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

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: DECEMBER 01, 2008

Summary: Reports pertaining to various aspects of the Mumbai bomb blast dominated headlines in all newspapers on Monday. In a dispatch from New Delhi, the English daily, "Dawn," reported that "India [is] sending top official to the U.S. to mount pressure on Pakistan to launch a crackdown on terror groups." In an exclusive story, another English daily, "The News," noted that "all main militant groups fighting in FATA have contacted government through different sources after the Mumbai bombings and offered a ceasefire if Pakistan Army also stops operations." Repudiation by both India and Pakistan of a reported "military build-up at borders" also received prominent display. All newspapers reported that Prime Minister Gilani convened an all-party conference on Tuesday to discuss the "possible fallout of the Mumbai carnage on Pakistan-India relations" while President Zardari "contacted a

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number of world leaders to present ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ Also front-paged were reports that at least "20 people were killed in ethnic violence in Karachi."

Most dailies continued to run analytical editorials on the "Mumbai mayhem" and some major newspapers advocated the need for withdrawing troops committed in the tribal areas and a re-enforcement of eastern border. The Urdu daily, "Ausaf" observed that "India has always resorted to mudslinging on neighbor countries while concealing skeletons in its closets. More than 23 Indian states have faced local uprisings for the last several years but India has always held neighboring countries responsible for all troublesome incidents." The second-largest Urdu daily, "Nawa-i-Waqt," wrote: "The present situation demands full preparedness for the country's defense, considering India as a sworn and mean enemy. We should silently arrange for bringing our troops from western to eastern border and should take effective measures to have dialogue and conciliation with Baitullah Mehsud, Maulvi Fazal Ullah and other militant." The national English daily, "The News," noted that "Islamabad needs at this moment to seek the assistance of the U.S., the U.K. and other allies to play a part in calming the situation, cautioning India against further aggression and helping bringing the troubled situation back to a more reasonable pitch." End Summary.

News Stories

"India Sending Top Official To U.S.; Home Minister Quits Over Carnage" "Dawn" (12/01)

"Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil resigned on Sunday owning moral responsibility for the bloody attacks in Mumbai that killed around 200 people, as New Delhi's ties with Pakistan went into a tailspin. Reports said India would persuade the U.S. to mount pressure on Pakistan to launch a crackdown on terror groups it says exist across the border. Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon will leave for Washington on Monday to meet the transition team of President-elect Barack Obama."

"Military, Militants At One On Indian Threat" "The News" (12/01)

"All main militant groups fighting in FATA, from South Waziristan to Bajaur and from Mohmand to the Khyber Agency, have contacted the government through different sources after the Mumbai bombings and have offered a ceasefire if the Pakistan Army also stops its operations. And as a positive sign that this ceasefire offer may be accepted, the Pakistan Army has, as a first step, declared before the media some notorious militant commanders, including Baitullah Mehsud and Maulvi Fazlullah, as "patriotic" Pakistanis."

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"Tribals To Send Million Fighters If India Attacks" "The Nation"
(12/01)

"Elders of North Waziristan tribal district on Sunday offered the Pakistani government complete support if tensions spill over into fighting with India and urged it to halt ongoing military operations against Taliban militants."

"India Not Flexing Its Muscles; ISPR Sees No Evidence Of Military Build-Up At Borders" "The News" (12/01)

"Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director-General and Pakistan Army spokesman Maj-Gen Athar Abbas said on Sunday that the Army had not found any solid evidence of unusual military movement by India on the international border."

"Government Convenes All-Party Conference" "Dawn" (12/01)

"Political and diplomatic activities revolving round the possible fallout of the Mumbai carnage on Pakistan-India relations acquired a hectic pace on Sunday with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani going all out to defuse tension that many believe could bring South Asia on the verge of a conflict.... President Zardari contacted a number of world leaders to present Pakistan's case and ask them to use their good offices to make India realize that it could be suicidal to indulge in a blame-game even before the completion of initial investigations."

"Zardari For Pact With India To Question Terror Suspects" "Daily Times" (12/01)

"Pakistan is willing to have an agreement with India to allow each other to question terror suspects in the other country, President Asif Ali Zardari said in an interview with CNN-IBN'S Karan Thapar."

"Tensions To Disrupt Peace, Terror War" "The Nation" (12/01)

"The mounting tension between India and Pakistan over Mumbai terrorist attacks is not only to disrupt the peace process between the nuclear neighbors but would have direct bearing on terror war, well placed official sources told 'The Nation on Sunday."

"Bush Sends Rice To India" "The Nation" (12/01)

"President George W. Bush is sending Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to India this week as a "further demonstration" of US solidarity with New Delhi in the wake of terror attacks in Mumbai, the White House announced Sunday."

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"U.S. To Back India's Hunt For Terrorists: Bush" "The News" (12/01)

"The United States is swinging behind India's efforts to track down those behind the deadly attacks in Mumbai, President George W. Bush told Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in a telephone call on Sunday. 'President Bush told the Prime Minister that he has directed the State and Defence departments along with other federal agencies to devote the necessary resources and personnel to this situation,' White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said in a statement."

"Mullen To Visit South Asia Soon: Biden" "Daily Times" (12/01)

"Senator Biden said in an ABC interview that U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Michael Mullen is likely to visit the region again soon."

"Scholars Rule Out War But Say Situation Dangerous" "Dawn" (12/01)

"A major troop mobilization on the Indian border will force Pakistan to withdraw troops from the Afghan border, said a U.S. expert on South Asian affairs. But Marvin Weinbaum, a former Adviser to the U.S. State Department on South Asia who now works for a Washington think-tank, believed that the situation had not yet reached a point where Pakistan could begin withdrawing its troops from the Afghan border."

"Karachi Death Toll Rises To 28" "Dawn" (12/01)

"At least 20 people were killed in violence in some parts of the city on Sunday, taking the death in two days' violence to 28, police and hospital sources said."

"U.S. Drones Kill Three In NWA" "The News" (12/01)

"Three persons were killed and two others, including a woman, sustained injuries when suspected U.S. drones hit a house in Chashma Kellay, located two kilometers from Miramshah, the headquarters of North Waziristan Agency."

"Gun-Battle In Bannu Leaves 11 Dead" "Dawn" (12/01)

"Three security personnel and eight militants were killed and 17 others suffered injuries in a gun-battle which followed a Taliban

attack on a police checkpoint on Bannu-Miramshah road on late Saturday night."

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"Troops Claim Killing Nine Militants In Bajaur" "Dawn" (12/01)

"Security forces claimed killing nine militants in artillery and air attacks on their hideouts in Mamond tehsil of Bajaur on Sunday. Four others were injured."

"U.S. Fears Heightening Of Tension" "Dawn" (11/30)

"U.S. President George W. Bush on Saturday called the terrorist violence in Mumbai an attack on "human dignity", while US officials worried that the terror rampage could lead to a possible surge in violence between India and Pakistan. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called the foreign minister of India twice, along with President Asif Ali Zardari, since the crisis began."

"Pakistan Threatens To Roll Back Terror War" "The Post" (11/30)

"The Chief of Army Staff and Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General met in Islamabad on Saturday to discuss the tensions after the recent incidents of terrorism in Mumbai.... Considering the gravity of situation Pakistan has made it clear to the United State of America and its allies in Europe that if India keeps blaming Pakistan for the Mumbai attacks and issues threats, Pakistan would have no option but to pull back its troops from its western borders and deploy them on the eastern borders."

"Britain, U.S. Urge India, Pakistan To Keep Talking" "The Post" (11/30)

"The United States and Britain are urging India and Pakistan to act with restraint and do nothing that could set back the recent thaw in their relations in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks, the Guardian reported on Saturday."

"Bush Encouraging India For New 'Misadventure'" "Pakistan Observer" (11/30)

"Pakistan's authoritative sources on Saturday expressed fears that President George Bush's 'open support to India' may encourage extremists in India to launch a 'misadventure' against Pakistan."

"No Hand In Mumbai Hits: FM" "The Post" (11/30)

"Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Saturday said that Indian leadership has not blamed Pakistan for involvement in the Mumbai attacks and Pakistan has decided on its own to extend full cooperation and assistance to India in the investigation of the incident."

"Time Is Critical; Extensive Consultation Is Vital," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (12/01)

"Prime Minister Gilani's contacts with all major political leaders, deliberations in the Presidential Palace to ensure Pakistan's defense and other vital interests, and the warnings of the Pakistan Army sources to respond befittingly if India dares to attack Pakistan are not only in line with the defense of our independence, integrity and sovereignty, but have also boosted the morale of the people of Pakistan."

"Indian Threats And Need Of National Unity," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (12/01)

"It seems that the preparations are underway to besiege Pakistan. In this state of affairs, it is the job of all political parties to shun their differences, and create harmony among the rank and file of the nation. Qazi Hussain Ahmad of Jamaat-e-Islami has rightly advised the government to withdraw troops from the tribal areas and move them to the eastern border to deal with any eventuality."

"Timely Warning Of Political And Military Leadership," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (12/01)

"It is advisable for the Indian government and its military command to look for the loopholes in its internal security system that terrorists exploited to fulfill their nefarious designs in Mumbai. Moreover, the Indian leaders must also not waste their crucial time in mudslinging on Pakistan, and must focus on more important issues at this critical moment."

"Indian Aggressive Designs And Our Responsibilities," an editorial note in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (12/01)

"India has also always resorted to mudslinging on neighbor countries while concealing skeletons in its closets. More than 23 Indian states are facing local uprisings for the last several years but India has always disregarded those movements, and held neighboring countries responsible for all troublesome incidents."

"Danger Of War And Duty Of Political, Military Leadership," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily

"The present situation demands full preparedness for the country's defense, considering India as a sworn and mean enemy. We should silently arrange for bringing our troops from western to eastern border and should take effective measures to have dialogue and conciliation with Baitullah Mehsud, Maulvi Fazal Ullah and other militant. Upon a go-ahead from America, India would not take a minute to attack Pakistan.... "

"Pak-India Tension: Dangerous Situation," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (12/01)

"Pakistani and Indian governments have done well by convening their respective politicians' conferences in the two countries. It is strongly hoped that the politicians of both the countries would not support idea of war.... President Zardari has rightly suggested to India that it should not overreact."

"Impact Of Indian Military Designs On The Region," an editorial in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (12/01)

"In a meeting led by the Indian PM, the Indian Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav has said that these explosions seem to be the BJP's mischief. What will the Indian leadership say to that? Indian Colonel Srikant Purohit had also proven recently that India has been staging explosions itself to frame Pakistan. All this points towards India's adventurist intent. The world is already gripped by a recession; India should not deteriorate the situation further. Instead of shrugging Pakistan's offer of friendship, it should grasp it."

"Indian Leadership Must Act Wisely," an editorial in the Lahore-based Urdu daily "Waqt" (cir. 5000) (12/01)

"Both [Indian and Pakistani] leaderships must review the situation dispassionately. The Indian government in particular, must respond positively to Pakistan's offer of cooperation."

"Mumbai Explosions: Pakistan-Indian Relations And War On Terror," an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (12/01)

"Instead of just pointing fingers at Pakistan, India needs to review its internal situation because even in the past it has been proven that after all the allegations heaped on Pakistan, the perpetrators have been Indians. We hope that the international community would intervene before the situation reaches a point of no-return."

"With Bated Breath," an editorial in the centrist national English

"In the present scenario, we need mediators. Washington seems to be the best option. For reasons of its own, it is closely following developments with anxiety. It has already stated Pakistan must abandon its hostility with India in favor of a more intense effort against terror. Islamabad needs at this moment to seek the assistance of the U.S., the U.K. and other allies to play a part in

calming the situation, cautioning India against further aggression and helping bringing the troubled situation back to a more reasonable pitch. The alternatives are one we simply cannot afford."

"Post-Mumbai Bilateral Tension," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (12/01)

"The world is afraid that India and Pakistan could take out their armies against each other and then helplessly watch the confrontation escalate into a nuclear standoff.... It could well be a plan to force the Pakistan army out of the Tribal Areas and thus provide relief to the militants who are seen by many to be under pressure these days. The dominant anti-American view probably favors Pakistan's delinking from the war against terrorism that will follow an Indo-Pak standoff."

"Back To 2002," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (12/01)

"It would be highly unwise on the part of India to succumb to the warmongers lobby. The Saturday meeting of India's army, navy and air force chiefs has sent a negative message. There is a need for the West also to make New Delhi realize the danger of a military conflict between the two neighbors armed with nuclear weapons. Pakistan should meanwhile reinforce its eastern border by withdrawing troops committed in the tribal areas."

"Shift Army From FATA To Easter Border," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (12/01)

"In view of the delicate nature of the situation, we have no time to waste and all precautionary measures should be taken to safeguard interests of the country.... We would, therefore, suggest that the troops deployed in FATA should be withdrawn immediately and redeployed on the eastern border to ward off growing threat from India.... Pakistan should not wait for India to move its troops and strike at will."

"Hovering Clouds Of War Over Pakistan," an editorial in the

Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (12/01)

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"There are all indications that Indians have decided to use Mumbai attack as a pretext to launch aggression against Pakistan.... In this perspective, it is quite clear that Pakistan would come under tremendous pressure in the next few days. In our view, all this is part of the long written and well-conceived script against Pakistan, which has been prepared by our 'friends' to tighten the noose against the country despite its whole-hearted cooperation and sacrifices in the so-called war against terror."

"Bracing Up For Indian Threat," an editorial in the Peshawar-based, independent regional daily "The Frontier Post" (cir. 7,000) (12/01)

"The most important element of the Mumbai assault is the local support its perpetrators definitely had, which the Indian leadership is shy of speaking and to explore. Pakistan cannot become the whipping boy of this shyness of Indian leadership. Nor can it become a sacrificial goat of its electoral compulsions or geopolitical objectives."

"Don't Make Haste - Decision Making Process Must Be Strengthened," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (11/30)

"Following the Mumbai tragedy, the announcement made by Pakistan to send the ISI chief to India demonstrates that the new government of Pakistan succumbed to Indian pressure. In every civilized democratic countries such decisions are made after all-out deliberations by their political, military and foreign affairs experts. But the haste on this issue in Pakistan shows that either there is no high level institutional mechanism for consultation, or there is no coordination among such institutions."

"Indian Request For ISI Cooperation," an editorial note in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (11/30)

"Had the Indian government thought before sending its troops to Afghanistan, it would have never suffered such tragic terror incident in Mumbai. Moreover, as the international pressure was forcing India to resolve Kashmir dispute, and to initiate dialogue with Pakistan, the Indian intelligence agencies succeeded in sabotaging Pakistan-Indian dialogue process and warding off the international pressure."

"Indian Allegations - Pakistan Should Not Show Weakness," an editorial note in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (11/30)

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"The destruction in Mumbai is a part of the plan of big powers that has destabilized the region. The Indian unjustified allegations on Pakistan without understanding this plan is an evidence that India itself is involved in this conspiracy. Perhaps, India does not know that it may have to pay a very heavy price of this scheme."

"Mumbai Terror Act - Aggressive Attitude Of Indian Leaders," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (11/30)

"The Indian leadership must understand that it is too early to blame Pakistan for terror attacks in Mumbai. The people of both Pakistan and India have suffered a lot because of these pointless blame games, jingoism and misgivings against each other. Time has come for the leaders of India and Pakistan to trace the common enemy who can make hay while the sun of destabilization shines on South Asia."

"A Common Threat," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (11/30)

"Instead of finding an easy scapegoat in Pakistan it is time the Indian government woke up to the rising tide of terrorism in South Asia which poses a common threat to the two sub continental neighbors.... It is clear that one of the chief aims of the perpetrators of the Mumbai mayhem was to create panic and insecurity in India and destabilize the region generally."

"Weak Nerve Response to Mumbai Blasts," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (11/30)

"Indian approach to link Mumbai terror blasts with elements in Pakistan is quite understandable, as New Delhi never missed any opportunity of maligning the country and portraying it as a rogue state.... One fails to understand how on earth India agencies came to the conclusion that the weapons used had their origin in Karachi and some of the terrorists belonged to this or that part of Pakistan, as if they were bearing identity cards on their lapels."

"Riots In Karachi," an op-ed by Khushnood Ali Khan, Chief Editor of Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Jinnah" (12/01)

"The Americans were shocked over the remarks of the Army Chief General Ashfaq Kayani that if India stations its forces on the border, Pakistan will withdraw its troops from FATA. And according to my information, all the main American officials have telephoned (the Pakistani authorities). However, whatever has happened in Mumbai was a joint endeavor of the Indian intelligence agency RAW,

Jewish MOSSAD and the American CIA. ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~Never Released~~ The statement of the Army Chief Kayani has disturbed the Americans, as if Pakistan pulls out troops from FATA, the tribesmen will mind NATO in Afghanistan themselves.... It is for certain that the decision has been made to tighten noose around Pakistan. And this decision was made by the U.S., Israel and India, as they all wanted to pressurize Pakistan from all corners. They want to get Pakistan's nuclear program rolled back. They are undivided on this issue.... The credible sources say that the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) is an operative of unspoken war between the CIA and ISI, and both these agencies are trying to exploit this party. An analyst opined that the MQM has prepared a plan to kill about five to ten thousands Pashtoon people (in Karachi). Prior to this bloodshed, the Urdu speaking community will be attacked to give an impression that the Taliban have launched their operation, and then ethnic clashes will begin. Then the situation will without doubt receive the attention of the international media immediately. The London-based MQM's leadership will start propaganda that the people of Karachi are fighting against Taliban, therefore the U.S. and the NATO should send their forces to Karachi, and hold an East Timor-like referendum

that in the end will pave way for separation of Karachi from Pakistan. The U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson visited London to meet Altaf Hussain. She also visited the office of the City Nazim (mayor) of Karachi more than once. She met with leaders of MQM at the Nine Zero (MQM Headquarters in Karachi). The U.S. Consul General also paid visits to the office of the City Nazim, and the Command and Control of the local government of Karachi. The U.S. Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Energy Reuben Jeffery met with the City Nazim. The U.S. Senator Robert Casey also went to Karachi and met with the City Nazim. Deputy Secretary John Negroponte and Richard Boucher paid visits to Karachi twice, and met with the City Nazim in his office. Meanwhile, the City Nazim went to the U.S. and took briefings from the State Department and the Pentagon, and later on announced in Karachi that the map of this region was going to be changed...."
Patterson

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