between the two brotherly countries to overcome the serious threat to security and economic development emanating from global terrorism.

There is great scope for expansion in bilateral cooperation in all fields, as Yemen moves ahead in rebuilding itself during its crucial transitional period. Indeed, strong Pak-Yemen political, economic and security relations are the crying need of the present times. The Government and the Embassy of Pakistan remains fully committed to achieve this common objective.



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# From morse code to cellphones

## National museum shows how communication has changed over time

Story and photo by Samar Qaed

**S**eventy-year-old Yaseen Al-Helali has been collecting communication devices since childhood. He has turned over his large personal collection to two museums that collect and display the historic relics and postal stamps.

In 2006, the Telecommunication and Postal Museum was established in the basement of the Telecommunication and Information Technology City building in Sana'a. It was the second of its kind in Yemen, a similar museum was established in Aden in 1996 but closed in 2009 due to an infrastructure problem.

Both museums housed countless postal stamps and communication devices—old and new. Many are displayed in glass display cases in Sana'a, but many more are stored in warehouses. Every piece is part of Yemen's communication and postal history.

Al-Helali has been collecting communication devices since childhood. When he began working as an engineer at age 24, he started collecting the devices secretly. Today, his efforts have been the instrumental in the establishment of the two museums.

"During my work in Aden, I col-

lected over 1,000 devices. I kept the devices both at my home and in the administration warehouse."

One of his big finds was a Galvanometer, used to send and receive Morse code. Al-Helali considers this the first telecommunication device to be used in Yemen. He says it was first used in 1858.

After retiring from his job as a telecommunications engineer in 2002, Al-Helali was approached to be the supervisor of the Aden museum. The Sana'a museum was started after Al-Helali decided to move to Sana'a. He was asked to supervise that museum as well.

Al-Helali sighs deeply when he recalls the closing of the Aden museum. The museum sustained damage after a roof caved in.

"There are promises that it will be repaired after Ramadan, but it will cost YR13 million (about \$60,000)."

Without a proper home, Al-Helali worries that the devices may be lost or stolen.

"The Aden Telecommunication

and Postal Museum was one of the largest in the world in the '60s. Now I'm afraid we may not always have these devices."

The Sana'a Telecommunication and Postal Museum is open every day except Friday, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. It boasts the oldest Yemeni postal stamp, issued in 1926, featuring the British Queen during a visit to Aden. It has another stamp, issued later that year, of Imam Yahya Hamid Al-Deen, one of Yemen's most well-known rulers.



Visitors often wonder why the

Sana'a museum is in a basement. Officials first promised to move the museum to a separate building four years ago; Al-Helali is still waiting for these officials to keep their promise.

Rare stamps have suffered water damage because the postal stamps department is located under restrooms.

"I have a small maintenance room in the museum, but it is not [large] enough," Al-Helali said.

The museum's small budget has created its own challenges. The budget is allocated from the Telecommunication Corporation and the Authority of Information and Telecommunication Technology.

"The museum budget is YR100,000 a month, though we haven't been provided with anything since the beginning of the year. Because of our financial trouble, we no longer have help from maintenance and repair engineers."

Unfortunately, many devices were taken and sold by citizens after Aden won independence from Britain. As a British colony, Al-Helali said that the museum contained important parts of British history, and called on the British ambassador to visit the museum.

Al-Helali has made a detailed guide for the museums, explaining the history of each device and how they operate. He worries about what will happen to the museums and the devices once he is gone.

One of his favorite items is a map that details communication between Aden and the world from 1870 to 1970.

"I wish officials would take steps to preserve these items and devices for future generations to see. I have spent my life gathering these items, I'm afraid the museum will just be a hollow structure after I die."

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Sadeq Al-Wesabi  
sadeqalwesabi@hotmail.com

**Senior Editor**  
Sam Kestenbaum

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**Offices**

**Taiz Bureau:**  
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,  
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**Editorial Staff**

Amal Al-Yarisi  
amal.mansoor12@gmail.com

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki  
a\_moshki80@yahoo.com

Bassam Al-Khamiri  
bassam.alkhameri@gmail.com

Khalid Al-Karimi  
khalidmohamada@yahoo.com

Rammah Al-Jubari  
raljubari88@hotmail.com

Samar Qaed  
samar.qaed@hotmail.com

Najlala Hassan  
nonhassan@gmail.com

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# AS THEY SAW IT

*Views of Yemen from the past*

“Any exact description of the country is impossible”

Following is an excerpt from *A Journey Through the Yemen* by Walter Harris, written in 1893. The text has been edited somewhat for clarity.

The Yemen may be described as fanning the southwest corner of Arabia. So little is known of the geography of the interior—and to such a slight extent do even the natives define the boundaries between their own land and the surrounding provinces—that any exact description of the country is impossible.

Limits depend far more upon tribal position and inheritance than upon any natural features of the land in question.

As to two of its limits, the task of definition is simple. For on the west the Red Sea, and on the south that portion of the Indian Ocean known as the Gulf of Aden, allow of no question. On the north and east far more serious difficulties arise. Without attempting to delineate any exact frontier, which, with our present geographical knowledge of the country, would fail at the best to be anything more than roughly correct, more general terms must be used than would be justifiable in a more pretentious work than the present.

It may be stated, then, that the province of Arabia known as the Yemen is bounded on the east by the Hadramout tribes, and on the north by the Asir, although some authorities include the latter, making the north frontier of the Yemen adjacent with the southern limit of the Hejaz, the province of Arabia in which are situated the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The Asir is considered to be an entirely different district, although its inhabitants are related

to the Yemenis by blood. In fact, it may be said without much exaggeration that the present divisions of Arabia as marked upon the maps are but little in advance geographically of the ancient Greek and Roman arbitrary distinctions of Arabia Felix, Arabia Petraea, and Arabia Deserta.

Although no natural formation of the Yemen can assist one in correctly determining its inland frontiers, the same cannot be said of the two great divisions into which the country is split up. These are so apparent that, from the earliest geographers to the present day, they have remained unchanged and fully recognized.

While the interior consists of vast mountain ranges and elevated plateaux, some of which lie at an altitude of over eight thousand feet above the sea level, the seaboard consists, both on the west and south, of low-lying sandy deserts and plains, varying in breadth from thirty to nearly a hundred miles.

The only exception where a spur of the mountains approaches the sea is at the head land of Sidi Sheikh, the southwest corner of the Red Sea. (It may be remembered

that only a few years back there was a false report that France had purchased this advantageous spot from the Turkish Government.)

The formation of these maritime plains is such that it may be safely surmised that a very considerable portion, at least of what is now desert, was at one time covered by the sea. In many places, shells and chips of coral are to be found at great distances from the coast. The same retrograde action of the sea can be traced, too, at Aden, which was no doubt at one time an island.

The name Tehama is applied to the western plains of the Yemen. It is a district exceedingly subject to drought, and with a very small rainfall. What water-supply it boasts, with the exception of oases, is principally due to the mountain torrents, which, originating in the highlands, rush impetuously down the steep slopes, usually to be entirely exhausted by the desert before reaching the sea.

It is said that even in the driest seasons water may be found in the riverbeds. Although the supply thus obtained is sufficient to maintain the lives of Bedouins

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and their flocks and herds, it is far from proving of any great utility to cultivation. However, fortunately for the inhabitants, there are scattered over these deserts many oases

The Jibdl, or highlands, display entirely opposite features. Enormous ranges of mountains rise abruptly from the Tehama to great altitudes, in places probably 14,000 and 15,000 feet. These ranges for the most part take a general southeasterly direction,

and are split up into a series of wide, fertile, parallel valleys. In these great valleys coffee is grown, sharing with the production of indigo. Added to this, the climate is such as to allow nearly all European vegetables to grow and flourish, and also many varieties of fruit.

It was doubtless the luxuriance and agricultural wealth—added to the attractiveness of the climate of this portion of Arabia—that won for the Yemen in former days the title of Arabia Felix.

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## Fresh Ink

The Poet's Corner

### The Snake's Skin Game

**Fuad Noman**

Comrades, watch out the snake's skin game  
 Either black or white, the poison is the same  
 Does the snake shed the drops of rain?

Comrades and commandos, once more again  
 Teach your foe the art of fight  
 At this moment in time  
 Not only to strike and hide  
 Let the sea's arms be in severe wrath  
 To submerge their false pride  
 Into Euphrates and Tigris dark

In the darkness of the ancient century  
 The vengeful created a horrible bloodbath  
 It has a bad smell of an ugly boar  
 Disclosing the smoke of life's horror

The full moon's dream became crushed  
 Instead of hugging the daylight  
 Converted into ash

Comrades, commandos be aware  
 Invaders as strangers  
 Have neither choice nor right  
 To once they came to return  
 Or to go forward in the time's flight

What a pity!  
 Their time's wheel got stuck  
 They could neither turn to the left  
 Nor to the right

At this moment in time  
 Invaders' wishes are in clash  
 Completely blind

Kaput by a negative touch  
 It is our holy land's curse

Behind the resistance of injustice  
 Our enemy's flash starting to stumble  
 His lassitude tinged with amazement  
 As their home falls in dark  
 No power to sparkle  
 Just black in black  
 Moving ahead for unknown goals  
 Kneeling at our land's feet  
 Unable to catch their triumph's flag  
 The weak can't change  
 The dead never wake

Strangers can't create peace or love  
 Where they live

Once the sea's arms release its deep sough  
 Invaders' tree becomes futile and buff  
 As strangers, they are living rough  
 Eating bitter jots of dust  
 Whatever they gain in luck  
 Strangers are always going astray  
 Being buried in the freedom blood  
 The color of freedom is only one  
 Hotter than the glare of sun

Comrades, commandos be assured

I see through my transparent core  
 Though their hidden arrows trying to gore  
 The smiles of my rosy yore  
 The strength of two rivers  
 Still shaping the rhymes of victory  
 Flying over my mother country, soon we will celebrate the sun's augury.



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**Public Telecommunications Corporation nationwide holds consulting meeting**

On July 28, the leadership of Public Telecommunications Corporation in different governorates nationwide held a broad consulting meeting in the Information and Telecommunications Technology City. Over 350 participants took part.

In the course of the meeting, the projects of the PTC were discussed and assessed; problems, limitations and challenges were highlighted. The participants suggested suitable solutions and remedies in order to better the performances of the projects execution as well as consolidating and activating the role of communication among all administrative central and

secondary components.

The one million telecommunication new lines project was mainly highlighted. President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi inaugurated this project in June. The meeting touched on the mechanisms, the technical and financial potentials to accomplish this giant project in a specific period of time.

Ahmed Obaid bin Daghr, the Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister, delivered a speech in the meeting. He asserted the importance of the telecommunication and information technology sector for the state and the community.

He also asserted the importance of being serious and responsible for the chal-

lenges this sector is facing at time when the country is going through difficult circumstances.

He said the services of the telecommunication and information technology sector should reach all governorates including the rural areas that have no access to telecommunication services so far.

He considered the satisfaction of the citizens about the services as the backbone of success.

Abdulatif Abu Ghanim, the deputy minister of telecommunication and information technology for financial and administrative affairs, and the general manager of Wire and Wireless Telecommunications Corporation engineer Sadeq Mohammed Musleh.

**Quoted**



"There is no tourism and the oil-exploring companies had to leave."

— Yemeni President **Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi**, speaking in the U.S. about the effect Al-Qaeda has had on Yemen.

"We hope it's going to be very, very soon."

— U.S. Secretary of State **John Kerry**, on the promised, but unspecified, end-date to drone strikes in Pakistan.

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