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## Foreign Office Rejects Afghan Taliban Recognition Claims as Speculative

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Pakistan's Foreign Office firmly dismissed media reports suggesting that it has recognized the Afghan Taliban's interim government. Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan stated that no formal decision has been made on the matter, calling such reports speculative and premature. He emphasized that Pakistan continues to evaluate the situation and that official recognition remains under consideration.

Khan clarified that while no country has formally recognized the Taliban regime since it took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, Pakistan, along with a few other regional nations, has

appointed envoys to Kabul to maintain diplomatic engagement. He added that ongoing consultations are taking place between Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Afghanistan's de facto authorities, including discussions regarding a potential visit by Afghanistan's acting foreign minister.

Security issues were a key focus during the briefing. The spokesperson pointed to the continued presence of militant sanctuaries within Afghanistan, particularly those linked to the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), as a serious concern. He referenced recent high-level visits by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister to Kabul, where both sides discussed counterterrorism cooperation, border management, and the extradition of individuals involved in cross-border militancy.

Pakistan's position reflects a cautious and pragmatic approach—maintaining open channels for dialogue while refraining from extending formal recognition. The government remains focused on regional stability and expects actionable cooperation from Afghan authorities, especially in addressing terrorism threats. Officials have reiterated that any future recognition will be contingent upon the Taliban's progress in fulfilling international and regional obligations, including commitments to counterterrorism and inclusive governance.

This balanced stance highlights Pakistan's intent to safeguard national and regional security without compromising on diplomatic principles. As developments unfold, Islamabad's handling of the situation will likely influence broader regional dynamics and its role in shaping post-2021 engagement with Afghanistan.