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	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MFLO-00	MOFM-00
	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OES-00	NIMA-00
	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PER-00	GIWI-00	MA-00	SCT-00	DOHS-00
	FMP-00	CBP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
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 STATE FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/PAPD, EUR/PPA, EUR/CE, INR/EUC, INR/P
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 "PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, SENV, PTER, GM, XF, AF, XG
 SUBJECT: Media Reaction: Mideast, Oil Spill, Afghanistan, Pakistan,
 Germany-President, EU-Russia;BERLIN

1. Lead Stories Summary
2. (Mideast) Aftermath of Raid on Gaza Convoy

3. (U.S.) Oil Spill

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4. (Afghanistan) Lorja Jirga

5. (Pakistan) Al Qaida Leader Killed

6. (Germany) Aftermath of Kohler Resignation

7. (EU-Russia) Summit Meeting

1. Lead Stories Summary

Print media opened with reports on the search for a successor to outgoing President Horst Kohler. Sueddeutsche headlined: "Merkel Wants to Rush to Nominate Kohler Successor," while Die Welt headlined: "Germany Looking for [President] Number 10." Frankfurter Allgemeine's headline was: "Coalition Seeking Experienced Candidate." Handelsblatt carried an interview with the President of the French Central Bank, Christina Noyer. Editorials focused on the search for a presidential candidate and the aftermath of the Israeli raid on an aid convoy headed for the Gaza Strip. ZDF-TV's early evening newscast heute and ARD-TV's early evening newscast Tagesschau opened with reports on the search for a successor to President Kohler.

2. (Mideast) Aftermath of Raid on Gaza Convoy

All media (6/2) continued to report on the Gaza convoy, highlighting that "Israel is making efforts to control the damage" (Frankfurter Allgemeine). Sueddeutsche headlined "UN condemns Israel" and carried a front-page photo showing Prime Minister Netanyahu visiting wounded soldiers. Many German papers carried lengthy reports on the two Bundestag members who were aboard the convoy, noting that "Left Party parliamentarians return to Germany and seriously criticized Israeli soldiers" (Die Welt). Frankfurter Allgemeine editorialized: "Whatever the reason for the military action was, the Israeli government has done itself more harm than good. The diplomatic isolation is increasing."

In a front-page editorial, Die Welt (6/2) noted that, although Israel's "nervous action" must be condemned, "one must keep in mind the need and exceptional circumstances in which Israel has been for a long time.... Not Hamas and its will to destroy Israel are outlawed, but Israel instead. Not Iran is isolated, but Israel. The fact that Turkey, too, has now turned away and is reaching out to Tehran is as tragic as the cooling of its relations with the great ally America. Israel appears like a country with its back to the wall, which feels abandoned and sometimes overreacts. This is not an excuse, but does explain why Israel believes it had to do what it did."

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Sddeutsche (6/2) editorialized: "The blockade of the [Gaza] checkpoints has ruined the economy of the formerly prosperous Palestinian territory. The times in which Palestinians sold tulips, strawberries, and cucumbers from Gaza to Israel and Europe are over... Continuing the war with economic means has another negative impact: the people are radicalizing and are now following Islamist Pied Pipers. Groups close to al Qaida are gaining ground. And unlike the Islamic nationalists of Hamas, such groups are under no circumstances open for dialogue. Cynics claim that this is what Israel wants, because as long as militant groups rule the Palestinians, Jerusalem does not have to seriously negotiate peace.... It is time for Palestinians and Israelis to begin serious negotiations. Problems, such as the Gaza blockade, must be resolved beforehand."

In a report on the U.S. approach to the convoy conflict, Tagesspiegel (6/2) highlighted: "The U.S. sees the deadly outcome of the conflict over the aid convoy for Gaza as a serious blow to its Middle East policy." The paper quotes Secretary Clinton as saying: "We support the UN Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation." In an editorial, Tagesspiegel noted: "The attack on the convoy in international waters, which killed at least ten people, is so out of proportion and illegal that it seems like it will lead to exactly what Israel tries to prevent: real pressure to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip, which punishes the people collectively and violates international law.... Maybe the Western world will no longer ignore Israel's approach to international law so easily."

Berliner Zeitung (6/2) editorialized: "The military action against the Gaza solidarity convoy has turned into a disaster for Israel in all respects.... However, there is also a video demonstrating that there are no good people in this conflict. It shows peace activists who are anything but peaceful.... We see violent criminals who release their hatred against Israel.... This is also a disaster for the Gaza solidarity movement."

Weekly Die Zeit (6/2) noted on its front page: "The overall mentality of Israel's policy-the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the commando action against the convoy, the casualties-justifies the accusation of disproportionality."

Regional Braunschweiger Zeitung (6/2) commented: "Israel is a relentless enemy that threatens its own existence by doing everything to provoke the hardliners of Hamas-instead of lifting the Gaza blockade. This stranglehold particularly hits the Palestinian people, does not achieve its military goal, and has not been effective-like many other blockades before. Israel has

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obviously learned only one lesson from the Lebanon campaign it basically lost in 2006: show no weakness. It is the tragedy of these days that the Israeli government promises security and simultaneously provokes hatred and rejection regardless of the consequences, including the alienation of friends."

3. (U.S.) Oil Spill

Several papers carried reports on plans of the U.S. government to lodge a complaint against BP. Sueddeutsche headlined: "Washington Is Examining Complaint Against BP" and reported: "Attorney General Eric Holder travelled to New Orleans on Tuesday to get first-hand information on the state of the investigations opened by his federal prosecutors. At the same time, Washington instructed the head of the crisis operation, Thad Allen, to forego public appearances with BP representatives. Holder confirmed that his officials would examine all indications that pointed to a possible breach of the law.... However, it is Washington's dilemma that only BP has the technology to operate at a drilling hole at a depth of 1,500 meters. U.S. agencies only have the authority to approve or to stop emergency measures that the company suggests." Handelsblatt carried a similar report under the headline: "U.S. Justice Authorities opened investigations against BP - Analysts No Longer Rule Out BP Asset Stripping." die tageszeitung carried a report under the headline; "BP Confronted With Questions - Did the Company Violate the Law, thus Causing the Disaster?"

Weekly Welt am Sonntag (5/31) carried an editorial under the headline: "Oil from Yesterday," and opined: "We do not envy President Obama these days. Since he is politically responsible, he has to take the heat for an environmental disaster that was caused by a negligent oil company. Obama's proclamation, considered a demonstration of strength, that each step of and each decision by BP will have to be approved by his government, is now turning against him, because some steps of the company have proved to be an expression of helplessness, of hushing up events, and have turned out to be tricks.... The explosion on an oil drilling platform has demonstrated that there are obviously reasons for a switch to alternative energy sources, beyond merely the environmental dangers caused by the oil industry. Instead of investing money in the research for brazen exploratory technologies for expiring energy sources, it would be more appropriate to pin one's hopes on future renewable energies. This should be left to the markets and the U.S. government must set the right conditions for this."

Under the headline: "Pay Until You Drop," Financial Times Deutschland (6/1) dealt with the fate of BP and said: "More evidence was no longer necessary, but the failed operation 'Top

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Kill' again demonstrated the helplessness of the BP oil company. At no time did the company ever have the situation surrounding the exploding 'DeepWater Horizon' platform under control, nor was it at all prepared for such a worst case scenario. As it looks right now, it did not do everything it could have to prevent the disaster. This case shows that deep sea drilling is not totally controllable and that a failure of this technology can have disastrous consequences, which affect not only one region or a company, but mankind as a whole. But as long as the drilling goes on, greatest possible security must prevail. Politicians must force oil companies to take over all costs, even if it jeopardizes the survival of BP. This is the only way in which a market economy mechanism will see to it that the oil sector will really do everything possible to avoid another disaster."

Regional daily Volksstimme of Magdeburg (6/2) editorialized: "We have witnessed many accidents in connection with the exploration of

oil before. Each time, viewers were turned off by watching the pictures of polluted beaches and killed birds. But the situation is different with the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Its consequences only creepingly come to the fore. With false information and the use of chemical detergents, British oil company BP succeeded in keeping the real extent of the contamination under the carpet for some time. But in the meantime, even the greatest optimists have had to accept that the long-term effects of the oil spill could be dramatic. Not only plants and animals, but also the fish industry and tourism in the southern states will suffer. And with the destruction of mangrove forests, an important part of coastal protection could be lost, with adverse effects for the Gulf coast which is hit by hurricanes on a regular basis. And even President Obama can't expect to survive the greatest oil disaster of all time without any blemish."

4. (Afghanistan) Lorja Jirga

Several papers carried reports on the opening of the Lorja Jirga. Sueddeutsche (6/2) analyzed in a report headlined "Search for Peace in a Big Tent," that: "President Karzai is primarily interested in strengthening his legitimacy following the falsified elections in the summer of 2009 and in gaining a broad national majority for a reconciliation process with the Taliban. A governmental draft has circulated in Kabul for an Afghan 'Peace and Reintegration Program' that is to be discussed at the Jirga. In it, it is said that the majority of secessionists are not 'ideologically motivated,' and that, like all other Afghans, they are longing for 'justice, prosperity, and security.' Now, according to the draft, the Taliban fighters should get the opportunity to give up violence and return to society. The program also offers financial assistance

and literacy and training programs for the secessionists." The paper added: "This may sound like an ambitious program, but it ignores the fact that many people in provinces such as Kandahar distrust the corrupt administration and government - and therefore, prefer the Taliban, as one parliamentarian from the region said."

Tagesspiegel (6/2) carried a similar report under the headline: "Karzai on Reconciliation Course with the Taliban," and wrote: "This time, the delegates want to remain among themselves...and as an aside, President Karzai is seeking validation in his office after the controversial elections from last year. The Kabul leadership strictly rejected any interference from abroad, and that is why neither the names of the participants nor the program was announced beforehand.... However, it is hardly imaginable that the West did not exert any influence behind the scenes, because the international community made 500 million euros available for the implementation of the reconciliation program. And in May, President Karzai traveled to Washington, where reconciliation was also the focal point of talks. However, the future treatment of the leaders of the revolt is controversial. Karzai wants to offer notorious warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar the chance to go into exile, while President Obama emphasizes forcing the rebels to their knees with a large-scale offensive."

"Washington's Poisoned Greetings," headlined Frankfurter Rundschau (6/2) and reported: "The good wishes from Washington for the peace Jirga sound as lukewarm as they are. A high U.S. government official summarized the U.S. expectations, saying: 'We hope that this process will help establish a true national leader.' This

means in plain English: Washington is not opposed to a Karzai show of good intentions. But true progress in the planned reconciliation with the Taliban is not - yet - desired. It is true that the Obama government is striving for a political solution for Afghanistan. The goal is no longer the destruction of the Taliban but the 'reintegration' of its foot soldiers into society. Washington does not reject reconciliation between the government in Kabul and the Taliban leadership either. But this should, according to Washington, take place from a position of strength."

In an editorial, die tageszeitung (6/2) argued under the headline: "Karzai's Great Show," that "the peace Jirga will not be able to achieve its main goal of reaching an agreement on a true national consensus. Too many relevant forces are missing, and those who are coming see themselves as massively controlled and gagged. And end to violence will not come nearer.... It will only create new conflicts if a pseudo consensus is approved. This should give Karzai's NATO allies reason for pause. They are talking about lines that should not be crossed and emphasizing that the

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Constitution should continue to remain valid was they themselves (and Karzai) who made the paper on which it was written worthless. Because of their helplessness, the West is allowing Karzai to fool it with his shows - be it Jirga or elections. For Afghanistan to move beyond the mess that it is currently in, it is important that he finally assumes leadership and it is of secondary significance where he leads the country. The reaction in the West will tell whether he will again get by with his mock democracy."

5. (Pakistan) Al Qaida Leader Killed

Tagesspiegel (6/2) carried a lengthy report headlined: "Al Qaida's Afghanistan Chief Killed - Abu al-Jasid Controlled Financial Activities for the Terror Network." The paper reported: "The al-Qaida terror network has announced the death of one of its highest-ranking leaders, Mustafa Abu al-Jasid. According to the U.S. SITE company, which monitors Islamic websites, the network is speaking in an Internet message of the 'martyrdom' of the 54-year-old Egyptian, who was killed together with family members."

Sueddeutsche (6/2) reported under the headline: "U.S. Military Killed Al-Qaida Leader in Pakistan," and wrote: "Even though details are not known, U.S. terrorism experts consider credible reports [of his death], which said that al-Jasid was a 'martyr' and indicated that his death will soon turn into a curse for the 'infidel.' For the Americans, the 54-year-old man was the third most powerful man in al-Qaida. For a certain period of time, he was believed to be responsible for the finances of the terror network. Later, he headed al-Qaida's activities in Afghanistan and was a close aide to Taliban leader Mullah Omar. But the Americans have previously also described other Taliban activists as 'the Taliban's number three.' Since President Obama has taken office, about 500 people, have been killed by attacks by...drones in the Pakistani-Afghan border area, always officially described as al-Qaida members, But according to other sources, many innocent civilians have also been among the victims."

6. (Germany) Aftermath of Kohler Resignation

Berliner Zeitung (6/2) judged: "Angela Merkel is now governing blind. She no longer has any coordinates. The dual global crisis was not in her plans. The CDU party platform originates from a different Germany. She can no longer build on it. The platform of her coalition partners is no longer worth the paper on which it was written. And the coalition agreement between the CDU/CSU and the FDP is no longer of any use. It is likely that this coalition will continue to govern for another three years, administer in a vacuum, and try to play it down. It will rely on a cheap policy of symbols, but after Horst Kohler's resignation, every kind of

political playing around seems out of place. The country is in a crisis. This term has been used for a long time, but now we realize what it means."

Hamburger Morgenpost (6/2) had this to say: "The air for Angela Merkel is getting thinner. One crisis follows another.... This is a disaster for the government and for Angela Merkel in particular. We have a chancellor crisis. Thus far Merkel has been good at hovering over events. Rarely did she show her true colors, but was smart in safeguarding her power...but this is over now. The Merkel system no longer works. The Chancellor must now finally demonstrate that the coalition is still able to act...and she must now show leadership strength, pound her fist on the table, and convey credibility. It is no longer possible to sit out affairs, because, if she does, Merkel's days are numbered."

Mass-circulation tabloid Bild-Zeitung (6/2) judged: "Euro chaos, budget gaps, conflicts in the coalition, and now a President who has deserted. Let us not kid ourselves. The ingredients for a broad crisis of confidence are now available. This is poison for the economy, poison for the state. One could really get a queasy feeling. But unlike Horst Kohler, Angela Merkel cannot chuck her job. She must face the crises, even though this does not suit her character.... The Chancellor must also be blamed for the false start of the coalition government. It is now no longer possible to do things by halves. It is possible that the next seven days will decide Merkel's chancellorship. One thing is clear: the people may loudly abuse the professional politicians in Berlin, but they still expect them to find a solution for the mountain of problems."

Tabloid Express of Cologne (6/2) judged: "Angela Merkel seems to have lost her instinct for avoiding political mine fields. She was thunder-struck by Horst Kohler's departure from his residence. This is an unprecedented debacle. She will no longer have time to heave a sigh of relief. The next endurance test will come when the coalition has to approve an austerity budget. If this meeting fails or even ends in a controversy, then this will speed up the gestating illness of the Merkel era."

7. (EU-Russia) Summit Meeting

Frankfurter Allgemeine (6/2) editorialized: "It had to be expected that the results of the EU-Russian Summit would be minimal. The Europeans are basically supporting President Medvedev's project to modernize Russia and diversify its economy. Both things are absolutely necessary. However, Russia believes modernization is

solely a government activity, while the Europeans believe that the rule of law and the market economy are also important. So, there

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was only talk in Rostov, especially since the Europeans are busy with other things at the moment.... Zapatero decided to save himself [from having to sit through] the summit because recent meetings have not paid off in terms of glamour. European President van Rompuy exploited Zapatero's absence to claim the leadership role. He is an increasingly self-confident spokesman for Europe."
MURPHY

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