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IBPP Research Associates: Seattle, Washington, United States of America

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The following description of an event in Seattle--during the recent meeting of the World Trade Organization--was provided IBPP Research Associate Catherine Stupar.

Nov 30-Seattle. Two Pakistani representatives at the World Trade Organization's 3rd Ministerial Series, Seattle Round, interrupted their previous engagements to join in an AFL-CIO march of 40,000. When interviewed, they declined to give further information except to repeatedly state that their mission at the conference was to represent the "people of Pakistan."

Stupar: Could you explain why you have joined the protests?

Response: We have come here to say that nothing must be signed, the past is wrong. It must be renegotiated to the satisfaction of the people of Pakistan. There should be no new legislature; there should be no new talks. There should be nothing new in addition to what clearly have been mistakes, you see. We want a turn around, not a 3rd Round!

Stupar: How has the World Trade Organization's negotiations injured the people of Pakistan?

Response: It must be approved by the people of Pakistan. Most all of them have the view that invariably all earlier arguments need to be renegotiated. They do not form the approval of the people of Pakistan.

Stupar Commentary. At least two elements of this discourse remain unclear to the public. First, how has the view of the "people of Pakistan" been ascertained under the circumstances of their recent military coup. Second, specifically which negotiations have had a deleterious effect on specifically which people of Pakistan?

IBPP Commentary. The conflation of political rhetoric by privileged speakers with phenomenologies of the spoken for--viz., the wretched of the earth--are as timeless as they are intractable. Too often, the privileged come and go, while the wretched of the earth remain. (Keywords: Pakistan, Seattle, WTO.)