

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART
B3, NSA50

A155

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00		INL-00
	DOFE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	NIMA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SCA-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/001W			

B3

-----F09C2D 280849Z /38

O 280751Z OCT 08
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9505
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 003397

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: OCTOBER 28, 2008

Summary: Reports on the Senate passing a "strongly-worded resolution condemning frequent deadly missile attacks by U.S.-led forces against militant hideouts in Pakistan" dominated headlines in all newspapers on Tuesday. Also front-paged were reports that a mini-Jirga between Pakistan and Afghanistan called for a "joint strategy to bring peace to the two countries." Photographs and reports of a bomb blast in Quetta killing two people received prominent coverage. All newspapers also reported that "an important Taliban commander was among the 20 militants killed in a missile attack by a U.S. drone in South Waziristan on Sunday.

Most major dailies ran detailed analytical editorials on the situation in the troubled province of Balochistan in the light of the recommendations put forth by a special government committee.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 24 JUN 2011 201000373

UNCLASSIFIED
 DRONE/DOS/001418

News Stories

1. "Asif's Credibility Questioned: Senate Denounces Missile Attack"
"Dawn" (10/28)

"Both foes and friends raised questions about President Asif Ali Zardari's credibility as the Senate began debating his last month's address to Parliament on Monday, after demanding 'more effective measures' by the government to stop U.S. drone attacks on tribal areas. A demonstration of consensus in passing a strongly-worded resolution that condemned frequent deadly missile attacks by U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan against perceived militant hideouts."

2. "U.S. Raids Breach Of Pakistan Sovereignty; Senate Says protests, Appeals Not Enough" "The Nation" (10/28)

"The Upper House of the Parliament on Monday unanimously passed resolution against violation of Pakistan's sovereignty by repeated attacks of U.S. drones. Senate strongly condemned attacks and violation of the country's sovereignty was unacceptable in any form.... Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad said that passing resolutions only was a useless practice and the country's sovereignty could only be safeguarded with strength. 'Sovereignty could not be safeguarded through appeals, requests and verbal protests,' he said."

3. "Pak-Afghan Jirga For Joint Efforts Against Terror: Reconciliation, Talks Vital For Lasting Success: Qureshi" "Daily Times" (10/28)

"Negotiations and reconciliation are necessary to succeed in combating terrorism and extremism, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Monday. He said terrorism posed the gravest threat to Pakistan and Afghanistan and both countries should forge closer co-operation to eliminate the menace, while addressing the inaugural session of the Pak-Afghan mini-Jirga."

4. "Mini-Jirga Urges Joint Strategy To Bring Peace" "Dawn" (10/28)

"A mini-Jirga between Pakistan and Afghanistan began on Monday with calls for a joint strategy to bring peace to the two countries."

5. "Mini Jirga To Name 10 Delegates For Talks With Militants" "The News" (10/28)

"The Pak-Afghan Mini-Jirga, that began in Islamabad on Monday, is expected to appoint five delegates each from Afghanistan and Pakistan to establish contact and hold peace talks with armed opposition groups."

6. "Quetta Car Bomb Blast Kills Two" "Dawn" (10/28)

"Two people were killed and 12 others injured on Monday when a bomb planted in a car went off."

7. "Commander Among 20 Killed In U.S. Drone Raid" "Dawn" (10/28)

"An important Taliban commander, Muhammad Omar, was among 20 militants killed in a missile attack by a U.S. drone in Shakai area of South Waziristan on Sunday night, sources said."

8. "5 Militants Killed In Bajaur" "Dawn" (10/28)

"Five suspected militants were killed and several others injured as security forces continued pounding militant hideouts in the Bajaur Agency on Monday."

9. "Four Civilians Among 15 Killed In Swat" "Dawn" (10/28)

"A paramilitary soldier, 10 militants and two civilians were killed in clashes on Monday while Taliban claimed executing two more hostages."

10. "U.S. Expert Warns Against Unilateral Actions In Pakistan" "The News" (10/28)

"Reminding the U.S. of dire implications of unilateral actions into Pakistani territory, a former State Department Advisor and a top American scholar on South Asia Marvin Weinbaum has instead called for multidimensional cooperation with Pakistan to help stamp out militancy along its Afghan border."

 Editorials/Op-eds

11. "Repeated Missile Strikes: Government's Helplessness And The Political Leadership's Insensitivity," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (10/28)

"Having issued a couple of bold statements Army Chief Ashfaq Pervez Kayani now only says that the Pakistan Army would abide by the decisions taken by the parliament and the government. The fact of the matter is that this is the time when the government and the army

should tell the nation whether they have ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ considered before America."

12. "PM's Reaction At U.S. Strikes," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (10/28)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said that American attacks are undermining the government's efforts aimed at isolating the Taliban and mobilizing the people against militancy.... The Prime Minister is right when he said that American attacks result in more militancy and more problems for the government.... We regret to state that signs for the implementation of the Parliament resolution have not appeared yet while the government policy is ambiguous. For national reconciliation a special parliamentary committee should be formed for initiating dialogue with Taliban."

13. "Drones And Disasters," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/28)

"The incident exposes the inability of Pakistan to do very much about the attacks. But at the same time the Prime Minister has shown his commitment to the unanimous resolution by parliament on combating terror.... It is only a consistent demonstration of Pakistan's willingness to take on terrorists with full force that may eventually persuade Washington to alter its present policies."

14. "Prime Minister's Criticism On American Attacks," an editorial in the Karachi-based right-wing pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Urdu daily "Jasarat" (cir. 3,000) (10/28)

"Except the pro-American elements in Pakistan, the rest of the country is unanimous and united to end military operations in FATA and NWFP and withdraw troops. Instead of ending military operations, Government of Pakistan is raising a counter army of tribesman to start a civil war in FATA."

15. "Unending Attacks," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (10/28)

"The attacks are a display of desperation by the Bush Administration, which wants to kill or capture, whatever it takes, any high-profile figure from the Al-Qaeda's top leadership in the hope that it might enable it to win the Presidential race.... Condemnations have failed to work. So have formal protests or raising the issue at an international forum. The only way left for the government now is to call on the Army to do whatever it can to stop the hostile actions."

16. "Diverging Perspective," an editorial in the Lahore-based

"There is hardly any doubt left in deducing that the trust deficit between Islamabad and Washington is evaporating and the two key allies in war on terror are falling apart in their endeavor to quell the threat of extremism in the dreary expanses on Pak-Afghan borders.... Now that the finance-strapped U.S. is no more in a position to afford the cost of this ill-advised war on terror, Islamabad must come up with what it has up its sleeves in clear terms to tackle the volatile situation in the tribal belt."

17. "Fight For Bajaur," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/28)

"The public has been provided its first look at the situation in militant-infested Bajaur, where the military has been battling terrorists for almost two months now. The IG Frontier Corps, for the first time since the operation began, took journalists on a guided tour of the area of combat. The visit in itself indicates growing military confidence, with the media personnel briefed about the long, hard fight waged to regain control over key territories. The situation in Bajaur, where intense fighting has continued for weeks and it seems it will go on for many more days yet, is a frightening reminder of how great the militant menace has become."

18. "From Karachi To Swat," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (10/28)

"From Karachi to Swat, the Taliban are active.... The crackdown launched on the Swat rebels in November last has no doubt made some headway, but as Sunday's crime shows Fazlullah's men are far from vanquished and are still quite capable of making mischief. In Bajaur the military for the moment seems to have the upper hand, and the militants have shown a desire to negotiate. However, a well-coordinated strategy to crush the rebellion appears to be missing."

19. "Dialogue With Militants," an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (10/28)

"Central to the consensus resolution adopted by the Parliament last Wednesday on national security, is the call to hold dialogue with the militants. But does an atmosphere conducive to holding a dialogue exist?... There are many questions. Who should talk to whom? What should be the preconditions that must be set and firmed up before a fruitful dialogue is undertaken? And, who would guarantee implementation of the peace agreement if reached?"

20. "Hope And Fear In NWFP," an op-ed by ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ Azid in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/28)

"While Pakistan has been trying in the National Assembly to get to grips with the problems related to terrorism, the U.S. policy related to drone attacks is a cause of concern and creates a lot of ill will against the U.S. - each attack reduces the good will for the U.S.... The drone attack is not a good sign and the U.S. must reconsider its drones policy, because it is not winning the Americans any friends."

Patterson

NNNN