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US Envoy Rushes Back as Pakistan Ties Seen Collapsing

By Jason Ditz

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Tensions between the US and Pakistan have been a constant theme in south Asian foreign policy over the past several months, but Ambassador [Cameron Munter is cutting his vacation short and rushing back to Pakistan amid reports that the relationship](#) is on the brink of collapse.

US officials are trying to downplay the seriousness to the latest crisis, insisting that reports of [Pakistan ordering the entire staff of the Islamabad Embassy to leave the country were “untrue.”](#)

Whether the specific report is true or not, however, it is clear that the relationship has been heading toward a break for quite some time and, particularly with the US history of embedding spies in their embassy staff in Pakistan as a way to claim “diplomatic immunity” it has a ring of truth about it.

It was one such “staffer,” Raymond Davis, who was at the center of the crumbling relationship early this year. Davis, a CIA employee, was embedded in the US consulate in Lahore as a “technical adviser,” before he was arrested in a double murder. The US [confirmed Davis’ real identity](#), but at the same time insisted he should be immune from prosecution. Davis was pardoned after a [payment of “blood money”](#) was made on his behalf.