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	UTED-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00	ISNE-00
	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00
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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JANUARY 02, 2009

Summary: Today newspapers differed in their choice of lead stories. Some dailies highlighted reports that "people throughout the country staged protests to vent their anger over power outages with angry protesters in Faisalabad burnt business centers and vehicles." Reports on "U.S. drone attack that killed four foreign militants in South Waziristan Agency" and "military operation in Khyber Agency" (to open U.S. supply routes) dominated headlines in several newspapers on Friday. In an exclusive story, the English daily, "Dawn," reported that the U.S. administration "wants Mumbai suspects tried in Pakistan, not to call for extradition." Most newspapers ran remarks by Indian FM that "FBI has Islamabad 'strong' evidence of Pakistani links to the Mumbai terrorist attacks." Newspapers highlighted the Pakistan Foreign Office's statement dispelling perception of any state institution's involvement in acts of

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terrorism. Also underscored by newspaper reports that the "government has decided to set up a high-level body to deal with terrorism."

Most major dailies continued to run editorial on the current showdown between Pakistan and India. The English language daily, "The News," noted that "it is not good to deny reality, which included the fact that we have in our midst and within our borders extremism and militancy being perpetrated by actors who are known to be involved in acts of terrorism that have occurred not only inside Pakistan but also well beyond its borders." The center-right national daily, "The Nation," urged the world "to accept General Kiyani's demand and put pressure on India to cooperate with Pakistan by sharing all details of the evidence it has about Mumbai killings." The liberal Urdu daily, "Express," observed that "in the new year, Pakistan and India must reject war, promote peace, and revive relations like good neighbors." End Summary.

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News Stories  
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"Public Anger Boils Over Power Outages" "The Nation" (01/02)

"People throughout the country stages street protests on Thursday to vent their anger over unremitting and unannounced load-shedding of electricity with angry protesters in Faisalabad burnt business centers and vehicles. Hundreds of power-loom workers took to the streets against the unscheduled power outages and torched a bakery, several vehicles, attacked government offices and smashed windowpanes of many shops in Faisalabad."

"U.S. Drones Kill Four Foreign Militants" "The News" (01/02)

"Two CIA-operated drones on Thursday attacked the Karikot village of South Waziristan Agency (SWA), killing four suspected foreigners and injuring scores of others. Residents of Laman village near Karikot town, eight kilometers south of Wana, the headquarters of the SWA, told 'The News' by telephone that six drones were flying over the town during the attack."

"Please Stop Drone Attacks, Qureshi Asks U.S." "The News" (01/02)

"Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday urged the United States to stop drone attacks inside Pakistan's territory. 'As a friend we are telling them, don't do it. The drone attacks are not in the interest of U.S. and Pakistan. U.S. should review this policy for achieving better results,' he said while speaking in Geo TV channel program 'Capital Talk.'"

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"Major Gains Claimed In Khyber Agency Operations Supply To NATO Forces May Resume In Two Days" "The News" (01/02)

"Claiming a major breakthrough on the third day of the ongoing operation against the militants and outlaws in the Khyber Agency, the political authorities on Thursday hinted at reopening the Pak-Afghan Highway by Saturday. Authorities said 80 percent of the targets were achieved as several notorious criminals were either arrested or they surrendered to the administration after finding no way out."

"Several Militants, Soldier Die In Mohmand" "The News" (01/02)

"One soldier was killed and two others sustained injuries as clashes between the security forces and militants continued in Safi tehsil and adjoining areas of Mohmand Agency for the second consecutive day on Thursday."

"Troops Seize Taliban Supplies, 10 Arrested In Mohmand Agency" "Daily Times" (01/02)

"Security forces on Thursday arrested 10 suspected Taliban along with their supplies from Kazari area. The security forces recovered a huge cache of arms, including explosives and suicide jackets, from the possession of the arrested Taliban."

"U.S. Wants Mumbai Suspects Tried In Pakistan, But To Call For Extradition" "Dawn" (01/02)

"The U.S. administration is now urging Pakistan to ensure that those responsible for the Mumbai terror attacks are punished inside the country instead of being extradited to India, U.S. sources told 'Dawn.' According to the sources, the Bush administration has informed the government of Pakistan that it would like it to initiate 'prosecution with sufficient efforts to ensure conviction.'"

"FBI Provided Pakistan Strong Evidence: India" "The News" (01/02)

"India said on Thursday the FBI had presented strong evidence to Islamabad of Pakistani links to November's militants attacks in Mumbai that killed 179 people, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in an interview with the NDTV news channel."

"No State Institution Involved In Terrorism: FO" "The News" 01/02)

"Pakistan on Thursday hit out strongly at the criticism that some elements in the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) were involved in acts of terrorism and were not in control of the government."

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'Pakistan's government and state institutions are committed to the war against terror. Therefore, vilifying Pakistan or for that matter any of its state institutions on this score is unwarranted and unacceptable. In Pakistan's view, in the given situation, what is needed is more accurate alignment in the perception and interests of Afghanistan, Pakistan, U.S./NATO and countries in the region that have stakes in the struggle against terrorism. It will be helpful to win the war against terror besides dispelling mutual misgivings among them. We have enhanced our engagement with all concerned,' said the spokesman at the Foreign Office at an online media briefing."

"Government To Set Up Body To Deal With Terrorism; National Commission For Counter Terrorism' To Get Constitutional Cover"  
"Daily Times" (01/02)

"The government has decided to set up a high-level body - the proposed 'National Commission for Counter-Terrorism - to coordinate efforts in countering the threat posed by the Taliban, a private TV channel reported on Thursday as President Asif Ali Zardari called on the nation to put aside their differences and unite in fighting the war on terror. According to the channel, the commission - to be a constitutional body - would be headed by a 'top-level professional' to prepare and execute strategies, and recently retired Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) chief Tariq Pervaiz is likely to be the first choice for the post. Currently, the Inter-Services Intelligence, FIA and the Intelligence Bureau are all involved in counter-terrorism efforts, but there is no 'umbrella organisation' to coordinate their work, the channel said, adding that a 'one-window task force' is required to coordinate the counter-terrorism efforts of these agencies."

"Taliban Execute 'Kidnapper'" "Dawn" (01/02)

"The Taliban publicly executed an alleged ring leader of a gang of kidnappers in the Kurram tribal region on Thursday."

"Taliban Stand Divided Over Female Education" "The Nation" (01/02)

"Differences have emerged in the ranks of Pakistani Taliban over the issue of women's education as militants from Swat, contrary to their central leadership, want complete ban on female education."

"10 Militants, 3 FC Men Die In Clash" "Dawn" (01/02)

"At least three security personnel and 10 militants were killed in a clash near Uch gas field, in Dera Bugti district, Balochistan on

Thursday, Frontier Corps Inspector-General Maj-Gen Saleem Nawaz said."

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Editorials/Op-eds  
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"Pushing War Further Back," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/02)

"Indian Defence Minister P. Chidambaram's statement on December 31 that India had ruled out 'hot pursuit' in the case of its ongoing tensions with Pakistan is a welcome step towards defusing the situation.... Having said this, India would do well to act on the suggestions proposed by the Pakistani foreign minister on December 30, with regard to the troops deployment by New Delhi and the activation of its forward operating bases. For its part, Pakistan should vigorously pursue the investigation of links to the Mumbai attacks of its own nationals. If such links are indeed found and proven, then such individuals must be prosecuted and punished with the full force of the law. After all, it is not good to deny reality, which includes the fact that we have in our midst and within our borders extremism and militancy being perpetrated by actors who are known to be involved in acts of terrorism that have occurred not only inside Pakistan but also well beyond its borders."

"A Changing Scenario," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/02)

"While the danger of a military confrontation between India and Pakistan has not completely vanished, there are indications that the leaderships of both countries as well as the U.S. have realized that maintaining the present tempo of tension would not be in anyone's interest except that of the terrorists.... The world ought to accept COAS Gen. Ashfaq Pervez Kayani's demand and put pressure on India to cooperate with Pakistan by sharing all details of the evidence it has about the Mumbai killings. It would then rest with Pakistan to investigate whether its soil has been used to mastermind them and in case the Indian charges turn out to be correct, the international community could see whether the guilty are punished."

"The Need To End India-Pakistan Tension Completely," an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (1/2)

"The Indian PM and Pakistani President have assured President Bush that they would avoid measures that could increase tensions between the two neighbors.... Even though it realized the gravity of the situation quite late in the day, it is good that the U.S. is also striving to de-escalate tension between India and Pakistan. For the U.S., the most worrisome aspect was that if tensions increased, Pakistan would be compelled to withdraw troops from its western

border and deploy them along the eastern border. UNCLASSIFIED This became the reason for a change in the U.S. stance.... In the new year, Pakistan and India must reject war and promote peace, and revive relations like good neighbors. There should be no delay in sincere efforts to improve ties and bring a permanent end to tensions."

"Concern For Peace," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (01/02)

"Blame game between the two countries would lead to nowhere, and the terrorists will be the only beneficiary. The terrorists want to destabilize the whole region. Common sense dictates that there should be an end to knee-jerk reactions, and the terrorists' challenge is met with. The call from President Bush and the efforts by friendly countries indicate the way the two countries should like."

"India Should Review Its Objectives," an editorial in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (1/2)

"President Bush's telephonic contact with Indian PM Singh and President Zardari shows that the U.S. wants to bring back normalcy in India-Pakistan relations. It is doing so not out of any goodwill for these countries but for its own long-term interests in the region.... The one thing that helped most to prevent India [from aggression] was Pakistan Army's stance that it would divert troops from the western border to the eastern border in case of Indian

aggression. This hit bulls-eye and left the American officials astonished. It led to Indo-Pak visits by several U.S. officials including Rice, Boucher and Mike Mullen so that the threat of war could be averted.... However, it is important that India improve the performance of its national security institutions. Otherwise God forbid if another explosion happens tomorrow, India would again point its finger at Pakistan."

"No Chance Of Pakistan-India War," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (01/02)

"The President Bush's phone to Pakistan and Indian leaders and the diplomatic efforts proved productive, and it is a matter of satisfaction for the people of the South Asia that there is no more likelihood of conflict between the two nuclear-power neighbors. It will certainly remove uncertainties and suspicions, and life will return to normalcy gradually."

"Bush's Call To President Zardari," an editorial in the Karachi-based right-wing pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Urdu daily "Jasarat"

(cir. 3,000) (01/02)

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"Bush's Call To President Zardari," an editorial in the Karachi-based right-wing pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Urdu daily "Jasarat" (cir. 3,000) (01/02)

"U.S. outgoing President Bush's telephone call to President Zardari demonstrates that the clouds of war have not disappeared yet, as we see continuous international diplomatic efforts. But these all efforts are directed at putting pressure on Pakistan, post-Mumbai attacks events made it clear the truth that the U.S. intervention in Pakistan's internal matters is on rise. On the contrary, we don't see any effort or noticeable concerns by the International community to stop Israeli airstrikes on Palestinians in Gaza Strip."

"Mumbai: Time For Joint Investigation," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (01/02)

"The joint effort is all the more necessary because of a number of 'unofficial' stories flying around. If investigators from India and Pakistan don't get together in a joint commission and share information, these stories are going to dominate the scene and highlight the two irreconcilable assessments of a single event. This is how conflict is born and is nurtured by states at odds with each other. The Indian and Pakistani publics will be the consumers of these clashing narratives and this will damage the prospects of normalization so essential in these economically difficult times."

"Addressing Mumbai," an op-ed by Babar Sattar in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/02)

"It is true and shameful that successive Pakistani governments have handed citizens over to the U.S. as a matter of routine in complete derogation of due process and legal requirements. Pakistan's unprincipled and spineless conduct in dealing with the U.S. - in terms of handing over people as well as allowing drone attacks on its territory - has set a terrible precedent that India now wishes to emulate. But India's demand to hand over people without due process and desire to carry out limited surgical strikes can neither be backed by principle nor supported on grounds of pragmatism."

"2009: We Must Avail Every Moment Of This Year," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (01/02)

"U.S. President-elect Barack Obama is going to take oath of his office on January 20. He must play his role to get resolve the outstanding issues of this region, particularly the Kashmir dispute that has become a nuclear flashpoint for the world. Kashmir issue

is not a feud of a piece of land only. It is a question of fundamental human rights of 10 million Kashmiri people." UNCLASSIFIED

"The Slaughter Continues," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (01/02)

"The slaughter currently underway in Gaza is likely to continue since Israel has ruled out a truce that is urgently needed to rush

in essential supplies to avert a humanitarian disaster.... What is going on in Gaza, according to the western media, is 'violence' and not Israeli aggression that aims not only to destroy Hamas but sow terror among the Palestinians."

"International Community's Appeal And Obstinacy Of Israel," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (01/02)

"It is regrettable that the Arab states are silent over Israeli aggression, and the OIC and other Muslim countries have also not responded fittingly. Moreover, Egypt has blocked the humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian victims. The Muslim countries must remember that their silence on this issue will without doubt embolden Israel and it will extend its hostility to other countries as well. And the U.S. will not help resolve this issue, as its friendship is an illusion for Muslim countries."

"Now Bombardment In Khyber Agency," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (01/02)

"As tension on the Eastern border is apparently subsiding, attention is once again focusing on the Western frontier where law-enforcing agencies have launched a deadly operation in Khyber Agency with the objective of clearing the route of supply for NATO occupation forces in Afghanistan.... We have been emphasizing that operation, if absolutely necessary to establish writ of the Government, should be swift and short and the gains so made must be consolidated with the support of local people. However, the ongoing operation shows that our strategy is devoid of any long-term planning and, therefore, a shift is required as history tells us that tribal areas cannot be tamed with the use of force."

"U.S.-Pakistan Bilateral Investment Treaty," letter to the Editor by Anne W. Patterson United States Ambassador to Pakistan in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (01/02)

"A signed Bilateral Investment Treaty would boost overseas investor



confidence in Pakistan, encourage ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ engage in Pakistan's market and attract much needed foreign investment funds to the country. Foreign investment, in turn, has the potential to bring jobs to Pakistan, increase government revenues, replace imports with local production, and create further business opportunities through the development of local supplier bases."

"Electricity, Gas And Petrol Shortage, And People's Protest," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (1/2)

"Let alone good governance, we don't have even governance in the country. The policies we see today are the same as in Musharraf's dictatorship, where all resources are being allocated for the elite, and all power concentrated in one individual.... All plans of the center and provincial governments completing five years will disappear if this situation [of gas, power and petrol shortage] persists. The nation, troubled by myriad issues, will be compelled to turn against the rulers. This situation is like paving the way for a bloody revolution."

"2008: An Overview," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (1/2)

"Despite the ups and downs of 2008, differences between political parties, and unfulfilled expectations, it should be a source of satisfaction that democracy has been restored in the country after 8 years of dictatorship. The newly elected parliament has the authority to restore the constitution to its original form; and would have the Muslim-League Nawaz's support in this effort. Similarly, it would enjoy support from all the political parties if it decides to restore the judiciary."

Patterson

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