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E.O. 12958: N/A

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA SUMMARY: JANUARY 28-30, 2006

Summary: U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relations in the Global

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 24 JUN 2011 201000373

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War on Terrorism dominated headlines reporting on the "Vital Role Played By Pakistan In Anti-Terror Fight" (para 4) to "Nawa-e-Waqt's" commentary on "Coalition Helicopters Violat[ing] Pakistan Airspace 10 Times During 24 Hours." (para 7). Meanwhile, four newspapers printed the text of a re-issued U.S. travel advisory for Pakistan, and two others called it "regrettable." (paras 11-12).

"Dawn" dispelled rumors that Ambassador Crocker had been summoned by the Foreign Office "a day after the U.S. aerial strike in Bajaur Agency." The "U.S. Ambassador himself and officials at the Foreign Ministry" confirmed this. (para 13).

Newspapers also highlighted the visit by four State governors to the earthquake-stricken areas and the U.S. Senate resolution commending U.S. relief efforts and pledges of additional support. (para 16). Leading Urdu dailies "Jang" and "Khabrain" picked up PAS-DAC press releases on "U.S. Relief Operation Continues; Chinook Helicopter Lands At An Altitude Of 5000 Feet" and "Chinook Helicopter Supplied 100,000 Pound Relief Goods To A Snow-Clad Village Bheri." (paras 18-21).

"Khabrain" reports on the "ministers being frisked" during PM Shaukat Aziz's recent U.S. visit -- "As far as we can understand; the fault lay with the Pakistan Embassy more than the U.S. administration as it was the Embassy that worked out the security details with the administration." (para 42).

Other news stories included Hamas' rejection of the call to disarm (para 33), and of the Lahore Marathon where 23,000 people participated despite protest against the participation of women by the opposition Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal. (paras 38-40). End Summary.

-- News Stories

1. "Healthy US-Pakistan Relations Stressed: Fight Against Terrorism" "Dawn" (01/29)

"Washington needs a strong and healthy partnership with Pakistan if it is to have any chance of eliminating Qaeda's leaders, defeating a resurgent Taliban and turning back nuclear weapons proliferation," said the New York Times in its lead editorial on Saturday, following Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's visit to the White House. The Times said: "Pakistan's people deserve

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a good explanation, and since they haven't been able to get one from their leaders, Mr. Bush should have provided it." "It is not enough for Mr. Bush to exchange periodic pleasantries with General Musharraf and Mr. Aziz. He needs to address the concerns of the Pakistani people as well. A franker public discussion of the air strikes would have been a good place to start," the NYT asserted."

2. "Washington Expanding Plan To Use Drone Attacks"  
"Dawn" (01/30)

"Despite continued protests in Pakistan against the Jan 13 drone attack in Bajaur, the United States is expanding its top-secret plan to kill suspected terrorists with drone-fired missiles, US officials said.

Commenting on reports published in a section of the US media, the officials said that the CIA and the Pentagon have deployed at least several dozen Predator drones along the Pakistan-Afghan border and throughout Afghanistan and Iraq for attacking suspected terrorist targets."

3. "External Forces Not Allowed To Operate Here: Musharraf: Bajaur Raid: An Issue Of Sovereignty" "Dawn", "Daily Times", "The Post" (01/29)

"President Musharraf has said that Pakistan has condemned the Jan 13 US missile attack on a village in Bajaur Agency as "an issue of sovereignty" and cannot allow any external force to operate within its territory. In a joint interview to Newsweek and Washington Post, to be published on Sunday, Gen Musharraf said that Al Qaeda was as much responsible for violating Pakistan's territorial integrity as any other force. He once again rejected the suggestion that the US had warned Pakistan before the attack. "This was definitely not coordinated with us. We condemn it and have objected to it as an issue of sovereignty," he said. "But we do know there are foreigners and Al Qaeda in that area. It is my regret that there are such people there."

4. "Vital Role Played By Pakistan In Anti-Terror Fight"  
"Dawn" (01/28)

"President Musharraf on Friday underlined Pakistan's critical role in the fight against terrorism and said the country's sharing of vital intelligence had helped

pre-empt terror attacks in a number of countries. UNCLASSIFIED  
"Pakistan has done much more than people think or even realize. No country has done as much as we have done in countering terrorism," he told a select gathering of intellectuals, journalists and non-government leaders."

5. "We Are Ready To Retreat From Our Stand On Kashmir: Musharraf," "Din" (01/28)

"President Musharraf has said that the Kashmir issue would not be resolved without withdrawing from our stands; Pakistan is ready for it. He added that extremism and terrorism have nothing to do with Islam; the basic reasons [for extremism] are poverty, illiteracy and oppression. He made these remarks yesterday while talking to a panel of journalists at Davos."

6. "American Military Again Reaches Shahbaz Airbase, Security High Alert; Spy Planes Fly All Around" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/30)

"Following the completion of construction work at the third largest airbase of the country, American military has once again reached Shahbaz Airbase. According to sources, a contingent of the American military reached Jacobabad on a special plane. It is said that the contingent includes 40-50 personnel including women commandoes. According to sources, the military's second group would reach Jacobabad in the last week of February. Security around the airbase has been raised to high alert and the military has put in the air a pilotless, remote controlled spy plane for its security, which is hovering around the base.... Jacobabad Base

Commander, when contacted, said that the U.S. military hasn't arrived at the base as yet, but it will arrive in few days time."

7. "Coalition Helicopters Violate Pakistan Airspace 10 Times During 24 Hours" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/30)

"Coalition helicopters repeatedly violated Pakistan airspace in the area of Lowaramandi, Dattakhel, North Waziristan. Many rounds of artillery were also fired from across the border. No loss of life and property was reported. Local officials avoided to comment on these violations. Locals of the area told our correspondent that two military helicopters violated Pakistan airspace approximately 10 times during the last

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24 hours and continued with their search. UNCLASSIFIED  
Many rounds of artillery were also fired into Pakistan territory from Afghanistan, which landed in Adamkot area."

8. "US Copter Warned For Violating Airspace" "Dawn", "Daily Times", "The News" (01/30)

"Pakistan had to warn off an American helicopter which violated its airspace above its northern border with Afghanistan, the military said on Sunday. "It was a technical violation," Pakistani military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan told AFP of the incident which happened on Friday night during US anti-insurgent operations in eastern Afghanistan. "After warnings from Pakistan side the helicopter went back," he said."

9. "Our Sovereignty And Nuclear Program Are U.S. Targets: We Can't Be Its Natural Ally: Qazi Hussain Ahmed" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/30)

"MMA head and Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmed has reminded the rulers 'busy in the fulfillment of U.S. designs' that our sovereignty and nuclear program are U.S. targets and India's strategic partner which has declared it as the most favorite nation can never be our friend. General Musharraf and his government's policy of describing Pakistan as the frontline state of America has failed. American president has openly said that the Islamic states of the world are our target. We are an Islamic democracy constitutionally, ideologically and historically and can't be America's natural ally. He was talking to Nawa-e-Waqt the other day."

10. "Usama Six Months Ahead Of US Intelligence" "The Nation" (01/28)

"Constantly on the run, the elusive Al-Qaeda Chief Usama bin Laden and his top aide Ayman Al-Zawahiri are at least six months ahead of US intelligence apparatus as for the information about their exact location, and this is the main reason of their survival so far. The CIA is dead sure that bin Laden and his Deputy Al-Zawahiri are roaming about Pak-Afghan border areas since the fall of Taliban government back in 2001.... If the United States wants to capture or kill the Al-Qaeda leaders they would have to bridge this wide gap in the intelligence information, intelligence official said here.

11. "US Travel Advisory" "Dawn", "The Nation", "Daily

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"The US has cautioned its citizens to defer non-essential travel to Pakistan. Updating a March 2005 travel advisory, the State Department said Al Qaeda and Taliban militants, particularly along the porous Afghan border region, and other indigenous sectarian groups posed 'potential danger' to US citizens. The US embassy in Islamabad and consulates in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar continue to operate at reduced staffing levels."

12. "Asking American Citizens To Avoid Coming To Pakistan Regrettable: Shaikh Rashid" "Nawa-e-Waqt", "Ummat" (01/30)

"Federal Information Minister Sheikh Rashid has said that U.S. Department of State travel warning against American citizens travel to Pakistan is regrettable. This restriction on the travel has been imposed at a time when U.S. President Bush is about to visit Pakistan. It is noteworthy that American hospitals and NGOs are working here."

13. "US Envoy Not Summoned By Foreign Office Over Raid" "Dawn" (01/28)

"Contrary to earlier reports that US Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker was summoned by the Foreign Office on January 14, a day after the US aerial strike in Bajaur Agency, it has now been established that he was not. This has been confirmed by the US Ambassador himself and officials at the Foreign Ministry. It was not the Foreign Office but at the PM House that Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan raised the matter with the US Ambassador.... Foreign Ministry officials say that Ambassador Crocker was supposed to be summoned to the Foreign Office the same evening but this did not happen due to a scheduling problem."

14. "US Governors Visit Quake-Hit Areas" "The Post" (01/28)

"A delegation of four US State governors led by Governor Rick Perry of Texas witnessed earthquake relief efforts at Mehra camp in Allai valley. Accompanied by Governors Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, Jim Doyle of Wisconsin and Dave Freudenthal of Wyoming, Perry and the delegation spoke with Pakistani officials at the camp."

15. "Congress Allows Pentagon To Give Grants Directly To Foreign Militaries," "Jang" (01/30)

"Congress has allowed Pentagon to disburse grants directly to foreign militaries and has allocated an amount of 200 million dollars for the purpose in the FY-2006 budget. Earlier, all grants were channeled through the U.S. State Department to the foreign governments. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld believes that in order to seek foreign militaries' cooperation in war on terror it was imperative that the U.S. military commanders directly provided funds to their foreign military counterparts."

16. "US Pledges More Assistance For Quake-Hit Areas" "Daily Times", "The News" (01/29)

"The US Senate passed a resolution on Friday commending the US relief efforts in response to the October 8

earthquake and pledged additional support to Pakistan. Adopted unanimously, the resolution urged commitment by the United States and the international community to support long-term relief and reconstruction efforts in the quake-affected areas."

17. "Christianity Is Being Spread In Quake Hit Areas: Maulana Fazalur Rehman Says" "Ausaf" (01/30)

"... Maulana Fazalur Rehman, the leader of MMA (the alliance of the religious parties) has said that the Government is spreading immodesty in the society in the garb of enlightenment and the marathon race held in Lahore, despite opposition from the religious parities was aimed to spread chaos and disorder in the society. Talking to a delegation at his residence in Dera Ismail Khan, Fazalur Rehman said that the religious parties are treated as fanatics, however Christians and followers of other religions are being allowed to flourish in Pakistan. He claimed that Christianity is being propagated overtly in the quake-hit areas of Pakistan...."

18. "Relief Work For Quake Affected People Is A Service To Humanity: U.S. Commander Gary Krichner Says" "Jang" (01/28)

"... U.S. Commander Gary Krichner has said that the U.S. considers Pakistan as its friend and we will continue to provide assistance to Pakistan as long the

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Government of Pakistan wants us to ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ UNCLASSIFIED exclusive interview with this newspaper, Gary Krichner said that 760 American military officers and soldiers were taking part in this humanitarian task...."

19. "Seven Hours Daily Flights Of Twelve Chinook Helicopters To Quake Affected Areas" "Khabrain" (01/28)

"... The U.S. pilots have said that they are taking part in relief operation in quake-hit areas only to support a humanitarian cause. U.S. pilots Robert and Ms. Anne told this newspaper that they are impressed with the zest of the Pakistani people who have lost everything in the earthquake but they are working hard to bring their lives back to normal. They said that twelve U.S. Chinooks are taking part in relief work at the moment and they fly seven hours on a daily basis...."

20. "Chinook Helicopter Supplied 100,000 Pound Relief Goods To A Snow-Clad Village Bheri" "Khabrain" (01/28)

"... The U.S. Chinook helicopters had moved 100,000 pounds relief goods to a snow-clad village Bheri. This helicopter made ten sorties to the area...."  
(Khabrain has also carried several photographs on U.S. relief operation. This visit was arranged by PAS-DAC)

21. "U.S. Relief Operation Continues; Chinook Helicopter Lands At An Altitude Of 5000 Feet" "Jang" (01/28)

"... The U.S. helicopters are continuing the airlifts to Neelum valley even during a below freezing temperature. On January 27, a reporter of this newspaper spent a day in a Chinook helicopter with a U.S. pilot who was busy in the relief operation. The

American pilot made 10 sorties without taking any rest and moved flour-bags to quake affected area of Bheri. Talking to this reporter the U.S. pilot Robert said that he was happy to work for the Pakistani brothers...."  
(Daily Jang has also published two photographs of American pilots. The visit was arranged by PAS-DAC)

22. "USAID Teaching Women Sewing In Quake-Hit Areas" "Daily Times" (01/29)

"In response to the need for skilled seamstresses in Allai Valley, the United States Agency for International

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Development (USAID) is training women to sew in the newly established vocational center at Mehra Camp. USAID has purchased sewing machines and started training 20 of the 1,060 women living in the camp. Two local seamstresses were hired by the USAID to give the training. Families in Allai Valley cannot easily purchase ready-made clothes or bedding, instead most of the families purchase cloth and then hire a seamstress to stitch it. Unfortunately, only a few skilled seamstresses exist in the region, creating a high demand."

23. "Pakistan Needs To Improve Health Care: US Official" "Daily Times" (01/28)

"Pakistan needs better medical and health care, Brian Heath, Principal Officer at the US Consulate in Lahore, told a ceremony to celebrate the New Year at the United Christian Hospital (UCH) on Friday. Heath, who was the chief guest at the function, praised missionary services in medical health in Pakistan, but said that Pakistan still needed improvement in health care."

24. "U.S. Congressman Asks Bush To Raise Balochistan Issue During His Forthcoming Visit To Pakistan," "Jang" (01/29)

"U.S. Congressman Tankerado (sp?) has expressed his concern over the situation in Balochistan. In his letter to the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, he stressed that President Bush should raise the issue with his Pakistani counterpart during his visit to Pakistan. He said that militant resistance could not be ignored at any cost nor the use of force would bring about any solution. The Republican member underlined the need for holding negotiations for arriving at a solution to the problem."

25. "Attack On Iran An Option: Bush" "Daily Times" (01/29)

"US President George W Bush said on Friday that sanctions against Iran were "certainly a real possibility" if Tehran does not do enough to ease fears that it is trying to develop nuclear weapons. "A free world cannot allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon; not just the US, but those of us who value freedom," Bush told CBS television in an interview."

26. "Iran Warns Of Missile Response If Attacked" "The

"Iran's Revolutionary Guards chief on Saturday warned the United States and Britain that the Islamic republic would respond with its missiles if attacked, a clear

threat to Israel which lies within easy range of such a launch. "The world knows Iran has a ballistic missile power with a range of 2,000 kilometers," General Yahya Rahim Safavi said on state-run television. "We have no intention to invade any country. We will take effective defense measures if attacked," he said, adding, "These missiles are in the possession of the Guards."

27. "India Faced With 'Difficult Choices' On N-Deal: Rice" "Daily Times", "The News", "The Nation", "The Post" (01/28)

"India has "difficult choices" to make on a controversial civil nuclear cooperation agreement with the United States before the deal can be completed, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Thursday. "In order to move on to a new phase in which civil nuclear power would be available to India, India has to make some difficult choices," Rice said in an interview with Reuters."

28. "India Changes Tune, Defends Iran" "Dawn" (01/28)

"India on Friday distanced itself from US-led calls to isolate Iran at next week's meeting of the IAEA after controversial remarks on the issue by Washington's envoy to Delhi enraged the nation as seldom seen before. The Indian foreign ministry, facing a barrage of criticism for apparent obsequiousness towards Washington that ranged from allies in the Left Front to former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, appeared to have rowed back from its recent bonhomie with the United States."

29. "India N-Deal May Not Be Ready For Bush Visit" "The Nation", "Jang" (01/29)

"The United States indicated Friday that a controversial civilian nuclear agreement with India might not be ready by the time US President George W. Bush makes his first visit to New Delhi in March.

"It's very hard to say," Nicholas Burns, the Chief US negotiator of the deal, told reporters in Washington, when asked how far along would the landmark bilateral pact be when Bush made the trip."

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30. "Pipeline Plan May Be Delayed" "Dawn" (01/29)

"Pakistan is facing difficulties to go ahead with the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project due to the mounting US pressure on Islamabad and New Delhi to give up the over \$7 billion plan. Informed sources told Dawn on Saturday, though almost all technical and professional issues had been sorted out among the three stakeholders, the intensifying US opposition to the project could delay its execution."

31. "Indian Pro-Pipeline Project Minister Replaced," "Jang" (01/30)

"In a major cabinet reshuffle, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has replaced his pro-Iranian gas pipeline project Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar and made him Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs."

32. "MMA Rally Demands Musharraf's Resignation" "The News" (01/28)

"Muthidda Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) leaders on Friday demanded resignation of President Musharraf for what they said his failure to protect Pakistan's national interests. "We will start military disobedience if General Musharraf does not resign as President and Army Chief," MMA leaders announced while addressing a protest demonstration outside Parliament House on Friday. The protest demonstration held to condemn US planes attack in Bajaur Agency.... Hafiz Hussain Ahmed said that Pakistan government should expel the US Ambassador call back its Ambassador from Washington, which is an effective way of registering protest with the US government.... Qari Gull Rahman said that the rulers were agents of US saying that body search of Cabinet members during recent visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to US was humiliating and embarrassment for the nation."

33. " Hamas Rejects Call To Disarm, Roadmap" "The Post" (01/28)

"Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas announced on Friday that he would ask Hamas to form a new government after its overwhelming election victory.... Exiled Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal rejected suggestions the radical group should disarm following its shock victory in Palestinian elections, in an interview with an Italian

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newspaper published Friday.... "The Road Map is unacceptable," Meshaal told the daily La Repubblica, saying it imposed strict conditions on the Palestinians while asking too little of Israel.... The diplomatic "quartet" seeking to implement the "road map" - the United States, European Union, Russia and the United Nations - has called on Hamas to reject violence and accept Israel's right to exist.... A senior US diplomat in Jerusalem said his country would have to freeze millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinian Authority if a Hamas-led government comes to power and refuses to renounce terror."

34. "Hamas May Evolve As Peace Champion: Musharraf"  
"The News" (01/28)

"President Musharraf on Friday said the world must give Hamas a chance to show if it can transform itself like Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon into a force for peace. "Everyone thought he (Sharon) was a military man, a strongman, that he's the one who was destroying peace. But as it developed, it ended up as if he was the only hope of peace in that region," Musharraf told journalists after giving a speech at the European Organization for Nuclear Research. "Let us hope that Hamas also ends up like that." Musharraf said Hamas needed to be given a chance because it was democratically elected. "Otherwise democracy will become a farce," said Musharraf. "If you deny them this, you will end up in more turmoil." Hamas, for its part, "must be made to behave in a correct manner," he said. But if the group continues to espouse violence, the world should try to exert pressure without embarking on "a confrontational course."

35. "Qazi Welcomes Victory of Hamas In Palestine Election" "The News" (01/28)

"Amir Jamaat-e-Islami and President Muthidda Majlis-e-Amal, Qazi Hussain Ahmad has welcomed election victory of Palestinian militant group, Hamas, and demanded earlier transformation of power to the party. He was addressing Juma congregation at Markaz-e-Islami on Friday. He said the US has started creating hurdles in transformation of power to the Hamas and demanded of the Islamic community to foil nefarious designs of the US government. Qazi said the US on charges of terrorism has been killing innocent Muslims all over the world and a recent aerial strike on Bajaur tribal agency was a

36. "Constitution Allows '08 Polls'" "The Nation"  
(01/28)

"PML President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has said that though room exists in the Constitution for holding of general election in 2008, the ruling party is yet to take a decision in this respect. "It is premature to say something about holding of next general election in 2008 next," the PML President said in a brief chat with media-men."

37. "OIC Formulating New Criteria For Non-Muslim Countries" "Daily Times" (01/28)

"Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is working to formulate new criteria for embracing non-Muslim countries with sizeable Muslim population as observers. However, the officials said at present there was no fresh request before the OIC Secretariat to grant observer status to India.... Diplomatic sources said the issue of granting observer status to India came under discussion between Pakistani and Saudi officials in Mecca on the sidelines of the OIC extra-ordinary summit last month."

38. "Marathon Held Only To Please US, Says Imran" "The Post" (01/30)

"Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said Sunday the purpose of holding marathon race in Pakistan was only to please the US and to give an impression to the West that incumbent government was giving no importance to the religious organizations. He stated this while addressing local and foreign journalists on the occasion of giving shelter homes to the quake survivors in Balakot."

39. "Ethiopian Athlete Wins; MMA Loses, The Public Has Won The Marathon: CM Punjab Pervaiz Elahi," "Khabrain" (01/30)

"Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi has said that the administration, police and citizens deserve praise for the successful completion of the mixed Lahore Marathon 2006. He said that the crowds of families and the warm welcome of runners along the route has proven the public wants healthy activities."

40. "Marathon Was A Failure; As [UNCLASSIFIED] Public Meetings, Government Functionaries Were Forced To Participate; Women And Students Refused To Participate: MMA" "Din" (01/30)

"Terming the Lahore marathon a failure, MMA has said that the nation did not participate in it, instead government functionaries were forced to run. Addressing

a press conference, MMA leaders said that the nation is facing unemployment and poverty, the government should not add to their miseries by these frivolous activities."

41. "Pakistan To Give 50 Million Dollars Aid For Afghanistan's Reconstruction," "Jang" (01/30)

"Pakistan is announcing an amount of fifty million dollars for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. An announcement to this effect would be made by the Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri in the annual conference on Afghanistan to be held in London on Tuesday."

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Editorials/Opinions  
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42. "PM Shaukat Aziz's Visit to the U.S: An Overview," a full page special edition in "Khabrain" by Imtinan Shahid and Muzamil Suhrwardy" (01/30)

"The Issue of Ministers being Frisked: The superb protocol given by the U.S. leadership was proof of the respect and honor accorded to the [Pakistani] delegation. There was a convoy of cars near the plane after it landed on JFK airport. All members of the PM's delegation got off the plane and straight into the waiting vehicles for the hotel. Nobody had to undergo the immigration procedure, which was taken care of by the Pakistan [embassy] protocol staff. This is how the trip began. In fact, delegates traveling on diplomatic passports had waiver from registration and immigration process, while journalists and businessmen traveling on regular visas had to undergo the normal procedure. But since the cars were parked next to the plane, everyone [including those who should have undergone the immigration process] just got in and left. Afterwards, the U.S. immigration officials called up journalists and others requesting them to come to the airport for

immigration. This, however, did not mean that the protocol was not given to this trip by the U.S. administration. The frisking incident took place while the delegation was boarding the plane from New York to Washington. The question is: if special arrangements had been made for the arrival [in New York] why not for departing? Whose fault was it? As far as we can understand; the fault lay with the Pakistan Embassy more than the U.S. administration as it was the Embassy that worked out the security details with the administration."

43. "U.S. Warning Against Travel To Pakistan," an editorial note in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/30)

"Pakistan does not have an atmosphere where any American or foreigner is harmed. Americans have worked side by side with those organizations for the relief and rescue in the earthquake areas, which it has described as terrorists. No untoward incident took place during this work. The people of Pakistan are angry with the U.S. on Bajaur incident, but have no complaints with ordinary Americans. So the warning the U.S. administration has issued to its citizens seems unnecessary and it appears that America is bent upon complicating the situation...."

Otherwise American citizens may visit Pakistan, stay here, invest or participate in welfare tasks, the Pakistani nation is willing to welcome them."

44. "U.S. Travel Advisory For Pakistan" an editorial in Popular Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (01/30)

"... It seems that the U.S. State Department has issued this travel advisory due to the protest demonstrations against Bajaur incident... The U.S. doesn't want Pakistan to become economically self-reliant and independent. It is evident that the U.S. has taken this step after the statement by President Musharraf in Davos that Pakistan would not abandon the gas pipeline project under a U.S. pressure...."

45. "Charity Begins At Home," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/29)

"... The government's failure to assuage the angry tribesmen is now also being highlighted by the international media. The New York Times in its editorial

on Saturday suggested that Mr. Bush UNCLASSIFIED of Pakistan a "good explanation" for the Bajaur attack which they did not receive from their leaders. It is even more depressing for the nation to know that Mr. Aziz in his recent meeting at the White House "pretended" that his people highly valued Pakistan's "close military relationship with the US." This is tantamount to disrespecting genuine sentiments of the Pakistani nation which is far more concerned about the country's sovereignty than its rulers."

46. "What Extremism And Terrorism Actually Are?" an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/30)

"President Musharraf has said that military strategy only cannot defeat extremism and terrorism.... Until a definition of extremism and terrorism is reached at and Israeli and Indian state terrorism is not condemned, we need not use American terminology which tantamount to rubbing salt in the wounds of the peoples of Kashmir, Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan."

47. "Musharraf Takes Position," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/28)

"... General Musharraf strongly defended the natural gas pipeline deal with Iran, making it clear that Pakistan would not ditch this project under any pressure.... But at the same time he signaled the possibility that the US, which is absolutely opposed to the project for obvious geopolitical reasons, could pay Pakistan to step away from the deal. It was a timely decision to highlight the economic aspects of this project instead of presenting it merely as an issue of geostrategic interests.... So it would be interesting to see what compensation Washington can suggest to make Islamabad abandon its deal with Tehran."

48. "Pakistan's Anti-Terror Role," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (01/30)

"... Speaking in Davos to a select gathering of intellectuals and journalists, the president reminded the world that Pakistan had done more for the cause of countering terrorism than any other country and that its intelligence sharing efforts had averted countless attacks and saved many lives. The president's assertion



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comes in the backdrop of reports in the western media that Pakistan is somehow half-hearted or insincere in its attitude to the war on terror. Such reports, which have recently found prominent space in the western media, implied that Pakistan was playing a double game on its frontier with Afghanistan by tacitly supporting Taliban-led militancy in the neighboring country while trying to dupe the US into believing that it was a major ally in the war.... Those bent on criticizing Pakistan's role must accept part of the responsibility for this turmoil rather than carping from the sidelines. The constant chorus asking Pakistan to do more to crack down on extremists only serves to distract from the real war against terrorism, of which Pakistan is as much a victim as anyone else."

49. "Musharraf's Davos Address," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "The Post" (01/28)

"... President Musharraf's resolve to continue to pursue the gas pipeline project, even if India withdraws from it, accompanied by the implicit hint that it could be shelved provided Pakistan is allowed to use civilian nuclear technology to meet its energy needs is a good bargaining chip thrown at the US.... Commenting on the Iranian nuclear issue, Musharraf favored the right of every nation to pursue a nuclear program for its energy requirements. This standpoint is in consonance with his 'development requirements' argument put forth to defend Pakistan's quest for a gas pipeline from Iran."

50. "Pakistan Rejects U.S. Pressure On Gas Pipeline Project" an editorial note in Mass circulation centrist Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/28)

"... President Musharraf has said that Pakistan will not accept the U.S. on gas pipeline project; natural gas is vital for the economic progress of the country.... President Musharraf has expressed the sentiments of the Pakistani people. Pakistan has every right to obtain gas from its neighboring and brother Muslim country Iran, and no one else has right to force Pakistan to abandon this project...."

51. "Rejection Of U.S. Pressure On Gas Pipeline Project," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/28)

"America is exerting pressure on Pakistan and India to forego their pipeline project with Iran only due to its

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difference with Iran on the nuclear issue, President Musharraf by hinting at not accepting this pressure has in fact reflected the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and safeguarded the national interests. Pakistan does have the right to go for a cheap source of energy from a friendly and neighboring country and no other country has the right to force Pakistan to give up this project."

52. "America And India Eyeball To Eyeball," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/29)

"U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that to secure civilian nuclear technology treaty America will have to make difficult decisions.... If India voted against Iran in the IAEA meeting on February 2 then American fear would be counted as the reason for the decision and if it did not vote against Iran then it would be said that it made the decision due to the fear of left wing parties.... India wants to finalize the nuclear technology treaty before President Bush's visit while America wants it to vote against Iran in the IAEA meeting.... A contest between America and India goes on, few days left for the result."

53. "U.S. Threats To Attack Iran" an editorial in Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Jinnah" (01/30)

"... The U.S. must not forget that any conflict with Iran will be dangerous for the global peace, and if Iran strikes back with full force, it can become a starting point of the third world war.... The situation is deteriorating gradually, as the U.S. administration has advised its citizens to defer their non-essential travel to Pakistan.... The U.S. must work for peace and tranquility in the world instead of waging a war against Iran...."

54. "Nuclear Technology Acquisition Iran's Right," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/28)

"There is no justification for President Musharraf to suggest to Iran that it should not make nuclear bomb. Pakistan manufacture nuclear bomb for its security and Iran has the right to do the same. America cannot be accepted as the policeman of the world and no one has a right to suggest that Iran should not manufacture nuclear bomb."

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55. "American Threat Of Attack On Iran," an editorial note in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/30)

"Being a super power America wants the world to do its bidding. It should know that after Afghanistan the entire world did not support it on Iraq. And against Iran, it is yet to get any support."

56. "Destruction Could Be Their Fate Also," an editorial in the sensationalist Urdu daily, "Ummat" (01/30)

"Iran's threat of using missiles in response to an attack is not only meaningful but also in line with the ground realities. If the U.S. feels that it would easily control Iran just like Afghanistan and Iraq then it is sadly mistaken."

57. "Desire To Purchase Nuclear Reactor From Russia" an editorial in Nawa-e-Waqt (01/29)

"... PM Shaukat Aziz has said that Pakistan is ready to acquire a nuclear reactor from Russia.... Pakistan had become a frontline state of the U.S. in 1980s during Afghan invasion, and played a pivotal role in the disintegration of Soviet Union. This was the beginning of the conflict and differences between Pakistan and Russia. But now situation is totally changed and the

U.S. has besieged the Muslim countries and Russia and China are also not secure from the U.S. shenanigans.... But the desire to have friendship and trade with Russia should not be aimed at getting the attention of the U.S."

58. "Pakistan-Russia Relations Need A Major Overhaul," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/29)

"... "The dynamics of the world are changing and Pakistan desires better relations with every country. A new chapter of Russia-Pakistan relations needs to be opened and links should be developed in every field," Mr. Aziz said in his interview.... If Pakistan really wants to broaden its relations with Russia, which would be eminently sensible, then it also needs to review its policies towards West and Central Asia. Recent events show that the Taliban policy may not have been entirely reversed."

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59. "Pursuit Of New Avenues," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/29)

"... Pakistan's policy makers have to realize that despite the temporary difficulties Russia is facing, it has the potential to emerge as a major power in the years to come. Its potential might not have been realized in across-the-board scientific and technological development, but it surpasses many countries in vital sectors like nuclear technology and defense where it can be helpful to Pakistan.... It should also stand by Tehran which can provide it a secure and long-term source of energy in the latter's genuine quest for peaceful nuclear technology."

60. "Desire To Purchase Nuclear Reactor From Russia" an editorial in second largest national daily, "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/29)

"... PM Shaukat Aziz has said that Pakistan is ready to acquire a nuclear reactor from Russia.... Pakistan should abandon the U.S. and explore new options to safeguard its national interests..."

61. " Hamas' Victory Offers New Prospects Of Peace," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/28)

"... Many political observers consider Hamas victory to be a political earthquake that could further dim the prospects of peace between Palestinians and Israelis. US President George Bush has already announced that his country will not accept a group that is wedded to violence and wants to destroy "our ally, Israel". Much the same sort of sentiments have been expressed by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, though in less strident language. Are these views correct? Does Hamas's victory spell the death of peace in Palestine?... Right now the problem with peace is not Hamas' victory but the political struggles within Israel. With Ariel Sharon out of the picture and Israel headed towards elections and a divided parliament, much will also depend on how the situation unfolds within Israel. Would it carry on with its unilateral withdrawals including from the West Bank or would that policy be reversed. The silver lining is

that a recent poll showed that a majority of Israelis want withdrawal from the West Bank. If that opinion

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prevails, we could afford to be optimistic about the peace process." UNCLASSIFIED

62. " Hamas Win Moment Of Reflection For World," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/28)

"What President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have said with a reference to the result of Palestinian Authority election is reflective of peculiar American thinking. On one hand President Bush want the armed groups to throw their weapons and participate in the democratic process and on the other hand when some Muslim group does that then America get busy in keeping the group out of the democratic process and take up arms once again."

63. " Hamas' Historic Win," an editorial note in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (01/27)

"The political scenario that has now unfolded in Palestine makes it productive for both Israel and the U.S. to have a dialogue with Hamas.... Hamas will move forward in the political arena after quitting the path of terror; and just as it scored victories in the battlefield, it will show a stellar performance once it forms the government. Hamas will act responsibly in government will try to realize the dream of a free Palestinian state through the political process."

64. " Hamas' Responsibility After Electoral Victory," an editorial note in independent Urdu daily "Din" (01/28)

"The victory of extremist Islamic party Hamas in the Palestinian elections is no less than a political earthquake.... Justice demands that if Jews around the world have the right to come and live in Israel, why can't Palestinians return to their own homeland? However, it is now up to Hamas' not to let apprehensions about the peace process [engendered by its victory] fall on it."

65. " Hamas's Historic Victory," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (01/28)

"Palestine's resistance movement, Hamas, has secured a historic victory in the parliamentary elections. This victory has sent a wave of delight among the Islamic World. The main reason for Hams victory is probably the

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fact that it offered a beautiful combat service and resistance to its people. Hamas services in the social sector are outstanding and its resistance against Israel is more productive than the joint military successes of the Arabs. Another reason for Hamas victory is the fact that its leadership has itself set an example of sacrifice. Hamas founder Sheikh Yasin embraced martyrdom after bearing the hardship of imprisonment. Similarly his successor Abdul Aziz Rantisi also was martyred. It is due to this that the Palestinians have bestowed such an unexpected success to Hamas. The reaction of Israel, U.S. and Europe with regards to Hamas has been hypocritical, dual, unwise and undemocratic. On the one hand these powers always cry for democracy but on the other hand when some Islamic

movement makes some advances on the democratic front then a front of conspiracies and propaganda is opened against it."

66. "Hamas Outstanding Victory In Parliamentary Elections And Historic Responsibility," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/28)

"The victory of militant organization Hamas in the Palestinian parliamentary elections has rung danger bells for the West thereby raising fears that situation with respect to the peace process might not return to the square one. The only way to steer out of the Middle East imbroglio is that the United States and other European countries, which are the champions of democracy, should respect the democratic public mandate of Hamas and should not made holding negotiations with it as their prestige point on the pretext that Hamas had remained involved in militant activities in the past. It is need of the hour that U.S. European Union and Israel should welcome the democratic change that has come about in the Palestinian attitude. The leaders of Hamas should also realize that people have brought them to power so that they could realize the needs of the changing environment and should give up their militancy and vow for peaceful struggle."

67. "Advice To Accept Hamas Victory," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (01/29)

"United States, which is the biggest champion of democracy, has started to reject the recent victory of Hamas. It has threatened to withhold its financial

assistance to Palestinian authority UNCLASSIFIED tion  
of government by Hamas. Several other important European  
countries have also hurled threats and Israel has  
launched a campaign against it. This shows the  
hollowness of the West. The Muslim world is also  
watching that how averse the West is to the real  
representation in the Muslim cadres."

68. "Victory Of Hamas: Test Of Acumen Of Warring  
Parties," an op-ed by Irshad Ahmad Haqqani in the  
leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/29)

"It is a typical unwise reaction of U.S. President Bush  
when he says that his country was not ready to work with  
a terrorist organization (Hamas). But it is gratifying  
to note that rest of the Europe is not in habit of  
giving knee-jerk reactions. Therefore there is room to  
expect that the overall reaction of West would be much  
different from that of President Bush's. Unfortunately,  
in today's world, the U.S. has to play an important role  
for the resolution or otherwise of any international  
issue. In this new situation, U.S. priority and posture  
would play an important role. If President Bush did not  
throw his weight for the judicious resolution of  
Palestine crises, then the Israel-Palestinian rift would  
further intensify." Crocker

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