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	INL-00	DNI-00	DOFE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	OBO-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00
	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00
	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00
	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	G-00	SCA-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SRAP-00
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
 USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE  
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: APRIL 06, 2010

Summary: President Zardari's address to a joint session of Parliament describing reconciliation as the way forward, and hoping that the 18th Constitutional Amendment will lead to new beginning dominated headlines in all newspapers. Coverage of the terrorist attack on the U.S. Consulate General in Peshawar, and at a public gathering in Lower Dir that resulted in killing of more than 50 people was the second leading theme in media on Tuesday morning. Newspapers reported that the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility, and President Zardari, PM Gilani and U.S. Mission in Pakistan condemned the attacks. Terming the terrorist attacks as "well-planned, tightly coordinated and effectively carried out," "The News," observed that "it is clear that terrorist groups, far

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from being rendered incapable by the UNCLASSIFIED conducted against them over the last year, are still capable of mounting large-scale attacks on sensitive and heavily defended targets." A WSJ story claiming that President Obama is seeking to "intensify American diplomacy aimed at easing tensions between India and Pakistan" received extensive coverage. Likewise, a NYT report is also appeared in media claiming that a stepped-up campaign of American drone strikes has battered Al Qaeda and its allies in Pakistan. Nearly all major dailies highlighted National Command Authority's (NCA) announcement that "Pakistan qualifies for civilian nuclear cooperation at the international level." A White House statement terming the remarks of Afghan President Karzai as "troubling" who reportedly has threatened to align with the Taliban claiming the U.S. is meddling in his country's affairs. Papers reported that Prime Minister Gilani is scheduled to attend a two-day nuclear security conference in Washington on April 12. A Human Rights Watch's report accusing Pakistan Army of extra-judicial killings of suspected Taliban sympathizers in Swat valley, along with the Army spokesman's denial of these charges were also reported. End Summary.

#### TOP STORIES

News Story: President Addresses Joint Session Of Parliament  
Accountability Should Not Be Selective: Zardari - "The News" (04/06)

"President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday said that the government believed in across-the-board, not selective, accountability. Let everyone be judged by the same yardstick. Let there be no different laws for different people, the President said while addressing the joint sitting of Parliament (Majlis-e-Shoora). He called upon the parliamentarians to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution, which, he said, could be achieved if each pillar of the state worked within its constitutional limits and avoided trampling upon the domain of others."

News Story: We Made History By Restoring 1973 Constitution "Dawn"  
(04/06)

"President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday asked Parliament to approve as soon as possible a sweeping package of landmark constitutional reforms submitted for debate last week. The 18th amendment, which rolls back four decades of infringements by military rulers on Pakistan's 1973 parliamentary constitution, will strip Zardari of key powers in a move to bolster parliamentary democracy. 'The people of Pakistan are keenly watching and waiting for this crucial reforms bill to pass,' he said. 'This initiative must lead to new beginnings.'"

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News Story: President's Address To Parliament Opposition Terms It Mere Rhetoric - "Dawn" (04/06)

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"Opposition parties have termed President Asif Zardari's address to the joint session of the parliament disappointing and full of rhetoric."

News Story: Militants Attack U.S. Consulate, ANP Rally; 51 Killed - "Dawn" (04/06)

"Grenade and suicide attacks on the US Consulate in Peshawar and on a rally of the Awami National Party in Timergara killed 51 people and injured over 120 others on Monday. Government and security officials said a squad of at least five suicide bombers armed with rocket-propelled grenades, guns and car bombs struck the outer security parameter of the heavily-guarded US Consulate from the main T-junction connecting the city with the cantonment and the highway to Afghanistan. 'It was a well-coordinated and well-planned attack,' a senior intelligence official told 'Dawn.'"

News Story: Eight Killed In Blasts Near U.S. Consulate in Peshawar - "The News" (04/06)

"A series of three powerful blasts followed by heavy gunfight in a brazen suicide mission, apparently planned to target the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, left eight people dead and triggered panic all over the provincial capital on Monday afternoon. Around 18 people, most of them security officials, were also wounded in the blasts and firing between the attackers and security officials of the U.S. Consulate and the nearby Army offices and residences. The first powerful blast rocked Peshawar after many months of calm when a suicide bomber hit an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) parked on the entrance to the Hospital Road, which hosts the U.S. Consulate General as well as several offices of the Pakistan Army."

News Story: TTP Claims Responsibility For Peshawar Blasts - "Dawn" (04/06)

"Six people, including four attackers, were killed when heavily armed militants in two vehicles tried to storm the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar on Monday, a Pakistani minister said. In a statement by the U.S. Consulate General in Peshawar, the United States condemned the attack. According to the release, two Pakistani security guards employed by the Consulate General were among those killed in the attack. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attacks. 'We accept the attacks on the American consulate. This is revenge for drone attacks,' Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan spokesman Azam Tariq told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location."

News Story: U.S. Condemns Peshawar Attack - "Dawn" (04/06)

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"The United States on Monday condemned an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar and expressed 'great concern' after militants targeted the building in the provincial capital. 'We strongly condemn the violence,' said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs."

News Story: EU Condemns Deadly Pakistan Attacks - "Dawn" (04/06)

"The European Union's foreign affairs Chief Catherine Ashton on Monday condemned attacks in Pakistan which killed dozens of people, including a strike against the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, calling it a bid to undermine democracy, her spokesman said."

News Story: U.S. Aims To Ease India-Pakistan Tensions - "Daily Times" (04/06)

"President Barack Obama issued a secret directive in December to intensify American diplomacy aimed at easing tensions between India and Pakistan, asserting that without dtente between the two rivals, U.S. efforts to win Pakistan's cooperation in Afghanistan would suffer, the Wall Street Journal said on Monday. The paper reported that the directive said India must make resolving its tensions with Pakistan a priority for progress to be made on U.S. goals in the region, according to people familiar with its contents."

News Story: Drones Batter Qaeda And Its Allies Within Pakistan - "Daily Times" (04/06)

"A stepped-up campaign of American drone strikes over the past three months has battered al Qaeda and its Pakistani and Afghan brethren in the Tribal Areas, especially North Waziristan, a mid-ranking militant and supporters of the government there told the New York Times on Monday."

News Story: NCA Seeks Cooperation For N-Power Generation - "Dawn" (04/06)

"Noting that Pakistan's socio-economic development was dependent on its ability to meet its rapidly expanding energy requirements, the National Command Authority (NCA) sought on Monday international cooperation for nuclear power generation. 'Having more than 35 years' experience of operating nuclear power plants, highly-trained manpower and a well-established safety and security culture, Pakistan fully qualifies for equal participation in civil nuclear cooperation at the international level, the NCA said at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani."

News Story: White House Says Karzai Remarks 'Troubling' - "Dawn" (04/06)

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"The White House again said on Monday that it was troubled and 'frustrated' by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who reportedly is threatening to align with the Taliban while accusing the United States of meddling in his country's affairs, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs told journalists."

News Story: Karzai, White House Escalate War Of Words - "Daily Times" (04/06)

"A war of words between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the White House escalated on Monday, with Washington expressing frustration that an attempt to smooth over the feud had so far failed. Karzai said he stood by remarks from last week accusing the West of carrying out election fraud in Afghanistan, and appeared to sharpen the criticism still further by singling out the U.S. specifically for blame. The White House said it was frustrated on behalf of the American public, and invoked the sacrifice made by families who send their loved ones off to fight."

News Story: Karzai Threatens to Join Taliban - "The News" (04/06)

"Afghan President Hamid Karzai threatened over the weekend to quit the political process and join the Taliban if he continued to come under outside pressure to reform, several members of parliament said on Monday. Karzai made the unusual statement at a closed-door meeting on Saturday with selected lawmakers - just days after kicking up a diplomatic controversy with remarks alleging foreigners were behind fraud in last years' disputed elections."

News Story: Gilani Due in U.S. On Sunday - "The News" (04/06)

"Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani is scheduled to attend a two-day nuclear security conference in Washington, which would be held from April 12. The Pakistani Embassy in Washington said Gilani would arrive in the United States on April 11."

News Story: Army Accused Of Extra-Judicial Killings Spokesman Denies Charge - "The News" (04/06)

"The Pakistan Army is facing fresh accusations of carrying out extra-judicial killings and torture, claims which could threaten the US funding for any units singled out for abuse. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) said it had briefed the U.S. State Department and congressional officials about the evidence of more than 200 summary executions in Swat Valley in the past eight months of suspected Taliban sympathizers. The Army denied the accusations."

News Story: Hilal-i-Pakistan for Kerry - "Dawn" (04/06)

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"The government will confer Hilal-i-Pakistan Senator John Kerry for his contribution to improving Islamabad's relations with the United States, officials at the Pakistani mission said. Hilal-i-Pakistan is the country's highest honor given to a foreign national."

News Story: U.S. Envoy Guard Barred From Entering Parliament - "The News" (04/06)

"The security personnel on Monday stopped the personal security guard of Anne W Patterson, the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, from entering the parliament house. According to details, a large number of foreign diplomats attended the joint session of the parliament to listen to the address of President Asif Ali Zardari. As U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson came up to gate number one of the Parliament house, the deputed security personnel allowed the diplomat to enter the premises while stopping her security guard."

News Story: U.S. To Release Nuclear Strategy Tuesday - "The News" (04/06)

"The Barack Obama administration was to release its new nuclear strategy on Tuesday just ahead of a major atomic security conference to be hosted by the U.S. next week, the White House said Monday. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the new document, which is expected to stress non-nuclear deterrent capabilities, will also build momentum before the two-day nuclear security summit which opens on April 12."

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Homemade Drones Successfully Operated In Sargodha - "Daily Times," "The News" (04/06)

"Pakistan on Monday conducted a successful operation of indigenously developed drones in Sargodha, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said on Monday. Briefing journalists on the Pakistan Army's Azm-e-Nau-3 exercise, Abbas said that some of the news channels were airing reports regarding the presence of drones in Sargodha's skies, presumably owned by some other country, APP reported. 'There is no substance in such news, as the drones seen in Sargodha are indigenously developed by Pakistan,' he said."

News Story: 20,000 Troops To Take Part In War Games 'Azm-e-Nau-3' - "The News" (04/06)

"For the first time in the history of Pakistan's military exercises, 20,000 troops from all arms and services, including the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), are set to try the 'Modular Method' of field exercises

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in the Punjab and Sindh.... 'These Azm-e-Nau-3,' will be held from April 10 to May 13, which sees the culmination of a long and deliberate process of war games, discussions and logistic evolution of the concept of warfare that is fully responsive to a wide menu of emerging threats. 'The exercise is a concept of validation stage of the operational thought process manifested in the form of tactical, operational and organizational aspects, which would be validated and refined through the lessons learnt,' said Director General Military Training Major General Muzammal Hussain while talking in Rawalpindi to the print and electronic media flown in from all over Pakistan."

News Story: Two Former ISI Officers, Journalist Missing From Kohat - "Dawn" (04/06)

"Two former officials of the premier intelligence agency, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), and a free lance journalist have gone missing in suspicious circumstances from Kohat. Family sources of the missing ISI officials Col (retired) Imam and Sq Leader (retired) Khalid Khawaja revealed that these officers were assisting the free lance journalist Asad Qureshi who was making a documentary on Taliban and Al-Qaeda."

News Story: 7 NATO Oil Tankers Torched In Khyber "Dawn" (04/06)

"Armed persons set on fire seven tankers, supplying oil to NATO forces in Afghanistan, in a pre-dawn attack in Sheikhwai area of Khyber tribal region on Monday, officials and residents said."

News Story: 15 Taliban Killed in Orakzai - "Daily Times" (04/06)

"Security forces killed 15 Taliban and destroyed four of their hideouts in various areas of the Orakzai Agency on Monday. Sources said gunship helicopters bombed Taliban hideouts at Miangan Kalay and Handara in Orakzai."

#### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Pakistan Desires To Strengthen Relations With China: FM - "The News" (04/06)

"Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan desires to strengthen its relations with China in multi-faceted areas. Talking to Prof. Wang Jisi, Dean of International School of Studies, Peking University who called on him this afternoon. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan considered its relations with China as its most important bilateral relationship. Both countries enjoy complete trust, mutual understanding and convergence of views on all bilateral, regional and international issues, he added."

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Editorial: Full-Frontal, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (04/06)

"Well-planned, tightly coordinated and effectively carried out would be an accurate analysis of the attack on the area of Peshawar in which the American Consulate is situated. A similar analysis could be applied to the suicide attack on an ANP rally at Timergarah earlier in the day, where perhaps as many as forty-six died and over fifty were injured.... It is clear that terrorist groups, far from

being rendered incapable by the operations directed against them over the last year, are still capable of mounting large-scale attacks on sensitive and heavily defended targets.... We may have battled the Taliban but they have not been completely defeated. Apparently they have taken casualties but not in sufficient numbers to break them militarily. They have their supporters who will work to fund and protect them, and are therefore sustainable as an entity and a fighting unit."

Editorial: Terrorist Attacks In Peshawar And Timargarah," an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (04/06)

"With Monday's suicide bombings in Peshawar and Timergarah, the terrorists have once again demonstrated that they are fully capable of hitting the targets of their own choice. Earlier, the government had claimed that Waziristan and Malakand division had been cleared of the terrorists. The question arises that where these attacks were planned, and how could the vehicles laden with explosives sneak into the Peshawar city so easily? We think that the government is obliged to answer these questions."

Editorial: Peshawar Once Again In The Grip of Fear, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (04/06)

"According to the eyewitnesses, the suicide bombers, who shattered the calm in Peshawar, were dressed in the uniforms of Frontier Corps. Earlier, the terrorists had also adopted similar deceptive and camouflage tactics in attacks on Manawan Police Training Centre Lahore and the Army Headquarters in Rawalpindi. We think that the daytime movement of the security forces must either be reduced, or arrangements be made to thwart any attempt of terrorists to carry out their nefarious activities under different guises."

Editorial: Peshawar Blasts: Was U.S. Consulate The Target?, an editorial in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily



"As of this evening, it is not clear what the actual target was, but the U.S. Consulate spokesman has said that the U.S. Consulate was the target. There were around 100 people in the Consulate at the time. According to one report, the bodies of 3 foreigners were also seen in the Consulate building but the Consulate authorities did not allow anyone to enter the premises, not even rescue teams. Two hours after the attack, there were reports that 3 attackers were still present in the Consulate, but this report was neither confirmed, nor denied until evening; the U.S. authorities also did not provide any details in this regard.... This is the first time that a U.S. facility was directly targeted in Pakistan.... U.S. Ambassador Mrs. Patterson had said earlier that bilateral relations would be affected if any American official or building was directly targeted. The blasts in Peshawar have happened at a time when the Pakistan government was terming the strategic dialogue in Washington an important development, and when the two countries were devising a new strategy to counter terrorism.... American authorities have also expressed fears that terrorist outfits are now working on a new strategy and can target different countries. The attacks in Peshawar and Moscow haven proven this U.S. intelligence information to be correct.... However, the unfortunate attack in Peshawar should not have an impact on Pakistan-U.S. relations because Pakistan itself is troubled by terrorist attacks. But, maybe the U.S. should not have opened a Consulate in Peshawar and started activities in a city where none existed earlier. It is also possible that this attack was a response to these activities because no one - whether Taliban or Al Qaeda - wants the U.S. to expand the sphere of its activities. However, the U.S. should review all aspects of the situation before taking any step."

Editorial: Timergarah, Peshawar Blasts: Are The Terrorists Regrouping?, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000)

"Although no one has claimed responsibility for the Peshawar and Timergarah attacks as yet, we all know who it might be.... We must all put out this fire of terrorism jointly. The common man can fulfill his duty by remaining vigilant about his surroundings, by immediately alerting the police about suspicious persons or packages, and being careful while renting out their home.... We must move forward and get active and not rest until the last terrorist has been eliminated. Until now we are embroiled in thinking whether

Hakeemullah Mehsud is dead or alive. We faced the same situation when Baitullah Mehsud died. Instead of engaging in such debates, we need to deal so strongly with terrorists that they are all eliminated."

Editorial: Criminal Nonchalance, an ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/06)

"While corruption and wastefulness have been the talk of the town for so long, yesterday's 'The Nation' carried a story of the government letting the U.S. and NATO forces, operating in Afghanistan, continue to avail the exemption of tax, amounting to Rs 30 per liter of petrol, that was granted to them by Musharraf in 2002.... Not to talk of the various other instances of cavalierly spending official funds by government functionaries, if we only add the leakage of toll tax revenues to the loss through exemption on the petrol price to the U.S. and NATO forces, it becomes a sizeable chunk of money. The toll tax leakage, reported in the press, is an astounding 40 percent of the total present collection."

Editorial: Welcome End of Screening at Airports, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (04/06)

"The United States in a welcome move has rescinded the enhanced security screening for passengers traveling from fourteen predominantly Muslim majority countries including Pakistan.... We think the changes introduced are positive and further steps would be taken to reduce discomfort of the passengers. We are of the opinion that such gestures taking into account the sensitivities of the Muslims will certainly earn goodwill between the United States and about 1.5 billion Muslims around the globe."

Editorial: Presidential Address, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (04/06)

"President Asif Ali Zardari's third address to the Parliament failed to inspire. Rather pedantic in delivery, it was bureaucratic in form with a list of 'achievements' centering on the 18th Constitutional amendment and the NFC Award being read out. Ironically the President paid lip service to defending Pakistan's sovereignty but failed to condemn the most brazen challenge to it in the form of U.S. drone attacks. There was nothing on offer to alleviate the economic hardships that have increased manifold during the present government's tenure in power; nor was there any mention of ending corruption and nepotism. He spoke about the support for the agricultural sector but the reality is that the agricultural sector continues to suffer more now than ever before with water shortages, power cuts and dumping of agricultural products by India.... With no humility for the shortcomings his government has been guilty of, and with an implied support for controversial measures like rising utility prices and following IMF diktat, while offering nothing in economic terms for the public at large, the Presidential address began and ended on a whimper rather than a bang of optimism for the nation. Clearly, the leadership shows little interest in

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ameliorating the travails of the ordinary Pakistani

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Opinion: Strategic Dialogue With U.S., an op-ed by Shahid Javed Burki in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (04/06)

"The United States was relieved that it had finally placed Pakistan on the track on which it wanted to have it proceed in terms of its fight against terrorism especially with reference to carrying out its Afghan policy.... The off-and-on nature of this relationship over the last half century has hurt Pakistan. Washington sought Pakistan's help when it suited its strategic purpose.... The stop-and-go nature of the relationship between the two countries has meant that the Pakistani economy was on a rollercoaster ride: the economy did well when U.S. attention was turned in Pakistan's direction. It did poorly when Washington lost interest in Islamabad. This type of relationship may have eased Pakistan's economic problems over the short term but did little to secure the country's future over the long term."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

Patterson

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