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	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
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	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
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 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
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 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: DECEMBER 30, 2008

Summary: All newspapers on Tuesday highlighted Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yafei's remarks expressing "deep concerns" over Indo-Pak face-off while urging the South Asian nuclear neighbors to "move towards de-escalation of tension and resume dialogue" for resolution of all issues. Newspapers front-paged Secretary Rice's phone call to President Zardari and Indian FM Mukherjee urging "restraint" as Pakistan decided to "redeploy troops from Afghan to the Indian border." Reports and photographs of Ambassador Patterson's meeting with PM's Finance Advisor Tareen were also highlighted.

Newspapers ran editorials on a host of subjects concerning national security and other issues. In its editorial on "Buner attack", the English daily, "Dawn," commented that the "militants appear to be going from strength to strength and, as the Buner attack

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illustrates, are expanding their area of operation." Likewise another daily, "The News," noted that "what the attack does prove is that even after what the military has described as an 'all-out' push, the militants seem able to strike at will." However, the Peshawar-based Urdu daily, "Mashriq," observed that the "forces that are providing financial resources and weapons to the militants are paving way for an uprising in the NWFP to achieve their long-term objectives and to plunder the natural resources of this land." End Summary.

News Stories

"China Urges India share Evidence With Pakistan" "The Nation"
(12/30)

"China on Monday expressed its deep concern over Indo-Pak standoff. while urging the South Asian nuclear neighbors to move towards de-escalation of tension and resume dialogue for the resolution of all bilateral disputes. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei, who reached here Sunday as a special envoy of his country to help defuse the Indo-Pak tension.... He Yafei also urged India that it should share Mumbai attacks evidence with Pakistan."

"Rice Urges Restraint As Relocation Of Troops Alarms U.S." "Dawn"
(12/30)

"Pakistan's decision to redeploy troops from the Afghan to the Indian border appears to have alarmed Washington, forcing Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to telephone President Asif Zardari and Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee. 'She has made it part of her conversations to note that tensions are already high, that neither side should be taking actions that increase those tensions,' said department spokesman Gordon Duguid while commenting on the telephone calls."

"Gilani Denies Deal With Local Taliban" "Dawn" (12/30)

"Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has denied that the government has reached an agreement with local Taliban under which the later will not create any trouble if troops are pulled out of tribal areas and deployed along the Pakistan-India border, while talking to reporters after inaugurating the campus of the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Islamabad on Monday."

"Appointment Of Special U.S. Envoy On SA Worries Delhi" "Pakistan Observer" (12/30)

"The strongest likelihood of appointment of a Special Envoy on South

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Asia by the new U.S. administration after January 20, 2009, rattles New Delhi, strategic reports said amidst fresh strategic studies stressing settlement of Kashmir dispute to spare more space to Pakistan towards new 'regional policy' in the making in USA."

"Tareen And Patterson Discuss U.S. Economic Help To Pakistan" "Daily Times," "Dawn," "The News," "The Nation," "Pakistan Observer," "Business Recorder" (12/30)

"Pakistan and the United States on Monday agreed to create a mechanism to channel U.S. economic support to targeted areas for the development of various sectors and genuinely facilitating the people. The decision was made during Finance Adviser Shaukat Tareen's meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson."

"Zardari's Kabul Visit Now Around January 7" "The News" (12/30)

"President Asif Zardari, who could not undertake his first visit to Afghanistan on December 19 due to bad weather, is now expected to make the trip on or around January 7."

"Half Of Pakistanis Believe U.S. Missile Strikes Ineffective" "Daily Times" (12/30)

"Amid a surge in suspected U.S. missile strikes in the Tribal Areas, a poll conducted by a U.S.-based economic and socioeconomic research organisation (Gallup) shows that nearly half of the Pakistanis questioned (48 percent) do not believe the U.S. missile strikes are effective, while just 5 percent say they are effective - with the remaining refusing to express an opinion."

"Taliban Seek Government Apology Over 'Civilian' Killings In Drone Hits" "Daily Times" (12/30)

"Maulvi Nazir, the Taliban Chief in Ahmadzai Wazir areas of South Waziristan Agency, on Monday asked the government to apologize for killing of civilians and Mujahideen by drones attacks carried out by the United States-led coalition."

"Bilour Calls For FATA Merger With NWFP" "The News" (12/30)

"Senior Minister Bashir Ahmad Bilour said the merger of tribal areas with NWFP is the need of the hour to purge the tribal areas of 'criminal elements and foreign agents while its present status is also causing difficulties, not only for the tribal people and the province but also for entire country."

"Israeli Attacks On Hamas To Continue, Says U.S." "Dawn" (12/30)

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"The White House said on Monday that it will continue its military operations against the Palestinians in Gaza, ignoring worldwide protests calling for forcing the Jewish state to stop the attacks, said White House National Security Adviser Gordon Johndroe."

"Toll Climbs To 364 As Israel Terms It 'All-Out War'" "Dawn" (12/30)

"Israeli air strikes flattened bastions of Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip on Monday - the third day of an offensive that has killed more than 364 Palestinians in the deadliest violence in the territory in decades."

"UN Chief Seeks Peace But Israel Keeps Up Air Raids" "The News" (12/30)

"UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday urged Arab and world leaders to do more to immediately end the 'unacceptable' violence in the Gaza Strip as Israel bombed the region for the third day."

"U.S. Lobbying Firm Quietly Ditches PPP" "The News" (12/30)

"Renowned American global public relations firm Burson-Marsteller, headed by U.S. Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton's campaign strategist Mark Penn, has quietly ended a two-year relationship with the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) by pulling out of the deal inked by Asif Ali Zardari in January 2007.... Pakistan mission in Washington has expressed ignorance about any deal or its break-up since 'it has got nothing to do with the government.' The government has engaged another firm 'Locke Lord' for lobbying purpose, the mission's senior officials said when contacted by 'The News' on Monday evening."

"Three More Oil Tankers Bombed" "The News" (12/30)

"Three oil tankers carrying fuel for the U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan were destroyed in a bomb attack on Pak-Afghan border at Torkham on Monday evening."

"NATO Supplies: Transporters Still Afraid Of Retaliatory Attacks" "Dawn" (12/30)

"Three weeks after Taliban militants torched over 200 NATO vehicles on the outskirts of Peshawar, Karachi-based transporters continue to be affected. Although the limited transport of NATO supplies from

Karachi to Peshawar - and from there on to Afghanistan - has resumed, local transporters remain afraid of retaliatory attacks by militants."

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"Two Gas Pipelines Blown Up" "Dawn" (12/30)

"Two pipelines supplying gas to the Sui purification plant from Pirkoh and Loti gas fields (Baluchistan) were blown up by militants early on Monday morning."

Editorials/Op-eds

"Buner Attack," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (12/30)

"The militants appear to be going from strength to strength and, as the Buner attack illustrates, are expanding their area of operation. Worryingly, the state's consensus to fight the militants appears to be faltering.... But with the Taliban in the ascendant, now is not the time to back off."

"Buner Bombing," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (12/30)

"What the attack does prove is that even after what the military has described as an 'all-out' push, the militants seem able to strike at will. This is hardly reassuring. The latest attack targets democracy as well as what remains of the writ of the state.... The well-planned bombing at a polling station is the latest example of the scale of the threat terrorism poses. We must, from somewhere, gather together the will to vanquish it."

"Buner Tragedy - A Wicked Plan To Kill Pakhtoon," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (12/30)

"The forces which are providing financial resources and weapons to the militants are paving way for a uprising in the NWFP to achieve their long-term objectives and to plunder the natural resources of this land. Therefore, it is imperative that all political, religious parties and people from all sections of the society must come together to overcome those elements who are shedding blood of innocent people."

"Suicide Attacks - Need To Remove Root Causes," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (12/30)

"The suicide attack in Buner demonstrates that the perpetrators don't care about Pakistan and they have nothing to do with Islam either. However, we cannot rule out failure of our intelligence

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agencies to anticipate such episodes. Pakistan faces internal and external security threats on its eastern border, the incidents of suicide attack are not tolerable anyway. It is essential to remove the root causes of such extreme acts."

"Suicide Attacks In The Name Of Religion," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (12/30)

"Following the suicide attack on a polling station in Buner, a Taliban leader Shah Doran claimed responsibility for the attack from his illegal FM station and said that this was retaliation that would continue till the killing of all members of the Shalbandai village [who killed 6 Taliban militants four months ago].... Following this statement by the Taliban leader, it is necessary for all Ulema, especially those from the Deobandi school of thought, to inform the nation of their stance and tell the nation whether it is legal or illegal to rebel and take up arms against an elected government. The Ulema must take a clear stance, so that the people of Shalbandai can also be saved."

"Looking Beyond The Buner Attack," an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (12/30)

"Buner suicide-bombing warrants, the country's political leadership must look beyond these considerations, openly and earnestly. The fact is that militancy has refused to go away despite such a heavy price the government and people have paid in terms of losses of life and property. It is the time to acknowledge that the current government policy has failed."

"Buner Killing," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (12/30)

"It is difficult to understand how the group, which claims to be working for the enforcement of Sharia in Malakand, can justify indiscriminate killings of the type. Even if some of its members had been shot dead unjustly, the best way was to seek legal remedy against those responsible, and them alone.... Under the circumstances, those resorting to the use of force are liable to be widely considered either misled individuals or agents of enemy countries."

"Ultimatum: Don't Trust India Until It Takes Practical Steps," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (12/30)

"It seems as if India does not want to commit the folly of attacking Pakistan and thereby annoying China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. It is

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Kashmir. Pakistan must be proactive in the handling of terrorist outfits and ask UN observers to monitor the process." UNCLASSIFIED

"Time To Step Back," an op-ed by Seema Mustafa in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (12/30)

"The U.S. is worried but is hoping to make use of this opportunity to bring in a new cooperation - preferably military - between India,

Pakistan and Afghanistan.... There will also be a sense of some relief that the Pakistan anger has been diverted to India that the army which is an extremely important tool for the U.S. is regaining some of its lost luster, and short of a war the crisis can be converted into an opportunity. Needless to say the Americans have started looking at the crisis afresh, and this is evident in some of the recent statements that have emerged out of Washington."

"The Unstable Peace Process," an op-ed by Rasul Bakhsh Rais in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (12/30)

"There is a harsh reality that both India and Pakistan need to come to grips with: terrorism is a regional, rather a global issue, and both of us have a good share of terrorists. Peace between India and Pakistan may remain an elusive dream if the major political parties in two countries don't place it at the centre of their political manifestos and make it a central theme in their domestic as well as foreign policy agendas. They have a visible interest in building peace, but they don't have the political capacity to neutralize the pressure of extremist groups."

"Israeli Savagery," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (12/30)

"Giving America's own attitude towards the Arab-Israeli problem it is futile to expect the world body to indict Israel for its excesses.... The Muslim world is powerless, while there is no countervailing power to tear up the carte blanche which America has given to Israel for its massacre of the Palestinian people and for holding on to the occupied territories in violation of UN declarations and the agreements to which Israel and America are a party."

"Israeli Brutality And U.S. Attitude," an editorial note in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (12/30)

"The U.S., who claims to be the champion of democracy in the world, must know that Hamas enjoys support of majority of Palestinians, and it has a lawful and democratic right to stand for the Palestinians."

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It won elections a few years back, UNCLASSIFIED the U.S. and its instruments sent it away home by using undemocratic tactics. In fact Israel is a gang of hooligans which never dare to violate higher humane and moral values."

"International Community Must Rein In Israel," an editorial note in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (12/30)

"The international community, who always stand for greater causes of rule of law, democracy, human rights, equality and justice, is perhaps unaware of Israeli atrocities? If world can support the unjustified U.S. attacks on Iraq and Afghanistan, it must also rein in Israel against the innocent Palestinians."

"Israeli Barbarity: Awaken O Muslims," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (12/30)

"Protests are continuing worldwide against Israeli barbarity and blatant terrorism. Saudi scholar Ais bin Abdullah, in his fatwa against Israel, has urged Muslims to target Israelis wherever they find them, to target Israeli interests and cut all ties with Israel. Similarly, JUI's NWFZ Nazim and MPA Mufti Kifayatullah has said that jihad has become compulsory for Muslims because the Jews have started a crusade and India is their natural ally.... The UN Security Council has expressed concern at the situation but it has not displayed the same haste at the martyrdom of 300 people that it did while imposing a ban on Jamaatud Dawa.... OIC and Arab League must adopt a strategy in view of the two Fatwas."

"Protests Against Israeli Aggression," an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Waqt" (cir.5000) (12/30)

"Acting as a silent spectator will neither help the Muslim world, nor achieve the objectives for which the OIC was formed.... It is also necessary for the big powers to protect innocent Palestinians from Israel's aggression, which has made violation of international law a routine. It is tragic that America - the standard-bearer in the war on terror - has turned a blind eye to Israeli aggression."

"One After Another Tragedy On Muslim World," an editorial in the Karachi-based right-wing pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Urdu daily "Jasarat" (cir. 3,000) (12/30)

"From Gaza Strip to Buner, it is Muslims being killed everywhere. Though Jamaat-e-Islami in Pakistan continues to hold protest demonstration in Pakistan against Israeli aggression on Palestinians, these demonstrations aren't enough to prevent Israelis

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from committing violence and killing innocent Palestinian people. What is needed at the moment is that all Muslim states must be united against the U.S., exert pressure on it, and if possible, boycott U.S., despite the fact that there is no such precedent in the modern history."

"Naked Aggression," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (12/30)

"The U.S. and the West have very strongly denounced the Israeli action asking it to exercise restraint and try to resolve the issue through dialogue, but none has shown willingness to take any significant action against Israel which could force it to shelve its bloody design against the Palestinians."

"Israel's Terror Campaign," an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (12/30)

"Israel cannot live in peace as long as it refuses to end occupation. Having been pushed to the wall, Hamas has declared it would hit back with 'martyr operations' - stopped since January 2005. That can still be stopped if only the new U.S. administration shows an inclination to work towards a fair peace settlement."

Patterson

NNNN