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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	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
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 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
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 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

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 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: NOVEMBER 24, 2008

SUMMARY: Reports on the deployment of "four thousand U.S. troops to man Pak-Afghan border to stop infiltration of militants into Afghanistan" dominated front pages in all newspapers on Monday. All newspapers also highlighted Prime Minister Gilani's remarks that the "U.S. strikes paved way for suicide attacks in Pakistan." Also front-paged were reports that the GOP would work out a "new strategy" to deal with frequent drone attacks in the light of recommendations of the parliamentary committee on national security. Several newspapers also reported that "Jamaat-e-Islami chief Qazi Hussain has threatened to stop supply of goods to NATO forces in Afghanistan if the government did not change its policy regarding war on terror."

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Several dailies ran critical editorials on the increased U.S. drone attacks, and how badly they were disturbing U.S.-Pakistan ties. The centrist national English daily, "The News," noted that the "public perceptions of America are almost uniformly negative and there is a growing body of evidence that an increasing number of otherwise moderate people are being driven into the extremist fold." The Peshawar-based Urdu daily, "Mashriq," wrote: "If our rulers are begging the U.S. government for financial assistance and bailout package, why will it (U.S.) pay heed to our protest and criticism over drone attacks?" The pro-Taliban Jihadi daily, "Islam" observed that "the more U.S. drones are intruding into Pakistani airspace, the more our rulers becoming submissive and apologetic to the U.S. administration." End Summary.

News Stories

1. "More U.S. Troops for Pak-Afghan Border" "The News" (11/24)

"A brigade of 3,500 to 4,000 extra U.S. troops due in Afghanistan in January will be deployed in the east amid efforts to stop infiltration of militants from Pakistan, the U.S. military said on Sunday. The brigade has been approved as part of requested U.S. troop's reinforcement for Afghanistan fight against extremists that could amount to about 20,000 personnel, the U.S. military spokesman Colonel Greg Julian told reporters in Kabul."

2. "U.S. Strikes Pave Way for Suicide Attacks: Gilani" "Daily Times" (11/24)

"U.S. missile strikes are undermining the Pakistan Army's strategy to control the situation in the Tribal Areas and some suicide attacks are a direct result of U.S. attacks, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told CNN in an interview aired on Sunday. He said Pakistan did not have an agreement with the U.S. to allow it to carry out attacks on Al-Qaeda and Taliban targets inside Pakistan."

3. "Strategy to Deal with Drone Strikes On the Anvil" "Dawn" (11/24)

"Reiterating the government's resolve not to compromise on national sovereignty and integrity, President Asif Ai Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Sunday that the government would work out a new strategy to deal with frequent drone attacks in accordance with recommendations of the recently-formed Parliamentary Committee on National Security."

4. "Qazi Threatens To Obstruct NATO Supplies" "The News" (11/24)

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"Chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Qazi Hussain Ahmad has warned of erecting barricades from Karachi to Khyber to stop supply of goods to NATO forces in Afghanistan if the government did not change its policy regarding war on terror."

5. "Taliban, Al Qaeda Is No Aliens: Qazi" "Daily Times" (11/24)

"Those dubbed as Al Qaeda and aliens on the Pakistani land are the same people who were once called the holy warriors to defeat Soviet troops in Afghanistan, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad said on Sunday. They fought the war against Russia in Afghanistan for the cause of Islam and now were doing the same to thwart American designs in the region, said the JI chief while addressing a tribal jirga sponsored by his party."

6. "People Protest 'U.S. Strike'." "Daily Times" (11/24)

"Pakistanis on Sunday protested a suspected U.S. missile strike that intelligence officials said killed a British citizen linked to a plot to blow up trans-Atlantic jetliners, saying the government must stop the cross-border attacks. About 100 people in Multan demonstrated against the missile strike, chanting "Down with America" and burning an effigy of U.S. President George Bush."

7. "Obama Pledged To Combat Terror: Kabul" "Dawn" (11/24)

"U.S. President-elect Barack Obama pledged in a telephone conversation with Afghan President Hamid Karzai to increase aid to Afghanistan and said fighting terrorism in the region would be a top priority, Mr. Karzai's office said on Sunday."

8. "Al-Qaeda Striving For Strategic Gains in FATA: Former Official" "The News" (11/24)

"Al-Qaeda is trying to achieve strategic objectives in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the Federation of Pakistan might be damaged if the government did not adopt a comprehensive strategy to quell the threat lurking about the tribal belt and parts of the Frontier. Former FATA secretary for security Brigadier (R) Mahmood Shah feared this while talking to 'The News'. Shah said the network was desperately trying to achieve strategic objectives in these areas."

9. "10,000 Killed In FATA, Swat Operations, Claims JI Jirga" "Dawn" (11/24)

"A tribal jirga, organized by Jamaat-i-Islami demanded of the government to act upon joint resolution of the parliament and stop military operation in Bajaur and other parts of the tribal areas. The government, it said, should take measures to halt U.S. missile

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10. "Injured Chinese Engineer Still In TTP Captivity" "The News" (11/24)

"An injured Chinese telecom engineer kidnapped along with his colleague, guard and driver from Dir Lower is still in the captivity of the Swat chapter of the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban. The government has not been able to recover the engineer from militants operating in Swat, where the security forces have been facing problems on account of tough resistance from the battle-hardened militants commanded by Maulana Fazlullah Pakistan (TTP)."

11. "Taliban Present In Karachi: TTP" "Daily Times" (11/24)

"The Taliban are present in Karachi and have links with the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Sipah-e-Sahaba and other banned religious organizations, but they have no intention of carrying out attacks in the provincial capital if not provoked by a political party or the government, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Mullah Omer has told Daily Times."

12. "Redrawn Map Baffles Pakistanis" "The Nation" (11/24)

"A redrawn map of the South Asia has been making the rounds among Pakistani elites. It shows their country truncated, reduced to an elongated silver of land with the big bulk of India to the East and an enlarged Afghanistan to the west. That the map was first circulated as a theoretical exercise in some American neoconservative circles matters little here says a report in New York Times."

Editorials/Op-eds

13. "Step Change," an editorial in the centrist National English Daily "The News" (Cir. 55,000) (11/24)

"Something had to change. The increasingly fractious relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. over the question of cross-border incursions was causing collateral damage in all corners of the political landscape. America seems to be listening at last - at least in this matter. There is an increased understanding of the need to review U.S. policy towards Pakistan if only because its leaders, right across the political spectrum are saying that what is happening now, and the way it is happening, is making an already difficult-to-govern country even more difficult to govern. Public perceptions of America are almost uniformly negative and there is a

growing body of evidence that an increasing number of otherwise moderate people are being driven into the extremist fold."

14. "U.S. Attacks and Repetition of Rhetoric," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (11/24)

"If our rulers are imploring the U.S. Government for financial assistance and bail-out packages, why will it (U.S.) pay heed to our protest and criticism over drone attacks? The U.S. administration will not understand Pakistani stance unless we talk to them bluntly."

15. "Continuous U.S. Missile Attacks," an editorial note in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (11/24)

"The more U.S. drones are intruding into Pakistani airspace, the more our rulers are becoming submissive and apologetic to the U.S. administration. Hence, Prime Minister Gilani has precisely said, 'we will not be annoyed with U.S. attacks.' Perhaps, he issued this statement to dismiss any possible perception that might be created due to the Pakistan Army's recent exercise about intercepting drones. "

16. "U.S. Missile Strikes And Our Policy Makers" an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (11/24)

"It is important for us to review our priorities. Reliance only on the U.S. has damaged us in the past, and even now it seems that the U.S. gives preference to India. Protesting to the U.S. would not help stop the missile strikes. We need our tried and tested friends' support to achieve this."

17. "In The Eye of the Storm," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/24)

"Despite Pakistan passing a parliamentary resolution against U.S. unilateral drone attacks and taking up the matter on a number of platforms with the U.S., the menace continues to play havoc. On Saturday five more people were killed in a drone attack in North Waziristan. While U.S. authorities believe that the attack was successful as a high value target is thought to have been killed, the reality is that the death of civilians, with four children injured, would only lead to more bloodletting and provoke the local population to launch an armed struggle against the state. Therefore, its hostile repercussions cannot be just brushed aside."

18. "Another Attack on National Security and Sovereignty" an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir. 5000) (11/24)

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"Five persons, including Al Qaeda leaders Rashid Rauf and Abul Asr, were killed in a U.S. missile strike in North Waziristan... Every sane Pakistani agrees that the repeated U.S. strikes are making the situation complicated for the government as well as the people of Pakistan."

19. "Don't Make Yourself A Laughing Stock," an op-ed by Hamid Mir in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (11/24)

"The incessant U.S. drone attacks on Pakistani territories have made Pakistan, the sole Muslim nuclear-power state a laughing stock in the world. Now people are raising questions that if we cannot tackle bombardment of unmanned drones, how can we will meet head-on a full-fledged air force of an enemy country in case of a full-scale war?"

20. "U.S. Think Tank Mind To Save Their Own Country Rather Declaring Pakistan A Failed State," an editorial note in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (11/24)

"American think-tank National Intelligence while including Pakistan in the list of failed states in its latest report has declared that if all Pakistanis don't unite together by 2025, it (Pakistan) will not be able to maintain its present geographical form, and Pashtoon tribes will smash the Durand Line... On the contrary, the present economic crisis shows that the U.S. disrupted the entire global

economy by involving itself and other big powers in very expensive wars. The planned U.S. new world order is already failed, and now the American think-tanks should better think about the future of their own country rather declaring others as failed states."

21. "Terrorism and Good Governance," an op-ed by I. M. Mohsin in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/24)

"... The U.S. agencies are busy painting doomsday scenarios about Pakistan due to the mess created in these sensitive areas... It is time we started working on a war-footing to efficiently deliver services through improved governance and unimpeachable integrity. While the U.S./NATO troops keep using airpower too often against 'suspects' with dubious results, the situation stays shady for them..."

22. "Petraeus at the Helm," a letter to the editor in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (11/24)

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"The recent visit by the newly-appointed Chief, Gen David Petraeus, to Pakistan signals an important development in the ongoing war on terror. While it is too early to predict the outcome of Petraeus's appointment to this key position, it is reasonable to assume that we will see a gradual change in U.S. strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan.... By all indications, Petraeus is a pragmatic leader who realizes that Afghanistan and Pakistan present a very distinct challenge. He will likely attempt to persuade the U.S. administration to revise and adjust policies in the region according to ground realities. This may include additional troops, equipment, firepower, and a clear shift in the focus of the war on terror from Iraq to Afghanistan."

23. "Obama Personifies 'Change'," an op-ed by General Mirza Aslam Beg in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/24)

"... The most serious challenge Obama encounters, is to rescue the economy which has been shattered due to the jingoistic ambitions of Bush... Despite all the orgy of death and destruction, the USA has not achieved anything except the humiliation of defeat in Iraq and Afghanistan. How to extract the USA out of the quagmire without losing face is the challenge which Obama will have to dexterously resolve. The future is ripe for renunciation of the culture of aggression, terrorism, violence and domination...."

24. Is Obama Fake? An Op-ed by Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal in the Centrist National English Daily "The News" (Cir. 55,000) (11/24)

... "For the Muslim world, the change promised by Obama will mean a fundamental, clear-cut and definitive break from official American hostility toward Islam and Muslims, a shift away from the doctrine of pre-emptive strikes, and a solution to the suffering of Palestinians. Can Obama do this, considering that this is a tall order for any American president, a man who is always hamstrung by so many other powerful players in American polity? Can Obama win against American power-politics godfathers? Supposing Obama is not fake, he will have to fight an internal battle with the entrenched interests. Will he wage this war? And even if he wages this war, will he succeed? Perhaps not. But if Obama is not fake, he will have to start immediately by distancing American foreign policy from its traditional pro-Israel stance..."

25. "Indo-Pak Visa-Free Ties: President's Statements and the Ground Reality" an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (11/24)

"President Asif Ali Zardari's declaration of continuing with the policy of friendship with India, which was shaped by General (retired) Musharraf, is a joke with the Kashmiri people.... The

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prudent course is that President Zardari and others in the present government should consider our principled and long standing views on various national issues before expressing their opinion on these issues."

26. "In Connection with President Zardari's Address" an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (11/24)

"President Asif Ali Zardari's desire to rid the region of nuclear weapons is commendable. However, history is a witness to the fact that such desires are nothing more than poetic expression. The element of mistrust between nations and groups is the fate of humanity, which could be curtailed but cannot be erased.... Indian and Pakistani leadership should openly recognize that the Kashmir dispute is the actual dispute between the two countries...."

27. "Trade And Improvement In Indo-Pak Ties" an editorial in the Lahore-based Urdu daily "Waqt" (cir. 5000) (11/24)

"The goodwill expressed by the Indian PM in response to President Zardari's proposals can bring durable peace to the region if followed up with action. In fact, by cooperating with each other, the two countries can attain such a level of self-reliance that they will not need the western states support at all."

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