

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	RPPR-00
		INL-00	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	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	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00
	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00	CARC-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SRAP-00	SWCI-00	SNKP-00	PESU-00
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 HQ USCENTCOM 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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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MAY 13, 2010

Summary: President Obama's news conference with Afghan President Karzai in Washington received extensive coverage in all major newspapers on Thursday morning. Newspapers highlighted reports that while urging "sustained engagements with Pakistan," President Obama acknowledged that "Pakistan is more willing to act against terrorism." Defense Secretary Gates' statement to CNN that "the U.S.-Pakistan relationship has improved significantly over the last two years" also received prominent display. Media also reported U.S. Senator Kit Bond's statement that based on information provided so far, he is not convinced that the TTP is linked to the Times Square terror plot. Reports of two bomb blasts in the suburbs of Peshawar that killed two girls and three seminary students received

prominent display. Papers also reported that the Taliban shot dead two men in North Waziristan on charges of spying for the United States. "Dawn," in an exclusive story, reported that the Pakistan government has extended the service contract of Ambassador Hussain Haqqani by one year without Foreign Office's recommendation. "The Nation," published a report on its front page quoting "well-placed military sources" that the United States has refused to transfer drone technology to Pakistan. Several mainstream newspapers highlighted reports that the U.S. government has provided 45 million dollar to support public university education in areas of Pakistan affected by militant conflict.

Editorial content focused on recent drone strikes in North Waziristan and Secretary Clinton's remarks regarding Pakistan. In an editorial titled "Massacre by drones," "The Nation" observed that "drones are the single most hostile action by the U.S. against Pakistan and its people and are against all norms and principles of international law." The Urdu daily "Express," in a piece entitled "Drone Attacks: U.S. Should Realize The Ground Reality," said that "whether Secretary Hillary Clinton's threatening statement was misinterpreted is another matter; the fact is that this threat was practically and brutally demonstrated in the latest drone strikes in North Waziristan." The Islamabad-based "Pakistan Observer," in its editorial, "Belated explanation of Clinton's statement," noted that "the statement has caused serious damage to the process of normalization, sending clear and unambiguous message to people of Pakistan that the United States is not expected to be a sincere and reliable friend or partner." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Obama Urges Sustained Engagement With Pakistan - "The News" (05/13)

"The United States President Barack Obama Wednesday said Washington has been encouraged by Pakistan's recent anti-militant gains in its tribal border regions with Afghanistan. He underscored that asserting full control over historically ungoverned areas would take time and urged for continued international engagement with Islamabad and Kabul. he said in a joint press conference with President Hamid Karzai at the White House."

News Story: Pakistan More Willing To Act Against Terrorism: Obama - "Daily Times" (05/13)

"President Barack Obama has said he is seeing a growing recognition among Pakistan's leaders that extremist groups based in the country represent a 'cancer in their midst.' After a meeting at the White House on Wednesday with visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Obama said Pakistani leaders were recognizing that the groups that

were using the border areas as a base were threatening Pakistan's sovereignty." UNCLASSIFIED

News Story: Obama Deflects Criticism Of Pakistan - "Dawn" (05/13)

"U.S. President Barack Obama said on Wednesday that his administration was working with both Pakistan and Afghanistan to break down some of their old suspicions and bad habits. At a White House news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the U.S. president also indicated that Pakistan dominated at least part of his almost three-hour long consultations with the Afghan leader and his team... Mr. Obama urged Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and the international community to work together to reduce the influence of extremists in that region... President Obama, who came to the briefing after a detailed meeting with the Afghan leader at the White House, said President Karzai and he also discussed 'the fact that the only way ultimately that Pakistan is secure is if Afghanistan is secure.'"

News Story: Gates Sees Sustained Improvement In U.S.-Pakistan Relationship - "Daily Times" (05/13)

"Defence Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday said he expected sustained progress in ties between the U.S. and Pakistan. Gates said the relationship between the two anti-terror allies had improved significantly over the last two years, Gates told CNN."

News Story: No Hard Evidence Of Shahzad's Link With Taliban: U.S. Senator - "The News," "The Nation," "Daily Times" (05/13)

"American officials investigating the failed car bombing in Times Square are still far from certain about the role Pakistani insurgent groups may have played in orchestrating the attempt, the Senate Intelligence Committee's top Republican said, according to The Washington Post on Wednesday. Senator Christopher S. Bond said he has seen no hard evidence that a Pakistani group - or groups - planned or directed the May 1 attempt, allegedly carried out by Faisal Shahzad, a U.S. citizen of Pakistani origin."

News Story: Two Girls, 3 Seminary Students Die In Blasts - "Dawn," "The News" (05/13)

"Three students of a seminary and two girls were killed in two bomb blasts in two suburbs of Peshawar on Wednesday. According to police, in the first bombing in Faizullah Garhi area, some men planted a home-made bomb and detonated it through a remote control when students of a seminary were returning home... In the second bomb blast, some unidentified people hurled a hand-grenade at the residence of Raees Khan in Muslimabad village, killing two girls and injuring two others."

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News Story: Taliban Kill Two Alleged U.S. Spies In Waziristan
"Daily Times" (05/13)

"The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants shot dead two men in North Waziristan on Wednesday whom they accused of spying for the United States, officials and residents said. The slain men were from Miranshah."

News Story: Ambassador To U.S. Gets Extension - "Dawn" (05/13)

"The government has extended the service contract of country's Ambassador to the United States Husain Haqqani by one year without Foreign Office's recommendation."

News Story: U.S. Refuses To Transfer Drone Tech To Pakistan, U.S. Refuses To Transfer Drone Technology to Pakistan - "The Nation" (05/13)

"Islamabad and Washington are at odd over the U.S. incessant drone strikes into Pakistani territory that analyst believed could influence Pakistan's terror fight efforts and cause delay in launching an effective military operation in North Waziristan. Well-placed military sources informed the 'The Nation' on Wednesday that U.S. has refused to oblige its frontline ally in war against terror in transferring the drone technology capable of delivering weapons."

News Story: U.S., China Acknowledge 'Good Progress' In Iran Talks: U.S. - "The News" (05/13)

"U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and a Chinese official acknowledged 'good progress' had been made when they talked about efforts to impose new sanctions on Iran, a U.S. official said Wednesday. State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said Clinton and China's state councilor Dai Bingguo spoke for more than an hour by telephone late Tuesday, discussing both Iran and North Korea, whose nuclear programs worry Washington."

News Story: Rs3.7bn For Education In Conflict-Hit Areas Announced - "Dawn," "Daily Times," "The News," "Business Recorder," "The Post," "The Statesman," "Jang," "Express," "Islam," "Jinnah," "Aaj-Kal" (05/13)

"The U.S. government has provided nearly Rs4 billion to support public sector universities in the conflict-hit areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. At a ceremony on Wednesday, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson and Chairman of the Higher Education Commission Dr. Javaid Leghari announced the disbursement of \$45 million (Rs3.7 billion) to help university education in areas

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affected by extremism. The cost of one year's university fee waiver for over 7,000 students from IDP families, announced by the government, were among the expenses financed by the U.S. grant."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Troika decides not to accept US pressure for NWA operation - "The Nation" (05/13)

"President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday took stock of national, regional and international issues during separate meetings with Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Chief of Army Staff Ashfaq Parvez Kayani.... According to sources, the troika during Wednesday's meetings resolved not to accept any pressure from the U.S. for carrying out any early operation in North Waziristan Agency. They assessed the situation arising after recently adopted threatening tone by the American functionaries right from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to others."

News Story: MMA Component Parties Condemn U.S. Threats To Pakistan "Daily Times" (05/13)

"The component parties of dysfunctional Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) on Wednesday condemned U.S. threats to Pakistan and agreed to evolve a joint strategy against them. The leaders of the component parties met at the house of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to revive the 6-party religious alliance. The alliance, however, has shown unity in condemning the statement of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for threatening Pakistan of dire consequences. Talking to the media after the meeting, JUI-F Chief said U.S. intervention in Pakistan would not be tolerated at any cost."

News Story: Third World War Underway In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Hoti "Daily Times" (05/13)

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti has said that an undeclared third world war was underway in the province and the world should play a part to resolve the conflict, while addressing a ceremony of the Charsadda District Bar Association at the Chief Minister House on Wednesday."

News Story: CIA Behind Failed New York Bombing: Minister, "The News" (05/13)

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Excise and Taxation Liaqat Shabab said that the Times Square failed bombing plot was a conspiracy hatched by the CIA to malign Pakistan."

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News Story: Blackwater Speeds Up Activities in Pakistan - "Jinnah"
(05/13)

"The infamous security agency Blackwater has decided to expand its activities in Pakistan. According to reliable sources, American commandos are conducting three courses to provide training to the tribal levies force and the police. The vehicles of these commandos enter the police-lines headquarters without undergoing any security checking. The car registration numbers of these vehicles are RLC-2774, RLA-3561, ICT-XG-261, RLG-8909, RLC-9712, and IDT-4912. The police officials said they do not know what material is being brought into the police-lines headquarters by these vehicles. They disclosed that a high-ranking police officer had been transferred from there when he objected on the entry of these vehicles without security clearance. The American commandos of the Blackwater Dafna Bali (?), Dr. James, and Scott impart training to Pakistani policemen at the Police-lines Headquarters. Sources further said that the Blackwater would soon launch a countrywide training program for Pakistan's security forces."

News Story: 20 Militants Held In Kala Dhaka Operation - "Dawn"
(05/13)

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Malik Naveed has said 20 militants have been arrested in the operation in Kala Dhaka and efforts will continue to clean the area of anti-state elements. He was talking to journalists at Police Lines in Nowshera on Wednesday."

News Story: Two NATO Soldiers, Afghan Official Killed - "The News"
(05/13)

"Attacks in southern Afghanistan, the heartland of a nearly nine-year Taliban insurgency, killed three NATO soldiers and a local prison official on Wednesday, NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said."

News Story: Libya Plane Crash Kills 103; Dutch Boy Survives -
"Dawn" (05/13)

"A Libyan Airbus crashed as it tried to land at Tripoli airport early on Wednesday, killing 103 passengers and crew aboard, but a Dutch boy survived, a Libyan security source told Reuters at Tripoli airport.... 'Libya's Transport Minister Mohamed Zidan said the sole survivor was a 10-year-old Dutch child. 'The child is in good condition and is in hospital undergoing checks,' the Minister told a news conference at the airport. The Minister also said an investigation would be launched to establish the cause of the crash but he ruled out a terrorist attack."

News Story: Chile Shrouds Pakistan Embassy Case In Secrecy -
"The News" (05/13)

"Chilean prosecutors dropped Wednesday a veil of secrecy over the case of a Pakistani man found with traces of explosives as he visited the U.S. Embassy to discuss a revoked visa. Prosecutor Francisco Jasir issued a special decree that means no information about the police investigation can be released until after the interrogation process is complete or the suspect freed. Chilean authorities on Tuesday extended the detention of Mauhannas Saif Ur Rehnab Khan under the South American country's anti-terror laws. Rehnab, 28, who has denied any terror ties, can be detained until Saturday without charge."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: CJ Constitutes Full Court To Hear Challenges To 18th Amendment - "Dawn" (05/13)

"Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry constituted on Wednesday a full court comprising all 17 judges to define and determine the exact contours of Supreme Court's authority for reviewing the mechanism of appointing superior court judges introduced through the 18th Constitution Amendment. It will begin hearing on May 24. The federal government and Attorney General Maulvi Anwarul Haq have been asked to appear before the court."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: Pakistan May Seek Another IMF Loan Plan: Finance Adviser "Daily Times" (05/13)

"Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr Hafeez Shaikh hinted on Wednesday about seeking a fresh International Monetary Fund (IMF) 'follow up loan program' for the repayment of loans due by 2012. 'In case we're not able to mobilize the required resources through increasing tax and non-tax revenues - only possible in the medium term - the country would require a new loan program from IMF,' Dr. Hafeez said during his first media briefing at the Finance Ministry."

News Story: Hafeez Hints At New Taxes, Hike In Power Tariff - "Dawn" (05/13)

"Finance Adviser Dr. Hafeez Shaikh said on Wednesday that the electricity tariff would be increased by six per cent during the current fiscal year, civil servants would be compensated for inflation in the coming budget and that the government 'may have to take a follow-up' IMF program to pay debts."

News Story: No Integrated VAT Levy Will Be A Problem: World Bank's John Wall Says - "Business Recorder" (05/13)

"If the government of Pakistan fails to implement integrated Value Added Tax from next financial year, it will be a problem for us, Country Manager World Bank John Wall said during an informal press briefing, adding that, however, if Pakistan gives credible reasons for failure to implement VAT, World Bank shall continue its assistance program."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Massacre By Drones, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (05/13)

"With the U.S. upping its ante against Pakistan, while trying to confuse the Pakistani leadership with a volley of statements being flung out of Washington, the increase in drone attacks has not come as a surprise.... The U.S. is now investing in Pakistani analysts and NGOs to convince the citizens that drones are the most effective way of undermining the militant networks but facts on the ground prove otherwise.... However, the drones also raise a more serious question of why the Pakistani leadership - civil and military - has allowed the U.S. to use this means of butchering Pakistani citizens?... The drones are the single most hostile action by the U.S. against Pakistan and its people and are against all norms and principles of international law. Finally, it is interesting to note that the Indians continue to exploit any opportunity against Pakistan and now their media has begun a new rumor that Mullah Omar has been arrested Pakistan - thereby bolstering U.S. unsubstantiated claims that Mullah Omar and now even Bin Laden are in Pakistan. This is the strategic Indo-U.S. partnership at work - and the target is Pakistan."

Editorial: Drone Attacks: U.S. Should Realize The Ground Reality, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000) (05/13)

"Whether Secretary Hillary Clinton's threatening statement was misinterpreted is another matter; the fact is that this threat was practically and brutally demonstrated in the latest drone strikes in North Waziristan. In the light of human values and war ethics, these strikes cannot be called anything but aerial aggression. These strikes have dealt a severe blow to Pakistan-U.S. ties. At the same time, we should not ignore the fact that senior U.S. officials were already expressing the intention of intensifying and expanding the scope of the strikes. Following the latest drone strikes, it has become clear to the world that the U.S. is still pursuing gunboat diplomacy and a carrot-and-stick policy.... In fact, drone strikes

actually end up benefiting Al Qaeda. Drone attacks are a major reason why the tribal people support the Taliban; the sooner our rulers make the U.S. understand this reality, the better."

Editorial: Belated Explanation Of Clinton's Statement, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (05/13)

"The United States has come out with belated explanations of the highly provocative and dangerous remarks made by Secretary of State Clinton threatening Pakistan of serious consequences if any successful attack was carried out in America in future having links with terrorist organizations in Pakistan. U.S. Special Representative Richard Holbrooke and Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs PJ Crowley have maintained that the remarks were not taken in the right context and that Clinton spoke in general and did not single out Pakistan. The explanations themselves are nothing but window dressing as both the gentlemen did not deny that the Secretary of State did hurl threats. Even if the intention was otherwise, the explanation has come very late as the damage has already been done. It is quite understandable that the threatening statement has seriously hurt the feelings and sensitivities of people of Pakistan. We may point out that there are serious questions about genuineness of the New York drama, as many believe it has been engineered by the U.S. agencies to pressurize and malign Pakistan.... The statement has caused serious damage to the process of normalization, sending clear and unambiguous message to people of Pakistan that the United States is not expected to be a sincere and reliable friend or partner. We believe that the remarks of Clinton were part of a well-calculated plan under which the United States keeps on its relationship with Pakistan switching off and on. It is no secret that the policy is aimed at keeping Pakistan Army engaged in domestic turmoil and destabilize Pakistan."

Editorial: Continuing Drone Strikes In North Waziristan, an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (circ. 5,000) (05/13)

"Sooner or later the government will have to launch an operation in North Waziristan because this is the logical end to the war on terror. However, it is not in our national interests that under U.S. pressure, we turn into an easy prey for India. Hence any step we take now should be to safeguard our national interests, not U.S. interests."

Editorial: Missile Attacks On North Waziristan, an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (05/13)

"The Tuesday's deadly missile attacks on North Waziristan conveyed a clear message to our government that if Pakistan refuses to launch a

military operation in this area, the UNCLASSIFIED will do it. It is totally incomprehensible for Pakistani masses that why our rulers are shying away from taking Secretary Hillary Clinton's threats as the U.S. policy. In fact, her derogatory statements have completely exposed the real agenda of the United States."

Editorial: O Rulers, Refuse To Become Fuel For American War, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (05/13)

"Having demanded stricter military action in North Waziristan and adjoining areas, the U.S. administration itself increased the intensity of drone attacks to a horrible extent.... The American scheme of things is aimed at undermining Pakistan's military power by forcing it to fight fellow Pakistanis. Pakistani rulers should get rid of this American war, their dollars should be slammed on its face and they should be told that we don't want to fight your war.... Pakistani people recognize their enemies who are America and India and not Pakistan's tribes."

Editorial: Has The U.S. Begun To Materialize Its Threat?, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (05/13)

"The killing of at least 32 innocent Pakistani citizens in a volley of U.S. missile attacks in North Waziristan must be seen in the context of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent threat. The entire nation expects that the civil and military leadership, political parties, and all other national institutions will take some practical steps to put an end to these drone attacks otherwise the possibility of a popular revolt in the country cannot be ruled out."

Editorial: Grenade Attack, an editorial in the Peshawar-based independent regional daily "The Statesman" (cir. 3,000) (05/13)

"Oddly weird was the Wednesday morning's incident in which an unidentified person lobbed a hand grenade on a house in the suburban Ram Kishen, Muslimabad area, thus initially killing two minor sisters and injuring two other baby girls.... Knowledgeable sources believe that instead of arriving from outside the saboteurs have already mixed up with the local population and whenever they get a chance they create panic, fear and anxiety by their guerilla-like hit-and-run tactics.... Extraordinary conditions call for extraordinary solutions.... Security of ordinary citizens and their children cannot be left only to the carefree staff of 42 police stations in and around Peshawar."

Editorial: U.S. To Scuttle Pak-China Nuke Cooperation, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer"

"The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg has once again raised the issue of Pakistan-China civilian nuclear cooperation saying Washington was carefully reviewing plans for the construction of two nuclear power reactors by China in Pakistan. The statement of the senior U.S. official exposes the mindset in Washington as to how it perceives to pursue the dialogue for cooperation in the nuclear field.... Even there is realization in Washington about the acute energy crisis in Pakistan yet one wonders what made Mr. Steinberg to make such a statement that is seen as an attempt to scuttle the Pak-China nuclear deal.... We hope that the U.S. would follow an even handed policy as far as the non-proliferation and nuclear energy cooperation are concerned, otherwise it would be difficult to achieve the lofty ideal of President Obama to make the world free from nuclear weapons."

Editorial: Progress Towards Composite Dialogue, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (05/13)

"The phone conversation between Pakistan and India foreign ministers and decision to meet on July 15 in Islamabad gives the hope that Pak-India relations would normalize.... This could be said with full confidence that this meeting would be a progress towards composite dialogue."

Editorial: Indo-Pak Foreign Ministers Agree To Hold Talks, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000) (05/13)

"All bilateral issues must be included in the agenda for the upcoming Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary and Foreign Ministers' talks, as it is understood that relations cannot reach satisfactory level until the most important issues are resolved.... We hope that the Indian officials will participate in the talks with an open mind, and that this time [neither side] would allow the dialogue process to be sabotaged."

Editorial: Resumption Of Pak-India Composite Dialogue: An Important Development, an editorial in the Lahore-based Urdu daily "Waqt" (circ. 5,000) (05/13)

"We hope that both India and Pakistan would take the dialogue process forward for the betterment of their respective nations and lasting peace in South Asia. We also hope that the two governments would succeed in resolving those disputes which are a hurdle in the way of lasting peace."

Opinion: The Roads to Terrorism, an op-ed by Kamila Hayat in the

populist, often sensational national "The News" (cir. 55,000) (05/13)

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"The U.S. Secretary of State has made quite clear what the consequences of a terror plot would be for Pakistan. Students fear that obtaining visas will become harder; those already in the U.S. report an increase in hostility from Americans. This is of course hardly surprising. The fact is that the world associates Pakistan firmly with terrorism. Terrorist plots of all kinds seem to emanate in the country and news with an Islamabad dateline frequently features reports about militant activity. The consequences of this have been extremely adverse. The entrenched mindset that backs militancy is much harder to defeat than the militants themselves. It is possible, in theory at least, that the war against the Taliban may eventually, in purely physical terms, be won."

Opinion: Threats Of Dire Consequences To Pakistan, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (05/13)

"Again the well-known platitudes have been repeated by Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder adding to it the threat in the so-called war on terror Pakistan, namely that if Pakistan does not do more they will do it themselves. What does this threat of consequences mean? Is the U.S. threatening to attack Pakistan? I mean technically this is not much of a news because this they do it on a daily basis with the silent consent of the ruling elite by launching drone attacks on Pakistani citizens in the tribal areas and killing and maiming hundreds of them including women and children. The language used in these threats is an exact mirror of American mindset and attitude towards Pakistan: it is swanky and derisive. The fact is their system of Freedom Liberty and Justice is based on the Master and Slave philosophy for which they are now roping in Pakistan."

Opinion: Of Threats, Actions, Reactions And Consequences, an op-ed by Saida Fazal in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (05/13)

"Following Pakistani-American Faisal Shahzad's failed attempt to detonate a car bomb in the heart of New York city, American officials have started, once again, to pressure Pakistan to 'do more.'... It is also meant to force Pakistan to start military operations in North Waziristan, and to strengthen the United States' demand for carrying out 'special operations' on our soil.... And yet we are being bullied and warned of 'very severe consequences'. Somebody in Washington has also called for cutting off the assistance money. This only goes on to show the nature of relationship as viewed from Washington. It certainly is not a partnership against a common enemy, but between a client state and a

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big power.... Reports suggest that the US may resort to incursions in addition to continuing drone strikes. This will be a recipe for disaster. It will undermine whatever is left of the public trust in the government and harm the military's ability to carry out necessary cleaning up operations.... We must not launch an operation on the say-so of the Americans. Sooner or later, they will go home, and we will be left to deal with the consequences. Our government's primary consideration must be protecting the lives of its people. A society at peace with itself is the best bet for peace and security for all concerned."

Opinion: A Futile Enterprise, an op-ed by Rauf Klasra in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (05/13)

"The pace with which our society is becoming, or it is being made, anti-U.S. may create serious difficulties for Pakistan in future. Such a folly may not cause any harm to the United States, but it will certainly turn our country into another Afghanistan, Iraq, or Vietnam. We see that all European countries, including Britain, which are far more powerful than Pakistan, leave no stone unturned to befriend America. We have had fought wars for the U.S. during the last 60 years, but today India is reaping their fruit. On the other hand, we, rather than getting the benefits of our decades-long friendship with Washington, have become the target of American missiles and the drone predators. We believe in conspiracy theories and are living in a state of denial. Today, Faisal Shehzad - who, in order to achieve American nationality, had taken oath that would fight against any country, including Pakistan, for the U.S. interests - is becoming our national hero. Unfortunately, we declare any person our national hero, who fires a bullet, or two, against Americans, and thus provides the U.S. a chance to kill millions of innocent people. Anyhow, the cloud created by the Times Square incident has silver lining for us - that, we get a new national hero who provided us another pretext to chide the Americans. Congratulations to the entire nation for getting a new hero."

Opinion: United States Losing Its Nerve, an op-ed by Azam Khalil in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (05/13)

"While lashing out at Pakistan, Ms. Clinton conveniently ignored the fact that whatever was going on in Afghanistan, and in the tribal areas of Pakistan, was mainly the result of their flawed Af-Pak policy.... Anyway, now the American image has changed and they are viewed as an occupation force. Unluckily the Americans, like the Russians, with all their might have been unable to root out the menace of militancy from Afghanistan, despite pumping billions of dollars and sending about 100,000 troops to calm down a fractured

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society.... The U.S. administration must understand that instead of issuing such childish and immature statements a better attitude is expected from them recognizing the efforts that the Pakistani government has made to wipe out the menace of militancy from the infected border areas that lie in the world's most inhospitable mountainous terrain.... One hopes that the Obama administration will soon realize the mistake that has been made by top diplomat of their administration and that they would instead of holding out threats to this country, they will try to extend both economic and military assistance so that the insurgents can be defeated and the menace of extremism is overpowered in the shortest possible time."

Opinion: Strategic Folly, an op-ed by Azam Khalil in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (05/13)

"The arrest of a suspect on attempted terror-bombing charges in Times Square, New York, has sharply escalated Pakistani-specific pressures in the U.S. Bluntness has replaced politeness.... Within the U.S., they have helped instill and spread a culture of irrational fear and false alarm. The focus on short-term tactical benefits has created long-term strategic burdens.... Thus far, the US has failed to meet the militant ideology with a persuasive counter-ideology. Without fairness and consistency, the management of such message is difficult."

Opinion: U.S. Takes The War Into Pakistan, an op-ed by Syed Saleem Shahzad in the Peshawar-based independent regional daily "The Statesman" (cir. 3,000) (05/13)

"The approval given to the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) by the administration of President Barack Obama to expand drone strikes in Pakistan's tribal regions is on face value a declaration of war by the U.S. inside Pakistan. The move comes at a time when Pakistan is trying to win some breathing space to delay an all-out operation in North Waziristan, home to powerful militant groups and an Al Qaeda headquarters.... The plain fact cannot be missed: North Waziristan is the nerve centre of the Afghan resistance and as long as Pakistan delays, the U.S. will take matters into its own hands."

Opinion: FATA Needs Change, an op-ed by Jan Assakzai in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (05/13)

"The more important thing at this point is not whether Pakistan's tribal region is linked with the failed terrorist plot in New York, but whether there should be speedy reforms in FATA to prevent its causing the next 9/11.... The change will ensure that FATA does not become another base of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban with the capability

of launching trans-national attacks ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ specter of another 9/11 will loom larger than ever. If another possible 9/11 is traced back to Waziristan, the consequences will be disastrous for Pakistan."

Opinion: America: To Be Or Not To Be, an op-ed by I.M. Mohsin in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (05/13)

"The ground realities in Afghanistan are equally puzzling, President Hamid Karzai, U.S. acolyte, who still has many Albatrosses around his neck, wants to hold a peace Jirga by the end of the current month.... Moreover, as the status quo falters, the Afghans tend to question whatever is going on amid corruption and maladministration. This raises their ire not only against Karzai, but also against his U.S. patrons. It appears as if Karzai has the quiet backing of the U.S., who is maintaining a benevolent hope that the incumbent President will be able to 'beg, borrow or steal' some sort of peace. This could ultimately cut their losses, to start with through an understanding that is most feasible for the U.S. in the hole which it has dug up in the last nine years, thanks to the neo-cons and their oil lobby accomplices.... In the current situation, Afghanistan has too much importance for the U.S. and its interests. The country is the gateway to the huge energy resources lying ready to be traded with technological investment. This is besides the colossal deposits known to be herded in the Caspian Sea. If the U.S. fails to utilize these with the willing cooperation of the local partners, others in the area may find some way of turning 'gold-diggers', as the demand for energy remains intact despite the economic meltdown. Moreover, backtracking by the U.S. in Afghanistan would raise new specters, perhaps genuine ones, for itself as well as the regional countries that supported it since 9/11. Now the Afghans generally have mixed feelings for the U.S., and resentment against the foreign forces is building up openly."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson

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