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INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00		INL-00
	DOTE-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	EPAU-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00
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SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

HQ USCENTCOM 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

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: DECEMBER 17, 2008

Summary: Most major dailies on Wednesday highlighted Senator Kerry's statement "urging resumption of Pakistan-India talks." Several newspapers ran front pages that quoted Senator "Kit" Bond's local print media roundtable which misquoted him as saying that "U.S. drone attacks [inside Pakistan] would continue." The misquoted information was taken from a local wire (APP). Indian Defense Minister Antony's remarks ruling out "any military action against Pakistan" were also highlighted. A page-one report in the English daily, "Dawn," noted that "U.S. investigators have concluded that Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) is not involved in the Mumbai attacks."

Most editorials centered around the theme of 'terrorism.' The English daily, "The News," noted that "whereas the ISI may indeed,

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in the 1980s, have been involved in setting up US organizations such as the LeT, mainly as part of a strategy against the Soviets in Afghanistan, it was able to do so only with the support and backing of the CIA." English daily, "The Nation," opined that "Senator John Kerry would do well to take note of President Zardari's complain that India was continuing to level allegations without furnishing any evidence. Senator Kerry would ask himself how he expected it [Pakistan] to extend cooperation without any basis to proceed on." The popular Urdu daily, "Ausaf," wrote: "It is essential for the Pakistani rulers to change their tone while talking to their Indian counterparts following the Pentagon's report about the Indian plan of aerial attack on Pakistan." End Summary.

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News Stories  
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"Kerry Urges Resumption Of Pakistan-India Talks; Crisis Caused By Misunderstanding" "Dawn" (12/17)

"U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Chairman-designate John Kerry while talking to journalists at the U.S. Ambassador's house on Tuesday said that India is not aware of all that Pakistan has done to crack down on elements accused of being involved in last month's terrorist attack in Mumbai. He urged both countries to resume their stalled dialogue."

"Kerry Pledges Review Of U.s. Policy On Drone Attacks" "The News" (12/17)

"Visiting U.S. Senator John F Kerry on Tuesday pledged to press for a review of the U.S. policy on drone attacks in Pakistan. He was responding to the call by Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani during their meeting at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad when the premier underlined that frequent drone attacks on Pakistani territory were undermining government efforts to wean away the peaceful segments of the tribal populace from the militants."

"Kerry Admits Drone Strikes Are Counter-Productive" "Daily Times" (12/17)

"U.S. Senator John Kerry admitted during a meeting with Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani that airstrikes by American drones on targets in Pakistan's Tribal Areas caused large-scale collateral damage and were counter-productive in the war on terror."

"Kerry Meets NWFP Governor" "Pakistan Observer" (12/17)

"U.S. Senator John Kerry, heading a delegation of U.S. Senators

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currently visiting Pakistan, Tuesday met with NWFP Governor Mr. Owais Ahmad Ghani in Peshawar. They exchanged views on matters of common interest particularly the prevalent security situation in the region. John Kerry reaffirmed U.S. support and cooperation the Pakistan government's endeavors to combat terrorism and bring a social and economic change in the tribal areas through the process of multi-dimensional development."

"U.S. Drone Attacks To Continue: Senator Bond" "The News" (12/17)

"American Senator Christopher Bond on Tuesday said the issue of drone attacks in Pakistan was raised during his meetings with the Pakistan Army chief and concern was expressed over these attacks. He, however, said, 'We do pursue high value targets and drone attacks will continue' adding 'however we advise our partner whenever there will be attack.' He was responding to a question

while talking to newsmen in Islamabad at American Embassy."

"Cooperation In Tracking Terrorists" "Dawn" (12/17)

"In an interview to the Associated Press, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has urged India and Pakistan to continue to cooperate in bringing perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice and in ensuring that such incidents are not repeated."

"U.S. Opposes Escalation Of Tension In South Asia" "The News" (12/17)

"The United States on Monday reaffirmed its opposition to any escalation of tension in South Asia and instead urged cooperative efforts by Islamabad and New Delhi in investigation into last month's Mumbai attacks, State Department spokesman Robert Wood said."

"War Not An Option, Says India" "Dawn" (12/17)

"India's Defence Minister A.K. Antony, meanwhile, ruled out any military action against Pakistan, but said relations between the two countries could not be normal unless Islamabad took action against terrorists in its patch."

"Peace Talks On Ice But No War: India" "The News" (12/17)

"India said on Tuesday its peace process with Pakistan had been put on hold in the wake of last month's Mumbai attacks, but asserted it was not preparing for war, Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters in Srinagar."

"There's A Pause If Mukherjee Says So: FO" "Daily Times" (12/17)

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"A Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan was committed to the peace process with India but resigned to a pause in it, said spokesman Mohammad Sadiq."

"FBI Investigators Clear ISI" "Dawn" (12/17)

"U.S. investigators have concluded after interrogating the lone captured suspect, Ajmal Amir Kasab, that the Inter-Services Intelligence is not involved in the Mumbai attacks."

"Pakistan Denies India Shared Evidence Of Mumbai Attacks" "The News" (12/17)

"Pakistan has categorically denied that India had shared any evidence with it regarding the Mumbai attacks, a Foreign Office spokesman told 'The News.'"

"Lashkar Vows To Continue Its Armed Struggle In Kashmir" "Dawn" (12/17)

"Lashkar-e-Taiba vowed on Tuesday to continue its armed struggle against India's hold over occupied Kashmir."

"Move In U.S. To Get Pakistan Aid Stopped" "Dawn" (12/17)

"U.S. politicians with close links to India have quietly launched a campaign to persuade the incoming Obama administration to stop U.S. aid to Pakistan. 'I do not believe in aiding countries that aid terrorism,' said U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey. Declaring Pakistan a 'failed State' Congressman Frank Pallone, another Democrat, said he opposed giving billions of dollars in aid to Pakistan because he believed it would be used against India."

"West Urged To Buy Pak Nukes" "The Nation" (12/17)

"Bret Stephens, a columnist for a major American newspaper (The Wall Street Journal) has proposed a \$100 billion economic package for Pakistan, under a set of conditions, if Islamabad verifiably eliminates its nuclear assets in a move to stabilize the country and for 'saving the world.'"

"Taliban Issue Video Of Beheaded 'Spies,' Confess To Helping U.S. In Missile Strike Against Al-Libi" "Daily Times" (12/17)

"Pakistani Taliban have issued a video of five slain people, accused of spying on key Al Qaeda leader Abu Laith Al-Libi, BBC Urdu reported on its website on Tuesday."

"Militant Destroy Oil Tanker" "The News" (12/17)

"An oil tanker carrying fuel for NATO forces in Afghanistan was completely destroyed when militants rained rockets on it in Landi Kotal on Tuesday morning."

"Militant Commander Among 7 Killed In Mohamand" "The News" (12/17)

"Security forces killed seven militants, including a prominent commander, Zar Muhammad, when the latter attacked a checkpoint in Safi tehsil area of Mohmand Agency in the wee hours of Tuesday."

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 Editorials/Op-eds  
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"Blame It On The ISI," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (12/17)

"Whereas the ISI may indeed, in the 1980s, have been involved in setting up organizations such as the LeT, mainly as part of a strategy against the Soviets in Afghanistan, it was able to do so only with the support and backing of the CIA.... Washington needs to turn an eye in on itself. It must assess its past role in the Pak-Afghan region, honestly determine how far this was a factor in creating the Hydra-headed extremist monster we today confront and then accept responsibility for helping to overcome it rather than simply pinning blame on others."

"The Threat," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (12/17)

"Senator John Kerry, who conveyed to President Zardari U.S. President-elect Barack Obama's assurance that the U.S. would help Pakistan combat terrorism, would do well take note of President Zardari's complaint that India was continuing to level allegations without furnishing any evidence.... Senator Kerry would ask himself how he expected it to extend cooperation without any basis to proceed on.... World leaders, genuinely interested in seeing calm return to the Subcontinent, must make sure that instead of indulging in a propaganda blitz against Pakistan, India comes forward with credible evidence for it work on."

"Pakistan Nation's Feeling About India," an editorial note in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (12/17)

"Pakistani rulers must understand that some hostilities and enmities are quite intrinsic just like some innate friendships. Same is the case with India and Pakistan. It has become a way of thinking of Pakistani nation that they aren't prepared to admit any defeat by India whether it is in a cricket match, or any armed conflict. It is essential for the Pakistani rulers to change their tone while

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talking to their Indian counterparts following the Pentagon's report about the Indian plan of aerial attack on Pakistan."

"Remember ISI Is Like Our Nuclear Assets," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (12/17)

"Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is an eye sore to the West in general and the United States in particular.... The latest is the demand by U.S. Senator John Kerry for reforms in ISI and bringing the agency under complete civilian control. His bias against the elite Pakistani institution was quite evident from his contradictory remarks about activities of the agency.... Kerry's views are fully reflective of the U.S. desire to damage both strength and reputation of the ISI which stands in the way of those trying to destabilize Pakistan."

"Tackling Terrorism," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (12/17)

"Predictably, though with astonishing speed, the Mumbai attacks have been the catalyst for a shift in Pakistan's regional situation. Equally predictably, the Pakistani security establishment's impulse will be to push back against its perceived adversaries. What concerns us is that it may push back against the wrong forces. What Pakistan needs to decisively tackle is its terrorism problem. If the state moves firmly against terrorism - from which Pakistan has

suffered grievously - the tensions on our borders will begin to subside. If a zero-sum analysis prevails, the unambiguous loser will be Pakistan."

"Pak-China Pact," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (12/17)

"China's wide ranging cooperation with Pakistan through thick and thin offers a sharp contrast to United States' dealings with Pakistan marked by sharp ups and downs.... The recent defence pact with China will send the right signals to New Delhi to stop making wild allegation that may destroy the peace of South Asia."

"Timely Boosting Of Sino-Pak Military Ties," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (12/17)

"Though no details are available about the agreement concluded by the two sides, the very fact that the two friendly countries reiterated their resolve to work closely in defence field is highly significant and sends right kind of message to all concerned. This shows the importance that China attaches to its relations with

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"Pak-China Military Ties," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (12/17)

"In view of the Indian threats to Pakistan after the Mumbai carnage the Chinese help is useful, with china well aware that India is being propped up to rival China. Though China was careful not to say anything against India, that the talks were held at all is a strong signal from China that India should not ignore."

"Sino-Pakistan Military Pact," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (12/17)

"Following Indian threats of dire consequences as an aftermath of Mumbai attacks, its strategy to bully Pakistan in connivance with the United States and other western countries, and the U.S.-India nuclear treaty in the recent past, Pakistan was feeling as abandoned and cast off. The U.S. in no way extended cooperation with Pakistan in the nuclear field, rather it leveled serious charges against Pakistan on this issue. China is the only country that supported Pakistan in every sphere of life through thick and thin. It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan has signed a military accord with China owing to the current situation of South Asia, and the security threats that Pakistan is facing at the moment."

"Pak-China Friendship: Road To Welfare And Development," editorial in the Karachi-based center-right sensationalist Urdu daily "Ummat" (cir. 33,000) (12/17)

"Defense and strategic cooperation with China is critical at a time when Pakistan is under pressure from U.S. and allies and India is using Mumbai attacks to impose a war on Pakistan. To deter any possible India and American aggression in the region, Pakistan and China need to be ready."

"Proposal To Assume Iraqi Strategy in Afghanistan," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (12/17)

"United States has announced to pull out its troops from Iraq by 2011, but it is sending more troops to Afghanistan. The history of Afghanistan shows that no foreign force was able to control or capture this difficult terrain, and the unruly Afghans. But perhaps the Americans had not realized this state of affairs, otherwise they would have definitely refrained from indulging in Afghanistan, and would have sought a safe exit from this mess."

"Mumbai Massacre And Pakistan," an op-ed by Dr. Farooq Hassan in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000)

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"U.S. is worried that any action by India will promptly make Islamabad sneak out of its effort of war on terror which seems increasingly having no support of the masses. But it has made Zardari government very uneasy as it dispatched its top soldier rushing to Beijing for consultation.... Mumbai massacre, which seemingly has some connection with the external policies of powers

in this region, may bet produce consequences which are for beyond the confines of that city and indeed could usher in potentially cataclysmic changes in Pakistan."

"Pakistan-India: The Only Way Ahead," an op-ed by Nasim Zehra in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (12/17)

"Neither Pakistan nor India can fight the monster of terrorism without genuine cooperation; cooperation to destroy the physical 'infrastructure' of fast spreading terrorism. They should also recognize and begin to resolve the root causes of terrorism to destroy the mental and emotional infrastructure of terrorism rooted in the hearts and minds of those who resort to violence and terror."

"A Failure Of Diplomacy," an op-ed by Ijaz Hussain in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (12/17)

"Let us not forget that the Americans and the Indians are after the ISI; and that the Indian government is reportedly working overtime to find evidence of the ISI's alleged links to the Mumbai attacks.... Instead of treating the Sanctions Committee's decision as an onerous obligation, Pakistan should turn it into an opportunity to uproot terrorism once and for all from its soil. This is in our interest because Talibanization is a scourge that, if unchecked, will destroy us."

"A Dream Gone Sour," an op-ed by S.M. Naseem in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (12/17)

"Mumbai could become a defining moment in the relationship of India and Pakistan if the two countries realize that there is no alternative to peace and security.... The peace process needs not only to be resumed but taken to a higher level in order to make a significant impact on the lives of the South Asian people as a whole and not only their elites."

"Ignorance, Confusion Or A Sinister Deliberateness", an op-ed by Shireen M. Mazari in the centrist national English daily "The News"

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"War in not a feasible option for India or Pakistan but surgical strikes are definitely being contemplated by the Indians ... especially with U.S. and U.K. backing.... What was known was that now NATO planes had joined U.S. drones in violating our airspace in Balochistan near Chaman. So what is happening? Is our military losing its ability for rapid response to military threats against the country? Or is there something more sinister going on at the covert level?"

Patterson

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