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	FBIE-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
	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
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 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: NOVEMBER 03, 2008

Summary: Most major newspapers on Monday ran lead stories on Senator Obama's MSNBC interview in which he was quoted as saying that the "U.S. should try to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute." Reports of the killing of "eight personnel of the Frontier Corps in a suicide attack" in Wana also received front page coverage. Also front-paged were reports that the new U.S. CENTCOM chief General David Petraeus and Assistant Secretary Boucher arrived in Islamabad to discuss "cooperation in the war on terror." All newspapers also reported that "at least 20 new ministers will be inducted in the federal cabinet on Monday."

Commenting on the offer of talks by local Taliban, the second-largest Urdu daily, "Nawa-i-Waqt," noted that "this is strange that for the sake of the country's security and honor the

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local Taliban are willing to surrender peacefully while our Interior Ministry is pushing them towards war. This is foolhardiness of the worst kind." Another Urdu daily, "Pakistan," in its editorial on Prime Minister Gilani's demand to the international community to press America to halt attacks inside Pakistani territory wrote: "American leadership should have a close look at its attitude instead of violating international law. Government of Pakistan efforts to block missile attacks on Pakistan tribal areas is a welcome step. There is a need for strengthening Parliament's role to make these efforts effective." Another Urdu daily, "Mashriq," observed that "There is a strong perception in Pakistan that the democratic government has succumbed to the United States' pressure on the border violations' issue. It is important to send an undivided message to the U.S. that Pakistan is no longer willing to look after U.S. interests in this part of the world." End Summary.

News Stories

1. "U.S. Should Help Resolve Kashmir Issue: Obama; 'Militants, Not India, Biggest Threat To Pakistan'" "Dawn" (11/03)

"The United States should try to resolve the Kashmir dispute, says U.S. presidential front-runner Barack Obama while backing American efforts to promote a better understanding between India and Pakistan and try to resolve the Kashmir crisis so that they can stay focused not on India, but on the situation with those militants," said Mr. Obama in an interview to MSNBC."

2. "8 FC Men Killed As Bomber Hits Wana Check-Post" "The News" (11/03)

"Eight personnel of the Frontier Corps (FC) were killed and five others injured when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden van into a check-post in South Waziristan Agency (SWA) on Sunday."

3. "Petraeus And Boucher Arrive In Islamabad" "Dawn" (11/03)

"U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Chief Gen. David Howell Petraeus and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher arrived in Islamabad on Sunday to discuss various aspects of the 'war on terror' with government and military leaders. It is Gen. Petraeus' first foreign visit after he assumed the command of CENTCOM on October 31. Although little has been made public about the agenda of talks Gen. Petraeus and Mr. Boucher will hold, analysts believe that they will explore the possibility of further raids inside Pakistan on hideouts of foreign militants."

4. "More Border Raids Planned: U.K. ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~SECRET~~" (11/03)

"General David Petraeus who took over last week as the new head of Central Command with responsibility for U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq could order more cross-border strikes into Pakistan, a British newspaper claimed."

5. "PM Asks World To Press U.S. To Halt Violations; Gilani Says He Will Raise Issue Of Drone Strikes With U.S." "Daily Times" (11/02)

"American and NATO missile strikes inside Pakistan are counterproductive in the war on terror and the world should urge the United States to stop the incursions, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told a press conference after returning from his visit to Turkey. Gilani said he would raise the issue in a meeting with the U.S. Ambassador, adding that Afghan President Hamid Karzai would also take the matter up with NATO."

6. "U.S. Double Blow Kills 21 In Waziristan" "Dawn" (11/01)

"An Al Qaeda militant was among at least 21 people killed in two missile attacks by U.S. drones in North and South Waziristan on Friday night."

7. "F.O. Admits Ties With U.S. Strained" "Dawn" (11/01)

"The Foreign Office on Friday indirectly admitted that Islamabad's relations with Washington were strained over the handling of militancy 'politically and diplomatically,' Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Sadiq said during a press briefing."

8. "Five Afghan Army Soldiers Wounded By NATO-Led Force" "The News" (11/03)

"Soldiers with a NATO-led force opened fire on an Afghan army patrol on Sunday, mistaking the men for militants, and wounded five soldiers, the alliance said."

9. "Two Troops, 8 Militants Die In Swat" "Dawn" (11/03)

"Two soldiers and eight militants were killed and several others were wounded in fierce clashes in Swat valley on Sunday, according to an ISPR spokesman."

10. "Alliance With Al Qaeda To Stay: Taliban Faction" "The News" (11/03)

"A dissident faction of the Afghan Taliban has pledged to oppose any decision by the mainstream Taliban led by Mullah Mohammad Omar to

11. "20 New Ministers Likely To Join Cabinet Today" "Dawn" (11/03)

"At least 20 new Ministers, belonging to all parties in the ruling coalition, will be inducted in the Federal Cabinet on Monday, it was learned in Islamabad on Sunday."

12. "U.S. Expert Calls Pakistan Govt. 'The Best In A Long Time'" "The Nation" (11/03)

"Pakistan today has the best government in a long time, a noted U.S. expert on South Asia has said, voicing confidence in the country's ability to deal with its myriad problems with international support. In a speech at a meeting organized by a think-tank, Stephen Cohen of the Brookings Institution called the emergence of a democratic order in Pakistan an 'amazing accomplishment.'"

13. "Lawyers Set To Observe Black Day Today" "The Nation" (11/03)

"Lawyers fraternity, political parties, students and activists of civil society will observe Black Day today against the sacking of apex judiciary and imposition of emergency on November 3, last year by former President Pervez Musharraf."

Editorials/Op-eds

14. "Don't Waste The Local Taliban's Offer Of Talks," an editorial note in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (11/03)

"This is strange that for the sake of the country's security and honor the local Taliban are willing to surrender unconditionally while our Interior Ministry is pushing them toward war. This is foolhardiness of the worst kind.... President Asif Ali Zardari should control the matter himself and make a matching response for a dialogue with local Taliban."

15. "American Attacks: Prime Minister's Reaction," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (11/03)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani demanded the international community press America to halt attacks inside Pakistani territory. American leadership should have a close look at its attitude instead of violating international law. The Government of Pakistan's

efforts to block missile attacks on Pakistan's tribal areas is a welcome step. There is also a need for strengthening Parliament's

16. "Test Of Democratic Leadership," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (11/03)

"There is a strong perception in Pakistan that the democratic government has succumbed to the United States' pressure on border violations' issue. It is important to take the government's allies into confidence and convene an All Parties Conference (APC) to send an undivided message to the U.S. that Pakistan is no longer willing to look after U.S. interests in this part of the world. It is better to initiate a dialogue with different militant groups and those elements that are annoyed over pro-American policies."

17. "Counterproductive U.S. Raids Into FATA," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/03)

"The drone attacks have become a part of the anti-American rhetoric that is difficult to oppose. Above all, it is destroying the coordination which the war against terrorism demands between the Pakistan army and the U.S.-NATO forces in Afghanistan. A policy of identifying the 'high-value targets' to the Pakistan army and allowing it to decide what to do about them should serve the cause of war against terrorism better. A more effective arrangement can be made for this policy than has hitherto existed. One way to do that would be for the U.S. to give a few drones to the Pakistan army so that these can become part of the Pakistani army's arsenal in the war against terror."

18. "Disgust Of A British Major," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (11/03)

"The commander of British special forces in Afghanistan, who in the past expressed concerns about the foreign military operation in the country, has resigned.... The decision of the British Major is symptomatic of the overall demoralization that prevails among the U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.... This is because wars are fought for some genuine cause, which is not seen by the U.S., British and troops of other allies countries in Afghanistan.... The aggressors would have to vacate Afghanistan sooner or later as they are destined to meet ignominious defeat there as well in view of the popular resistance of Afghan people who are determined to get their homeland liberated at all costs."

19. "Need To Boost Cooperation Among Muslim Countries," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (11/03)

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"Those big powers, for whom we have ~~separated~~ existence, are now scolding Pakistan instead of bailing out us from the present economic crisis. On the one hand the Bush Administration is attacking Pakistani territory and spilling the blood of innocent Pakistanis, and on the other hand the presidential hopeful Obama is raising questions about the 11 billion dollar assistance that the U.S. had provided during the last eight years for extending logistical support to the U.S. in the war on terror. The time has come for Muslim countries to shape a greater Muslim bloc, or Muslim Union (like that of European Union) to ensure the regional and international interests of all Muslim countries."

20. "India Is The Real Threat For Us," an editorial note in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (11/03)

"Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said the biggest danger for Pakistan is the extremists inside its territory and not its traditional rival India.... After becoming the President if Obama withdrew American troops from Afghanistan then the region would automatically have peace. Undoubtedly, our main enemy India is the real threat for Pakistan. Obama should not distort facts."

21. "Obama's Pledge," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/03)

"Senator Obama could not get it more wrong when he says that the biggest threat to Pakistan right now is not India.... Senator Obama

would be well advised to review his assessment before trying to convince the Pakistani leadership to change its attitude towards its nuclear-armed rival and refocus its attention on militants operating on its soil. If elected to power, he should persuade India to allow peace to return to this region by settling the core dispute. Free from worries in the east, Islamabad could wholeheartedly devote its energies to eliminate militancy, which indeed has become a big menace."

22. "U.S. Presidential Election: Chances Of Obama's Election If No Dramatic Change Occurs," an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (11/03)

"The new U.S. President will not only bear the responsibility of improving the U.S. economy but also economic conditions around the world impacted by the U.S. financial crisis. For this to happen, the U.S. needs to end the so called war on terror and recall its troops. If the new U.S. President succeeds in doing so, the peace situation around the world will improve..."

23. "No Blank Cheque, Mr. Chertoff," an op-ed by Ejaz Haider in the

Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/03)

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"The Pakistan army is already doing its best to cleanse the area of unwanted elements. That effort is there for all to see and has its legal basis in the very regime Michael Chertoff seems disappointed over.... Clearly, it would be a better option for the U.S. to help Pakistan increase its capacity to deal with the threat rather than Chertoff straining at the legal leash to act cowboy-like.... When a collaborative effort is already on and when there is greater need to improve the procedures and substance of a cooperative mechanism, why would Chertoff want a blank cheque to use force unilaterally? It is precisely this kind of adventurism that has redounded to everyone's disadvantage."

Patterson

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