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 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Summary: Reports on the CJCS Admiral Mullen's reiteration that "U.S. respects Pakistan's sovereignty", along with the incident of drone attack that "belied" the assurance, dominated headlines in all newspapers on Thursday. In an exclusive story, the English daily "The News" quoted some "highly-placed diplomatic sources" saying that "PM Gilani left the meeting with the visiting U.S. admiral after making it clear to him that Pakistan cannot go along with U.S. changed policy." Newspapers also front-paged Defense Secretary Gates' statement that he made in Kabul praising "Pakistani operations in FATA because these had put pressure on extremists." Reports on suicide blasts outside heavily fortified U.S. Embassy in Yemen killing 16 people also received extensive coverage in several newspapers.

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All dailies, without exception, ran editorials on the current spar between the U.S. and Pakistan over the missile attacks, and its possible affects on Pakistan's sovereignty. In its editorial, the English daily, "Dawn" noted that the "Americans giving the terrorists a beating on Pakistani soil will do anything but stabilize Pakistan - and all but guarantees that even fewer Pakistanis will accept that our own army beating the terrorists is a good idea either." The Urdu daily, "Mashriq" observed that "it is Pakistan's right to defend its territorial integrity, and sovereignty despite the fact that this country of 170 million people is not preoccupied with the notion of jingoism." Another English language daily, "The Nation" wrote: "Armed incursions into another country's territory being a serious matter about which close friends must be consulted, General Kayani's proposed visit to Beijing seems to be well timed." End Summary.

News Stories

1. "Drone Attack Belies Mullen's Assurance: Six Killed In S. Waziristan Village" "Dawn" (09/18)

"Hours after the American military commander had assured Pakistan's political and military leadership that the United States would respect the country's sovereignty, missiles were fired from U.S. drones on a house in South Waziristan, killing six people and injuring three others."

2. "U.S. Renews 'Respect' For Pakistan's Sovereignty" "The News" (09/18)

"The top U.S. military commander, Admiral Mike Mullen, vowed to respect Pakistan's sovereignty, apparently in an effort to play down the tiff between Pakistan and the United States over U.S. air and ground attacks inside Pakistan's territory. Admiral Mullen reiterated the U.S. commitment to respect Pakistan's sovereignty and to develop further U.S.-Pakistan cooperation and coordination on these critical issues.... Highly-placed diplomatic sources told 'The News' on condition of anonymity that Prime Minister Gilani left the meeting with the visiting U.S. admiral after making it clear to him that Pakistan cannot go along with the changed U.S. policy.... Meanwhile, U.S. Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor said Admiral Mullen wanted to improve coordination and cooperation with the Pakistani military. 'Admiral Mullen has worked to forge a closer relationship and he wants to continue the relationship building,' said Lou Fintor. Asked about Pakistani anger over cross-border U.S. strikes, Fintor said Mullen 'recognized the concerns expressed by General Kayani and desires to continue the dialogue.'"

3. "President, PM Condemn Fresh Missile Attack" "The News" (09/18)

"President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday evening held a meeting with Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani to discuss the government strategy to deal with the continuing onslaught of the United States in Pakistan's tribal areas and the latest missile attack at Baghar in Tehsil Barmal of South Waziristan Agency. Both the President and the Prime Minister strongly condemned the Wednesday missile attack."

4. "Gates Praises FATA Operations" "Dawn" (09/18)

"U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Wednesday that he had been encouraged by recent Pakistani operations in the areas bordering Afghanistan because these had put pressure on extremists there. Gates was talking to reporters at the Bagram airbase."

5. "U.S. To Work With Pakistan Against Taliban Sanctuaries" "Daily Times" (09/18)

"Washington will work with Islamabad to address the problem of Taliban safe havens in the Tribal Areas, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Wednesday."

6. "U.S. Wants To Work With Pakistan, Says Boucher" "The Nation" (09/18)

"The United States 'wants to work with Pakistan' to boost security along its border with Afghanistan despite the row over U.S. attacks, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher told a German new agency in Brussels on Wednesday."

7. "Pakistan Needs To Deal With Militants: U.S." "Dawn" (09/18)

"Militants hiding in the tribal areas are not a threat to Pakistan alone but also to the entire world and Pakistan needs to deal with them, State Department officials said on Wednesday, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told a briefing in Washington."

8. "NATO Commander For Joint Terror War Strategy" "Daily Times" (09/18)

"All the concerned parties should adopt a joint strategy in the war on terror, Afghanistan NATO Chief David McKiernan said on Wednesday. McKiernan met Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Tariq Majeed and Army chief Gen Ashfaq Kayani at the Rawalpindi GHQ."

9. "Pak-U.S. 'Strategic Dialogue' On September 28-29" "The Nation" (09/18)

"Pakistan and the United States will ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ strategic dialogue' in Washington on September 28-29 to increase cooperation in different fields including energy and fight against the menace of terrorism."

10. "U.S. Embassy In Yemen Hit By Suicide Blasts; 16 Dead" "Dawn" (09/18)

"Two suicide car bombs set off a series of explosions outside the heavily fortified U.S. Embassy in Yemen on Wednesday, killing 16 people including six attackers, a Yemeni Interior Ministry official said."

11. "Air Strikes Acceptable, U.S. Media Quotes Pak Official" "The News" (09/18)

"The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan asked Admiral Michael G. Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, last weekend to fly to Islamabad after his visit to Iraq with Robert Gates, reported Washington Times on Wednesday quoting a defense official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. The official indicated that Pakistan considers U.S. air operations with drones acceptable but will require any ground assault to be closely coordinated with Islamabad."

12. "11 Rich States To Discuss Uplift Plan For Tribal Areas" "Dawn" (09/18)

"A group of about 11 rich and influential countries is expected to meet in New York in the last week of this month to put together a proposal on the lines of the Marshall Plan to reconstruct Pakistan's tribal areas and steer the country's economic ship out of the stormy waters. To be called Friends of Pakistan (FoP), the group would include all the G-8 countries plus China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are believed to be engaged in mobilizing the group and getting it to help Pakistan with a reconstruction budget aimed at revitalizing everything from local transport to water supplies, funding employment schemes, comprehensively reforming local police and local governments, arranging adequate compensation for families whose near and dear ones have died in violence and also cover the medical expenses of the injured."

13. "Troops Move Into Area Vacated By Militants" "Dawn" (09/18)

"Security forces took control of Swat's Kozabandai on Wednesday after the Taliban pulled out of the strategic area in accordance with a promise made to a peace Jirga on Tuesday night, ISPR spokesman in Swat Colonel Nadeem said."

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14. "19 Militants Killed In Bajaur Air Raids" "The News" (09/18)

"As air strikes on militant positions continued in the restive Bajaur Agency killing 19 suspected militants, fresh contingents of the Pakistan Army on Wednesday reached the troubled region to launch a ground offensive."

15. "U.S. Ambassador Calls On Naek" "The Post," "Daily Times" (09/18)

"U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson on Wednesday called on Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Farooq H. Naek. Both discussed issues of mutual interests particularly with reference to the current political situation in Pakistan. Functioning of the judicial system in both countries was also discussed."

16. "Orakzai Says Changes In ISI On U.S. Terms Not Possible" "The News" (09/18)

"Former Governor NWFP and ex-Corps Commander Frontier, Lt. Gen. (R) Ali Muhammad Jan Orakzai has warned that reformation of the ISI and change in the administrative control of the nuclear-related Strategic Planning Division (SPD) on Washington's whims would amount to complete take over of Pakistan by the U.S."

17. "India Deploys Planes With N-Weapons In Kashmir" "Dawn" (09/18)

"India has deployed its top fighter jets in occupied Kashmir, officials and a report said on Wednesday. At least six Soviet-built Sukhoi-30MKI jets, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, have been deployed at Avantipura air force base near Srinagar."

Editorials/Op-eds

18. "Soft On America?," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (09/18)

"The fact is American strikes inside Pakistan are a terrible idea.... Unfortunately, the Americans giving the terrorists a beating on Pakistani soil will do anything but stabilize Pakistan - and all but guarantees that even fewer Pakistanis will accept that our own army beating the terrorists is a good idea either. No doubt President Zardari and everyone down the de facto hierarchy of civilian power are new in office and faced with an extraordinary crisis. However, the president appears to have frozen in the face

of an American onslaught. Mr. Zardari UNCLASSIFIED his speech before a joint sitting of parliament to explain his plan for defeating militancy - and keeping the Americans at bay."

19. "Pakistan's Clear Stance Over War On Terror," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (09/18)

"The government should make it clear to the U.S. Admiral Mike Mullen that Pakistan will not tolerate the U.S. policy of 'carrot and stick' anymore. It is Pakistan's right to defend its territorial integrity, and sovereignty despite the fact that this country of 170 million people is not preoccupied with the notion of jingoism. But no one should misread Pakistan; it is not a banana state."

20. "Trust Deficit," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (09/18)

"Armed incursions into another country's territory being a serious matter about which close friends must be consulted, General Kayani's proposed visit to Beijing seems to be well timed. While Islamabad and Washington ought to iron out their differences since clear understanding between them is the demand of the situation, the exchange of views on the matter with other friendly countries always proves useful. China, one of the closest friends of Pakistan, must invariably be kept in the picture on matters of crucial importance to us."

21. "U.S. And Allied Commanders Visit To Pakistan: Is The Noose Being Tightened Around Us?," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (09/18)

"It is not difficult to deduce that U.S. interests were linked with Gen. (R) Musharraf and [Pakistan] was safeguarding these interests while putting its own national interests in the background. Now that the U.S. is not getting the same facilitation from the newly elected leaders, it is targeting our sovereignty and has also started saying 'do more' repeatedly. U.S. Admiral Mullen's trip to Pakistan is also a link in the same chain.... The Bush administration has started working on the same strategy towards Pakistan that it has for Iraq and Afghanistan.... It would be appropriate if President Zardari does not visit the U.S. before he visits China; he can send the PM to address the UN General Assembly."

22. "U.S. Admiral Mullen's emergency visit to Pakistan" an editorial in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (09/18)

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"General Kayani's concern and tone is that of a proud nation's commander-in-chief and now even the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan has said that it is 'aware of General Kayani's concern on the border issue.' However, if [the U.S.] actually realizes this, it needs to stop all kinds of interference in Pakistan's internal matters; otherwise public hatred of the U.S. is at such a pitch now that despite its extensive military might, the U.S. will not be able to get its own way in Pakistan.... Speaking at the Royal United Institute for Security in January, General Musharraf had said that the 'U.S. would get stuck in South Waziristan; does it have a magic wand that it can correct the situation there?'. . . Hence the U.S. must stop these border violations.... What turn will Pak-U.S. relations take now depends on the outcome of meetings between Admiral Mullen and the Pakistani PM and Army Chief."

23. "Every Step Should Be Taken With Caution," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (09/18)

"It is imperative to make it clear to the U.S. Admiral Mike Mullen that to win the war on terror it is not appropriate to create problems for Pakistan that can destabilize the country and make people annoyed. In that case, Pakistan will not be able to play a part in the war on terror any longer. The visit of the Army Chief General Kayani to China is timely, as he will be able to take the Chinese friends into confidence on the present state of affairs. Pakistan should make contacts with other allied countries too."

24. "New U.S. Pressure," an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir. 5,000) (09/18)

"There has been an increase in diplomatic, political and defense contacts following the growing tension in Pak-U.S. relations. Immediately after taking oath, President Zardari had started devising a strategy to counter the various challenges facing the new government. These included, lawlessness, inflation and establishing the writ of the state; yet the sudden U.S. annoyance has compelled the new President and government to change their priorities. This situation has again made us realize that Pakistani policies are formulated more under U.S. pressure than in view of national aspirations."

25. "Dignity Is A Big Thing In The World," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (09/18)

"The U.S. allegations and attacks are a clear indication of its failure and defeat in Afghanistan. Pakistan should demonstrate its nerve, and save itself from any further losses. We neither have

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breathing space to retreat as the international situation does not allow us to do so, nor do we need any foreign support anymore since Pakistan can cope with the state of affairs itself."

26. "Zardari-Brown Joint Communiqu," an editorial in the Lahore-based Urdu daily "Waqt" (circ. 5000) (09/18)

"What matters were discussed in the meetings with Admiral Mullen will be revealed later, but this much can be said with certainty: that the army Chief and the PM will neither adopt a policy of succumbing to pressure on the border issue, nor will they forget the prerequisites of national dignity under foreign pressure.... The government must make it clear to the U.S. authorities that we cannot go any further in the war on terror because it has now become clear that the U.S. can even target it frontline ally to meet its objectives. In view of the global scenario, the government needs to take a fresh look at its policies so that no harm comes to the country's integrity, dignity and national honor."

27. "President Zardari's Meeting With British PM," an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (09/18)

"It can be judged from the [recurring strikes] that the U.S. does not take note of our protests.... However, the military and political leadership and the nation are united in their stance on U.S. strikes, as is evident from their reaction. There is tension between the two countries over U.S. strikes and Pakistan's protests. The situation would not have come to this pass if the U.S. had stopped the attacks after protest by the political and military leadership."

28. "Sense Of Accord," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/18)

"Pakistan, in London, seems to have found support that could prove extremely useful. But in order to retain this and to persuade the U.S. to re-think its current tactics of cross-border attacks, it must do more. This includes first and foremost some clearly defined strategy on how it intends to tackle the terrorists who have set up base in northern areas. While it has suggested that in cases where the U.S. is aware of a specific militant target or has knowledge about the movement of key leaders, it share this information with Pakistan, this can happen only when there is a conviction that action will be taken. So far, Pakistan's offensives against terrorists have been seen as being somewhat half-hearted. Though there is some indication that a greater resolve is now underpinning action, Pakistan will need to build confidence in its aims and objectives. Only if it succeeds in doing so can it persuade friends such as those in London to forcefully plead its case."

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29. "Reform ISI? Not Like This," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (09/18)

"The act of reforming the ISI has to be initiated by Pakistan and its elected parliament, and it should not be seen as prompted or 'ordered' by another state. Since the U.S. and Pakistan are partners in their fight against terrorism - and the success of this partnership in the past has depended solely on the ISI.... If the idea was to bring the PPP government under pressure, the Boucher statement has in effect had the effect of putting it on the defensive. The PPP cannot afford to carry out any reform now."

30. "The ISI Dilemma," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/18)

"If militancy is to be defeated and Pakistan rescued from the stranglehold of dark elements determined to stifle democracy within it, this task will have to be undertaken with the government and the military combining forces. This is necessary in order to usher in the changes so urgently needed so that the ISI can once more serve the government rather than act independently in a manner that often hurts the state."

31. "Brown's Statement," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (09/18)

"If the U.S. really thinks that the war on terrorism can be effectively carried out by winning hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan, it will have to abandon the idea. In any case, NATO has distanced itself from the U.S. new formula to win the war on terrorism. With the U.K., a staunch ally, showing maturity by pleading for Pakistan-Afghanistan anti-extremism efforts, there is all the more reason for the U.S. to reconsider its authoritative approach."

32. "U.S: The So-Called Champion Of Human Rights," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily

"Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (09/18)

"Dr. Aafia's 11-year-old son has been handed over to his aunt on U.S. directive. When British journalist Ridley broke the news of Dr. Aafia's detention in the Bagram prison, it was denied. However, a few weeks later U.S. officials said that she was arrested near Ghazni in July. This statement by the U.S. officials was a pack of lies. Where was Aafia all this time? Now, the U.S. administration is telling another lie by expressing ignorance about her two other children.... The U.S. talks about human rights only for its own people, it does not care for the rest of the world. The latest example of this is the deportation of missing-persons-activist Amna

Masood Janjua.... Her deportation is condemnable. The government must protest appropriately or retaliate by deporting some Americans arriving in Pakistan."

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33. "Complexities Of Conflict," an op-ed by Talat Masood in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (09/18)

"The U.S. should cease looking at Pakistan through Afghanistan's prism. For the U.S. to pursue a policy that destabilizes a nuclear-armed country of nearly 170 million to supposedly stabilize Afghanistan, which has rarely been a functional state, is simply beyond comprehension. What the U.S. and Pakistan need to understand is that as of now, inadvertently or otherwise, both have become a part of the problem and only a joint effort will move us toward a solution. Any unilateral strategy will be disastrous for all parties."

34. "U.S. From Friend To Master To Enemy?," an op-ed by Syed Ali Zafar in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (09/18)

"The invasions must not be allowed to become a routine or else people may take up arms in a popular movement.... I would suggest to the new government that all cooperations with the U.S. on the War should cease and remain suspended till it agrees on a 'no attack' policy. Pakistan and the U.S. are friends and not enemies. However, the U.S. needs to recognize that Pakistan has a right and genuine reasons to respond in its own way to the threats within its territory. The answer does not lie in attacking Pakistan which cannot be justified."

35. "New Frontlines Against Terrorism," an op-ed by Kamila Hyat in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/18)

"Whether or not the account regarding the presence of PAF aircraft over Waziristan is strictly accurate, there can be no doubt that relations between Pakistan and the U.S. have entered a critical new stage. The defiant stance taken by Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, pledging a defence of the country against U.S. assault, has brought this feud out into the open. For the first time in years, some in the northern areas have been praising the Pakistani Army, till now despised as an institution working for U.S. interests."

36. "Obama No Friend Of Pakistan," an op-ed by Bilal Qureshi in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (09/18)

"Barack Obama is no more Pakistan's friend than George Bush or any

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other President in the past, and perhaps in the future as well. American friendship is based on American national interest, not personal preference of the man occupying the White House.... American forces don't need Pakistan's permission to launch an air attack, and just like they have done in the past. This has been clear to anyone who was paying attention to America's message. It is time for Pakistan's Foreign Office to recognize the reality. It is also time for the country to evaluate Pakistan's options and Pakistan's future role in the conflict against terrorism.... If we still believe that there is going to be any change, and by change if we expect to be left alone by Washington, we are being naove. Nothing is going to change and if anything, Washington is going to demand more and more from Islamabad in the coming days. You can count on it."

Patterson

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