

Pakistan wants no direct U.S. action

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Pakistan says any direct U.S. action against militants in its violence-hit tribal areas would undermine the war against terrorism. A Foreign Office spokesman said any such unilateral action would also further complicate the problem, Dawn newspaper reported Thursday. "Such actions, as we have already stated, will be irresponsible and dangerous," spokesman Mohammad Sadiq was quoted as saying. He said there should be focus on effective cooperation "rather than talking about actions that would further complicate our efforts to fight al-Qaida and other terrorists." Some within the U.S. government reportedly are concerned whether the new Pakistani government, whose parties routed Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's supporters in the February elections, would remain as committed to fighting terrorism, Dawn reported. Yousaf Raza Gilani, Pakistan's new prime minister, has reportedly offered to talk with militants if they give up violence. Dawn quoted other reports that the United States has stepped up direct strikes of suspected terrorist targets in the tribal areas, fearing the new government wouldn't permit such action. Sadiq said Pakistan is combating terrorism in its own interest.

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