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	NOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00
	FAAE-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	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	D-00
	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00
	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JULY 03, 2008

Summary: Dailies all led with Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher's press conference remarks that Pakistani politicians should focus on extremism, food, and power shortages instead of wasting attention on President Musharraf, who is not the issue right now. Most dailies also ran editorials on different aspects of Mr. Boucher's visit to Pakistan. The English daily "The News" observed that Mr. Boucher has focused primarily on assessing the political mood in the country and offering a reminder that Washington's gaze still remains keenly focused on the country. Another English-language daily, "Dawn," advised that the United States must understand that Pakistan needs the carrot as much as the stick to pass on to its people. Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" stated that it becomes obvious U.S. energies are more focused on easing pressure on Musharraf rather than lifting pressure from the Pakistani nation as

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

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a whole. Pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily LA San criticized U.S. officials for using a threatening tone to Pakistani leaders and urged the Government of Pakistan not to show any weakness or cowardice, as Pakistan is a nuclear state.

In other stories, newspapers highlighted that the Federal Cabinet approved an initiative to commute death sentences to life imprisonment, a move that will provide relief to some 7,000 people currently on death row. All dailies also reported that lawyers threatened to hold another long march to Islamabad and stage a sit-in. Some newspapers highlighted a Washington Times report that Pakistan allowed the United States to hit UBL inside Pakistan. End Summary.

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News Stories  
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1. "Militancy, Food Crisis Real Issues: Boucher" "Dawn" (07/03)

"United States on Wednesday urged Pakistani leaders to focus on curbing militancy and control rising food prices and power cuts instead of 'wasting energy' over President Musharraf's political future. 'Frankly, President Musharraf is not the issue right now. This is not the problem that Pakistan faces right now,' U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher told a press briefing at the end of his second trip to Pakistan this year."

2. "Washington Against Talks With Mehsud" "The Nation" (07/03)

"The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher on Wednesday responding to a query, made it clear that his country did not back the peace talks with Taliban, including the most influential militant commander, Baitullah Mehsud."

3. "Cabinet Approves Conversion Of Death Penalty Into Life Term" "Daily Times" (07/03)

"The Federal Cabinet on Wednesday approved Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani's initiative to commute all death sentences into life imprisonment, a move that will provide relief to some 7,000 people currently on death row. Information Minister Sherry Rehman said, while briefing journalists after the Cabinet's first meeting in Karachi."

4. "Lawyers Threaten Another Long March" "The News" (07/03)

"The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has accused the government of diverting the attention of the people from the lawyers' movement by creating an artificial price-hike. The bar has also announced to

hold another 'Long March' in a bid to keep the movement alive. Secretary SCBA, Chaudhry Amin Javed said at a press conference in Lahore on Wednesday, the lawyers would hold a compulsory sit-in in federal capital in the next long march and would not leave until judges would be restored."

5. "U.S. Allowed To Hit Usama Inside Pakistan" "The News" (07/03)

"Pakistan long ago gave Washington the right to launch an immediate predator drone strike on Usama bin Laden without first notifying Islamabad if he is located in Pakistani tribal areas, The Washington Times reported on Wednesday."

6. "U.S. Has The Authority To Hit Al Qaeda Leaders In Pakistan, Says Mullen" "Dawn" (07/03)

"Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on Wednesday that he has all the authority he needed for targeting senior Al Qaeda and Taliban leaders in Pakistan's tribal areas but refused to say if U.S. troops were also allowed to operate inside the Pakistani territory."

7. "Usama On Death Bed" "The Post" (07/03)

"Two officials of the U.S. Intelligence Agency, CIA, have claimed that Al Qaeda Chief Usama bin Laden was on death bed as he suffered from a terminal kidney disease, and may live only for a few months."

8. "Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue Next Month" "The News" (07/03)

"Pakistan-U.S. strategic dialogue will take place in Washington next month and establishment of Reconstruction Opportunity Zones (ROZs) in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), NWFP and Balochistan will be the focus of deliberations in the dialogue."

9. "U.S. Identifies 'Aliases' Of Blacklisted Groups" "The Nation" (07/03)

"The Bush administration on Wednesday accused two blacklisted Pakistan-based groups of operating under 'new aliases' to try to skirt financial sanctions, reports a private TV channel. The U.S. Treasury Department identified numerous alleged aliases for Al-Rashid Trust and Al-Akhtar Trust International, two groups the United States has previously accused of providing support to Al Qaeda."

10. "PM Wants FATA Action To Be Result-Oriented; Operation Launched With Allies' Consent: Sherry" "Dawn" (07/03)

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"Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ operation against militants in tribal areas should be 'result-oriented and conclusive' without causing inconvenience to the people. He gave the directive after the federal cabinet was given an in-camera briefing by his Adviser, Rehman Malik, at the Governor's House, Karachi on Wednesday. Information Minister Sherry Rehman told reporters after the cabinet meeting that there was a consensus on the issue, 'to the satisfaction of the Prime Minister.'"

11. "President Keeps The Door Open For Nawaz" "The News" (07/03)

"President Musharraf, reiterating that he is in no way an obstacle to democracy in the country, on Wednesday said he is playing his constitutional role and is ready to guide the government in any way, and his doors are always open for everyone, including Nawaz Sharif. The president expressed these views while talking to Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher, who called on him at the Presidential Camp Office on Wednesday.

12. "Top Commander Among 69 Militants Held In Bara Swoop" "The News" (07/03)

"The police force, supported by personnel of the Frontier Constabulary, continued cracking down on pockets of criminal gangs in the rural areas of the provincial metropolis on Wednesday, the fifth day of the Bara operation, rounding up 69 alleged militants, including a top militant commander. The arrested commander was identified as Amal Khan of the Lashkar-e-Islam."

13. "Government Turns Down Talks Offer Of Lashkar-e-Islam" "Pakistan Observer" (07/03)

"The government has turned down talks offer of the banned outfit Lashkar-e-Islam and vowed to go ahead with operation "Sirat-e-Mustaqeem" against miscreants till achieving the desired results."

14. "JUI Leader Held For 'Training Female Terrorists'" "Daily Times" (07/03)

"Security forces on Wednesday arrested Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam leader Maulvi Samiullah and his son in Tank district for allegedly training would-be female suicide bombers, Geo TV reported."

15. "Jaish Vows To Continue War Against U.S." "Dawn" (07/03)

"The Jaish-ul-Islami Pakistan, Bajaur Agency, has said that 'Jihad' would continue against U.S.-led foreign forces in Afghanistan till their ouster from the country. Addressing a press conference from

an undisclosed location on Wednesday. A USA Commander in Bajaur Wali-ur-Rehman said that American spies in the tribal belt of Pakistan would be awarded exemplary punishment."

16. "Dialogue Isolating Militants: Ghani" "Daily Times," "The Nation" (07/03)

"The NWFP government is using dialogue and negotiations to isolate militants and keeping the Federally Administered Tribal Areas peaceful, NWFP Governor Owais Ahmad Ghani said on Wednesday, while talking to a six-member United States Congressional delegation at the Governor's House in Peshawar."

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Editorials/Op-eds

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17. "Boucher's Bid," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (07/03)

"US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher has focused primarily on assessing the political mood in the country and offering a reminder that Washington's gaze still remains keenly focused on the country. The reality though sadly is that U.S. interest in Pakistan is likely to remain intact for some time to come. It is unlikely it can be shaken off any time soon. And indeed, the fact also is that in this point in time, Pakistan does need U.S. backing to combat the problems it faces on many fronts."

18. "U.S.-Pakistan Dilemma," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (07/03)

"America must understand that Pakistan needs the carrot as much as the stick to pass on to its people. Islamabad also must not appear to be taking orders from Washington. Hence public reaction to Richard Boucher's statement expressing concern at the 'cold war' among the coalition partners and not enough being done in FATA may not be so positive.... Fighting the war against militants militarily and politically requires the cooperation of the Pakistani state, but it will all come to nought if the public continues to see the real enemy as the U.S. America must help Pakistan help itself, even if previously the Bush and Musharraf administrations did not see the virtue in doing so. Whether this comes in the form of a 'democracy dividend' or an economic bailout, this must be provided now and it must be done discreetly."

19. "Boucher's Pleading," an editorial in the Lahore-based Liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (07/03)

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"Seen in combination Mr. Boucher's pleading soft on Musharraf because 'he has become irrelevant' and the U.S. Congressmen's urging that Musharraf be retained because 'he knows all being an ex-army officer' and it becomes obvious U.S. energies are more focused on easing pressure on Musharraf rather than lifting pressure from the Pakistani nation as a whole."

20. "Strong Leaders Can Resolve Pakistan's Problems," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (07/03)

"It should be a matter of serious concern for the government that low-ranking officials and Congressmen of the United States have become accustomed to talk to Pakistani senior leaders and high officials in a threatening tone, and they take it for granted to interfere into Pakistan's internal matters. Pakistan is an independent and sovereign country, and equipped with nuclear arsenals too. Any demonstration of weakness and cowardice from Pakistani side does not go well with the leaders of a nuclear state. Only a strong and daring leadership can resolve Pakistan's problems."

21. "America And Nawaz Sharif," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (07/03)

"It is being said that Mr. Boucher's visit was aimed at introducing flexibility into the stance of Mr. Sharif and his party (on President Musharraf), as well as to impress upon him that America was willing to spend big money on the economic development of Pakistan but was hampered in its plans by the rising trend of terrorism and the bad law and order situation in Pakistan.... The state has lost whatever writ it had in nearly half the territory of the country. The terrorists with whom Mr. Sharif recommends 'talks' keep on repeating the vow that they will continue to raid across the Durand Line. The world looks at FATA as the training ground of international groups preparing terrorist attacks in the United States and the European Union. This 'world' is composed of those states that absorb all of our exports and can bail us out economically."

22. "Only Courageous Leaders Can Guard Pakistan," an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (07/03)

"PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif has made it clear to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher that military operations in Pakistani tribal areas will not succeed and the United States will have to change its policy... It is very difficult to deal with those people who are unyielding and always ready to pick a fight,

and this job must be done with extreme caution. Militants must be given a chance to lay their arms. And those who are faithful to Pakistan will definitely end hostilities, and those who are misguided will prefer to continue fighting. Nonetheless, this approach will draw a line, and expose the good guys and the bad guys in any case."

23. "U.S. Indulgence In Pakistan's Affairs," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (07/03)

"When Mr. Boucher visited Pakistan with his immediate boss Mr. Negroponte soon after the elections and met with all the leaders, all of them unanimously said that the parliament would decide on supporting the U.S. in the war on terror. Yet the parliament was not taken into confidence when [during this recent visit] Mr. Boucher was given a bloody salute through a military operation. This operation proves that the present democratic government has adopted President Musharraf's line on the issue, whereas there has been no change in Mr. Nawaz Sharif's stance.... The government should also respond to the U.S. like Mr. Sharif has."

24. "Boucher Should Give Advice To Musharraf And Not Nawaz Sharif," (Pakistan) an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (06/03)

"Mr. Boucher is a guest in Pakistan and hence, worthy of respect. He represents the world's sole superpower. America considers President Musharraf a friend and Mr. Boucher has personal ties with him. Rather than making small talk, Mr. Boucher should advise General (retired) Musharraf to resign or he would face a bitter fate."

25. "Nawaz Sharif's Protest," an editorial in the Karachi-based right-wing pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Urdu daily "Jasarat" (cir. 3,000) (07/03)

"Richard Boucher is on a mission to take PML-N onboard about military operation in tribal areas. PML-N knows popular sentiments associated with this issue, and thus its leaders are exploiting the situation to gain extra miles in next general elections. United States stands fully behind President Musharraf, and PPP government, but PML-N has disapproved use of force in tribal areas, and will continue to protest against military maneuvers. Now the question is that what does this protest mean, as it (PML-N) is still sitting on the treasury benches despite serious differences with PPP on several issues including judges' issue, as well as FATA policy? The military operation is going on, but where do they stand?"

26. "Mr. Asif Zardari's Address To The Socialist Conference," an

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editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (circ. 10,000) (07/03)

"Addressing an international conference, Mr. Asif Zardari has held the West and the U.S. responsible for the problems facing Pakistan. He has thus presented Pakistan's case as a true and patriotic leader. Although such statements will not bring about an immediate

change in U.S. policy, they will certainly create a positive change in the international community's views on Pakistan."

27. "Present-Day Problems And Facts On The Grounds," an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (07/03)

"As far as [Mr. Zardari's statement] that the U.S. spent money on the Pakistan army and not the nation, everyone is aware that Pakistan's strategic and geographical location is such that the Army is indispensable for defending the borders. Similarly, fulfilling its requirements is also necessary. These requirements were met in the past and should be met in the future too. The important thing is that if the U.S. focused on the army and not on our nation, the role played by our leaders was no different."

28. "The Right Prescription," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (07/03)

"Mr. Zardari's prescription for overpowering the forces of extremism, the bane of not only the West, but also of Pakistan, i.e. economic and social development, finds some resonance in the West but, unfortunately, comes up against a lack of the sense of urgency and will. President Bush's promise of March 2006 to establish reconstruction opportunity zones, for instance, stands unfulfilled to this day, and the US Congress has only now been approached to pass the required legislation. If the U.S. and its resourceful allies do not want to remain bogged down in the mire of terrorism, notwithstanding the need to improve the force de frappe of the army, they had better invest in the socio-economic development of the country, help build schools and colleges, modernize agriculture and set up industries to bring the benefits of the modern age to the man in the street. These measures would also strengthen democratic forces."

29. "U.S. & Insurgency In Swat," an op-ed by Zeenia Satti in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (07/03)

"U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan which caused large civilian casualties and Musharraf's Jamia Hafsa debacle that killed hundreds of unarmed civilians fuelled the fires of militancy further. It remains to be investigated as to whether or not a foreign hand is



