

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART  
B3, NSA50

A185

ACTION INR-00

|      |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 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 |
|      | UTED-00 | VCI-00  | H-00    | TEDE-00 | IO-00   | MOFM-00 | MOF-00  |
|      | VCIE-00 | DCP-00  | NSAE-00 | ISN-00  | OIC-00  | OIG-00  | OMB-00  |
|      | NIMA-00 | EPAU-00 | PM-00   | GIWI-00 | ISNE-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  | G-00    | SCA-00  |
|      | CARC-00 | NFAT-00 | SAS-00  | FA-00   | SWCI-00 | /000W   |         |

B3

-----92CB56 161037Z /38

O 161032Z MAY 08  
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6959  
 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

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 001874

E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MAY 16, 2008

SUMMARY: Reports on the PPP's "controversial" appointment of business-cum-media tycoon Salman Taseer as new Governor in the Punjab province dominated headlines in all newspapers on Friday. All dailies also highlighted reports that coalition government partner, PML-N, "reacted angrily to the nomination of a controversial person as Governor" and termed it a "conspiracy by the Presidency to topple PML-N government." The English daily, "Dawn," reported that the "U.S. is refusing to comment on the missile attack on Damadola and has toughened its stances on a proposed agreement with the militants." Also highlighted were reports that Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said that "nobody has claimed responsibility for the Bajaur attack therefore no speculation can be made in this regards." Ambassador Patterson's meeting with former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also received prominent coverage.

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

UNCLASSIFIED  
 DRONE/DOS/001626

## UNCLASSIFIED

Most major dailies ran critical editorials on the alleged U.S. missile attack in Damadola killing at least 20 people. The English daily, "The News," noted that "the fact that the attack coincides with an exchange of prisoners between Baitullah Mehsud and the government is worrying. It suggests that the purpose behind it may have been to sabotage such deal-making." Another English daily, "Pakistan Observer," noted that "earlier too the United States had been violating Pakistan's sovereignty by similar attacks and intrusions into its air space on one pretext or the other thus increasing anti-American feelings. The latest attack was definitely aimed at subverting the process of talks." The Urdu daily, "Mashriq," wrote: "The U.S. must understand that after bombing the peaceful civilians of an independent and sovereign country, the Americans must not expect garlands from the aggrieved people in return."

Ambassador Patterson's recent address at Management Association of Pakistan in Karachi continued to resonate in the media. Two Letters to the Editor in the English daily, "Dawn," pointed out that "if she (Ambassador Patterson) looks at the overall trend in the U.S. policies over the years, she should not be surprised at the unhappy feelings not only amongst average Pakistan and Muslims generally but also in a number of European nations against American arrogance. Ambassador Anne Patterson needs to focus on these things and rather than draw her own conclusion." End Summary.

-----  
News Stories  
-----

1. "Taseer Takes Drama To a New Height; Appointment Exposes Fissures In PPP-PML-N Coalition" "Dawn" (05/16)

"The hair-raising political mystery unfolding in the country took another twist on Thursday when the Pakistan Muslim League-N reacted angrily to the nomination of controversial Salman Taseer as the new governor of all important Punjab. The Pakistan People's Party explained by saying that it had agreed to Taseer's selection after getting his name cleared from a couple of PML-N's leaders. 'Taseer's nomination is part of a conspiracy being hatched in the presidency,' fired PML-N's Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan at a press conference."

2. "PPP, PML-N Lock Horns Over Taseer's Appointment" "The News" (05/16)

"PML-N central leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, addressing a press conference in Lahore on Thursday, termed the appointment of Salman Taseer as the Punjab Governor a conspiracy by the presidency to

start horse-trading in the Punjab aimed at supplying the PML-N government." UNCLASSIFIED

3. "US Toughens Stance On Government's Talks With Militants" "Dawn" (05/16)

"The United States is refusing to comment on the missile attack on Damadola but has toughened its stance on a proposed agreement with the militants, saying that any deal Pakistan reaches with them should be 'worth more than the paper it is written on.' A US State Department official, when contacted by 'Dawn' for comments, advised this correspondent to contact Pakistani authorities. 'We saw the reports. We are basically referring people to Pakistani authorities,' he said."

4. "Only Army To Carry Out Operation In Pakistan: FO" "The News" (05/16)

"Foreign Office spokesman has said it is the prerogative of only the Pakistan Army to carry out any operation on its soil. In a weekly briefing, Foreign Office Spokesman Muhammad Sadiq said no one had claimed the responsibility of the missile attack in Bajaur. Therefore, it will not be correct to make any speculation in this respect, he added."

5. "US Ambassador Meets Nawaz" "Daily Times" (05/16)

"United States Ambassador to Pakistan Anne Patterson met Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif at his Raiwind residence and discussed issues of mutual interest, US Embassy spokeswoman Elizabeth Colton said on Thursday."

6. "US Disappointed At Pak Anti-Terror Plan" "The News" (05/16)

"The US-Led NATO troops have developed new hands-on and hard-lined strategy to deal with the Al Qaeda militants who according to the US authorities have their hideouts in the tribal areas adjacent to the international borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan."

7. "Bajaur Attack Wrong And Unfair: PM" "The Nation" (05/16)

"Answering a question about the missile attack in a village in the Bajaur tribal region, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani strongly condemned it, saying it was 'wrong and unfair.' Many people have been killed, and we condemn it."

8. "Jamaat-e-Islami Demands Expulsion Of US Envoy" "The News" (05/16)

"Condemning the Wednesday's guided missile attack by the US planes on Damadola village, Provincial President of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq on Thursday announced a province-wide protest today (Friday) and urged the government to expel the US envoy from the country."

9. "Qazi Flays Government's Inaction Over Bajaur Onslaught" "Dawn" (05/16)

"Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Qazi Husain Ahmad has condemned the silence of Islamabad at US aggression in Bajaur and appealed to the masses to observe Friday as a protest day."

10. "Anti-US Rallies Today" "The Post" (05/16)

"Anti-US rallies will be held today after Friday prayers against colonial policies and atrocities of the US across the globe, especially against Islam. A large number of people including students are expected to attend the rallies."

11. "Damadola Attack Not To Derail Peace Process" "Dawn" (05/16)

"Addressing the people assembled at the funeral, militant commander Faqir Mohammad said that strikes would not derail the peace process between the government and militants. He said: 'The missile strike was aimed at subverting the peace process between the government and the Pakistani Taliban but we will not allow this conspiracy to succeed.'"

12. "Militants Vow Revenge" "The Nation" (05/16)

"A top Taliban leader vowed on Thursday to target the US in revenge for an alleged missile strike that killed several people in a Pakistani tribal region."

13. "Bajaur Strikes Draw Public Ire" "The News" (05/16)

"Tribesmen on Thursday staged demonstrations against the US strikes on the Damadola area of Bajaur Agency. Addressing a rally in Khar Bazaar, the Jamaat-e-Islami Bajaur Amir Sardar Khan and others condemned the US attacks and deplored that the government did not express sympathy with the tribal people. They said the situation in the tribal areas and Swat worsened owing to the wrong policies of President Musharraf."

14. "Musharraf, America Against Restoration" "The Nation" (05/16)

"The US interference in the process of reinstatement of judges has shattered the coalition between PPP and PML-N as Washington has serious concerns over the restoration of deposed CJP Iftikhar"

Chaudhry, said Justice (R) Wajihuddin Ahmed is talking to 'The Nation.'

UNCLASSIFIED

15. "Pakistan Optimistic About Progress In India Dialogue" "Dawn" (05/16)

"Pakistan has said it is optimistic about progress in the peace process with India when the two countries resume their dialogue next week, said Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Sadiq at his weekly briefing on Thursday."

16. "Brown Pledges Help For New Government" "Dawn" (05/16)

"Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said that Britain would do what it could to help Pakistan 'as we want a stable government in Islamabad,' while speaking at his monthly Downing Street press conference in London on Thursday."

-----  
Editorials/Op-eds  
-----

17. "Missile Strike," an editorial in the English daily, "The News" (05/16)

"The fact that the attack coincides with an exchange of prisoners between Baitullah Mehsud and the government is worrying. It suggests the purpose behind it may have been to sabotage such deal-making. Pakistan can hope to win the war on terror only if it is seen by people as being a battle it itself is fighting. The ANP government has a well thought-out plan on how to effectively tackle the issue. This aims at combining talks with militants with development in the area -- so, while the bombing may be the 'stick', one is yet to see the 'carrot'."

18. "US Drone Does It Again," an editorial in the English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (05/16)

"The missile attacks coincided with the swap of prisoners between the Government and Baitullah Mehsud led militants in South Waziristan Agency. Earlier too the United States had been violating Pakistan's sovereignty by similar attacks and intrusions into its air space on one pretext or the other thus increasing anti-American feelings. The latest attack was definitely aimed at subverting the process of talks to persuade militants to give up attacks on security forces and release the hostages."

19. "U.S. Should Remain In Its Limits," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Mashriq" (05/16)

UNCLASSIFIED  
DRONE/DOS/001630

"The time of the U.S. bombardment is very ~~clear~~ <sup>clear</sup> as it denotes that it was meant to sabotage the peace process going on between Mahsud tribe and the Government. It also shows that the U.S. and its allies are not in favor of peace process in tribal areas and this attack was launched to create misunderstandings, confusion, and kick off fight again between Pak Army and the local tribes. The U.S. must also understand that after bombing the peaceful civilians of an independent and sovereign country, the Americans must not expect garlands from the aggrieved people in return."

20. "A Grave Provocation," an editorial in the English daily, "The Nation" (05/16)

"The statement by the ISPR spokesman, indicating he had no information about the incident, is surprising. It is disturbing that the Army, which is supposed to defend the country, should remain unaware while US drones enter Pakistan's territory and attack its citizens. There is a need on the part of the militants also to realize the need to cooperate with the elected government which genuinely wants to bring peace through talks."

21. "Yet Another Attack," an editorial in the English daily, "The Post" (05/16)

"In view of the US's opposition to the policy of peace deals with the local Taliban, and considering the latest NATO allegation that the deals were increasing militancy in Afghanistan, the Wednesday

attack could be a move to sink the deal with Mehsud. The other aim could be to dictate the 'rules of engagement' to the new government. Whatever the reason, the US must not act like the proverbial bull in a china shop."

22. "American Attack On Pakistani Sovereignty And Government's Silence," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Nawa-i-Waqt" (05/16)

"The purpose of these U.S. attacks, continuing for several years, against peaceful and patriotic tribal people is to destabilize Pakistan. The latest attack came at a time when the government has reconsidered General Parvez Musharraf's destructive policy and started a dialogue process with the local Taliban. The terrorist strikes and suicide attacks all over Pakistan halted due to this dialogue process. The ISPR has expressed ignorance about the attack, which means that the government of Pakistan did not consider the people of the area citizens of Pakistan. This perception should now end that pro-America policies of General (retired) Musharraf still continue."

23. "U.S. Strike In Bajaur And The Government's Responsibility," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Express" (05/16)

## UNCLASSIFIED

"The government should take serious note of this [strike] and make it clear to the U.S. to avoid such acts; otherwise the direction of public hatred could change as well. Meanwhile, the government and Taliban must not let this incident derail the peace talks, and strive to complete them soon."

24. "U.S. Strike In Bajaur And National Sovereignty," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Waqt" (05/16)

"As far as terrorism is concerned, it has always been America's war, never Pakistan's issue. Pakistan joined this war to help the U.S. and now this war has engulfed the country. This is also the real reason behind unrest and lawlessness in Pakistan. Hence the government must make it clear to the U.S. that this is no longer an issue of the Taliban or terrorists - but has become an issue of Pakistan's sovereignty; Pakistan will never compromise on its sovereignty."

25. "Old American strategy," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Ummat" (05/16)

"The latest American attacks in Bajaur, Pak-Afghan frontier' is an old strategy of America to pressurize new government. In the past we have often noticed that when government made efforts for peace with local Taliban in tribal areas, NATO expressed its unhappiness followed by America's resorting to aerial bombing, killing innocent women and children to sabotage peace deals."

26. "US Envoy's Upset," a letter to the editor by Shiraz Sachedina in the English daily, "Dawn" (05/16)

"The US envoy is unhappy to see an increasing trend in anti-American feelings amongst Pakistani middle class society. If she looks at the overall trend in US policies over the years, she should not be surprised at the unhappy feelings not only amongst average Pakistani and Muslims generally but also in a number of European nations against American arrogance. Ambassador Anne Patterson needs to focus on these things and rather than draw her own conclusion."

27. "US Envoy's Upset," a letter to the editor by Arif M. in the English daily, "Dawn" (05/16)

"A report says that the American Ambassador has been upset by the anti-Americanism in Pakistan. She remarked: 'I suspect that those who oppose American engagement in Pakistan have a limited understanding of how our partnerships - economic assistance and financial interactions - changed the lives of everyday Pakistanis in real and positive ways.' One would like to tell Anne Patterson that we understand a lot about American aid. We have seen what it has

done in Iraq and Afghanistan and in UNCLASSIFIED areas. What it does in the Israeli context and in Lebanon. She is reminded of what the Bible says: 'Man shall not live by bread alone.' In our context it may be rephrased as, 'Pakistanis shall not live by dollar alone.' The US should devote thought to what else it has been doing, apart from trying to buy people's loyalties."

28. "Live Martyrdom," an op-ed by Abdullah Tariq Suhail in the Urdu daily, "Express" (05/16)

"U.S. Ambassador's activities have amazingly increased in Pakistan. She goes to the offices and meetings of the political parties, exchanges promises and directives with them and the nation can't do anything but watching these developments. America's Media Monitor Network has revealed that there are FBI and CIA personnel everywhere in Pakistan these days, who have established a government of their own which arrests people, takes them to Afghanistan and handicaps them through torture."

29. "Talks Of Disintegration Of Pakistan Yet Again," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Islam" (05/16)

"A recent report of a U.S. based group 'Media Monitor Network' reveals a plan about Pakistan's future. It shows new boundaries and new geographical map of Pakistan.... And this conspiracy is being hatched by none other than our own 'friends.' For how long we will take such reports as fictitious and untrue, or is there something substantial in them? Do our rulers have time to frustrate these plans, or will they remain engaged in their own businesses?"

30. "Lebanon on the Precipice," an editorial in the English daily, "Dawn" (05/16)

"The problem with tiny Lebanon is that too many people are fishing in its troubled waters. Saudi Arabia backs the pro-western Siniora government, while President George Bush has not helped matters by laying blame on Syria and Iran every now and then for Lebanon's troubles. American accusations, Washington should know, only undermine the Siniora government and help Hezbollah. Unless the Lebanese themselves realize the gravity of the situation and patch up their differences it is difficult to see how another civil war can be averted."

Patterson

NNNN