

# COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN FIELD OF PROVIDING SECURITY IN THE CENTRAL ASIA

Kudrat Ortikov

*English teacher and independent researcher of Sirdarya regional center of retraining and in-service training personnel of public education Republic of Uzbekistan*

*E-mail: k.ortikov@inbox.ru*

Barno Nazarova

*Director of Sirdarya regional center of retraining and in-service training personnel of public education Republic of Uzbekistan*

*E-mail: b.nazarova1973@inbox.ru*

**Jakhongir Rustamov**

*Head of applied sciences and extracurricular teaching methods department of Sirdarya regional center of retraining and in-service training personnel of public education Republic of Uzbekistan*

*E-mail: rustamov\_jahongir69@yahoo.com*

**Abstract.** *In this article author is tried to show explicit cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United States of America in field of providing security in the region of Central Asia. Besides, in the article is given information the role of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of maintaining stable situation in the region and assistance of the USA. The article includes itself also information of modern policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan towards the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and further proposals to provide its stable situation.*

**Keywords:** *security, cooperation, enforcement agency(-ies), participation, military, equipment, terror, organization.*

## **Introduction**

Present day, the main reason of cooperation of the United States of America in field of political point with Uzbekistan because Uzbekistan has common border with Afghanistan. Good political relationship between US and Uzbekistan can provide to improve economical and political situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, according to the framework of the New Silk Way concept. This concept was proposed by the Obama administration in the summer of 2011. This concept is aimed and directed to create a new economic region which should unite countries of Central Asia – Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kirgizstan and Afghanistan, including South Asia - India and Pakistan. This concept involves the creation of infrastructures which link each other, as well as the liberalization of mutual trade. The idea of creation of New Silk Way is still in a positive response from the Republic of Uzbekistan. It gives for the Republic of Uzbekistan an opportunity to expand its sale-markets in Afghanistan and to modernize its transport system through expenditures of foreign

donors. At present moment the United States of America is not ready to contribute and realize the concept of New Milky Way concept alone, but US actively involves to realize it allied states as Japan and Germany and other International Finance Institutions. So, in 2011, the Asian Development Bank, where the largest investment quotas belong to the United States and Japan which invested \$ 165 million, and additionally invested the Afghan government \$ 5 million to build and lay the Hairaton-Mazar-e-Sharif railway, which connected with Uzbekistan and the largest cities of northern Afghanistan. For Americans this branch of railway has economically as well as military advantages, because present day this branch of railway is used primarily for supplying military forces, vehicle transportation and providing military equipment for US armed forces in Afghanistan. Same way in 2012 American diplomacy was able to attract for the modernization the railway of Uzbekistan – Karshi-Termez through assurance of Asian Development Bank and Japanese Agency of International Cooperation where invested to this project \$ 330 mln. This high railway was known as the first step to realization of large scale project of Asian Development bank. This railway was created to unite northern, eastern and western parts of Afghanistan. Today, it's known that this railway system is spliced with the railways of Central Asia (in Kunduz region with Tajikistan, in Mazari-Sharif region with Uzbekistan, in Herat region with Turkmenistan)<sup>1</sup>.

Besides, present day Uzbekistan is still holding tight military and political contacts with USA. Because Uzbekistan is interested in cooperation with USA in field of rearmament of its army, military-technical and liquidation of terroristic armed forces (groups) which located in Afghanistan and Pakistan. These terroristic groups are still endanger secular regime of Tashkent. It's known US considers Uzbekistan as convenient outpost for deploying its military facilities and infrastructures in the region of Central Asia, providing and successful organizing its military operations in the Republic of Afghanistan and carrying out its transit cargoes. For US the Republic of Uzbekistan is also potentially promising military-political ally with the largest armed forces in the region.

According to the agreement, which was concluded in October 2001, Uzbekistan provided the Khanabad air base in Kashkadarya region for use by the American armed forces, and this agreement was known as K-2 index. Khanabad air base was provided by Uzbekistan for keep military actions in Afghanistan. That year in base were That year in Khanabad air base stationed about 1,500 US military personnel, including the Green Berets of the Fifth Special Forces Group, the light infantry of the 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum (st. New York), and heavily armed aircraft AC-130, transportation aircraft S-130N and S-17 fighters and combatant helicopters<sup>2</sup>. Later in 2005, due to the Andijan events, cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States deteriorated.

### **Further political development of the USA and the Republic of Uzbekistan**

In the American political establishment, the prospects for further rapprochement with Tashkent were assessed differently, which was expressed in the struggle between two mutually exclusive trends in US foreign policy towards the Uzbek direction. Thus, in 2003, the US Congress imposed restrictions in field of assistance and aid to Uzbekistan, linking it to progress in reforming the state regime of Uzbekistan. However that period the Pentagon insisted on continuing and deepening cooperation with the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of its democratic transformations and taking into account the situation in Afghanistan<sup>3</sup>.

So, in 2008, after the election of the United States President B. Obama, a new stage of cooperation began between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the USA. Through active consultation works between the USA and Uzbekistan in 2008, they made for themselves two main points in field of cooperation:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Uzbekistan opened northern net corridor for the USA to supply US military forces which based in Afghanistan;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – participation of the USA in field of rearmament of Uzbek military forces and enforcement agencies.

So, beginning of April, 2009, Uzbekistan allowed the transit for NATO non-lethal cargo to Afghanistan through its territory. With the most convenient infrastructure adjacent to the northern part of Afghanistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan became an important link of Northern Supply Corridor for the USA. Through air space of the Republic of Uzbekistan was delivered approximately 90% of cargo to Afghanistan. Uzbek transit corridor reached its peak in 2011 when Pakistan temporarily closed its transit corridor for Pentagon. As result, in 2013 approximately 70% of cargo for military forces of the USA was transported through Northern Supply Corridor<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, the role of the Republic of Uzbekistan was increased in 2013 in field of resolving afghan solution in the strategy of White House. Only in 2012, Pentagon did purchase Uzbek consumer goods for American military forces and afghan army in the amount of \$105,9 mln<sup>5</sup>.

Another area of cooperation in field of security between the USA and the Republic of Uzbekistan is preparation and equipping enforcement and security agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is known The Republic of Uzbekistan has the largest paramilitary forces in the region: the personnel of its armed forces are estimated about 67 thousand people; additional the internal troops and the National Guard are 20 thousand<sup>6</sup>. Besides, till the mid of 2000's the armament of the Republic of Uzbekistan equipped predominantly with Soviet units, which inherited after the collapse of the USSR from the Turkestan military district.

According to some open sources, the Republic of Uzbekistan continues to have great interest in a wide range of modern and technically modernized weapons and ammunition, including mine detectors, body armor, satellite navigation equipment, night vision devices, small arms, and wheeled armored vehicles that have proven in Afghanistan with enhanced mine protection ( MRAP- mine resistant ambush), attack helicopters and “drones”<sup>7</sup>.

Another priority for the Republic of Uzbekistan is to use potential of the USA against terrorist groups which pursue to overtake and depose secular authority of the Republic. Necessary to underline Pentagon military campaign in Afghanistan has reduced the risk of new attacks by organizations such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU) which was responsible for major terroristic attacks in cities of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1999, 2004 and 2009. The value of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the foreign policy of the United States of America is supporting of anti-terrorism initiatives, in particular the USA is included IMU (Islamic movement of Uzbekistan) in 2000 and IJU (Islamic Jihad Union) in 2005 in the list of foreign terrorist organizations and extension sanctions to them in UN level.

Besides, during the speech of head of the Central Command J.Mattis in the spring of 2013, announced his intention was to begin a broader intelligence exchange with “trusted partners” in Central Asia, especially with the Republic of Uzbekistan on a systematic basis<sup>8</sup>.

Moreover, the USA is going on to implement training programs in field of personnel training for enforcement agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It includes itself bilateral agreements on the expansion of military educational exchanges and trainings that were signed in August 2009.

It also carries out projects on technical equipping of the borders of the republic and enforcement agencies. For instance: in 2012, it was established an automated fingerprint information system; in 2013, it was funded for the purchase of equipment for border and custom agencies; in 2014, it was finished border complex “Lyabob”<sup>9</sup>.

## **Conclusion and proposals of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of policy making with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

In the conclusion noticeable to underline recently the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed four recommendations to betterment political and social situations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The first is the development of cultural and humanitarian ties and spread of “Uzbek soft power” through establishment of close contacts between the universities of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan;

The second is the need to establish economic ties between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It would allow entrepreneurs of both countries to open their business institutions in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;

The Third is necessity of the military structures of the Republic of Uzbekistan to assist to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in field of training personnel in the sphere of the armed forces and security services to provide internal state security. Hence, it is one of the most priority interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of security establishment in the Central Asian region.

And the last, fourth is necessity of consolidation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with other Central Asian countries, especially with Kazakhstan in field of providing security in the Central Asian region<sup>10</sup>.

Regional cooperation of states of Central Asia in field of economy and providing security for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is very important as well as for Central Asian states, because Afghanistan borders with 5 states: Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. And stable situation of Afghanistan can bring economical development for all abovementioned states.

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