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	LAB-01	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00
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TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Summary: Most major dailies on Monday ran as their lead story a report in "Sunday Times" quoting President Zardari as urging the need for a "new dialogue to tackle terrorism." Also front paged were reports that "Prime Minister Gilani telephoned President Zardari (now in London) on Saturday night to discuss "frequent violation of the country's air space and incursions by the U.S. forces." Also highlighted were reports that President Zardari would also meet British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in London on Tuesday "to discuss America's unilateral decision to send missiles and men into Pakistan territory." Newspapers also front paged reports that at least "21 people were killed in intense strafing and shelling in Bajaur." In an exclusive story, the English daily "The News" quoted Assistant Secretary Boucher saying that "no rift exists between Pakistan and the United States."

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Most major dailies ran editorials on the continued U.S. incursions into Pakistani territory. The English daily "The News" noted that "there is a sense of attitudinal hardening in Islamabad; we would lose any fist-fight we got into with the American, which does not mean that we surrender the territorial imperative." The second-largest nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" observed that "it should be made clear to America that it is paving the way for a war which will be destructive for itself." The pro-Taliban Urdu daily "Islam" wrote: "U.S. violation of Pakistani borders is an international crime, and Pakistan should take concrete steps as an independent nation, instead of adopting an apologetic stance on this issue." End Summary.

News Stories

1. "Zardari Wants 'New Dialogue' To Tackle Terror" "Daily Times" (09/15)

"Highlighting the need for 'a new dialogue' to tackle terrorism, President Asif Zardari has said he would seek an international conference on the issue at the UN General Assembly later this month.

'Whatever medicine we've been using it hasn't ended the poison, it's made it worse,' Zardari was quoted as saying by The Sunday Times."

2. "U.S. Incursions Into Pakistan, Violation Of Airspace: Zardari, Gilani Vow To Defend Country's Territorial Integrity" "Daily Times" (09/15)

"President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani vowed to defend Pakistan's sovereignty in a telephone conversation late on Saturday. '[Gilani] called the President last night in Dubai and discussed with him the frequent violation of the country's air space and incursions by the U.S. forces,' said a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office."

3. "U.S. Attacks On Agenda For Asif's Talks With Brown" "The Dawn" (09/15)

"President Asif Ali Zardari who arrived in London on Sunday morning from Dubai will be meeting British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Tuesday to discuss America's unilateral decision to send missiles and men into Pakistan territory. Pakistan has already warned the U.S. and President Zardari is expected to reiterate his government's position on the matter when he meets Mr. Brown."

4. "21 Killed In Bajaur Operations" "The Dawn" (09/15)

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"A number of militants were among 21 people killed in intense strafing and shelling by helicopter gun-ships in Bajaur Agency on Sunday. Ground forces, meanwhile, advanced in several areas and consolidated their positions."

5. "64 More Killed In Bajaur: Military" "The News" (09/15)

"Security forces claimed to have killed 64 militants in an intensified operation in various parts of the troubled Bajaur Agency, as the locals continued shifting to safer places on Sunday."

6. "Boucher Sees No Rift In Pak-U.S. Relations" "The News" (09/15)

"U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia

Richard Boucher has said that no rift exists between Pakistan and the United States as both the countries are maintaining close contact with each other. Talking to "The News" from Washington on later Sunday evening he said that United States continued to value its ties with Pakistan as Islamabad has been an admirable ally in the war against terror."

7. "U.S. Congressman Raises Questions About F-16 Supply" "The News" (09/15)

"A U.S. Congressional sub-committee will look at how the US supplied Pakistani F-16 program fits into the broader US strategy in the fight against terrorism as well as into the overall U.S. relationship with Pakistan, a notification from the sub-committee says."

8. "Economic Aid Tied To War On Terror" "The Nation" (09/15)

"Pakistan's sudden policy shift from the U.S.-led international war on terror could cost dampening down of the inflow of foreign assistance, both multilateral and bilateral, a source in an international financial institution (IFI) told 'The Nation' on Sunday."

9. "President To Confront Many Challenges During U.S. Visit" "The Nation" (09/15)

"President Asif Ali Zardari, who is leaving for New York on September 21, will face not only an enormous challenge to persuade his American counterpart George W. Bush for the withdrawal of the latter's decision of launching missile strikes on Pakistan's tribal areas but also to restart the 'stalled Indo-Pak' peace process as he meets Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the side-lines of the UN

General Assembly meeting."

10. "No Foreign Force Allowed To Fight Terrorism In Pakistan: Fehmida" "Daily Times" (09/15)

"Acting President Dr. Fehmida Mirza on Sunday reiterated the government's policy that no foreign force would be allowed to fight the war against terrorism on Pakistani soil. She told reporters in Peshawar that the country's sovereignty would not be compromised."

11. "U.S. Using The Most Sophisticated Drones" "The News" (09/15)

"The U.S. Air Force (USAF) is using the most sophisticated unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for undertaking attacks and surveillance inside Pakistan tribal areas adjacent to Afghanistan border. The aerial vehicles that have tremendous capability of inflicting destruction are being used for the first time on war scale."

12. "Bush Seeks Saving Grace In South Asia" "Dawn" (09/15)

"U.S. President George Bush hopes to complete his second and final term this year with three major accomplishments - a historic nuclear deal with India and the capture or death of key Al Qaeda leaders and a relatively stable Afghanistan. Since all these goals concern South Asia, Mr. Bush has already started consulting regional leaders on his objectives."

13. "U.S. Expert Cautions Against Cross-Border Attacks" "The News" (09/15)

"An American foreign policy expert has cautioned the U.S. administration against repeating the cross-border attacks inside Pakistan as, according to him, the approach is not a long-term solution to terrorism. 'We need to get the Pakistanis to see this as their war. And that is going to require some major new initiatives on the American side. Commando raids and Predator strikes are not a long-term solution to this problem,' said Bruce Riedel, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think-tank."

14. "No Al-Qaeda Or Taliban Leader Was Killed In Recent U.S. strikes" "The News" (09/15)

"No prominent Taliban or al-Qaeda leader has been killed in recent US air strikes in the Pakistani tribal areas, a visit to the area has revealed. All the injured victims of the U.S. air strikes admitted in hospitals in Miramshah and Bannu are women or children.

Four Arabs killed in the Dande Darpakhel area close to Miramshah last week were not associated with al-Qaeda."

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15. "U.S. Revokes Visa Of Pak Rights Defender" "The Nation" (09/15)

"The U.S. has revoked the travel visa of a Pakistani rights defender (Amina Janjua) ahead of her trip to Washington to highlight the plight of hundreds of missing compatriots allegedly rounded up as part of the 'war on terror,' the rights group Amnesty said on Saturday."

16. "Dutch NGO Says New U.S. Strategy Disastrous" "The News" (09/15)

"Condemnation of the manner the United States is fighting the war against terror, especially in Pakistan's tribal areas, has come from none other than the famous European NGO, IKV Pax Christi of the Netherlands, whose spokesperson Marjan Lucas told 'The News' that any strategy that takes civilian casualties for granted is counter productive and a criminal act."

17. "Pakistani Expats Protest U.S. Incursions" "The News" (09/15)

"American-based Pakistanis protested in the central area of NY, the Times Square, against Bush government's policy of striking the tribal areas of Pakistan."

18. "U.S. Spy Planes Make Flights Over Waziristan" "Daily Times" (09/15)

"United States spy planes on Sunday once again made flights over areas of North and South Waziristan agencies, creating panic among the locals."

19. "Pak Jets Scare U.S. Planes Away" "The Post" (09/15)

"Tribal elders are seriously considering summoning a grand Jirga of all tribal areas to form 'Joint Lashkar' to counter any U.S. attack. Reportedly, the U.S. F-18 Hornet fighters took off from the Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan, entered into Pakistan and flew over its territory for 11 minutes. However, two Pakistan F-16 fighters have compelled them to leave the area."

20. "Kidnapped Chinese In Good Health" "The News" (09/15)

"The kidnapped Chinese engineers are in good health and talked to their families and Embassy officials on Sunday, but they are worried for being in captivity of the militants."

Editorials/Op-eds

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21. "Convergences," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/15)

"Any strike back has to be balanced against the fact that Pakistan receives large amounts of aid and military assistance from the U.S. - it does seem that we may be moving in the direction of a symbolic action against American intrusions. The weight of any counterpunch would have to be carefully measured. . . . There is a sense of attitudinal hardening in Islamabad; we would lose any fist-fight we got into with the Americans, which does not mean that we surrender the territorial imperative. A symbolic action, clearly flagged as such, may have to be our response if convergences are not to squeeze the life out of us."

22. "U.S. Strikes In FATA: U.S. Policy Of Endangering World Peace," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (09/15)

"American Congressman Dennis Kucinich's remarks that by allowing attacks on Pakistan, President Bush violated international laws and jeopardized the world peace are surprising. That an American Congressman has the understanding of the impending danger to the world peace, but we could not make U.S. administrations understand this. . . . War is looming and any delay in coming up with a counter strategy would be harmful. It should be made clear to America that it is paving the way for a war which will be destructive for itself."

23. "Operation Should Be Stopped Immediately; Take Care Of National Defense," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (09/15)

"U.S. violation of Pakistani borders is an international crime, and Pakistan should take concrete steps as an independent nation, instead of adopting an apologetic stance on this issue."

24. "Make An Independent Foreign Policy," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (09/15)

"Our leadership must try to understand that the people of Pakistan do not want to respond the U.S. missiles with missiles, but at least we should demonstrate national honor and esteem in response to foreign aggression, so that those forces who consider Pakistan a weak state may refrain from their evil designs."

25. "Tension At Pak-Afghan Border," an editorial in the Karachi-based right-wing pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Urdu daily "Jasarat" (cir. 3,000) (09/15)

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"The newly emerged tense situation between Pakistani military and the American forces on Afghan border is not unpredictable. For years Pakistan was bowed down by Americans due to Musharraf's pro-America policies. These policies actually have brought Pakistan and the U.S. on the verge of a war. President Zardari's policy of reconciliation can get wider acceptance only on agenda of resisting and fighting American policies."

26. "Worldwide Pressure Mounts On U.S.," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (09/15)

"Apart from its established footman - the United Kingdom - that always supports every evil move of the United States without caring for its national honor, the US is getting universal condemnation for its illegal and immoral authorization to its occupation troops in Afghanistan to violate territorial sovereignty of Pakistan..... It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan is getting political, diplomatic and moral support of the world even without any effort on its part as it seems that the Foreign Office is shy of mobilizing the international public opinion against the illegal move of the United States. Pakistan's national interest demands that the issue must be agitated strongly at all forums of the United Nations especially during its annual session and a special meeting of the OIC be convened to discuss this serious development."

27. "Dance Of Death," an op-ed by Tanvir Ahmad Khan in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (09/15)

"The 'new strategy' has thrown the political government in Islamabad on the defensive because it was launched with a self-serving innuendo that Pakistan was complicit in it.... It has not as yet found the right approach with which to engage the Americans in a constructive dialogue that would convince them that a repetition in 2008 of their unilateralism of 2001 would be disastrous for Pakistan and counter-productive for them too. What might have been America's war in 2001 has become Pakistan's war and, in the eastern theatre, the insurgents - Al Qaeda, the Afghan Taliban and the Pakistani Taliban - now collectively consider Islamabad as a major enemy. The new strategy must not load the dice against Pakistan further just for the sake of some putative gains in the electoral battle of the United States."

28. "The Rights And Wrongs Of A War With The U.S.," an op-ed by Kamal Siddiqi in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/15)

"While we are all saddened by the loss of life and outraged by the manner in which our territorial sovereignty has been violated, the

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question to ask is, what next?... A non-transcript with the U.S. is not in the larger interest of Pakistan. Not only because the U.S. is the supreme power in the world but also because on this issue it has the support of the world behind it. What is more important for us, as Pakistanis, to realize is that our immediate threat does not come from the U.S. but from the Taliban and religious extremists. They are our enemy, no matter what the rightwing parties have to say. It is the TTP and its allies and sympathizers who want to take

over our country and change the way we are governed. They want to do away with democracy, with all its faults, and bring in their own system."

29. "Get Out Taliban!," an op-ed by Hamid Mir in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (09/15)

"The U.S. missile attacks have created a perception among our new generation that Pakistan is facing state-terrorism of the United States, and the Pakistani government is not in a position to confront these attacks.... A few days back Army Chief General Kayani issued a statement that the U.S. would not be permitted to launch any more attacks in Pakistan.... But on the contrary the very next day the U.S. launched another attack in North Waziristan in which several women and children lost their lives. After this attack, our Prime Minister said that Pakistan could not wage war against the U.S. I felt ashamed over the remarks of the prime minister of a nuclear-power state. If you cannot fight with the U.S., you can at least disrupt the supply-line of the U.S. troops from Pakistan. U.S. planes receive fuel through Pakistan, and this fuel is being used against Pakistan. The U.S. war is no more against Taliban, or Al-Qaeda, it is against Pakistan."

30. "New Delhi Blasts," an editorial note in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (09/15)

"Any terrorist activity, wherever it occurs, is condemnable.... India and Pakistan must work together to eliminate terrorism so that mutual distrust is removed. Moreover, the Indian government must also review the defects in its policies. There can be peace in the region if India gives Kashmiris and other ethnic groups their due rights."

31. "Is The Indo-Pakistan 'Blast War' On Again?," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (09/15)

"It is tragic that India and Pakistan are moving towards conflict even when they know they are being tricked into it by elements within them who don't want peace to prevail. Recent 'enactments' of terrorism on both sides have put the peace process on hold and there

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is no politician big enough to rise above the smoke of these blasts to complete the job of normalizing relations. In fact, as days pass, the two nuclear-armed states may look less and less able to pursue the road they know is right."

32. "Delhi Outrage," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (09/15)

"India, like several other countries, has a host of dissent groups, which are unhappy at the way they have been treated by their governments, including of course its oppressed Muslim minority. However, a sincerely pursued inquiry into the Saturday incidents should bring home to the authorities the real cause of dissatisfaction. Broadly viewing the militant scenario the world over, the curse can only be fought out with a cooperative effort of states, going to the bottom of the causes that spawn such feelings and removing them. The blame game could only help the terrorists."

Patterson

NNNN