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	UTED-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	MOF-00	MOF-00
	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00
	EPAU-00	PA-00	PER-00	GIWI-00	P-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00
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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TASHKENT

AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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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: OCTOBER 31, 2006

SUMMARY: The air strike at a religious seminary in Bajaur Agency in

the tribal region dominated headlines in Pakistani newspapers on Tuesday. Although the exact number of casualties varied from paper to paper, most dailies reported death figures from 80-83 (para 1). Leader of the religious parties' alliance laid the blame at the U.S. doorstep (para 2) and announced protest rallies against the action while his counterpart, who is the Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly, termed the attack as "U.S. reaction over peace treaties." (paras 3-4). Popular Urdu daily "Ausaf" has carried an op-ed that suggests that the Americans have launched this operation "to end the diminishing hatred in tribal areas against Pakistan." (para 19).

Newspapers have given a low-key and straightforward treatment to a Pakistan Foreign Office announcement regarding the postponement of Pakistan-U.S. strategic dialogue "owing to Under Secretary Nicholas Burns pressing engagements." (para 9).

Almost all the major dailies have reported the U.S. Embassy press release announcing signing of a \$120 million agreement between USAID Pakistan and an international construction company for reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the earthquake-affected areas (para 14).

An editorialist in the centrist English daily "The News" has expressed the apprehension that in the backdrop of U.S. midterm elections next week the future does not look all that bright for the inmates of Guantanamo. "There is a real danger that they might just slip away into an abyss and may well be forgotten." (para 23). End Summary.

 News Stories

1. "82 Die As Missiles Rain On Bajaur: Pakistan Owns Up To Strike; Locals Blame US Drones" "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"Eighty-two people were killed, 12 teenagers among them, in an air strike at a religious seminary in Damadola in the Bajaur tribal region on Monday morning. Pakistan's military spokesman, Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan, said those killed in the dawn attack were all militants and denied that there had been any collateral damage.... But local residents believe the air strike was carried out by fixed-wing US drones which fired hellfire missiles at the compound, killing all those inside the seminary, including its administrator Maulvi Liaquat Ali."

2. "US Involved: Qazi" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) on Monday said that the United

States was involved in "brutal attack on a seminary in Bajaur agency. Addressing a news conference, MMA President and Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Qazi Hussain Ahmad said that those martyred in the attack were students of 10 to 15 years of age. "There were no terrorists inside the seminary," Qazi said while rejecting claims of the spokesman of Pakistan Army that 80 terrorists were killed in the attack."

3. "Qazi To Lead Protest Rally In Bajaur" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"The President of Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), Qazi Hussain Ahmad, will lead a rally of religious parties' workers in Bajaur today (Tuesday) to protest the killing of 80 innocent children in a seminary on Monday morning."

4. "Bajaur Attack Is A U.S. Reaction Over Peace Treaties: Leader of Opposition Fazlur Rehman" "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (10/31)

"... Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly has demanded to convene the joint session of the parliament immediately to discuss the incident of Bajaur bombardment. He also asked the government to stop military operations in Waziristan, Bajaur and Balochistan. He termed this attack as a reaction of the U.S. over the peace treaties in Waziristan and Bajaur."

5. "Bombardment In Bajaur Is Condemnable; Parliamentary Committee Be Set Up To Investigate The Incident: Senate Opposition Leader "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (10/31)

"... Opposition leader in Senate Reza Rabbani while condemning the loss of human lives in Bajaur bombing incident has asked to set up a Parliamentary Committee to look into this matter. Addressing a press conference, he also affirmed to table an adjournment motion in the Upper House on this issue."

6. "For How Long The Pakistan Government Will Veil The U.S. Aggression: Sen. Maulana Samiul Haq" "Islam" (cir. 15,000) 910/31)

"... Senator Maulana Samiul Haq has expressed resentment over the killing of innocent human beings in Bajaur and said that this act of Pak Army will never be forgotten by the nation. In a statement, Samiul Haq asked that for how long the Pakistan government will cover up the aggression of the U.S. and Afghanistan and earn their discredit and disrepute."

7. "MNA Resigns In Protest Against Air Strike" "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

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"Sahibzada Haroonur Rashid, MNA from National Assembly, resigned from the National Assembly on Monday to protest against the bombing of a 'Madarassa' in his constituency, claiming 82 lives."

8. "Journalists Stopped From Entering Bajaur" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"The government banned the entry of media men into Bajaur agency on Monday and a senior staff member of "The News," too, wasn't allowed to proceed to Chingai village to report on the missile attack on a Madarassa. The ban was contrary to the government claims that no restrictions had been placed on reporters wanting to cover the happenings in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)."

9. "Pak-U.S. Strategic Dialogue Postponed" "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam stated at a weekly news briefing in Islamabad that the second round of Pakistan-US Strategic Dialogue scheduled for Nov 6 in Islamabad had been postponed due to some 'pressing engagement' of US Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns. "This is not taking place next week. Nicholas Burns' visit to the region has been postponed," Ms Aslam announced. "He was visiting Pakistan, India and Afghanistan but due to his pressing engagement the visit is rescheduled," she added. She told a questioner "not to read too much into it" and added: "It was just a scheduling problem and the visit will take place at a later date."

10. "NATO-Taliban Deal In Afghanistan In Jeopardy" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"Pakistan might come under serious pressure from NATO after reports that a recent deal between the British army and the Taliban in

Afghanistan following the pattern of the one struck by the Pakistan Army in Waziristan is in jeopardy after a disclosure that it was simply a "trick of the Taliban to get rid of foreign soldiers." The British government has learnt that Taliban with the help of local elders had only played a trick to get rid of foreign soldiers from the Musa Qala area. Now, after the departure of British troops as a part of deal, the Taliban are said to have returned to the area."

11. "Afghanistan Will Be 'Third Vietnam' For US: Hikmatyar" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (10/31)

"Afghanistan will prove a "third Vietnam" for the United States and Afghans will continue their jihad against the coalition forces, former Afghan Prime Minister Gulbadeen Hikmatyar said in a four-page statement issued from an undisclosed location on Monday."

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12. "Terrorism, A Monster At Pakistan Says Ambassador Mahmud Durrani" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (10/31)

"Pakistan Ambassador to U.S. Mahmud A Durrani has said that, "Pakistan is totally committed to fighting terrorism for its own reasons (because) we see this monster standing at our doorstep." He was speaking to Buffalo News, a local newspaper during a visit to the city in upstate New York, to attend an earthquake relief fund-raising event organized by the Pakistani-American community.... Durrani said it is "more perception than reality" that Pakistan is now a safe haven for extremists. "We have literally turned upside down, and gone out of our way to help this war on terrorism."

13. "Kasuri To Visit Kabul For Talks" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (10/31)

"Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri will visit Afghanistan soon to hold talks for convening jirgas on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border as agreed between President General Pervez Musharraf and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai, said Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasneem Aslam during her weekly briefing on Monday."

14. "USAID Signs Five Year Contract For Quake Rehabilitation" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000), "The News" (cir. 55,000), "The Nation" (cir. 20,000), "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000), "The Statesman" (cir. 3,000), "The Post" (cir. 5,000), "Jang" (cir. 300,000), "Nawa-e-Waqt," (cir. 125,000) (10/31)

"The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Pakistan has signed a five-year \$120 million contract with CDM Constructors, Inc. through which the international construction company will assist USAID with its reconstruction efforts in the earthquake affected areas of Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) and Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK)."

15. "Kasuri Creates Waves In India" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"... The spokeswoman said that the Pak-US strategic dialogue had been postponed but would be taking place later. "Nicholas Burns' visit to Pakistan, India and Afghanistan has been postponed. Do not read too much into this as the visit will take place later," she said."

16. "MMA To Resign If Musharraf Re-Elected: Hafiz" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"All MMA members in the lower house of the parliament would submit their resignations if President Musharraf was re-elected before the

forthcoming general elections, said UNCLASSIFIED Parliamentary Leader

in the National Assembly Hafiz Hussain Ahmad."

17. "Govt. Admits Rashid Rauf Under Detention" "Dawn" (cir. 55,000)
(10/31)

"The government for the first time on Monday admitted to having detained Rashid Rauf on suspicion of masterminding a plot to blow up US-bound trans-Atlantic airliners in London.... A spokesman of the ministry of interior said that Rashid Rauf is detained under the Security of Pakistan Act, the spokesman added."

18. "Democrats May Gain 30 Seats In Elections: Survey" "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"The opposition Democrats may pick up 25 to 30 seats in the House of Representatives and at least four seats in the Senate predicts the latest opinion survey on America's mid-term congressional elections. Democrats need a net gain of 15 seats to regain control of the House, which they lost to Republicans in 1994. A gain of six seats in the Senate will also give Democrats control of the upper chamber."

Editorials/Opinions

19. "Peace Treaty In Bajaur Sacrificed By The U.S. Bombardment" an op-ed contributed by Tariq Masood, Sardar Iftikhar Ahmad and Amjad Sheikh in popular Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (10/31)

"... Some quarters are expressing their apprehensions that the Americans have launched this operation to end the diminishing hatred in tribal areas against Pakistan. Therefore, the Bajaur operation is a conspiracy hatched to end goodwill atmosphere between the tribesmen and Pakistan.... This incident will increase abhorrence against the U.S. in this region."

20. "NATO Bombardment In Afghanistan" an editorial in the Karachi-based pro-Taliban/Jihad Urdu daily, "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (10/31)

"... Despite NATO's claims of killing of Taliban in large numbers, resistance movement of Taliban is gaining impetus in Afghanistan. The allied troops had to retreat from different fronts after signing disgraceful accords with Mujahideen. To avoid embarrassment, NATO forces are now trying to mislead the international community."

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21. "Mujahideen's Psychological Advantage Over the U.S." an editorial in Popular Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (10/31)

"... An extended war is always fought by nerves not by guns. History shows that in a time-consuming guerilla battle, the aggressors had to face decisive defeat. Now, the tone of the U.S. President gives an impression that he is also exhausted and worn-out. And there are clear indications that NATO troops started evading Taliban on several fronts in Afghanistan, and they feel that they have become victim of a never-ending war."

22. "Where Are The Billion Of Dollars?" an editorial in the second largest, nationalist Urdu daily, "Nawa-e-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (10/31)

"... The research report of Congress demonstrates that the U.S. doesn't consider Pakistan as its friend; instead it hired the services of Pakistan. So, Pakistani officials' claims of Pak-U.S.

friendship are mere claims. Pakistani nation must be informed as to where the billion of dollars paid by the U.S. administration as remuneration for the services rendered by Pakistan in the war on terrorism have gone?"

23. "An Outrage," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"Remarks by a senior US official that around 300 inmates at the US military's detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba could be kept under detention "for the duration of their lives" are outrageous and show a singular lack of moral depth in George W. Bush's administration.... The dangerous thing about this development is that it takes away the onus from the Bush administration to provide any evidence against the 300 or so that are to be -- possibly -- detained for life.... With the entire US Congress and one-third of the Senate up for re-election next week, and with a presidential election next year, the future does not look all that bright for the inmates of Guantanamo. There is a real danger that they might just slip away into an abyss and may well be forgotten."

24. "Hope For Siachen?," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (10/31)

"Let us hope that Mr. Khurshid Kasuri is not being over-optimistic when he says that Pakistan and India are "very close" to a deal on Siachen.... An agreement on Siachen will indeed be a landmark achievement that will go to the credit of the present leaderships in

Islamabad and New Delhi. More important, a settlement could have a positive impact on the on-going peace and normalization process between the two countries." Crocker

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