

ACTION INR-00

B3, NSA50

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	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	GIWI-00	P-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SCA-00	CARC-00
	NEAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/001W		

B3

-----D5597F 100920Z /38

O 100842Z SEP 08

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8723

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

HQ USCENCOM 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 002977

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Summary: Reports and photographs of the oath-taking of the newly elected President Zardari dominated headlines in all newspapers on Wednesday. All newspapers quoted President Zardari as saying that the "President will be subservient to the parliament." President Zardari's joint press conference with Afghan counterpart Karzai in Islamabad calling for "joint efforts against terrorism" also figured prominently. President Bush's remarks at the U.S. National Defense University terming Pakistan as a "major theatre in terror war" also received front-page coverage in all newspapers. The English daily "Dawn" in a dispatch from Washington quoted White House Press Secretary Perino as saying that President Bush has advised President Asif Zardari "to do what is good for his country regardless of public opinion." Newspapers also reported remarks of Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Mark P. Lagon,

urging Pakistan "to translate its strong commitment to fight human trafficking into concrete steps."

UNCLASSIFIED

All major dailies ran editorials on the continuing spate of NATA attacks inside Pakistani territory. The English daily "The News" noted that "Washington's policy of intensified attacks in northern areas has already created an immense new wave of anger. It has also claimed dozens of innocent lives and reinforced the perception that the war on terror is one that pitches the U.S. against militants." The leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang," wrote: "The NATO's policy of targeting one of its close allies, and overlooking its continuous protest, concerns, and apprehensions in spite of its full cooperation with the U.S. and its allies in the war on terror reveals the dangerous intentions against Pakistan." The second largest Urdu daily, "Nawa-i-Waqt," observed that "weakness of our rulers has emboldened America to the extent that now it is perpetrating direct aggression against us more or less daily." Another Urdu daily, "Express," noted that "Pakistan [government's] patience at the repeated U.S. air-strikes is a cause of concern for ordinary Pakistanis." End Summary.

News Stories

1. "President Will Be Subservient To Parliament: Asif" "Dawn" (09/10)

"The President would be subservient to Parliament and all major decisions, including indemnity for General (Retd) Pervez Musharraf would be taken by the directly elected assemblies, Asif Ali Zardari declared in Islamabad on Tuesday."

2. "Pakistan Enters Zardari Era; Asif Ali Zardari Takes Oath As 12th President Of Country" "The News" (09/10)

"Asif Ali Zardari, Co-Chairman Pakistan people's Party (PPP) and widower of slain former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, took oath as Pakistan's 12th President at an impressive ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad on Tuesday."

3. "Good News On Kashmir Soon" "The Nation" (09/10)

"Calling upon the world to look at Pakistan as a victim of terrorism, President Asif Zardari on Tuesday vowed to give good news to the nation in a month's time on Kashmir issue."

4. "Zardari, Karzai For Joint Efforts Against Terrorism" "Daily Times" (09/10)

UNCLASSIFIED

DRONE/DOS/001690

"President Asif Ali Zardari and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai said on Tuesday they would stand together in the fight against terrorism. 'It is an issue of importance to both countries,' Karzai told a joint press conference shortly after Zardari was sworn in. 'It is about fighting this menace in the right manner,' he said, adding that he and Zardari had agreed on how the problem should be tackled."

5. "Zardari Submits To U.S., Says Qazi" "The News" (09/10)

"Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad on Tuesday said that President Asif Zardari rendered his first salute to Washington with a joint press conference with U.S.-agent Hamid Karzai just after taking oath. Though General Musharraf had departed the President House but his policies, spirit and slavish mentality was still ruling the roost, he said in a statement issued here on Tuesday."

6. "Bush Terms Pakistan A Major Theatre In Terror War" "Dawn" (09/10)

"U.S. President George W. Bush on Tuesday named Pakistan among the major battlegrounds in the global war on terrorism and reminded Islamabad that it was its responsibility to eradicate terrorism from the tribal areas."

7. "Bush Advises Asif To Ignore Public Opinion" "Dawn," "The News" (09/10)

"The White House indicated on Tuesday that President George W. Bush has asked his Pakistani counterpart to do what is good for his country regardless of public opinion when he telephoned Asif Ali Zardari earlier in the day."

8. "President's Upcoming U.S. Visit; U.S. Attacks On FATA To Top Agenda" "The Nation" (09/10)

"The recent missile attacks on Pakistan's tribal areas by the U.S. drones will be on the top of agenda of President Asif Ali Zardari's upcoming visit to the United States and he will demand an immediate end to these deadly strikes."

9. "U.S. Killing Innocent People In FATA: Gilani" "The Nation" (09/10)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has accused the U.S. of targeting innocent civilians in Pakistani tribal areas, saying that no compromise will be made on country's sovereignty. Talking to a private TV channel (ARY One World) on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said that Washington had no reliable information to carry out operations in the Pakistani tribal region."

UNCLASSIFIED

10. "U.S. Must Not Violate Pak Territorial Sanctity" "The Nation" (09/10)

"The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Interior Rehman Malik here on Tuesday hoped that U.S. would respect the unanimous voice of Pakistanis and halt violating territorial sanctity of Pakistan."

11. "U.S. Has Conducted 14 Attacks Inside Pakistan" "The Nation" (09/10)

"The U.S.-led coalition troops camping across the border in Afghanistan have launched around 14 attacks against the suspected hideouts of alleged terrorists particularly Al Qaeda in the Pakistani tribal region, killing around 170 people, mostly innocent, and injuring many others."

12. "France Criticizes Missile Strikes In Waziristan" "Pakistan Observer" (09/10)

"France warned on Tuesday that missile strikes by suspected U.S. drones in Pakistani tribal areas were undermining international efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

13. "Fight Against Terrorism; No Country Has Done More Than Pakistan: Official" "Dawn" (09/10)

"Pakistan strongly rejected western accusations that it is not doing enough to root out Taliban extremists within its borders: 'No country has done more than Pakistan in fighting terrorism and no country has suffered or taken as many losses as Pakistan in this struggle,' a high-ranking official said at a security conference in Berlin on Tuesday."

14. "Ground Operation Launched In Bajaur Agency" "The News" (09/10)

"Seven suspected militants were killed and several others injured, some of them said to be foreigners, as Pakistan Army and paramilitary Frontier Corps backed by gunship helicopters on Tuesday launched a joint major and first-ever ground operation against militants in the restive Bajaur Agency."

15. "Eight Missiles Fired At Army Camp In NWA" "The News" (09/10)

"Suspected militants fired eight missiles on the Pakistan Army camp near Miramshah, headquarters of North Waziristan Agency, late

Tuesday night. They described it as a revenge for the U.S. missile attack on the house of veteran Afghan Taliban Commander, Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani, and adjoining seminary at Danday Darpakhel

UNCLASSIFIED

DRONE/DOS/001692

16. "Taliban Threaten To Kill Kidnapped Recruits" "The News"
(09/10)

"Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Darra Adamkhel chapter, on Tuesday threatened to kill the kidnapped police recruits one by one if the government did not accept their demands. They had kidnapped nine police recruits from the Khyber Agency when they were on their way to the Police Training Centre, Hangu, a week ago."

17. "U.S. Urges Steps Against Human Trafficking" "Dawn," "The News,"
"The Frontier Post," "The Statesman," "The Post" (09/10)

"The United States has urged Pakistan to translate its strong 'will and commitment' to fight human trafficking into concrete steps, Director of the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Mark P. Lagon said at a media briefing in Islamabad on Tuesday."

18. "Pakistan's Computerized Electoral Rolls System Completed" "The Nation," "Daily Times" (09/10)

"The United States Government, through the Agency for International Development (USAID) on Tuesday marked the completion of the installation of Pakistan's Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) with a signing ceremony at the Election Commission of Pakistan."

19. "Sino-Pak Nuclear Deal A Far Cry: U.S. Envoy" "The News"
(09/10)

"The U.S. Ambassador to India, David Mulford, on Tuesday stated that a nuclear deal between China and Pakistan was not possible as the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) won't grant a waiver to Islamabad, reported Zee News."

Editorials/Op-eds

20. "On Deaf Ears," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/10)

"Washington's policy of intensified attacks in northern areas has already created an immense new wave of anger. It has also claimed dozens of innocent lives and reinforced the perception that the war on terror is one that pitches the U.S. against militants. Pakistan at present seems to have no means to alter U.S. thinking."

21. "Policy Of Cooperation In War On Terror A Missed Opportunity," an editorial in the leading mass circulation centrist Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (09/10)

"The NATO's policy of targeting one of its close allies, and overlooking its continuous protest, concerns, and apprehensions in spite of its full cooperation with the U.S. and its allies in the war on terror reveals the dangerous intentions against Pakistan. This state of affairs requires a comprehensive debate in the parliament, and the government should not delay in changing the policy of cooperation with the U.S. in this war."

22. "Continuation Of U.S. Missile Attacks," an editorial in the second-largest, center-right nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (06/24)

"Weakness of our rulers has emboldened America to the extent that now it is perpetrating direct aggression against us more or less daily, which is resulting in the killing of innocent citizens including women and children. The targeting of Maulana Haqqani's house shows that this action was taken on a tip off and cooperation extended by our intelligence agencies."

23. "Violations Of Pakistani Territory: Government Must Adopt A Clear Policy," an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (09/10)

"Pakistan [government's] patience at the repeated U.S. air-strikes is a cause of concern for ordinary Pakistanis. There is a thought brewing in the minds of some public quarters that the U.S. is conducting these strikes under some sort of a deal and that the government protests are a mere eyewash. There is a need to dispel this impression and the way to do this would be to give a befitting response the next time a violation occurs."

24. "American Attacks With Full Pakistan's Cooperation," an editorial in the Karachi-based right-wing pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (cir. 3,000) (09/10)

"Pakistanis were unhappy over Musharraf's alliance with America, but Musharraf government did not allow Americans to take military action inside Pakistani territory. The new civilian government has given unconditional license to American forces to kill Pakistani citizens at their whim."

25. "Is Pakistan's Sovereignty Mortgaged?," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (09/10)

"Air Chief Marshal Tanveer has rightly held that Pakistan Air Force

UNCLASSIFIED

DRONE/DOS/001694

cannot respond to the NATO assaults UNCLASSIFIED
without the government's consent. But it is also true that the recent rise in U.S. attacks is being seen following a clandestine meeting of the Army Chief General Kayani with the U.S. commanders at an aircraft carrier. Now question is whether the Army Chief has given his blessing to NATO to launch attacks inside Pakistan?"

26. "Another Missile Attack On Miranshah," an editorial in the Lahore-based Urdu daily, "Waqt" (circ. 5000) (09/09)

"Our policy makers need to tell the Americans that we have already reached the limit [of what Pakistan can do in the war on terror] and it is impossible for us to go any further. We have done what we could do and it is best if no further expectations are attached to us."

27. "Another U.S. Attack in North Waziristan," an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (09/10)

"There are some reports that the United States had informed Pakistan prior to these attacks, however, some people opined that the government of Pakistan itself is very upset over these assaults. Anyway, it is a fact that the United States has attacked Pakistan's sovereignty. Now it is the responsibility of the government to decide to how to deal with this situation. A majority of the Pakistanis wants that the NATO must be paid back in its own coin."

28. "Lesson To Learn," an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (09/10)

"President Zardari's initiative to invite Mr. Karzai to his oath-taking ceremony may help in containing the Afghan government's brinkmanship towards Pakistan. Both neighbors can fight the battle against terrorism more effectively by reinforcing each other, rather than indulging in the blame game. Islamabad must also compel Washington to adhere to the agreed principle of intelligence sharing, instead of violating its sovereignty over and over again."

29. "Leaders Unconcerned Over Drones Attacks," an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (09/10)

"The U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan are operating drones over areas of their liking under the pretext of tracing out Al-Qaeda and Taliban leadership. But for the dignity and honor of Pakistan, one is justified to question as to why our political leadership are least concerned and not raising their voice? Is it because they do not want to annoy the United States or there are other hidden reasons behind this silence?"

UNCLASSIFIED

DRONE/DOS/001695

UNCLASSIFIED
30. "Wrong Signal," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (09/10)

"By coming to Pakistan, Karzai has shown he is amenable to soften his stance and start afresh. There is, however, a real possibility that President Zardari's holding his first press conference on the issue of the war against terrorism and closing ranks with Karzai

could be construed as his dancing to the tune of the U.S. This would send a wrong signal to the people of Pakistan, who are fuming over the bombing of their tribal areas by the NATO/U.S. forces. Musharraf had earned ire because of the impression of his being in cahoots with the U.S.; Zardari could be in the eye of the storm of public anger if he displays the same enthusiasm for the U.S. He had better avoid showing himself with an American cat's-paw in his debut talk as President."

31. "Dim prospects Of PPP-PML-N Reconciliation," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (09/10)

"By killing more and more people inside the Tribal Areas they aim to intensify the feeling of alienation among the people there, arousing hatred of Al Qaeda, the Taliban and the PPP government in Islamabad. The current situation is that NATO and Al Qaeda are killing innocent people on both sides of the Durand Line as policy. The national assembly will soon be making a noisy protest against the United States on its anti-terror policy and against the PPP government for not taking aggressive action under a policy of 'strategic defiance.'"

32. "The Art Of Delusion," an editorial in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/10)

"The arrest of a would-be suicide bomber in Nowshera, believed to be no more than 14 or 15 years old, once more sheds light on how these hapless children are exploited and used for the most evil of purposes.... It is time to act against those using deceit and delusion to send child bombers out onto the streets of the country. These criminals are guilty of the worst possible kind of abuse. The seminaries and other places from where they function must be targeted and other teenagers saved from meeting the same fate as those who have been tricked into so senselessly ending their own lives, and those of the other victims that die with them."

33. "The War On Terror & President Zardari," an op-ed by Shireen M. Mazari in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/10)

"I have always maintained that U.S. long-term strategic goals will

UNCLASSIFIED

DRONE/DOS/001696

UNCLASSIFIED

always be divergent from Pakistan's UNCLASSIFIED-specific cooperation can take place from time to time. It is the terms and conditions of this cooperation that have always been crucial for Pakistan. Finally, as for the argument, that what can Pakistan do to counter the U.S. destructive agenda for this country - there are some options presently available as long as the war in Afghanistan continues. One, we need to have our own viable policy to deal with extremism and terrorism and that has to have a politico-economic framework within which military action can be used as needed. Dialogue has to also be an essential part of this strategy. Two, the U.S. has to be sent a clear message that no attack on our territory is acceptable since we can carry out the actions ourselves. Three, as a show of intent, we need to temporarily remove ourselves from the Trilateral Commission and other cooperative exercises to show our intent and our non-acceptance of U.S.-NATO attacks on our territory. Four, if our own policies are to succeed, they have to have national credibility and that can only come if we create some space between ourselves and the U.S."

34. "Task For The New President," an op-ed by Mir Jamilur Rahman in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/10)

"Mr. Zardari has the historic opportunity to have fruitful talks with the U.S. administration on the issue of Taliban and terrorism. He is an articulate negotiator and he would be listened to because he is democratically elected president with a huge majority. Our case is simple. We want an end to militancy and restoration of peace in this region.... Pakistan has to mend fences with the U.S. through dialogue and not by extreme expressions of jingoism. There is general wish that we should respond to the U.S. in the manner of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran. Perhaps we might have preferred nasty and strong language against the U.S. if we also had been floating on oil like Iran. Let us try to win our battles with the U.S. through meaningful dialogue rather than diatribe."

35. "The Future Of The Pakistan-U.S. Friendship," an op-ed by Khalid Aziz in the centrist national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (09/10)

"These attacks indicate that perhaps the time has come both for the U.S. and Pakistan to frankly re-examine what is now beginning to look like a brittle alliance.... US unilateralism has persuaded many Pakistanis to believe that the US does not really care what the impact of its actions will be on Pakistan or its citizens. Clearly a reliance on a strategy which leads to more collateral deaths whether by Pakistan or U.S. is a bad policy in terms of winning the hearts and minds of the people."

UNCLASSIFIED

DRONE/DOS/001697

UNCLASSIFIED

36. "The President's Plans," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (09/10)

"President Zardari also indicated his commitment to sustaining the 'great bond' with China, to the relief of anxious officials of the foreign service who have viewed the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal and the closer Pakistan-U.S. military ties as distressing signs of impending regional isolation. No doubt Pakistan cannot be hostage to the past in striking new arrangements in the region, but the Sino-Pakistan relationship is extraordinarily important.... The bad news is on the war on terror. President Zardari appealed for the establishment of an international fund for victims of war against terrorism - thereby indicating that Pakistan will have to tolerate more U.S. strikes in the weeks ahead."

Patterson

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

DRONE/DOS/001698