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 AMEMBASSY LONDON
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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
 SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PPD, DRL
 LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
 CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
 USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
 SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: MEDIA SUMMARY: JANUARY 14-17, 2006

Summary:

Early Friday morning air strike in Bajaur Agency,

killing of 18 civilians, related stories about protest over the strike, statements and editorials critical of U.S. were given prominent place in the newspapers over the weekend. Coverage was also given to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's reiteration of the American view that the Taliban and Al-Qaeda would be harshly dealt with.

Newspapers gave prominent coverage to the Foreign Office delivery of a protest demarche to U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker over the alleged U.S. strike in Bajaur.

"Daily Times" quotes The Washington Post as quoting a source that "Pakistan was "heavily involved" in the air strikes in Bajaur Agency on Friday. "This would not have happened without Pakistani involvement," the Washington Post quoted an unnamed source as saying about the missile attack on the Pak-Afghan border that killed 18 civilians, including women and children."

U.S. aid effort for earthquake stricken people of Pakistani Kashmir and the Frontier province continues to appear regularly in the newspapers.

Urdu daily "Jang" reports "President Musharraf would address the nation over radio and television on Tuesday. Sources said that the President would take the nation into his confidence over the building of Kalabagh Dam, actions against miscreants in Balochistan and U.S. attack in Bajaur agency."

The paper also reports "Prime Minister's will depart for New York on a weeklong first official visit to the United States on Tuesday. He will hold an important meeting with President Bush on Jan 24 at White House. Besides, he will also address various policy-making organizations and think tanks during his stay in the U.S...." End summary.

-- News Stories

1. "Operation At Pak Border In The Right Direction: America; Action Against Al-Qaeda To Continue; Rice Refuses To Apologize On Killing In Bajaur" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/17)

"U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has refused to comment or apologize on the killing of civilians in Bajaur Agency as a result of American aircraft bombing. However, she has backed stringent U.S. action at

Pakistani border. Speaking with newsmen in Liberia, she defended the bombardment and said that Al-Qaeda and the Taliban would not be dealt softly and the war against them would continue. She said that America would try to remove Pakistan's apprehensions in the aftermath of Bajaur attack."

2. "We will not treat Al-Qaeda leniently inside Pakistan: Condoleezza Rice says" "Express" (01/17)

"... U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice while defending the U.S. missile attack (in Bajaur, inside Pakistan) has said that Al-Qaeda and Taliban can't be treated leniently. Talking to the reporters while going to Liberia, the U.S. Secretary of State has said that Pakistan is a U.S. ally in war on terrorism, and we will continue to work together. She said that she would like to tell the Pakistani government and people that they are U.S. partners in war against terrorism, and Al-Qaeda and Taliban are not such people to deal with leniently. 'It is a hard time for the Pakistani government, but we will try to remove Pakistan's apprehensions', she added...."

3. "Rice Defends Anti-Terror Drive In Pakistan" "The News", "Dawn", "Daily Times", "The Post" (01/17)

"US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday defended tough US tactics to root out al-Qaeda militants in Pakistan's border areas after a deadly air strike on a Bajaur Agency village sparked a wave of angry protests. Rice would not comment on the reported deaths of 18 villagers in a raid aimed at Usama bin Laden's deputy Ayman al-Zawahri but said only, "We'll continue to work with the Pakistanis and we'll try to address their concerns." Speaking to reporters en route to Liberia for the inauguration of president-elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Rice made no apologies for US actions. "It's obviously difficult at this time for the Pakistani government," she said of the attack that prompted an official protest from Islamabad."

4. "Rice Defends Bajaur Attack "The Nation" (01/17)

"US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has defended tough US tactics to root out al-Qaeda fighters on Pakistan's border after a deadly air strike on a village sparked a wave of angry street protests. "We'll continue to work with the Pakistanis and we'll try to address their concerns," She told reporters

Monday on her way to Liberia for the inauguration of president-elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf." UNCLASSIFIED

5. "Pak Active In Pursuit Of Terrorists, Says US" "The Nation", "Daily Times" (01/14)

"The State Department Wednesday said that Pakistani forces have been active in north and south Waziristan, in tracking down and hunting terrorists, over the past couple of years. Sean McCormack said, "This is an activity that the Pakistani forces are engaged in under the direction of President (General Pervez) Musharraf." The Spokesman was responding to a question by an Indian journalist, who was trying to assert that so called cross border terrorism was taking place on the Pak-Afghan border. Asked to dilate on the position, the Spokesman said in the daily press briefing that Pakistan is "certainly to be commended for what is very tough duty" and that "they are operating in areas that for a hundred years Pakistani officials didn't travel into."

6. "Attack In Bajaur Agency Kills 18: Raid Believed To Be Made By US Aircraft" "Dawn", "The Nation", "The News", "The Post", "Daily Times" (01/14)

"Eighteen people, including 14 members of a family, were killed and six others injured early on Friday when US aircraft fired missiles at residential compounds in Damadola village in Bajaur Agency, officials and local people said.... Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan was evasive and did not confirm intrusion of the US aircraft into the tribal area. "The Federal Information Minister has already issued a statement about the incident and the authorities have looked into the issue," Mr. Sultan told "Dawn" by phone from Islamabad."

7. "US Ambassador Summoned Over Bajaur Air Strike" "Daily Times", "Dawn", "The Nation", "The News", "The Post" (01/15)

"Pakistan has summoned the US ambassador to the Foreign Office to protest the deaths of 18 people in an air strike apparently targeting the deputy leader of Al Qaeda, a senior official said on Saturday. "Foreign Secretary Riaz Khan handed over a formal protest to the US ambassador at the Foreign Ministry this evening," Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said. A Foreign Office statement did not directly accuse US forces of launching the missiles that hit the village. "According

to preliminary investigations, there was a ~~presence~~ **UNCLASSIFIED**
presence in the area and that in all probability was
targeted from across the border in Afghanistan," the
statement read."

8. "We Condemn Bajaur Incident; All Issues To Be Taken
Up With U.S.: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz," "Jang"
(01/17)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that Bajaur
incident was regrettable and we condemn it. He said that
he would take up all the issues including trade and
economic relations between the two countries with the
U.S. leadership during his forthcoming visit."

9. "Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's Maiden Visit To U.S.
Begins Today," "Jang" (01/17)

"Prime Minister's will depart for New York on a weeklong
first official visit to the United States on Tuesday. He
would hold an important meeting with President Bush on
Jan 24 at White House. Besides, he would also address
various policy-making organizations and think tanks
during his stay in the U.S...."

10. "There Was No Information About Zawahiri's Presence
In Pakistan: Foreign Minister Kasuri," "Jang" (01/17)

"Pakistan foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has
said that there was no information that al Qaeda leader
Aiman al Zawahri was present in a Pakistani village. In
an interview with CNN, the Foreign Minister said that
the U.S. attack in Bajaur was a matter of Pakistan's
sovereignty. Such an operation has evoked public
reaction. He said that there was a change of public
opinion about the U.S. after the earthquake and about 46
per cent people, as against 23 per cent earlier, were
supportive and appreciative of the U.S. and in this
backdrop the Bajaur incident was a great tragedy. He
said that it was unimportant whether prior information
of attack was given to Pakistan or not. The important
thing is that nobody else, other than the Pakistan army,
should have taken the action. He said that Pak-U.S.
relations were very complex as well as intense. He said
that the mutual relations should not come under such
type of strains. He said that Pakistan has talked to the
U.S. Ambassador in this regard and would even contact
the U.S. Secretary of State if a need arose. He
expressed the hope that the message Pakistan wanted to
convey would be understood by Washington."

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11. "No Other Power Should Operate Within Pakistani Territory: Pakistani Envoy to U.S.," "Jang" (01/17)

"Pakistan's envoy to U.S. Jehangir Karamat has said that whatever action needs to be taken within Pakistani territory should be taken by Pakistan and if there is any information and intelligence then it should be shared with Pakistan. He said that Bajaur incident would figure in the discussion between Prime minister Shaukat Aziz and U.S. President Bush."

12. "PM's US Visit Important, Says Jehangir Karamat" "The News" (01/17)

"The US visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz from January 18 to 24 is quite important and is taking place in the backdrop of the Pakistan visits by US Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and a number of Congressional delegations. Pakistan Ambassador Jehangir Karamat said this in an interview late on Sunday. He said, "The visit is quite important on many counts and President Bush also intends to visit Pakistan." The ambassador added: "I think this visit is quite important and is being undertaken at an appropriate time."

13. "Air Strike Not To Affect Aziz's US Visit" "Daily Times" (01/17)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Monday condemned an alleged CIA air strike on a border village that killed at least 17 people, but said he would go ahead with a planned trip to the United States to build business ties, AP reported.... Leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) on Monday advised Aziz to cancel his US visit and not fly to America till the US government apologized for the alleged CIA air strike in Bajaur Agency."

14. "American Attack Violation Of Our Sovereignty; We Should Not Be Pressurized Through Unnecessary Actions: Kasuri" "Nawa-e-Waqt", "Khabrain" (01/17)

"Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri has said that U.S. air strike in Bajaur is a violation of over sovereignty and we have concerns over it. He made it clear that only Pakistan military has a right to conduct operation inside Pakistan territory and no other country

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has that right. He said that Pakistan is a superpower fourth or fifth military power and America knows Pakistan army's capability. IN an interview with CNN he said that we have summoned U.S. Ambassador and referred to similar attacks in the past. However, this attack was most horrific in which 18 men and innocent children and women were killed.... He said that Pakistan and America have time tested and complex, deep and old relations, but we should not be pressurized through such (Bajaur action) unnecessary actions.... We do not have any information that Aymen Alzawahiri was killed in the attack, he said."

15. "Aziz's US Visit: Realities And Hopes" "The Post" (01/17) "Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's first visit to the US is not only very important for Pakistan, it also has a great significance in terms of regional affairs. The talks there will set a new dimension for Pak-US relations, as the US is likely to assign Pakistan a new role in the new developments, for example, the Iranian issue. In addition, it is expected that Shaukat Aziz will try to convince the US administration on President Musharraf's proposals of demilitarization and self-governance for Kashmir. Mr. Aziz's first visit to the US as Prime Minister of Pakistan is not starting in a friendly atmosphere though. The incident of Bajaur has changed the mode of the visit."

16. "Pentagon Says US Military Not Conducting Attacks In Pakistan" "The Nation" (01/15)

"The Pentagon said the US military was not engaged in operations in a Pakistani border area where 18 people, including women and children, were reported killed Friday in a missile strike. "There is no reason to believe the US military is conducting operations there," said Lieutenant Colonel Todd Vician."

17. "Pakistan 'Heavily Involved' In Bajaur Air Strike" "Daily Times" (01/15)

"The Washington Post has quoted a source as saying that Pakistan was "heavily involved" in the air strikes in Bajaur Agency on Friday. "This would not have happened without Pakistani involvement," the Washington Post quoted an unnamed source as saying about the missile attack on the Pak-Afghan border that killed 18 civilians, including women and children."

18. "No Guarantee US Won't Do It Again" "Dawn", "Daily

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"A senior US senator on Sunday lamented the loss of innocent lives during a US bombing raid in Pakistan, but said such casualties are unavoidable as Washington robustly pursues its "war on terror." "It's terrible when innocent people are killed. We regret that. But we have to do what we think is necessary to take out Al Qaeda, particularly the top operatives," US Senator John McCain told CBS television's "Face the Nation" program."

19. "US Missed Al-Zawahiri Because He skipped Dinner"
"The News" (01/16)

"Al-Qaeda's number two leader was invited to a dinner marking an Islamic festival on the night of the devastating US missile strike in a Pakistani border village, but did not show up, Pakistani intelligence officials said on Sunday.... The US government has yet to formally comment on the air strike, but senator John McCain and other US lawmakers defended it on Sunday.... US Democratic Senator Evan Bayh said the problem is that the Pakistan government does not control the border region where Usama bin Laden and al-Zawahiri have been believed to be hiding for the past four years, since the US-led military ouster of the Taliban for hosting al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. "It's a regrettable situation, but what else are we supposed to do?" Bayh, who serves on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told CNN."

20. "A Most Wanted Suspect Dig Grave For Persons Died In Bajaur Attack" "Khabrain" (01/17)

"... There is a popular perception in Bajaur that the house of Mullah Fakir Muhammad was the real target of the U.S. missile attack, but innocent people were killed in the attack. Mullah Fakir Muhammad is an important leader of banned outfit, 'Tehrik Nifaz Shariat-e-Muhammadi' and is wanted by the government for providing shelter in his home to foreign nationals. One of his brothers was killed in Afghanistan in a clash with the U.S. troops; another is in detention. An Uzbek national has been arrested from his house in the past.... As the members of a media team (visiting the area) were asking the local people about him, a young man with long hair came with three or four armed bodyguards. Media was told that he was Mullah Fakir Muhammad. The reporters were surprised to see a wanted person freely roaming around the area. Mullah Fakir also attended the funeral of the people who were killed in the U.S."

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missile attack. In fact, he assisted in digging the graves for these people. Mullah Fakir Muhammad told the reporters that he neither offered shelter to Aiman Al-Zawahri, nor he ever met him. However, he said that he would like to see him (Aiman Al-Zawahri). 'If Mullah Omar, Usama Bin Laden or Zawahri ever come to his house, he without any hesitation will offer them shelter in his house according to the Pakhtoon traditions...."

21. "Opposition Moves Motion In Senate Over Missile Attack" "Daily Times" (01/16)

"Five opposition Senators have moved an adjournment motion to discuss the 'the situation arising out of the US missile attack on Damadola village in Bajaur Agency on January 13 resulting in the deaths of 18 people and the subsequent unrest in the agency'.

22. "MMA's Country-Wide Demonstrations Against U.S. Bombing In Bajaur; Government's Ally MQM Participates," "Jang" (01/15)

"On the appeal of Chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami and president of the religious parties' alliance, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, demonstrations were held country-wide, including Karachi and Sindh, against the U.S. attack in Bajaur agency. Government's ally MQM participated in a big way in the protest rallies. In Karachi a demonstration was held outside the Banori Town mosque in which thousands of people participated. The demonstrations expressed severe resentment against the U.S. action and condemned the U.S. They were holding placards inscribed with anti-American slogans. They demanded the cancellation of the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to Washington and called upon President Bush to publicly tender apology. Speaking on the occasion Jamaat-e-Islami senator Prof Ghafoor Ahmad said that U.S. was the biggest terrorist country of the world."

23. "Countrywide Rallies Condemn US Attack" "Dawn", "The Nation" (01/16)

"Protesters took to the streets all over Pakistan on Sunday to condemn a US air strike that officials said targeted Al Qaeda's deputy leader but instead killed 18 villagers near the Afghan border. Demonstrators rallied in major cities including, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Peshawar to vent their anger against

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24. "PML-N Condemns Bajaur Attacks, Seeks US Apology"
"Dawn" (01/15)

"Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has condemned attacks on Bajaur and Waziristan and demanded that the United States should apologize and compensate losses. In a statement issued here on Saturday, PML-N Central Information Secretary Siddiqueul Farooque condemned the air attack by US planes on a Bajaur village where at least 23 men, women and children were killed."

25. "Whole Nation Symbol Of Protest Against U.S. Bombardment In Bajaur: Ruling Party Chief," "Jang"
(01/15)

"Chief of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, has said that the entire Pakistani nation has become a symbol of protest against the killing of innocent women and children due to American bombardments in the Bajaur agency. Such incidents were intolerable and they spread hatred, he added. Talking to newsmen in Brussels, he condemned the U.S. bombardment in Bajaur and said that this was an attack on the national sovereignty of Pakistan."

26. "Fazl Asks Govt. To Condemn US Air Strike" "The News" (01/17)

"Leader of the opposition in the National Assembly and MMA secretary-general, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, has said that the government should condemn and lodge a protest in strongest words over the US air strike and killing of innocent people in Bajaur Agency."

27. "U.S. Diplomatic Missions To Be Besieged If Bombardment Not Stopped: Islami Jamiat Tulaba," "Jasarat" (01/17)

"The Nazim of Islami Jamia Tulaba (student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami), Tahir Akbar, has warned that if the U.S. military is not reined in and bombardment continued, then all the diplomatic missions of the United States would be besieged in the country."

28. "American Attack: Pakistan Bar Council Gives Call for Countrywide Strike on January 20" "Nawa-e-Waqt"
(01/17)

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"Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) has given a protest and lawyers strike on January 20 to agitate against American planes bombing on Bajaur Agency. PBC Vice Chairman Hafiz Abdur Rehman announced this at a press conference at Lahore High Court Bar."

29. "Protest Demonstrations Continue in Bajaur and North Waziristan; Peshawar-Bajaur Highway Blocked, Al Kora Bazar Closed" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/17)

"Protest Demonstrations in Bajaur and North Waziristan to agitate against U.S. bombing continue unabated.... Demonstrators raised slogans against America and warned that if the government did not take steps against America then the tribes would rise against the government."

30. "Pakistani People Don't Like Musharraf And Bush, National Security Is In Danger: Former PM Benazir Bhutto" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/17)

"Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that General Pervez Musharraf is a dictator, who has complete backing of Washington. President Bush likes Pakistan's dictator General for achieving his objectives while the people of Pakistan dislike President Bush and Pervez Musharraf. Pervez Musharraf does not do what Pakistani people want, but he carries out the orders of Bush honestly."

31. "Pakistani Rulers Have Given Free Hand To The U.S.: Fazalur Rehman Says" "Khabrain" (01/17)

"MMA President Qazi Hussain Ahmad has said that prior to the attack in Bajaur, a U.S. spy plane kept flying in the area, and later on, 5 jets bombed the area. He said that all U.S. intelligence reports about Aiman Al Zawahiri's presence have proven wrong.... Maulana Fazlur Rehman, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly has said that the government has given a free hand to the U.S."

32. "U.S. Offered Dialogue To Taliban And Al-Qaeda Through Javaid Ibrahim Piracha" "Khabrain" (01/17)

"Talking with "Khabrain" former MNA Javed Ibrahim Piracha has said that the U.S. has once again offered dialogue to Taliban and important Al Qaeda leaders [through him] and repeated its offer made earlier. However, Piracha has asked the U.S. [officials] to send

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the names of those Taliban and Al Qaeda leaders writing... He said he had received many such phone calls from New York and Washington, where the names were disclosed. He said these were the same people who had met him in Islamabad recently... He also said that he had been offered \$500,000, which he turned down, by saying that 'not every person can be sold.' He said had informed the Peshawar Corps Commander of the details of his meeting with the Americans in Islamabad."

33. "Angry Tribesmen Disrupt Life" "Dawn" (01/15)

"Thousands of angry tribesmen ransacked offices of two NGOs and a government body, and damaged shops in Inayat Kallay of Bajaur Agency on Saturday. They were protesting against the killing of civilians in Friday's US air strike on a village."

34. "Thousands Protest Alleged Air Strike Deaths In Pakistan" "The Nation" (01/15)

"Thousands of tribesmen protested Saturday against an alleged US air strike targeting Al-Qaeda's second in command that killed 18 people near the Afghan border, witnesses said. An estimated 5,000 people gathered at a stadium near Khar, the main town in the Bajaur tribal zone, close to the village of Damadola where Friday's attack happened, hard-line Pakistani legislator Haroon Rasheed told AFP."

35. "Bajaur Attack Strains Pak-US Alliance" "The News" (01/17) "The pre-dawn air strike aimed at Ayman al-Zawahri in a Bajaur Agency village was intended as a devastating blow to al-Qaeda but it has strained US ties with a key ally in the war on terror and could provoke more anti-American sentiments in Pakistan, analysts said on Monday."

36. "Meeting With Zawahri Would Be An Honor: Mullah Faqir," "Jang" (01/17)

"Taliban leader Mullah Faqir, wanted by the government of Pakistan, has told BBC that he has not so far met al Qaeda leader Aiman al Zawahri but such a meeting would be an honor for him. He said that he had waged jihad against the former USSR and now he is doing the same against the U.S. and other anti-Islamic forces. Replying to a question he said that Usama Bin Laden, Aiman Al Zawahri and Mullah Omer were more a name of an ideology rather than anything else."

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37. "Pakistan Investigating Reports Al-Qaeda Number Two Killed In Strike" "The Nation" (01/15)

"Pakistan is investigating whether Al-Qaeda deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a deadly US air strike on a village near the Afghan border, Pakistani and US officials said Saturday. US Central Intelligence Agency sources said they had unconfirmed indications that a high-level target, possibly Usama bin Laden's Egyptian number two and chief ideologue, was killed by a US Predator drone in Pakistan. "We are investigating and as of now we are not in a position to say yes or no," Major General Shaukat Sultan, the spokesman for President Musharraf and for Pakistan's military, told AFP when asked to confirm whether Zawahiri was killed in the strike."

38. "Zawahri Alive: Arabia TV" "The Nation" (01/15)

"Al-Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahri is alive, Al-Arabia television reported on Saturday, quoting a source which it said has contact with al-Qaeda. "A source with contacts with al-Qaeda reiterated to Arabia that Zawahri is alive," the satellite television said. "Reports of his death are wishful thinking," it quoted unnamed sources as saying. The station gave no further details.

The report came after US sources said a US air strike in Pakistan targeted Zawahri."

39. "Political Admin Arrests 2 Journalists For Reporting Bajaur Situation" "Daily Times" (01/15)

"The Bajaur Agency political administration on Saturday arrested "Daily Times" Peshawar Bureau Chief Iqbal Khattak and BBC correspondent Haroon Rashid from the agency's regional headquarters Khar for reporting the situation in the tribal area. The two journalists were released after being detained for two hours. Mr. Khattak and Mr. Rashid were arrested taking photographs of paramilitary soldiers in the main bazaar of the area. The two journalists were taken to the office of Bajaur Agency political administrator Fahim Wazir who reportedly used indecent language with them. Fahim also threatened Khattak and Rashid and warned them not to enter the tribal areas without permission. He also refused to allow the journalists to file their story and said that he be shown what they were going to report in advance. Khattak and Rashid refused to comply."

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40. "Bush Senior Meets President Musharraf: Will work with International Community For Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Earthquake Stricken Areas: Bush Senior Gives Assurance" "Nawa-e-Waqt", "The News", "Dawn", "The Post", "Pakistan Observer" (01/17)

"President Musharraf has said that the international community should fulfill its promises for the rehabilitation of the earthquake stricken people in order not to effect the rehabilitation and reconstruction work. President Musharraf met with former U.S. President and UN Secretary General's Special Representative George H. Bush yesterday. George H. Bush has arrived here to review the needs of the earthquake-affected people and the ongoing rehabilitation projects.... Former president George H. Bush praised the relief and rehabilitation work. He assured President Musharraf that U.S. would work alongside international community for the rehabilitation and reconstruction work."

41. "Bush Sr. Shinkiari Visit Cancelled" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/17)

"Bush Senior's Shinkiari visit has been cancelled due to unknown reasons. Visiting Bush Sr. was scheduled to take a tour of earthquake affected areas and reach Shinkiari on Monday."

42. "President Grateful For US Assistance" "Daily Times", "The Nation", "Jang" (01/16)

"President Musharraf and US Senator John Kerry met on Sunday, with the Pakistani President expressed his gratitude over the prompt and substantive assistance provided by the US for earthquake relief.... John Kerry, who is on a two-day visit to Pakistan, conveyed the sympathies of the American people on the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake."

43. "Kerry Calls On Soomro" "Dawn" (01/16)

"US Senator John Kerry called on Senate Chairman Mohammedian Soomro and exchanged views on wide-ranging issues including Pakistan-US relations, ongoing peace process with India and regional situation with particular reference to terrorism."

44. "Kerry Links N-Deal With Democracy" "Dawn", "Daily

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"US Senator John Kerry said on Saturday that a civilian nuclear cooperation pact with his country was "an appropriate goal" for Pakistan but linked the same with democracy and nuclear non-proliferation. "India is a democracy and it has adhered to the non-proliferation agreement in all the years of its involvement with nuclear facilities. This is not yet true of Pakistan, though Pakistan is moving in that direction," he told reporters after a marathon meeting with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Saturday. Mr. Kerry, a former Democratic presidential candidate, said Pakistan and the United States could explore a common ground for cooperation in civilian nuclear technology."

45. "US Donates School Uniforms To Quake Kids" "Daily Times" (01/17)

"US Senator John Kerry and US Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker visited Mehra camp and distributed 2,000 school uniforms among quake-affected children. According to a press release issued by the US Embassy, 'Save the Children,' an international NGO and partner of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized the distribution of school uniforms. Two of the three tent schools in Mehra camp were being supported by USAID through 'Save the Children' campaign."

46. "US Aid Intensifies As Snow Hits Quake Zone" "The Post" (01/14)

"The US military helicopter crew have intensified relief supplies to the earthquake victims in the snow-hit quake areas. The US and coalition helicopters have flown more than 3,200 sorties, carried almost 15,000 passengers, evacuated almost 3,800 casualties and delivered more than 8.3 million tons of humanitarian aid, Air Force Maj Todd Vician, a Pentagon spokesman, told the American Forces Press Service Friday. "As soon as the weather improved, we were able to begin flying, and we delivered 125 tons of humanitarian assistance to the earthquake-affected areas," said Navy Rear Adm Michael LeFever, commander of the US Disaster Assistance Center, Pakistan. Le Fever said the Pakistan government's efforts in pushing relief supplies to the affected areas by air and road had impressed him."

47. "American Doctors Treat 900 Quake Survivors" "Dawn" (01/14)

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"An eight-member medical team from the USA, which accompanied former Pakistan Engineering Congress vice-president Syed Anwaar Hasnaat, has treated some 900 earthquake survivors in Abbotabad, Balakot and Muzaffarabad. According to a news release issued here on Friday, Dr. Naveen Sultana, who is assistant professor of paediatrics at Stanford University, California, said the Pakistani-origin American doctors team had brought with them medicines worth hundreds of thousands of rupees that included pneumonia, antibiotics, anti-infection and others."

48. "Jan-End Right Time To Leave Pakistan: NATO" "The Post", "Dawn", "The News", "Daily Times" (01/14)

"The NATO commander overseeing its operations in quake-hit areas said Friday the alliance's disaster relief mission would be finished at the end of the month but it would leave behind a helicopter-refueling base. NATO has deployed a 1,000-strong contingent of medics, engineers and pilots. All would leave the Kashmir region by Feb 1, although some personnel would stay in Pakistan longer to ship out equipment, Air Commodore Andrew Walton said. The pullout would be complete by the end of February, he said."

49. "Pakistan Rejects U.S Demand For Access To Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/17)

"America has once again increased pressure on Pakistan for direct access to and interrogation of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. However, rejecting the demand of direct access to DR. Khan, Pakistan has assured its cooperation for end of nuclear black market and nuclear non-proliferation.... According to the sources Pakistan has also made it clear that Pakistan would not be a party in any action against Iran. Pakistan has told America that Dr. Khan does not have anything to tell America."

50. "Burns On His Way To India And Pakistan" "Daily Times", "The News", "The Nation", "The Post" (01/15)

"US Undersecretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns will be visiting India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from January 16-25. An official announcement on Friday said: "On his inaugural trip to Pakistan, Burns will meet senior Pakistani officials and opinion leaders to discuss broadening the US-Pakistan bilateral relationship, review Pakistan's progress towards full democracy, explore ways to foster greater regional

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cooperation and express the United States' continued support for earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts." According to State Department spokesman Sean McCormack, the trip was originally planned as primarily focused on US-India relations. In India, he would talk about how the July 2005 US-India agreement on civil nuclear affairs is to be implemented. He would also discuss Iran with his Indian counterparts."

51. "Iran Nuclear Impasse Could Hurt US-India Nuclear Deal" "Daily Times" (01/15)

"A landmark US-India nuclear cooperation deal could be hampered by India's reluctance to refer Iran's nuclear program to the UN Security Council and open enough of its own atomic facilities to inspection, US officials and experts said on Friday. Both issues will be discussed when Undersecretary of State R. Nicholas Burns visits New Delhi for talks on January 19."

52. "Indian Reluctance Made Me Go Public With Kashmir Ideas: Musharraf" "Daily Times" (01/15)

"President Musharraf has said he communicated his ideas on self-governance and demilitarization in Kashmir to the Indian leadership long ago, but their reluctance to respond compelled him to go public. "I have been passing these ideas on to the Indian government, to the Indian leadership directly and indirectly, through back channels, through all kinds of channels," General Musharraf said in an interview on Indian channel CNN-IBN."

53. "No Reduction In IHK Troops" "The Nation" (01/15)

"Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Saturday that there was no possibility now to substantially reduce the strength of armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir, reports Zee TV."

54. "Pakistan To Complete Gas Pipeline Project Despite U.S. Reservations: Petroleum Minister," "Jang" (01/17)
"Federal Minister for Petroleum Amanullah Jadoon has said that Pakistan would complete the gas pipeline project from Iran despite U.S. reservations in this regard. In an interview with 'Jang' he said that even if India backed out of this project, Pakistan would have no problem in implementing it."

55. "Iran Bans CNN" "The News" (01/17)

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"The US-based news channel CNN has been banned from working in Iran for having mistakenly quoted President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as saying his country is seeking nuclear weapons, a government official told AFP on Monday."

56. "Japan Decides To Play Conclusive Role In Iran's Nuclear Issue," "Jang" (01/17)

"The Japanese government has decided to play a conclusive role in the Iran's nuclear issue and its has extended an invitation to the Iranian Foreign Minister to visit Japan. His visit to Japan is expected in the last week of February. A spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Office said that Japan was an important member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA and enjoyed great economic and friendly relations with Iran. He said that Japan wanted that Iran's nuclear issue be resolved through understanding."

57. "President Musharraf To Address The Nation Today," "Jang" (01/17)

"President Musharraf would address the nation over radio and television on Tuesday. Sources said that the president would take the nation into confidence over the building of Kalabagh Dam, action against miscreants in Balochistan and U.S. attack in Bajaur agency."

58. "Military, Feudal Elite Obstacles To Pakistani Democracy" "Daily Times" (01/15)

"The civil and military bureaucracy's vested interests choked democracy in Pakistan, while universal adult franchise became the key to survival of democracy in India. This is discussed by Aitzaz Ahsan and Lord Meghnad Desai, a distinguished academic from Britain, in their jointly authored book, "Divided by Democracy", which was launched on Saturday."

Editorials/Opinions

59. "Closer Cooperation Needed Between American And Pakistan Military Commanders In Borderlands" "an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/14)

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"On January 7, some troops of the US ~~troops~~ forces in Afghanistan crossed over into North Waziristan and conducted a search operation on Pakistani territory. They arrested two tribesmen and took them away. Later, a US helicopter also fired on the house of a religious leader in the area, killing eight tribesmen.... Such incidents therefore serve to weaken General Musharraf's position even within his own military constituency and make it that much more difficult for him to do the job he is supposed to do.... In the last seven days Pakistan has lost at least seven troops in the area. That shows the difficulty of rooting out terrorists from these areas. General Musharraf is expected to deliver 100 percent under very trying circumstances and that isn't easy. But some analysts say that the Americans are "unhappy with the slow pace of the operation" by Pakistan and could be sending a message to General Musharraf. If that is so, then there is all the more reason why commanders on both sides should sit together frequently to iron out differences of perception and potential misunderstandings. Meanwhile, it is neither proper nor discreet for either Pakistan or America to try and outsmart the other. The job cannot be done singly. It needs cooperative security measures. The military commission should investigate this incident and determine how to proceed in sync."

60. "Did Pakistan Cooperate With America for Bajaur Attack," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/17)

"Countrywide protest day against U.S. missiles attack on Bajaur Agency was observed and the speakers described the attack as a challenge to the rulers.... It has come to light gradually that America launched the attack after consulting Pakistan's intelligence and senior officials. That is why Pakistan's protest appears to be fulfillment of a formality.... "Pakistani rulers should remember that the missiles which targeted Bajaur could also rain at Pakistan's nuclear installations and other sensitive places."

61. "Bajaur Killing: Pakistan Should Explain Its Role," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/17)

"We can't rule out the possibility of foreign media's involvement in maligning the government of Pakistan and its intelligences services. America must be worried about the killing of 18 people; Pakistan too had to

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lodge its protest. In this backdrop if the people are told that the government of Pakistan and its intelligence are also involved in the killing of innocent people then it diverts attention from America. What else America would want? But the government of Pakistan should issue an unambiguous clarification regarding its role and the sharing of information (with U.S.)."

62. "Bajaur Attack: America Is Responsible For Pakistanis Killing," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/16)

"The Government of Pakistan has lodged strong protest with America on U.S. missile attack on Damdola, Bajaur. In this respect the U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker was summoned at the Foreign Office and a protest demarche was handed over to him.... The people of Pakistan apprehend that if America got the liberty of such attacks then one day it can target Pakistan's nuclear installations. America is not a friend of Pakistan. They are afraid of Iran's nuclear program and Pakistan's Islamic bomb and they are trying to eliminate Iran as well as Pakistan's nuclear power."

63. "America Should Apologize, Pay Compensation," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/16) "Pakistan and the people of Pakistan are not cowards. They strongly condemn American attacks. America should know that if it continued with such antics then its ally President Pervez Musharraf would be the first casualty. America might be having the same approach, because it never relies on any of its ally for long period of time.... America and CIA should apologize on the recent attack and pay compensation for the killing of innocent people."

64. "Reaction Of Pakistani Public Against U.S. Attack In Bajaur," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/17)

"While taking armed action against terrorists, such type of incidents involving the killing of innocent civilians do take place even in some other countries. But what cannot be pardoned is the violation of territorial integrity whether by air or land. Keeping in view the intense public reaction, it would be prudent if the government took this issue before the parliament for an open debate. In this way the American officials would get to know the Pakistani public sentiments. The U.S.

Government should also clarify its position on the happening of this incident. Pakistan should seek an assurance from the U.S. that no attack within the Pakistani territory by American forces is permissible and any such action would be treated as an attack on Pakistan. The government of Pakistan should enter into a written agreement with the U.S. in this regard."

65. "Public Reaction Over The U.S. Bombardment On Bajaur" an editorial in Popular Urdu daily, "Express" (01/17)

"... If the CIA information was correct, even then the U.S. should not have launched military operation on a foreign territory -- that of its close ally. This action, instead of frightening them, has infuriated the Pakistani nation... President Musharraf is not popular anymore -- merely because of his support to the U.S...."

66. "The blood of humble people" an editorial in Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Jinnah" (01/16)

"... The people of Pakistani border areas are at the mercy of those who are perpetrating terrorism in the name of wiping out the terrorists. Mere summoning of the U.S. Ambassador to the Foreign Office and lodging protest indicates Pakistan's weakness.... There is a popular perception about Pakistan that it is a principality of the U.S...."

67. "U.S. bombardment on Bajaur" an editorial in Popular Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (01/15)

"... Pakistan is a frontline state in the ongoing war against terrorism, but it can't compromise on its independence and sovereignty. The U.S. helicopters and planes had also violated Pakistani airspace several times in the past, which is a clear intervention in the internal matters of an independent country. Government of Pakistan should lodge a strong protest over the missile attack on Bajaur area...."

68. "Claim Of Senator John McCain: A Challenge For President Musharraf," an op-ed by Irshad Ahmad Haqqani in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/17)

"A highly distinguished senator of President Bush's Republican Party, John McCain, has said that no assurance could be held out [to Pakistan] regarding the

non-recurrence of Bajaur like incidents appreciate the uninhibited plain talking of the senator who is not ready to ensure that no innocent Pakistani citizen is going to be killed in future as a result of U.S. action. Several American sources have been claiming that Pakistan's secret agencies were fully aware of this attack. No Pakistani official has so far contradicted this claim, which gives credence to this assertion. If the Government of Pakistan does not contradict that the said attack took place in collaboration with the Pakistani agencies then it is indirectly accepting the plea of the U.S. sources, which is very dangerous. The statement of Senator John McCain is a challenge to President's claim of protecting country's sovereignty at every cost. Bajaur incident is a test case for President Musharraf. Will he take the pain of issuing a rebuttal to Senator McCain?"

69. "Excuse Of Crime Is Worst Than The Crime," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (01/17)

"The terrorism demonstrated by the U.S. in Pakistan's area of Bajaur agency is one thing but the reaction of the U.S. senators over the incident is something much farther than terrorism itself. Not only President Bush but the entire U.S. administration is a killer and the Government of Pakistan is an abettor of the killer."

70. "Intense Public Reaction Over Bajaur Incident," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban/Jihad Urdu daily, "Islam" (01/17)

"These country-wide demonstrations against the U.S. attack have evinced that the people of Pakistan are not going to tolerate any aggressor in their territory. The participation of government's allied political parties in these demonstrations also reveal that the pro-U.S. government policies have now become intolerable even for the government allies."

71. "U.S. Naked Aggression," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (01/15)

"U.S. planes penetrated fifteen kilometers inside Pakistani territory and killed eighteen civilians by bombardment. This is not the first incident of its kind as dozens of such incidents have taken place in the recent months. The latest incidents left eight children

and four women killed. Did these children belong to al Qaeda? Were they also international terrorist? Pakistan has protested with the U.S. over the incident. Aggression needs not to be protested but responded. This is a continuing aggression. How long are we going to be under U.S. slavery? Even slaves are not killed but the U.S. is violating our independence and sovereignty. If Iraq could resist U.S. why couldn't we?"

72. "Ineffective Protests," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/16)
"It was the right decision to summon US Ambassador Ryan Crocker to lodge a formal protest over the recent missile attack in the Bajaur Agency by the US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan. According to a Foreign Office press release issued on Saturday, the matter would now also be taken up in the next meeting of the Tripartite Commission of the military commanders of the USA, Pakistan and Afghanistan.... The Tripartite Commission, which is meant to exchange intelligence about the 'foreign terrorists' across the Pak-Afghan border, and coordinate any resulting operations, has been of no use since the US Commander in Afghanistan hardly respects its decisions. But there is also a perception among the tribesmen that the coalition forces operate in our territory with permission from our government. This impression was reinforced by Islamabad's belated reaction to the US Commander's earlier statement that Pakistani and US troops would jointly launch an operation to flush 'terrorists' from the tribal belt. Those in authority should not ignore the fact that despite our active cooperation in the so-called War on Terror we do not enjoy the confidence of our western allies."

73. "The Bajaur Episode," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (01/16)

"... Good job or bad, it would have been for Pakistan to undertake it, since Bajaur is Pakistani territory. More to the point, regardless of the Americans' willingness to share intelligence with us, it isn't part of the deal that they violate Pakistan's territory, and kill Pakistani citizens to boot.... Episodes such as the Bajaur tragedy, for a province where the situation is already delicate, can supply an excellent new cause to the fanatics. The incident must be thoroughly investigated so that it can be ensured that similar things do not recur."

74. "Bajaur Incident" an editorial ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (01/15)

"... CIA raids in the border areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan have not been entirely uncommon since the 'war on terror' began. Last month, an Al Qaeda commander was stated to have been killed by a US missile in a Pakistani-controlled area. Whether al-Zawahiri has been killed or not is important; but it is equally important for the Pakistan authorities to provide the exact details of the Friday incident. Did US spy planes intrude into Pakistani air space and fire missiles at a village? If yes, is this permitted under the rules of engagement with US forces based in Afghanistan? How can it be ensured that in the search for alleged terrorists, innocent people are not killed? Do the US military and its agencies seek prior clearance from Pakistan before they launch raids like this? Questions like this involve aspects of Pakistan's sovereignty and need clear answers. We have got into a very murky area in the tribal regions in the anti-terror drive and are now seeing a resurgence of Taliban activity. Random attacks and the killing of women and children will only win public sympathy for shadowy operatives and organizations and create fresh problems for us."

75. "Countrywide Protests Against the U.S." an editorial in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (01/17)
"The government and opposition are unified in protesting against U.S. bombing in Bajaur Agency.... The only way to come out of this unpleasant situation is for the U.S. to apologize formally to Pakistan and assure that such an incident would not be repeated. Pakistan must simultaneously raise this matter in the tripartite commission."

76. "Countrywide Protests Against the U.S.," an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (01/17)

"The fact that these U.S. aerial attacks keep recurring despite Pakistan's operations against foreign terrorists and their local supporters in Qrth Waziristan only means that the U.S. military leadership does not have confidence in Pakistan's measures.... The government of Pakistan must inform the U.S. that such attacks are causing a great reaction in the Pakistani nation, which might have an impact on the cooperation between the two countries. The latest demonstrations show that instead of goodwill, hatred for the U.S. is increasing, which is

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77. "Attack In Bajaur Agency: America's Condemnable Act," an editorial in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (01/16)

"President Musharraf must raise this issue at the highest level and should make the U.S. realize that it should not create a hostile atmosphere for itself by such acts. The goodwill created by the U.S. relief efforts in the earthquake stricken areas should not be marred by such acts [like the attack in Bajaur]. "

78. "Bajaur Agency: U.S. Troops' Friendly Fire," an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (01/16)

"The government must boldly and openly lodge a protest on this incident, and instead of hushing up on this violation of its territory must bring its protest on the record. It must also seek a firm assurance from the U.S. authorities that they would avoid such provocative incidents in future."

79. "Protest Marches," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/17)

"... The widespread condemnation of the incident should make the government reconsider the extent of its ongoing cooperation in the so-called War on Terror which is becoming all the more questionable in view of the killings of innocent Pakistanis conducted in gross violation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, after second incident within weeks. At the very least, Mr. Aziz must convey to the USA that he is having second thoughts about whether it is appropriate for him to visit at a time when Pakistani citizens have been killed by US arms, and that too without apology or remorse."

80. "Yet Another Incursion" an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/15)

"... ABC has quoted local sources saying the strikes were probably carried out by an unmanned CIA Predator which fired up to 10 missiles at the house where second ranking Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri was supposedly operating from. While this remains to be confirmed, even if the report was correct, it should have been the Pakistani security agencies, not the CIA, to act.... The agencies' and administration's gross negligence on the one hand, and the US disregard for the borders of what

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it calls an ally on the other, is creating a rift from the state which could have long-term consequences for Pakistan.... The least the government can do to retain credibility is to come out with the facts, compensate the victims' families and tell Washington enough is enough. The summoning of the US Ambassador to the Foreign Office was positive, and hopefully should have the desired effect."

81. "Pantomime About Al Zawahiri" an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/16) "The Foreign Office has "protested" to the US ambassador in Islamabad, saying that an air attack from Afghanistan "apparently" targeting the Al Qaeda number two Aiman Al Zawahiri had killed 18 innocent Pakistanis in the Bajaur Agency in Pakistan. A Foreign Office statement later did not directly accuse the US forces of launching the missiles that hit the village.... There is reason enough to believe that it was a "joint US-Pak operation" with the Pakistani side supplying some insider information.... The government is bogged down in Waziristan, Dera Bugti and Kohlu, and there is a growing threat from the grand opposition of the country of uniting and marching against Islamabad. If the prime minister and the president thought they could rely on Punjab, they should take another look at the growing opposition to the image the government is projecting of itself."

82. "After Bajaur," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (01/17) "The earthquake won America something it needed the most in our part of the world - an opportunity to improve its image in the eyes of suspicious Pakistanis. Wary of a war on terrorism and the strident American policies in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, we love to loathe the only surviving superpower under the sun. But come earthquake and there were some hopes that the Americans might pull something out of their hat to make amends. These expectations were dashed in the ruins of a house in Bajaur agency on Friday because of something of America's own making and doing. Since Friday, the interlude around the earthquake has evaporated ever so visibly as if it had never existed in the first place.... Feeling like people greatly wronged, ordinary Pakistanis are questioning the wisdom of siding with the Americans in their war against terrorism. Not for the first time, though."

83. "U.S. Aggression," an op-ed by Irshad Ahmad Haqqani

"Pakistan is no doubt a U.S. partner in the war on terror but does this alliance and cooperation also demand that the violation of Pakistan's territorial integrity persists unabated; American plans target Pakistani citizens with bombs and missiles and we do not have any right to complain? If the leader of the religious parties alliance Qazi Hussain Ahmad has denounced these attacks and violation of Pakistan's territorial integrity then he is absolutely right and understandable. This latest U.S. attack also demonstrates that the U.S. gives no credence to our protest. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz during his forthcoming visit to U.S. should take up this issue with President Bush. The United States is taking undue advantage of Pakistan's cooperation after 9/11 and is not even desisting from violating the exigencies of Pakistan's sovereignty. The Government of Pakistan should think whether the price Pakistan is paying for its cooperation with the U.S. is justified or not?"

84. "Kerry On Non-Proliferation" an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/15) "Speaking from New Delhi before he arrived at Islamabad, US Senator and 2004 Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry revealed on Friday that Dr. Manmohan Singh had emphatically affirmed that India would sign the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty provided other countries did so as well. Senator Kerry believed that non-proliferation did not merely constitute the movement of weapons "from one state to another or the facilitation of the ability of one state or another to be able to build. Proliferation is also the building of additional weapons by any country." Thus, India's prospect of signing the FMCT must have appealed to him and he would, no doubt, try to bring Pakistan round to follow suit. However, New Delhi's willingness to sign is contingent upon the finalization of the deal on the transfer of civilian nuclear technology by Washington. Islamabad could only examine the pros and cons of the matter if it is also accorded equal treatment...."

85. "Continue The Efforts" editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (01/14)
"... The Pakistani community in the USA has also lobbied persistently with Washington to increase its aid and send helicopters, besides organizing fund-raisers, keeping the issue alive through vigils and other events.

'The Argus' newspaper of Freemont, ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ report of Jan 11, quotes the New Jersey-based Pakistani-American Democratic Forum which helped spearhead local relief efforts, saying that residents of the Bay Area alone have raised between \$250,000 to \$500,000 for earthquake relief. According to another estimate in despardes.com, the Pakistani-American community in the USA has raised up to \$77 million for the earthquake survivors.... Such efforts must continue. They may be a fraction of what is needed, but drops do an ocean make. And these drops are essential contributions towards helping those who are suffering so much."

86. "Pakistan's Frustration With India" an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/15)

"... What can be done to make the talks more meaningful rather than simply using them for conflict management? The Indian position has been hardening in recent months and that is not a good sign. There is need for New Delhi to revert to the spirit of the process. President Musharraf's interview to CNN-IBN is a measure of Pakistan's frustration with the Indian attitude."

87. "Hint To Take Iran's Issue To UN Security Council," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/14)

"The most alarming aspect of the Iran issue is the fact that despite assurances held out by Iran that it was not interested in making nuclear weapons and notwithstanding all its cooperation in this regard, the U.S. is adamant that Iran should abrogate its nuclear program. The nuclear capability of Israel poses the biggest threat to the establishment of peace in the Middle East, but for America and its western allies it is completely intolerable that any Muslim country sought latest nuclear technology. This type of biased attitude is in no way helpful for the establishment of regional and international peace."

88. "Iran's Courage And Annoyance Of Western World," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (01/14)

"Iran is an independent and sovereign state and its leadership is constantly demonstrating courage in this regard. Nuclear research is the legal right of Iran and no law of the world stops Iran from doing that. But the

western world is attaching nuclear ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ to the making of atomic bomb, which is reflective of its conspiratorial mind. Iran is not claiming to make an atomic bomb, albeit this is also its right."

89. "New Test for Iran," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/14)

"Iran has announced that it would restart work on nuclear energy, which it had suspended voluntarily during the last two years.... Presentation of Iran's case in the UN Security Council would be the biggest success of America, but so far it has faced disappointment in this respect.... It is also clear that America does not so far has the international support for any action against Iran. That is why U.S. Secretary of State ruled out the possibility of an attack on Iran.... American designs are no secret, but should Iran choose a path that would increase its difficulties.... If America and Iran could restrain themselves then the world could be saved from a new dispute and a new destruction."

90. "Iran's Nuclear Program: The Real Issue," an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (01/14)

"Despite extreme opposition by the U.S. and European countries, Iran has started the process of enriching uranium.... The real question behind the Iranian nuclear issue is whether all countries have the right to have access to the latest technology? Should all countries have this right or should only the major nuclear powers have monopoly over this? All this hue and cry is because the U.S. does not want the non-nuclear world to escape from its grip over technology.... There would be no need for a confrontation if the U.S. and European countries give up their lopsided attitude and accede other countries' right to attain nuclear power within the parameters of the NPT. There was no need for such a fierce reaction from the U.S. and its allies, especially in view of Dr. Al Baradei's report that Iran is starting to enrich uranium at a very small scale. "

91. "Iran's Nuclear Challenge" an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (01/15)

"... Tehran is certainly on the legal high ground to resume nuclear research. But politically its space for brinkmanship is limited while strategically it would be

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inadvisable to attempt to challenge the nuclear powers.
With the United States under a leadership that refuses
to see reason, it is essential that Tehran enhance its
political standing and equation with the EU before it
adopts a hard-line approach."

92. "Iranian Defiance" an editorial in the Lahore-based
liberal English daily, "The Post" (01/15)

"Iran seems to have resorted to defiance in response to
the escalating US campaign to move the UN Security
Council (UNSC) with the objective of clamping sanctions
on Iran.... Time, however, seems to be running out for
Iran. In a joint statement by President George W Bush
and German Chancellor Angela Merkel issued in
Washington, both leaders called for UN intervention.
"The world needs to send a common message to Iran that
their behavior is unacceptable." The message is
strong.... Iran should realize that its defiance could
land it in trouble. Its leadership's surge of
nationalism may be praiseworthy; but it cannot ward off
the impending danger. Iran should rather adopt a more
pragmatic route to reach a peaceful settlement, which
may include yielding some space to its well wishers to
broker a deal on its behalf."

93. "Important Threshold?" an editorial in the center-
right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/14)
"... Therefore, though US Secretary of State Condoleezza
Rice may be right in implying that Iran's "continued
defiance" means an "important threshold" has been
crossed, it remains to be seen just what that threshold
actually relates to. In the background looms the Bush
administration's seemingly unrelenting drive to 'bring
democracy to the Middle East'. That Washington is
actually toeing Israel's line in trying to tame its Arab
foes is no longer worth debating. The coming days will
show how the international community responds, with
Russia and China being crucial players. Tehran too must
realize that economic sanctions to follow will make life
more miserable for its already troubled middle class,
compromising its main engine of growth. The interaction
of opposing forces on these micro and macro stages will
reflect the strength of the neocon foreign policy
agenda."

94. "Balochistan: Meaningless Suggestion of Foreign
intervention," an editorial in the independent Urdu
daily "Din" (01/15)
"Addressing an emergency press conference in the Karachi

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Press Club, Balochistan National Party Chief and former
Chief Minister of the province, Sardar Akhtar Mengal has
audaciously demanded that an "international mediator
must help resolve the Balochistan issue." An impartial
analysis of his statement reveals that three or four
Baloch leaders are trying to present the situation in
Balochistan as so horrible as to warrant foreign
intervention.... [These Baloch sardars] must remember
that chauvinism and fascism ultimately lead their
followers to a dead end. In view of the welfare and
wider interests of the Baloch nation, these leaders
should review their stance; take a democratic approach
and try to resolve the issue through dialogue."
Crocker

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