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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 SAS-00 /000W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8709

INFO [REDACTED]

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8710

RELEASED IN PART  
B3, NSA50, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

B3

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 002973

DECAPTIONED

EXDIS  
NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/09/2018

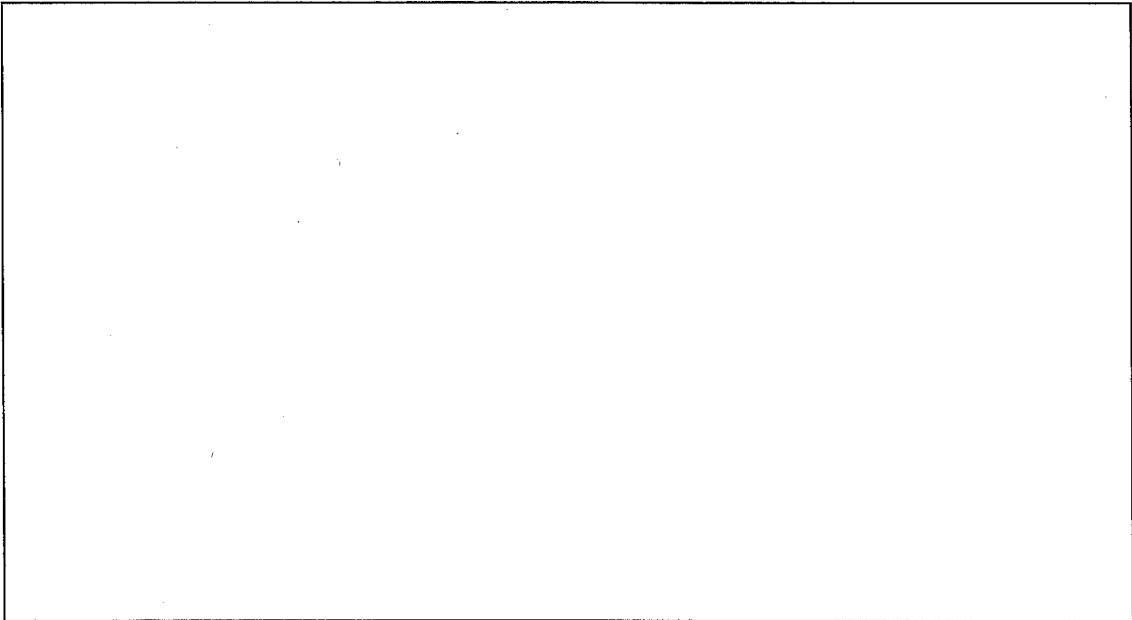
TAGS: PREL, PTER, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI REACTION TO THE U.S. RAID ON WAZIRISTAN

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 2380 (NOTAL)

B. ISLAMABAD 2907

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, for reasons 1.4 (b) (d)



B1

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7. (SBU) Zardari is quoted in the press as condemning what he called an "outrageous and unacceptable violation of the territorial integrity of the country" and calling for an investigation and adoption of "foolproof" measures so that such incidents do not occur in the future. He continued, saying that for the fight against militancy to succeed, it was imperative that any action on the Pakistani side of the border was taken "only by Pakistan forces and not by the coalition forces in violation of Pakistan's territorial integrity." Interior Minister Malik told the press that the U.S. should stop intrusions into tribal areas of Pakistan as a mark of respect for parliamentary and public sentiments.

Military Reaction  
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9. (SBU) The Pakistani military's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press spokesman MG Abbas September 3 condemned "the attack by ISAF forces" as a "completely unprovoked act of killing" and said that such acts of aggression do not serve the common cause of fighting terrorism and militancy in the area. On September 5, Abbas noted in an interview with the Voice of America that the latest attacks from U.S. drones in South Waziristan could force the local people to revolt. He added that innocent people had been killed in these attacks and indicated that this would increase the popularity of militants and intensify problems for the security forces.

Unanimous Parliamentary Condemnation  
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12. (SBU) The Senate and National Assembly sessions generated "fiery" debates by parliamentarians who urged that the GOP take measures to repel future attacks with full force. FM Qureshi told the National Assembly that the U.S. raid was "regrettable, shameful and surprising." After tabling a condemnation resolution that was passed unanimously by the National Assembly and the Senate, Qureshi said, "We strongly condemn the unprovoked attack." He claimed that there had been no "high value" targets in the village and "only innocent children and women were targeted. Coalition forces will have to review their policy. Incidents like this will only fuel hatred among the tribal people."

13. (SBU) The resolution called on the government to tell ISAF that such violations were bound to force fundamental changes of foreign policy "by a key ally in the so-called war on terrorism." Qureshi also said that the attack was a violation of the rules of engagement for ISAF and that the NATO chief was unaware of the attack, which was a violation of international norms and principles. Qureshi noted that the newly established Border Coordination Center at Torkham (where U.S., Pakistani and Afghan forces sit together to monitor cross-border incidents) had not been consulted. (Subsequently, the Northwest Frontier Province, Punjab and Sindh Assemblies also overwhelmingly approved resolutions condemning the raid.)

14. (SBU) During the parliamentary debate, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Senator Ishak Dar accused former President Musharraf of making Pakistan a slave of a nuclear power and urged that "we have to change the slavish mentality" so there would no longer be a foreign stakeholder in Pakistani affairs. Awami National Party leader Asfundyar Wali Khan said "we will not tolerate incidents like this." Jamiat Islami Senator Khurshid Ahmed said verbal condemnations were not enough; violators, whether troops or helicopters, should be shot. Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Senator Mandokhel, however, said it was the fault of the government for allowing

foreign militants to capture Pakistan territory and  
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compromise the country's sovereignty. Outside the chambers,  
protesting lawyers shouted the slogan "whoever is a friend of  
America is a traitor."

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Editorials/Op-eds  
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15. (U) "Waziristan Attacked," an editorial in the  
Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily  
"Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (09/05)

"There is no doubt that the militants operating in Pakistan's  
tribal areas pose a threat to not just the Americans and  
other foreigners in Afghanistan but to Pakistan itself. They  
must be dealt with - and dealt with forcefully. However, a  
go-it-alone strategy by the U.S. inside Pakistan will spell  
nothing but trouble for everyone."

16. (U) "NATO Forces' Aggression: What Is Pakistani  
Leadership Waiting For?," an editorial in the Peshawar-based  
Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (09/05)

"The NATO forces' military action prior to Pakistan  
presidential elections demonstrates that the United States  
still considers Pakistan a slave country of General

Musharraf's era. There is no difference of opinion on this  
issue that our too much obedience to the United States and  
cowardice has emboldened the allied forces."

17. (U) "Naked American Aggression," an editorial in the  
popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000)  
(09/05)

"Whenever the United States violates Pakistani borders, and  
attacks our tribal areas, Pakistani government and Pak Army  
always lodge a feeble protest so that the U.S. does not mind  
that complaint. And our leaders immediately issue a  
stereotype statement that 'Pakistan will not tolerate such  
attack in future.' Instead the government must say that  
Pakistan will strike back in a befitting manner."

18. (U) "U.S. Ground And Aerial Attacks on Our Homeland,"  
an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist  
Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (09/05)

"Previously, Defense Minister Ahmed Mukhtar found it  
difficult to counter high altitude air strikes by America and

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now he has created justification for the U.S. ground attack by saying that, there must have been a reason for the U.S. ground forces' attack. What justification Prime Minister Gilani has to keep a defense minister who sees the danger and who justifies the threat.... After becoming the President Asif Zardari should declare, in his first policy statement, America as the enemy country and withdraw Pakistan from this war of American interest."

19. (U) "Ground Realities," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/05)

"The situation now seems to be worsening with the U.S. apparently no longer sharing advance information about predator strikes or other aerial offenses. Of course Washington is at fault.... But it is also true the situation is, in part at least, of Pakistan's own creation. Washington, like many within the country, is convinced intelligence agencies or elements within them are linked to militants.... The task of Pakistan in tackling the problem will become even harder, the perceptions that this is a war fought on behalf of others more strongly rooted."

20. (U) "NATO Forces' Condemnable Activities And Our Policies," an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (circ. 10,000) (09/05)

"Leaders of almost all political parties have termed the U.S.-NATO operation an attack on Pakistan's sovereignty. The fact that all parties agree on this stance is a positive sign in the present scenario of political division in the country.

However, these statements will have no value until the political leadership gives priority to national duties over their personal interests. Today, the Pakistani nation is justified in asking why the newly elected government is avoiding analyzing the role we opted for as America's ally."

21. (U) "Outrageous," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (09/05)

"The U.S. has an ignominious record of violating Pakistan's territorial sovereignty in pursuit of its targets, killing innocent tribesmen and not sparing even security personnel.... The incident is all the more serious as it comes in the wake of the meeting between the U.S. and Pakistan top brass aboard U.S. carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, two weeks back.... It transpires now that the U.S. still does not trust Pakistan's security apparatus and instead of sharing actionable information and letting it deal with any possible militant threat, prefers to launch attacks

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inside Pakistan's territory on its own. She had hoped that, after General Musharraf's resignation, the elected government would take a firm stand against the violation of Pakistan's sovereignty."

22. (U) "Anoor Adda Killings," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (09/05)

"The death of civilians in the attack will further increase anti-U.S. sentiment. Militants take advantage of the

situation and are able to lure more recruits into their fold. Such strikes have to be carried out with accurate intelligence.... A further intensity in the hatred against the U.S. among the local population in the tribal areas or elsewhere will not only damage the cause of the war on terror but would also create unmanageable problems for the government of Pakistan, which would, again, strike a blow to the efforts for the war on terror."

23. (U) "Fast Eroding State Sovereignty & Writ Of Govt.," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (09/05)

"Americans have once again proved that they are trigger happy and have no interest in resolution of problems through peaceful means. Ground assault is a sort of declaration of war and Pakistan must reassess its policy and kind of cooperation being extended to the occupation forces in Afghanistan that are the root cause of the trouble in the region. Mere lodging of protest by Foreign Office or issuance of condemnatory statements would not work."

24. (U) "Deteriorating Ties," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,00) (09/08)

"Is America a friend or foe? If that is ambiguous today there is no doubt that the coming days will settle the issue one way or another. Distrust has been building up between the leader of the war on terror and the "front-line state" for years. It centers on America's belief that Pakistan is not doing enough and that elements in the ISI are helping the Taliban. Consequently, American leaders, including President Bush threatened to act unilaterally in FATA if "actionable intelligence" were available. The threat was translated into action in full force in South Waziristan last week. The strong reaction in Pakistan and the condemnatory resolution passed by parliament seem not to have mattered

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with Washington, for it has launched more attacks since  
then...It is time Islamabad sorted out its relationship with  
Washington..."

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