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	IO-00	LAB-01	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00
	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	SA-00	FMP-00	BBG-00
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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA  
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 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 21-23, 2006

Summary: Undersecretary Nicholas Burns' Pakistan visit  
 was prominently covered in the weekend newspapers.

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President Bush's impending Pakistan visit was also highlighted in the reports on the Undersecretary's visit.

"Dawn" reports that, an official statement quoted Gen Musharraf as saying that the visit would lead to "further broadening and deepening of the bilateral relationship". (para 2). "The News" reports that, "President Musharraf pledged to continue backing the United States in anti-terror efforts, said a Foreign Ministry official on Saturday. The President was talking to visiting US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns." (para 3). Urdu daily "Pakistan" reports that, "U.S. Undersecretary for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns came to Pakistan to get a firsthand update on Pak-India dialogue and Pakistan's internal political situation, in the back drop of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's ongoing U.S. visit. (para 8).

"Daily Times" reports that, "Pakistani politicians on Saturday criticized the armed forces, the Punjab province and intelligence agencies in a meeting with Nicholas Burns, the US Deputy Secretary of State for Political Affairs." (para 9).

"The Nation" comments in its editorial that, "General Musharraf told US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns, who called on him at Army House on Saturday, that his uniform was not an obstacle in the way of democracy and he would take a final decision about it in 2007.... The issue also came up at Mr. Burns' meeting with government and opposition parliamentarians in Islamabad.... However, he drew a blank when asked how democracy could take root in the country under military rule...." (para 44).

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's engagements in the U.S. were given prominent display and subjected to editorial commentary in the newspapers. "Nawa-e-Waqt" observes in an editorial that, PM Aziz should refrain from making controversial statements (about Dr. Khan), and Dr. Qadeer should be released." (para 58). End summary.

-- News Stories

1. "President Bush To Visit Pakistan During First Week Of March," "Jang" (01/23)

"U.S. President Bush would visit Pakistan during the first week of March. Prior to his trip to Pakistan, he

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would visit India. Diplomatic sources revealed that this would be the last visit of Asia to be undertaken by President Bush during his second and the final tenure as president. Sources said that Bangladesh and Afghanistan were also making efforts that a visit to these countries be also included in President Bush's program. Sources said that his visit to Pakistan was being finalized but in all likelihood President Bush would spend most of the time in the region in India."

2. "Bush's Visit To Boost Ties, Says Musharraf" "Dawn"  
(01/22)

"President Musharraf said on Saturday that Pakistan was looking forward to a visit by US President George Bush

with hopes that it would strengthen ties between the two countries. The president told the visiting US Under-Secretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns during a meeting that Pakistan and the United States would be working closely to prepare for the American leader's visit expected later this year. An official statement quoted Gen Musharraf as saying that the visit would lead to "further broadening and deepening of the bilateral relationship".

3. "Musharraf Reaffirms Pak Role In Anti-Terror war"  
"The News" (01/22)

"President Musharraf pledged to continue backing the United States in anti-terror efforts, said a Foreign Ministry official on Saturday. The President was talking to visiting US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns who called on him at Army House, Rawalpindi on arrival here from New Delhi on Saturday."

4. "Uniform No Barrier To Democracy, Musharraf Tells  
US" "Daily Times" (01/22)

"President Musharraf has said his uniform is no barrier to the development of the democratic process in Pakistan and he will decide whether or not to keep his position as army chief in 2007, Online reports. "I will decide in 2007 (whether) to take off the uniform. But it has been acknowledged worldwide that I consolidated democracy and democratic norms at the grassroots by remaining in uniform," he said in a meeting with US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns at Army House in Rawalpindi on Saturday."

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5. "Bajaur Raid Must Not Be Repeated" "The Nation"  
(01/22)

"Pakistan on Saturday asked the United States that incidents like air strike on Bajaur Agency must not be repeated as it would harm the ongoing cooperation between Islamabad and Washington against terrorism. President Musharraf told the US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns that the incidents like the air strike on Damadola village of Bajaur Agency must not be repeated."

6. "Pakistan Stresses Liaison with US" "Dawn" (01/22)

"Pakistan on Saturday called for more coordination with the United States to avoid any repetition of last week's US air strike in Bajaur that killed 18 people and triggered outrage across the country. Foreign Minister Kasuri said he expressed concern to US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns about the attack during talks with him."

7. "US Wants '07 General Polls To Be Fair" "The Nation"  
(01/22)

"US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns on Saturday met with parliamentarians and human rights activists at the residence of the American Ambassador, Ryan C. Crocker, and discussed different political matters with them. Burns told the Pakistani leaders, including those belonging to the opposition, that the US wanted to see democracy flourish in Pakistan besides free, fair and transparent elections in 2007."

8. "U.S. Undersecretary Visited Pakistan To Get A First-Hand Update On Pakistan's Internal Situation,"  
"Pakistan" (01/23)

"U.S. Undersecretary for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns came to Pakistan to get a firsthand update on Pak-India dialogue and Pakistan's internal political situation, in the back drop of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's ongoing U.S. visit. His meetings with some political and nationalist parties were arranged for this purpose."

9. "Politicians Complain About Army, Punjab To Nicholas Burns" "Daily Times" (01/22)

"Pakistani politicians on Saturday criticized the armed

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forces, the Punjab province and intelligence agencies in a meeting with Nicholas Burns, the US deputy secretary of state for political affairs. Burns said he supported democracy in Pakistan but refused to comment on the country's internal matters."

9. "Pak, US Sign \$200m Grant Accord For Reconstruction" "The Nation", "The Post" (01/22)

"Pakistan and the US Saturday signed an agreement for providing 200 million dollars grant for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of earthquake-affected parts of NWFP and AJK. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns represented the US government and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar along with Chairman of the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Zubair officially signed the agreement in this regard."

10. "U.S. Army Increased Activities At Pak-Afghan Border" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/21)

"... There is likelihood that the U.S. air or ground forces can attack yet again the Pak-Afghan border.... Pakistan has credible evidence that U.S. troops have increased their engagements close to the Pakistani border following the Bajaur occurrence, and most probably Pakistan will convene the meeting of tripartite commission immediately. However, the scheduled meeting of the commission is to be held next month. President Musharraf has been informed about this situation in a meeting held at General Headquarters a few days back...."

11. "Operation in North Waziristan, 12 Tribesmen Arrested; Bodies of 30 Miscreants Sent to Peshawar for DNA tests; Strike, Protests In Bajaur Against U.S. Bombardment; Police Baton Charge, Use Tear Gas," "Khabrain" (01/23)

"The bodies of 30 miscreants killed during the last one month in clashes with security forces in North Waziristan have been sent to Peshawar for DNA tests. Meanwhile, JUI and Jamaat-I-Islami held demonstration in Bajaur against American bombardment; and a complete strike was observed in the agency. In North Waziristan, the political administration arrested 12 tribesmen during an operation."

12. "Rallies Demand US Apology" "The News" "The Post"  
(01/23)

"... The protesters set on fire an effigy of the US president in protest against the attack on innocent villagers in Bajaur Agency by an American drone predator and demanded the resignation of President Musharraf.... The rally, held on the call of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl), was also attended by workers of the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Awami National Party, the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians and other political parties.... America wants to make Pakistan its colony and President Musharraf is following its agenda," the charged speakers alleged. They demanded the resignation of the president and said American and Pakistani rulers should apologize for the incident and compensate the victim families."

13. "Stopping The Opposition From Going To Bajaur Would Be Unfortunate; The Matter Must Be Taken To The Security Council If The U.S. Does Not Apologize: Maulana Fazlur Rehman," "Khabrain" (01/23)

"Talking with journalists in Charsadda (NWFP) MMA Secretary General and leader of the opposition in the National Assemble Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that as a protest over the Bajaur attack, the government must recall its ambassador from the U.S. He said that the U.S. should make a formal apology and pay compensation for those martyred, otherwise Pakistan should take the matter to the Security Council. He said that the opposition wanted to go to Bajaur only to sympathize and offer condolence; stopping the delegation would be unfortunate."

14. "ARD Wants Supreme Court To Take Notice Of US Attack" "Dawn" (01/23)

"ARD Information Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah has urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu notice of the recent US attack on Bajaur Agency, which had killed 18 innocent people. Talking to reporters here on Sunday, he said the apex court should first find out whose laxity had made the attack possible and then try the man without delay, irrespective of his status. The attack on Bajaur Agency, the ARD leader said, amounted to assaulting the country's sovereignty and the matter should not be taken lightly."

15. "12 Arrested In Mir Ali Crackdown" "Daily Times"  
(01/23)

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"Security forces arrested 12 people in a crackdown in North Waziristan, on a day when the political administration cut off power supply and imposed economic penalties as part of sanction on several tribes in the Mir Ali area. Three vehicles were also confiscated in the crackdown, a local official told NNI on Sunday."

16. "US Wants Improved Pakistan-India Ties" "Dawn"  
(01/21)

"India and the United States, preparing for a visit by President George W. Bush, wound up two days of official-level talks here on Friday with Washington encouraging improved Delhi-Islamabad ties but disapproving of Iran's proximity with both." controversial proposal to help India's civilian nuclear energy program was discussed

again between the two countries but going by their statements appeared to have hit some rough spots. "We have been exchanging views and trying to coordinate our views on issues like Iran, Nepal and Sri Lanka," said Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran at a joint news conference with US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns."

17. "Pakistan May Reconcile To Indo-Us Nuclear Deal"  
"The News" (01/23)

"Pakistan is likely to reconcile with the reality that the India-United States deal on civilian nuclear technology will definitely go through, though it may require a considerable amount of time. Talking to "The News" after the visit of US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, a senior official said, "Yes, this issue did come under discussion on Saturday and there is no doubt that this agreement will go through. Of course it is unlikely that if President George Bush comes to the region in March this agreement would be ready. It will certainly take more time."

18. "1,200 Pakistanis Face Deportation In US" "The News" (01/23)

"While Pakistan slowly recovers from the earthquake that left hundreds of thousands dead, hurt or homeless last year, a growing chorus of New Yorkers is calling on US officials to stop deporting those who are here illegally.... Last month, the Pakistani government made a formal request to the US government for temporary

protected status to those facing deportation. UNCLASSIFIED  
criminal matters or those with legal visas set to expire.... According to a US paper 'Daily News', community members estimate that 1,200 men now face deportation after complying with the government's post-911 special registration program."

19. "Shaukat Aziz Arrives In Washington: Will Meet Bush Tomorrow," "Khabrain" (01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has arrived in Washington D.C. During the second phase of this trip, he will meet President Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, VP Cheney, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz besides different Senate committees."

20. "U.S. Authorities Searched Pakistani Ministers And Senators At New York Airport Before Their Departure To Washington On Sunday" "Jang" (01/23)

"... When the Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz arrived at New York Airport to leave for Washington on Sunday, several elected members of the National Assembly and the Senate were searched. The jackets of the Federal Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao, Privatization Minister Hafeez Sheikh, Junior Minister for Defense Zahid Hamid, Junior Minister for Textile Mushtaq Cheema, Senator Ahmad Ali, Secretary Foreign Affairs, Secretary Commerce and some others were removed and searched. Their wallets and other belongings were removed and they were checked by a machine...."

21. "Recent Events To Figure At Aziz-Bush Meeting" "Dawn" (01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will have no set agenda when he meets President George W. Bush at the White House but two recent developments are likely to figure prominently in the talks: a US missile raid in Bajaur and Washington's move to finalize a nuclear deal with India. "The Indo-US nuclear deal is not part of the official program but is likely to come up when they discuss India-Pakistan relations and the balance of power in South Asia," ambassador Jehangir Karamat told "Dawn."

22. "No Understanding With U.S. That Could Allow Missile Attacks: Prime Minister," "Jang" (01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that Pakistan has



no understanding with the U.S. that UNCLASSIFIED  
latter to conduct missile attacks in Pakistani  
territory. He said that the Bajaur attack was not a  
coordinated U.S. action in collaboration with the  
Pakistani officials. In an interview with CNN, he said  
that the thinking of presence of top al Qaeda leaders in  
the area was incomprehensible."

23. "Bajaur Air Strike: Aziz Won't Push For US Apology"  
"The Post" (01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will be meeting President  
George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, World Bank  
President Paul Wolfowitz and Senator John Kerry during  
the last two days of his US visit. The premier is also  
scheduled to address the US Chamber of Commerce.  
According to well-placed sources the PM will be raising  
the Bajaur bombing issue in his meeting with President  
Bush, however he will not press for a US apology nor  
will he demand any guarantees for the future."

24. "US Commission Asks Bush To Raise Religious Rights  
With Pakistani PM" "The Nation" (01/21)

A US Congress mandated commission urged President George  
W. Bush Friday to highlight what it called "severe  
violations" of religious freedom in Pakistan during his  
meeting Tuesday with the country's Prime Minister  
Shaukat Aziz. Concerns about religious freedom and other  
human rights are a critical element of US interests in  
Pakistan and should be prominent on the bilateral  
agenda, the US Commission on International Religious  
Freedom said in a letter to Bush."

25. "Pakistan Cannot Be Bullied: PM" "The Nation"  
(01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that Pakistan  
wants to be left alone to develop and prosper though not  
ready to be bullied by any power. "Pakistan today is a  
nuclear power, a missile power with strong conventional  
defense capabilities. We want to be left alone. But we  
wont be bullied though Pakistan is all for peace," Aziz  
said in his address to Pakistani community in New York  
here on Saturday."

26. "Pak Not To Hurry On Gas Line Pact, Says PM" "The  
Nation" (01/22)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that time has come

for both Pakistan and India to move ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ to more substantive dispute resolution with passion for the

lasting peace in the region. He said this while addressing a Press conference here on Friday soon after meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Anan.... Asked whether Pakistan would press ahead with Iran pipeline if the UNSC comes up with a resolution against Iran, the premier said that Islamabad would not make hurry in the signing of a proposed agreement on gas pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan as long as Iranian nuclear program remained there, adding that any decision in this regard would be taken in the best national interest."

27. "Pakistan Will Be Prudent On Iran Pipeline: PM"  
"Daily Times" (01/22)

"Pakistan will not rush into a deal for a natural gas pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan while the United Nations has Iran's nuclear program under scrutiny, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Friday. The United States and the EU-3 - Britain, France and Germany - want the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors to report Iran to the UN Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions on Tehran."

28. "A team Of American Doctors Arrived In Rawalpindi General Hospital To Fix Artificial Limbs To Quake Sufferers" "Ausaf" (01/23)

"... A delegation of American doctors have arrived in Rawalpindi at Sunday night to assist their Pakistani counterparts in fixing artificial limbs to those who were wounded in devastating earthquake of October 8. They will fix artificial limbs to forty patients admitted in Rawalpindi General Hospital...."

29. "U.S. Helicopter Flies On Prohibited Area Of Kahuta (Nuclear Plant)" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/23)

"American Chinook was seen flying over prohibited area of Dopari and Thandapani, Kahuta at 2:50 p.m. on Sunday. The residents of the area, Rafaqat Hussain, Manzoor Akbar, Mehrban and others saw the Chinook (over the area). People believed that the helicopters might have been lost."

30. "American Relief Copters Resume Operation" "Dawn"  
(01/21)

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"Taking advantage of Thursday's clear skies, US helicopters flew their 3400th mission and delivered 232 tons of humanitarian assistance, making a new one-day record. This is 132 tons over the UN daily requirement. This brought the total amount of relief supplies transported to over 9000 tons. For quake survivors this ensures that enough supplies are on hand at distribution centers when weather prevents flight operations. "These milestones tell us that we are on track," said Colonel Bob Johnson, Commander Task Force Eagle, the US helicopter relief force."

31. "US Donates Equipment To UN Copter Crew" "The Post" (01/23)

"The US Disaster Assistance Center, Pakistan, donated 150 helicopter 'sling' load nets to the United Nations. These nets will allow the UN helicopters to double the amount of relief supplies they deliver to the quake-

affected areas. Along with the nets, the US Marine Logistics Group 3 from Okinawa is now training the UN and Pakistani military ground crew in Muzaffarabad and Chatter plain to efficiently build sling loads. Using sling loads saved a great deal of time, said Col Bob Johnson, Task Force Eagle commander Sunday. "We are supporting our partners by training ground crew how to use external sling loads for supply operations. This will maximize the UN's flight time and allow more supplies to be moved forward," he said."

32. "NATO Troops Start Leaving" "Dawn" (01/21)

"The first major contingent of NATO forces deployed in the quake-affected areas left Pakistan after providing necessary rescue, relief and rehabilitation assistance to the survivors. The 171-member batch, mainly army personnel from Spain, returned to their country after completing a three-month mission in these areas. Commander NATO Forces Pakistan Air Commodore Andrew Walton, Land Commander NATO Brigadier General Josef Bautis and Col Muhammad Shafi Ghazi of Federal Relief Commission (FRC) were present at Chaklala Airbase."

33. "New And Used F-16s May Be Bought" "Dawn" (01/21)

"The Pakistan Air Force is considering buying a mix of new and used F-16 fighter jets, says Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Kaleem Saadat. The PAF Chief was

addressing members of the English-speaking Union of Pakistan (EUP).... He said that various versions of F-16s were available to PAF from the United States. "We are also considering to buy used F-16s from elsewhere. However, we will prefer a mix of new and old F-16s fighter planes for the PAF," he added."

34. "Paramilitary Forces Are Torturing And Killing The Baloch, Says HRCP" "Daily Times" (01/23)

"Paramilitary forces have laid sieges, conducted search operations, made arbitrary arrests and indulged in shooting at, killing and torturing people in the violence-hit areas of Balochistan, said Asma Jehangir, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Chairman, on Sunday."

35. "Iran Will Be Taught A Lesson: Burns" "Daily Times" (01/21)

"Undersecretary of State R Nicolas Burns has called Iran "a threat to world peace" and vowed to "teach it a lesson". He said this in a press conference following talks with Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran on Friday. Iran has "crossed so many international red lines, that it has to know that will be a penalty to be paid," he said."

36. "We Will Attack Iranian Nuclear Installations: Israel; We Will Give A Devastating Response, Says Iran," "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/23)

"Israel has said that in order to stop Iran's nuclear program it is preparing for a military action against Iran. Israel Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said this talking to newsmen in Jerusalem.... On the other hand, Iran Foreign Office spokesperson Hameed Raza Asfi said that western countries want to take political mileage

out of IAEA emergency meeting.... He said that Israel knows well that if it took a foolish step it would be responded to by Iran."

37. "Iran Moving Funds Out Of Europe" "The News" (01/21)

"Iran announced on Friday it has begun pulling its foreign currency accounts out of European banks-an amount analysts said could reach \$50 billion-to protect its assets from possible UN sanctions over its nuclear

program."

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38. "Peaceful Nuclear Program is Iran's Right; The Dispute Should be Resolved Through Talks, PM Aziz"  
"Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that Pakistan is a peace loving country and wants peace and stability in South Asia. Pakistan neither has aggressive designs against anyone nor would it be browbeaten by anyone.... Addressing a large gathering of Pakistani community in New York, he said that acquisition of nuclear capability for peaceful purposes is the right of Iran like any other country and Pakistan is against the use of force in this respect."

39. "US Assures Pak Not To Strike Iran" "The Nation"  
(01/23)

"As Iran faces threat of being referred to the UN Security Council because of its controversial nuclear program, the United States has conveyed to Pakistan that it would not use force to resolve the contentious issue.... An official said the Bush Administration had assured Islamabad, its close allied state in war on terror, that the conflict over Iranian nuclear program would be resolved through peaceful means. He said the US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Nicholas Burns, who met Friday with President Musharraf and Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri also extended this assurance to the Pakistani leadership."

40. "US Will Help Israel In Case Of War With Iran"  
"Daily Times" (01/21)

"If Israel is attacked, the United States will "obviously" militarily support its close Mideast ally, US Vice President Dick Cheney said in interview with CNBC television on Thursday. Cheney was asked if Washington would come to the military assistance of Israel if Iran or any of the terrorist groups it allegedly sponsors attacked Israel."

41. "US Business Doesn't Favor Unilateral Action"  
"Daily Times" (01/22)

"A leading US business group urged lawmakers on Friday to resist the temptation to impose unilateral sanctions on Iran as tensions over that country's nuclear research program continue to rise. "Time and time again we have

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seen that unilateral economic sanctions by the United States do not work," said Bill Reinsch, president of the National Foreign Trade Council, in a statement."

42. "U.S. Is Twisting The Government's Arm By Blackmailing It Over Democracy: Hamid Gul" "Nawa-e-Waqt"

(01/23)

"America has adopted arm twisting policy against the rulers on the pretext of democracy; which is why the rulers should restore democracy fully instead of falling prey to any blackmailing. Rulers could be trapped in blind alley and not the nations. This ISI former chief General (retired) Hamid Gul said while talking to "Nawa-e-Waqt".... He said that U.S. attack on Iran is not easy; it might press Pakistan for evidence against Iran at UN Security Council."

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Editorials/Opinions  
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43. "U.S. Should Stop Meddling Into The Internal And Religious Affairs Of Pakistan" an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/23)

"... A representative commission of U.S. Congress has demanded President Bush to raise the issue of human rights abuses and religious freedom violations in Pakistan during their meeting on January 24. The Commission has also expressed reservations on the blasphemy laws.... The religious minorities are enjoying maximum freedom of their faith in Pakistan and the blasphemy laws are for the protection of honor and holiness of all the divine prophets of God including Jesus Christ and Moses. So the U.S. Congress should not worry about the religious freedom in Pakistan...."

44. "Uniformed Democracy," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/23)

"General Musharraf told US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns, who called on him at Army House on Saturday, that his uniform was not an obstacle in the way of democracy and he would take a final decision about it in 2007.... The issue also came up at Mr. Burns' meeting with government and opposition parliamentarians in Islamabad.... However, he drew a blank when asked how democracy could take root in the

45. "President Musharraf's Protest On Bajaur," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/23)

"Why so much difference in the official and unofficial statements on the meeting between President Musharraf and U.S. Undersecretary Nicholas Burns? Only Government should know the reason. The President might have referred to the incident, but not in strict tone that was magnified in the unofficial account of the meeting. It is also possible that the issue would not have been touched at all and unofficial account of the meeting would have been issued to mollify people of Pakistan."

46. "America Should Ensure Incidents Like Bajaur do not Recur" an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (01/23)

"U.S. Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns yesterday met with President Musharraf in Rawalpindi.... Burns expressed grief at the loss of lives in the Bajaur tragedy and stressed on the need to improve intelligence

cooperation in order to stop such incidents [from recurring]. Let it be mentioned here that the Burns' visit is part of the preparations for President Bush's visit [to the region].... Truth be told, such incidents [like Bajaur] have an impact on the army's morale also. Meeting Nicholas Burns in his capacity as Chief of the Army Staff, President Musharraf has emphasized that our sovereignty and national security are more important than anything else, and we will not let anyone violate our geographical boundary or air space. He has rightly said that such incidents could have an effect on cooperation against terrorism."

47. "Pak-U.S. Relations and President's Firm Stance," an editorial in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain"

"The President said in a meeting with Nicholas Burns that the U.S. should respect Pakistan's territorial boundary if it wants close ties with the country.... The U.S. should prove through its deeds that Pakistan is its closest ally."

48. "Bajaur Tragedy - Mere Protest Will Not Work" an editorial in Popular Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (01/23)

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"... President Musharraf has told the U.S. Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns that Pak-U.S. cooperation in war against terrorism is commendable, however, the events like Bajaur might affect the campaign against terrorism.... President Musharraf has also said that the Pakistan is looking forward the forthcoming visit of President Bush. Conversely, Pakistani people are expressing their resentment against the U.S. President. A majority of Pakistanis are against this visit. If he comes to Pakistan in the near future, Pakistani people will not welcome him with flowers. So, it is important that President Bush must apologize to Pakistan on Bajaur incident. He must also assure us that the U.S. will not again violate the Pakistani borders...."

49. "America's Crime-Warning To Government Of Pakistan," an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/23)

"If on the one hand American military and on the other hand our own military kill our brothers then things can not be resolved. 150 million people of Pakistan demand halt of operations in north and South Waziristan and SUI, Bugti and Kohlu in Balochistan.... People of Pakistan want peace and do not want further complication of minor problems' in order not to give unfriendly rather enemy religious forces and enemy neighbors the opportunity to interfere in Pakistan's affairs."

50. "No Regrets To A Valued Ally," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/22)

"... The US resistance to uttering as much as a simple 'sorry' clearly suggests how ill-befitting the present administration's policies are to carry its professions of creating goodwill in the Muslim world to their logical conclusion. Rather than changing "the hearts and minds" of the people, it is adding fuel to the fire.... It falls upon the Pakistan government to take this

violation seriously. It actually is one in a series of several, but which has caused the largest number of casualties. Islamabad should urge upon the US to desist from recourse to such wanton acts in future. One really wonders what objectives the strategists sitting in Washington could have in sidelining Islamabad. If the intention is to compel Pakistan to be more ruthless, it



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misses the crucial reality of the ~~senior U.S. officials~~ ~~of the~~ matter. The authorities have to tread very carefully in the face of pervasive anti-US sentiment in the entire tribal belt, not to mention the rest of the country."

51. "Exigencies Of Improving Pak-U.S. relations," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/21)

"... After all what circumstances had emerged that forced the United States to take the Bajaur action without taking the Government of Pakistan into confidence? This action also does not match with the necessities of its friendship with an allied Muslim country. The only way to keep the Pak-U.S. friendship free from any scratch is that the U.S. should not let its ego come in the way of tendering apology to the government and people of Pakistan and the payment of compensation to the heirs of those killed. For a big power like the U.S. it is really a tall order but it is not a very high price to upkeep the international trust of the U.S."

52. "NATO Troops Leave Pakistan On Time," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/22)

"The first major contingent of NATO troops left Pakistan on Thursday night after completing its three-month mission in earthquake-affected areas. The 171-member batch mostly comprised personnel from Spain. The remaining personnel are scheduled to leave by the first week of February. We mention this because since their arrival, the political opposition, especially the religious parties, had claimed that NATO troops were in Pakistan to stay.... We would suggest to critics that the issue of NATO should now be laid to rest since it is obvious that NATO troops were not here on any military/intelligence mission."

53. "Cornering Iran," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/22)

"With the Bush Administration and its European allies continuing to push Iran to the wall, more problems are bound to be created for the region and the world at large.... One expects Islamabad to oppose punitive action against Iran as any destabilization of this important neighbor would go against Pakistan's interests. Moreover, it will give a boost to the

prevailing anti-US sentiment and provide another cause celebre. There must be no understanding with the US, open or covert, to corner Iran. The Bajaur affair has shown how harmful it is not to tell the US in unambiguous terms about the limits of Pakistan's cooperation."

54. "Iran's Pre-Emption," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (01/23)

"... United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has already issued a clear-cut call for action against Iran; Britain's stance is unlikely to be any different. Additionally, one cannot overlook the American fondness of unilateral action, a la the Bush Doctrine, which is an idea that has not been taken off the table by the current administration. Yet, common sense would dictate that Iran may be in the clear, given the relative

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ineffectiveness of sanctions and the unlikelihood of action by a United States that is already stuck waist-high in the morass of Iraq. However, if the last few years have taught the international relations observer anything, it is that common sense is a rare commodity."

55. "Importance of Iranian Gas Pipeline Project," an editorial in the sensationalist Urdu daily, "Ummat" (01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has conditioned the progress on India-Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project to [the resolution of] Iran's nuclear issue. He said that economically the project was quite important for Pakistan but no haste would be shown in this regard. Ostensibly Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has demonstrated Pakistan's adherence to UN and other international principles but his detractors maintain that this is a direct result of the U.S. pressure on Pakistan."

56. "Usama's Offer of Truce and U.S. Rejection," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/21)

"The world today is mired in actions and reaction of the U.S. and Usama bin Laden. Wouldn't it be wonderful if both parties either grow tired and make peace; or, in the best interests of humanity, give up the use of weapons. America is fully aware of why a Qaeda resorted to war. If these issues are resolved, would there be any reason for persons to tie bombs to their bodies and

57. "Threat by France and America: Usama bin Laden's Message for the Ummah," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/21)

"However, the Muslim leaders must contemplate the message in Usama's statement that the for the last several years, the entire Muslim Ummah has been a target of America's crusade-like ambitions.... And today, France has threatened that if there is a terrorist act in the country, France will launch a nuclear attack on any country that backs terrorists [involved in that act]. Who can say that terrorists have a country? Those who carry out such acts neither have a country, nor religion. But who will explain this to the French President?"

58. "Dr. Qadeer is A National Hero," an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/21)

"In an interview with the New York Times, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that the Dr. Qadeer issue is now a closed chapter and he is under detention in his house, and is not permitted to meet anyone. He also said that whatever Dr. Qadeer did was in his personal capacity, and clarified that Dr. Qadeer is not a scientists but an

expert in metals.... The Pakistani nation is aware that Dr. Qadeer is not a criminal, but he is kept in detention under force.... No nation treats national heroes like this; whether he is a scientist or an expert in metals, the nation will not forget his efforts in building the bomb. PM Aziz should refrain from making controversial statements, and Dr. Qadeer should be released."

59. "U.S. Visit And Change In Prime Minister's Views," an editorial note in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (01/23)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said during the U.S. visit that Pakistan would not show haste in having a deal with Iran on gas pipeline project if Iran's nuclear issue was referred to the UN Security Council. He also said that Pakistan is not in favor of Iran becoming a nuclear power. It is known to all that America is against the gas pipeline project, but Pakistan and India have been courageous enough to take steps for forward movement on the project. However, this sudden change in

Prime Minister's views hints at the possibility of the project getting delayed." UNCLASSIFIED

60. "Nuclear Iran, Pipeline And Pakistan's 'Energy Needs'," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/23)

"... Pakistan is not against peaceful use of nuclear energy because this is every state's legal right. Given Pakistan's own dubious status outside the NPT together with India and Israel, this is an articulation of yet another nuclear doctrine among the "threshold" states: take us in but save the NPT from coming apart. Pakistan is obviously less bothered than India to be bracketed with Israel in this regard, and the reason is the US and Western leverage and Pakistan's own unspoken strategic view.... Will Pakistan get the "nuclear technology" from the US and the NSG if India does? The only difference between Pakistan, on the one hand, and Israel and India, on the other, is Pakistan's past record on export of unauthorized nuclear technology and its internal disorder.... To exploit the current rather complex situation, Islamabad has to swallow some bitter pills, mostly related to such incidents as the Bajaur attack by the CIA. But then each time it decides to act with restraint it places a "guilty" Washington under pressure to make some desired and needed concessions. To keep the strategy on line, Pakistan has to stick to the course of normalization with India despite public pressure to "do something".

61. "Insecurity In Waziristan," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (01/21)

"... Pakistani security agencies must see to it that the operations against terrorist do not upset normal life in Fata, especially Waziristan, and it is only the foreign militants and their local hosts who are disarmed and dealt with. A more pertinent question is as to how long will FATA remain outside the national orbit. It has suffered enormously because of the failure of successive governments to integrate it into the national mainstream."

62. "What Does UBL Want To Achieve?," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (01/21)

"... Al Qaeda's message is not the truce offer but the

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warning that more attacks are forthcoming. As a result, if Al Qaeda knows that it cannot engage the US because the latter will not talk to it then it is merely fulfilling a legal obligation before launching the next series of attacks.... UBL has informed the US that Iraq has become a gravitational point for recruiting and preparing the Mujahideen. Most experts have said that the US venture in Iraq has been a misadventure. Most are also agreed that the White House should rest content with minimum results and get out of that country. Normally, this might have sufficed to score a victory over the Bush White House. But Al Qaeda seems to be preparing for another round. And that may come about if it attacks the US on US soil."

63. "Bin Laden 'In Business'?", an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (01/21)

"... "We do not negotiate with terrorists, we put them out of business," the spokesman, Scott McClellan declared.... Mr. McClellan jumped the gun in bringing the element of negotiation, although the tape's authenticity isn't one hundred per cent certain yet. But negotiation with militants is what the United States will have to accept, and thereby hand them a great psychological victory, if it continued in its pig-headedness in Iraq and elsewhere. "Doing business with terrorists" will become particularly inevitable if the United States is threatened with terrorist attacks once again, and this is a chilling warning contained in the tape."

64. "Alleged Audiotape Of Usama And U.S. Response," an editorial in the popular Urdu daily, "Express" (01/21)

The U.S. response to Usama's offer of ceasefire is not appropriate at all. If the U.S. officials, while practicing caution, could have remarked that they wanted peace then it would have created a pleasant impression in the world. This would have also helped in mitigating the negative sentiments found among the Muslims against the U.S."

65. "Threat Of A Nuclear Attack," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (01/21)

"In case of a terrorist attack on France, French President Jacques Chirac has threatened to use nuclear weapons against countries harboring terrorists. The

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words opted by the French President and copied from the diction of U.S. President Bush. Earlier, Israel had also given such a threat while Australian Prime Minister John Howard had also advocated preemptive strikes. France is an important European country after Germany. This also shows that important European countries have joined ranks with the U.S., which is a big development having great repercussion for the Muslim world. Such type of language was only used during the two World Wars. It is really strange that some countries would be targeted if terrorists happen to attack France. What is the logical justification for this line of

reasoning?"

66. "Iraqi Elections: No Room For Vain Hopes," an editorial in the sensationalist Urdu daily, "Ummat" (01/22)

"No single party has been able to gain even a simple majority in the Iraqi elections. It is likely that a coalition government would be formed in Iraq for which hectic maneuvering has begun. It would be a vain hope to expect the Bush administration and other American agencies to allow a people's representative government in Iraq to take shape that could not only establish peace in the country but would also not be subservient to the U.S. interests."

67. "Efforts For U.S.-India Nuclear Pact And Its Repercussions," an editorial in the leading mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (01/22)

"The provision of prohibited nuclear technology to India is indicative of a strange duality in the American policy since the Indian track record with respect to its peaceful coexistence with its neighbors and respect of human rights is highly poor. Therefore it would be highly unjust on part of the U.S. to agree to provide this prohibited nuclear technology to India. The U.S. should take extraordinary caution in this regard and should not go to that extent to fulfill its regional, global, economical and political interests that may hit the interests of its front line ally."

68. "U.S.-Israel Front Against Iran" an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/22)

"If America and Israel attacked Iran's nuclear installations and yet another Muslim country underwent

warlike situation then this entire region could become a target of terrorist organizations.... Iran is a signatory of NPT and thus has a right to acquire nuclear expertise. European countries and UN Secretary General should take steps to stop America from aggression and anti-Muslim action."

69. "Iran Parliamentary Election Results," an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (01/22)

"Parliamentary elections results in Iraq have been announced; Shia parties got 128 out of 275 seats while Sunni parties could secure only 55 seats.... America managed 55 seats for Sunnis as showpiece for the world. Iraq's Sunni and Shia population want immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops. This has also been stated by elected PM Ibrahim Jafri. America is responsible for the violence in Iraq, democracy or no democracy can't make the difference." Crocker

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