

ACTION INR-00

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INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00		INL-00
	NOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00
	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	OCA-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
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 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JANUARY 30, 2008

SUMMARY: Reports of a missile attack in North Waziristan killing over 12 people dominated all front pages on Wednesday. Most newspapers also reported that "locals suspected involvement of U.S. drone," in the assault. All major dailies also highlighted a "gun battle in Karachi," killing 7 militants of a terrorist organization Jandullah and 2 policemen. Newspapers also highlighted reports of a GoP decision to install "scanners at main cities' entry points" to pre-empt suicide attacks. In its editorial on the subject entitled, "Shrinking support for war on terror," the English daily, "Business Recorder," wrote: "Had the military high command adopted counter-insurgency tactics instead of conventional warfare methodology the non-combatants would have suffered much less."

President George W. Bush's State of The Union remarks that

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"extremists were fighting to deny the people the right to choose" and that the "U.S. will confront Iran if necessary" also received prominent coverage. Assistant Secretary Boucher's statement urging "elections first, judiciary issue later" also figured prominently. The death of American diplomat Keith Ryan in Islamabad continued to garner media attention today. All major dailies highlighted news that the Pakistani "Government takes up Edhi (renowned social worker) probe with U.S." following his allegation of harassment by U.S. immigration officials.

Several dailies ran editorials on the pros and cons of Musharraf's unplanned meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Barak in Paris. In its editorial, the Urdu daily, "Nawa-i-Waqt," cautioned that "if President Musharraf helps fulfill the American scheme to recognize Israel, people of Pakistan will not stomach the act." Another Urdu daily, "Islam," noted that "perhaps President Musharraf is not aware of the fact that this meeting can deepen public resentment against him in the country." In its editorial on the subject titled, "Meeting Zionists," the English newspaper, "The Nation," wrote: "Contact with Israeli leaders might earn Islamabad some goodwill from Washington, and other western capitals, but would cause a severe backlash within the country as well as in the Muslim world." End Summary.

News Stories

1. "'US Missile' Kills 12 In Mir Ali" "The Nation" (01/30)

"Residents said the missile was fired by an unmanned drone aircraft, of a type often used by US forces in Afghanistan that circled over the area before the attack. "A missile came from an unknown direction on Monday night and hit the house, after which 12 people died," a local administration official told AFP. Intelligence officials said the dead were pro-Taliban militants, but residents said they were tribesmen staying at the house of a local elder in Khushali Tari Khel, a village on the outskirts of the town of Mir Ali."

2. "Missile Strike Kills 15 In North Waziristan" "The News" (01/30)

"A missile apparently fired by a pilot-less plane hit a house in a village near Mir Ali in the North Waziristan Agency (NWA) late Monday night, killing 15 people - 10 suspected militants, two women and three minors. Intelligence sources in the NWA said those killed also included Arab nationals but their identity was not known."

3. "7 Militants, 2 Cops Killed" "The Post" (01/30)

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"At least seven terrorists including Qasim Toori involved in the attack on the Karachi corps commander were killed and two police officials including a DSP lost their lives in two encounters in Landhi and Shah Latif Town areas on Tuesday evening. The terrorists are stated to be associated with banned outfit Jandullah. Five people were arrested including a man believed to be from Uzbekistan. "I can confirm he is dead," Interior Ministry spokesman Brigadier Javed Cheema said when asked what happened to Toori."

4. "Extremists Denying People Right To choose: Bush" "Dawn" (01/30)

"In his final State of the Union address, President George W. Bush on Monday night included Pakistan among countries where, he said, extremists were fighting to deny the people their right to choose.

Pakistan also figured in his description of places that have been sending sobering images to the world. The speech depicting the agenda for the final year of his eight-year tenure focused on his unfinished war in Iraq, declaring that his new policy of sending more troops to the Arab state had brought new gains for America. But Mr. Bush devoted very little of his 53-minute speech to the issue that is the top concern of American voters during this election year: America's unstable economy which is threatening to go out of control."

5. "US Will Confront Iran If necessary: Bush" "The Nation" (01/30)

"With his approval rating at an all-time low, US President George W. Bush, in his final State of the Union address on Monday night, vowed to stay on course in his domestic and foreign policies despite challenges facing his administration.... Bush's message to Iran was as tough and blunt as ever as he urged the country to suspend uranium enrichment and threatened that the United States will confront Tehran if necessary. "But above all, know this: America will confront those who threaten our troops, we will stand by our allies, and we will defend our vital interests in the Persian Gulf," Bush said."

6. "Elections First, Judiciary Issue Later, Says US" "Dawn" (01/30)

"A Senior US official on Tuesday declined to support demands for the restoration of judiciary and a UN-led probe into the murder of PPP chairperson Benazir Bhutto. Appearing before a Congressional Panel, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher made it obvious that the Bush administration still trusts President Musharraf but stopped short of calling him indispensable. He reminded members of the House Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs that judiciary

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has always been controversial in Pakistan. ~~As former~~ Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also had a dispute with the Supreme Court. Mr. Boucher said that Pakistan could deal with the dispute involving the judiciary after the elections as it's important to hold the elections first."

7. "US Wants 'Serious Distortions' Fixed Before Elections" "Daily Times" (01/3)

"A senior Bush administration official said on Tuesday that the United States was pushing Pakistan to fix "serious distortions" ahead of the February 18 elections. Testifying before a House subcommittee on national security and foreign affairs, South Asia Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher conceded that "if history is any guide," some fraud might occur. However, he said a vibrant, though restricted media, and international observers, including US officials, would help curb cheating. He said the US is doing everything it can to ensure a fair election; including preparing teams from the US Embassy to monitor major races around the country."

8. "Postmortem Report Of US Official Today" "The Post" (01/30)

"Superintendent of Police Nasir Aftab Tuesday said doctors would submit postmortem report of US official Keith Ryan to police on January 30 (today). The police will be able to say anything about the cause of death after the postmortem report, he said."

9. "Mystery Shrouds US Diplomat's Death" "Dawn" (01/30)

"Mystery shrouds the death of a US diplomat in the capital after radiology tests showed that he might have been shot at from the back. Sources told "Dawn" on Tuesday that the tests also showed the bullet was still lodged in the skull of the diplomat... The sources said this was not a suicide as Mr. Ryan had only one wound to his body. Besides, no blood stains were found on his mouth. According to doctors, it is impossible and against human nature to commit suicide by shooting himself at the back. Normally people commit suicide by shooting themselves on their temples if they use pistol."

10. "Diplomats' Security Beefed Up" "The Nation" (01/30)

"The security of diplomats in Pakistan has been increased after the apparent suicide of the US diplomat Keith Ryan on Monday at his residence in the Federal Capital, official sources told "The Nation."

11. "British doctor kidnapped for ransom" "The Nation" (01/30)

"Only a day after the mysterious killing of a US diplomat, armed assailants have kidnapped an elderly British national doctor on gunpoint from inside his residence in Sang Jalian in Islamabad on Tuesday, officials of Capital police said. The kidnappers have reportedly demanded fifty million rupees ransom for release of the kidnapped Dr. Davis who was residing in Islamabad in the suburbs of the federal capital along with his Pakistani wife, Dr. Sobia."

12. "Scanners Planned At Main Cities' Entry Points" "Dawn" (01/30)

"The government on Tuesday decided to provide advanced equipment to security forces to help them foil possible suicide attacks on politicians during the campaign for coming elections, according to Interior Ministry spokesman Brig (Retd) Javed Iqbal Cheema."

13. "US Testing Center In Karachi" "The Statesman" (01/30)

"U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske while inaugurating Karachi Testing and Advising Center on Tuesday at educationists and Fulbright Alumni said that it would fulfill a long-standing desire of students and scholars from Sindh. "Opening of the U.S. Education Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) office in Karachi means that students no longer have to travel to Islamabad for information on higher education in the U.S.," she remarked, says a press release of US Embassy."

14. "Al Qaeda Cut Down To Size, Says Musharraf" "The Post" (01/30)

"President Musharraf has categorically dispelled the impression in the West that Pakistan was exporting terrorism and said instead it was victim of this menace and confronting it with total dedication and commitment. He was speaking on the topic of "Our vision of providing regional peace and stability" at the prestigious Royal College of Defence Studies at the Seaford House, London on Monday. The Al-Qaeda has now been reduced to a single digit and driven from Pakistan which is, however, facing problem from the Taliban, the President said, dispelling the impression that Pakistan was not doing enough in the war on terrorism."

15. "Govt. Takes Up Edhi Probe With US" "The News" (01/30)

"The government has taken a stern and serious view of the treatment meted out to renowned social worker Abdul Sattar Edhi, who was interrogated in the US and his traveling documents taken away. The Foreign Office says that it is in touch with the US authorities on the matter who have held out an assurance that they would get back to the government."

16. "US Homes In On Militants In Pakistan" "The Post" (01/30)

"Another piece of the United States' regional jigsaw is in place

with the completion of a military base in Afghanistan's Kunar province, just three kilometers from Bajaur Agency. Pakistani intelligence quarters have confirmed to Asia Times Online that the base, on a mountain top in Ghakhi Pass overlooking Pakistan, is now operational. The new US base is expected to serve as the centre of clandestine special forces' operations in the border region."

17. "18 Orakzai Tribes Form Lashkar Against Taliban" "Daily Times" (01/3)

"After the killing of three levies personnel by local militants in Orakzai Agency on Saturday night, 18 tribes of the agency have decided to form a Lashkar (tribal army) against the Taliban to flush them out of the area, reported BBC Urdu on Tuesday."

18. "Three Rockets Miss Airport, PAF Base" (01/30)

"Three rockets missed the Peshawar Airport and the airbase of the Pakistan Air Force on Tuesday evening and landed in the nearby villages, spreading panic among the already frightened Peshawarites."

19. "Militants Are Being Supported By Drug Mafia: Governor" "Daily Times" (01/3)

"NWFP Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani said on Tuesday Afghanistan had been turned into a narcotics-producing state and some of the militant groups operating in Pakistan had the support of international drug mafia."

Editorials/Op-eds

20. "Shrinking Support For War On Terror," an editorial in the English daily, "Business Recorder" (01/30)

"The militants' clout is on the increase because they are increasingly successful in striking the fear of reprisal and revenge among their potential opponents in the areas of conflict.... On the face of it, Sherpao's insightful exposition does not sit well with the official line on the situation in the north-west of Pakistan.... The terror let loose by the militants looks all the more real and unforgiving when the people find that the government has not been able to bring them to justice.... Had the military high command adopted counter-insurgency tactics instead of conventional warfare methodology the non-combatants would have suffered much less."

21. "What Will Be The Outcome Of The Musharraf-Ehud Meeting," an

"According to the spokesperson of Israeli Defense Ministry, after the chance meeting, President Musharraf himself invited Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak for a meeting. What was the need for this formal meeting? What message did President Musharraf want to give to Pakistanis and Muslim Ummah when he found it appropriate to confirm that the meeting took place...?"

22. "President Musharraf's Alleged Meeting With Israeli Defense Minister," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Islam" (01/30)

"Perhaps, President Musharraf is not aware of the fact that this meeting can deepen public resentment against him in the country. And such acts can cause serious damage to his ally political parties in the forthcoming elections."

23. "Meeting Zionists," an editorial in the English daily, "The Nation" (01/30)

"Despite friendly relations existing between Pakistan and Iran the meeting could create a needless misunderstanding. Pakistan should, instead, be doing its best to avoid any such suspicion developing between the two neighboring states. Contacts with Israeli leaders might earn Islamabad some goodwill from Washington and other western capitals, but would cause a severe backlash within the country as well as in the Muslim world. They must be shunned."

24. "President Musharraf's Meeting With Ehud Barak," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Pakistan" (01/30)

"The government of Pakistan should take the nation into confidence, explaining rational behind keeping a secret liaison with Israeli authorities. Until Palestinians get acceptable, free state the government of Pakistan should desist from giving an impression of cordiality with Israel."

25. "President Musharraf's Meeting With Israeli Defense Minister," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Khabrain" (01/30)

"Contacts between Pakistan and Israel, continuing for decades now, are not unique. So far these meetings and parleys have not affected Pakistan's principled stand. Egypt and Jordan recognized Israel, but Pakistan never relented... No harm in holding such meetings, if one sticks with the principled stance, for this will help end apprehensions, reservations and misunderstandings."

26. "Untimely Meeting Of President Musharraf With Israeli Defense Minister," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Mashriq" (01/30)

"At this critical juncture, the alleged meeting between President Musharraf and the Israeli Defense Minister Barak can create a storm in Pakistani politics. If Iran and Saudi Arab are coming closer, it is quite natural for Israel to become upset. In that scenario, President Musharraf's meeting with an Israeli official can be of far-reaching consequences and will have a negative impact on South Asian politics as well."

27. "Brown's Advice," an editorial in the English daily, "The Post" (01/30)

"It would still do well to address the complaints and apprehensions of the political parties as well as the international observers to make the upcoming general elections acceptable to all the political parties and the rest of the world."

28. "Tagged With Condition," an editorial in the English daily, "The Nation" (01/30)

"Mr. Brown meanwhile promised to talk to other world leaders to get more economic assistance to Pakistan but again it is tied to the condition of the polls being fair, free and transparent. This point to a greater realization by the international community that the multiple challenges facing Islamabad can best be met by a genuinely elected regime enjoying public support."

29. "Elections And The World," an editorial in the English daily, "The News" (01/30)

"The Pakistan opposition has been lobbying in Washington and though the Bush administration is reluctant to make a major course correction, the Democrats are talking in almost the same language as the UK leaders. The overall view thus is that President Musharraf is under tremendous pressure on this issue and while a flawed election could create an enormous domestic uproar, the international community would not take it lightly either. February 18 could thus become a very critical date in the country's history. President Musharraf therefore has to match his words with action on the ground when he promises free, fair and transparent polls. The transparency he talks about is nothing but opaque, so far."

30. "New Adventurism Of Caretaker Government," an editorial in the Sindhi daily, "Kawish" (01/30)

"The caretaker government's decision to initiate debate on controversial Kalabagh Dam is beyond their mandate. The caretaker set up's primary responsibility is to conduct free and fair elections. We urge this government not to raise this highly divisive issue, use its all resources and energies on holding free and fair elections. Kalabagh Dam has been rejected by three provincial

assemblies so the issue should be considered ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ now."

31. "Desperate Act," an editorial in the English daily, "The News" (01/30)

"The events unfolding now in part of NWFP are already raising questions about why authorities have waited so long for a full-fledged assault on militants. It has been suggested that if action had been taken years ago, and deals not struck with men like Maulana Fazlullah in Swat and Baitullah Mehsud in South Waziristan, the kind of audacious acts of terrorism we are confronting today may not have taken place. But it is of course too late to undo past wrongs. All that can be done now is to adopt strategies that can eventually end the reign of terror seen everywhere and ensure that the planning necessary to achieve this is put in place so that authorities everywhere can act decisively under a cohesive game-plan."

32. "Not For God Alone," an editorial in the English daily, "Dawn" (01/30)

"Evidently an underground economy has developed in the region pumping the 'militancy enterprise,' as it were, driven by those funding terrorism and benefiting from it. Taking, for instance, religion out of the equation, it may well be argued that organized banditry is flourishing under the lawlessness gripping the region. The absence of a well-defined strategy to get to the root of the problem makes it all the more difficult to curb it."

33. "'Foreign Hand' Myth Strikes Again," an editorial in the English daily, "Daily Times" (01/30)

"Intelligence agencies represent the paranoia of the state. They live in a world of their own without accountability and can spread their microcosm of make-believe on to the country. Unpopular leaders begin to rely on them rather than the experts and come to grief but not before bringing harm to the people they rule. Therefore the Federal Interior Secretary, Syed Kamal should be careful how he

deploys the old device without first going public on the "proof" he has acquired. His department has already made shipwreck on the Bhutto assassination case. He should be intensely conscious of the fact that most people in Pakistan believe that instead of Baitullah Mehsud it is the "establishment" - the finger is directly pointed to his linked agencies - that has removed Ms. Bhutto from the scene."

34. "Mischievous Of Foreign Intelligence Agencies," an editorial in the English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (01/30)

"The scale, intensity, frequency, modus operandi and sophistication

of the activities of terrorists and ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ show that these cannot be sustained without a strong financial and technical backing. Terrorists and anti-state elements are defying all-out efforts by the Pakistan Army and other law enforcing agencies to curb their activities. It is quite obvious that this large-scale turmoil needs elaborate funding, training and supply of explosives and other arms and ammunition."

35. "Maulana Edhi's Case," an editorial in the English daily, "Daily Times" (01/30)

"Our Embassy in Washington should find out what the US immigration wants Mr. Edhi to do. Retaining the passport and asking him to go to a court indicates a presumed irregularity requiring clearance. The US Embassy in Islamabad is in a position to establish the credentials of the philanthropist, but a procedural hitch, if it has happened, has to be removed in any case."

36. "Abdul Sattar Edhi In American Custody," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (01/30)

"Abdul Sattar Edhi is Pakistan's renowned social worker. For his social and welfare activities, he travels throughout the world frequently, but unfortunately he is literally under custody in New York City since January 9. Pakistan's government should take notice that its respected and popular citizen is in American custody, he is forced to remain confined to one room. He has been meted out similar treatment earlier, so when this incident happened, we ask to Pakistani diplomats that what they are doing."

Patterson

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