

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-00	NEA-00	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OIC-00	PA-00	TFBI-00	ACE-00	TEST-00	USIE-00
	SA-00	R-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	NFAT-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1196

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

NSC WASHDC 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

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA IMMEDIATE

HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA IMMEDIATE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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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: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PAKISTANI ANTI-TERROR EFFORTS;
 PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION; U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; IRAQ:
 ANTI-U.S. UPRISING; MIDEAST: BUSH ENDORSEMENT

(April 21, 2004)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
 DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2011 200908726

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MR Highlights: Following several days of controversy caused by the media-reported remarks by Amb. Khalilzad that "Pakistan needs to do more," reported positive comments this morning by Secretary Rumsfeld, Gen. Pace, and Gen. Barno have provided some good news to an excited Pakistan press. Headlines such as: "US Satisfied With Pak Cooperation" and "Pakistan Made Bold Moves Against Terrorists" (paras 1-5) were prominently played up, and papers used it as an opportunity to remind the readers that "such positive statements from the U.S. are coming immediately after one of its Ambassadors asked Pakistan 'to do more'."

Along with front-page stories announcing that her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has decided not to accept the government's offer to go to Switzerland, there is also a story that Benazir Bhutto has offered "to share power with President Musharraf" (paras 6-7).

While the news pages of the papers have moved on, editorial pages are still somewhat fixated with Ambassador Khalilzad's remarks. Today the point of reference is the MFA's reaction to Ambassador Khalilzad's remarks; papers throw their own weight behind the MFA spokesman. "Pakistan should ask the U.S. to keep its envoy in his limits and mind his language so that Zalmay Khalilzad would not repeat this stupid thing again." (para 12, 13, 14, 15, 16). End highlights.

-- News Stories/Pakistani Anti-Terror Efforts

1. "Pakistan's Cooperation Is Very Good: US" "Daily Times" (04/21)

Quote: US Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld on Tuesday said the United States appreciated the "degree of cooperation" that the US "is currently receiving from Pakistan." He characterized the cooperation from Pakistan along the Afghan-Pakistan border as "very good." Secretary Rumsfeld was responding to a query at the Pentagon on reported accusations by US Ambassador to Kabul Zalmay Khalilzad, that Pakistan was not doing enough against foreign terrorists hiding in its tribal areas.... End quote.

2. "US Satisfied With Pak Cooperation" "The News" (04/21)

Quote: US Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld Tuesday

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said the United States appreciates the "degree of cooperation" that the US "is currently receiving from Pakistan." He characterized the degree of cooperation from Pakistan along the Afghan-Pakistan border, as "very good." Secretary Rumsfeld was responding to a query in the press briefing at the Pentagon, on the reported accusations by the US Ambassador to Kabul, Zalmay Khalilzad that Pakistan was not doing enough against the foreign terrorist elements feared to be hiding in tribal areas.... End quote.

3. "Pakistan Offering Best Cooperation, Says Rumsfeld with a Reference to Zalmay Khalilzad Statement" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (04/21)

Quote: U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has praised high level of cooperation by Pakistan. He said that the extent of Pakistani cooperation at Pak-Afghan border was worth praising. He said so at a press briefing at Pentagon with a reference to American Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad's statement in which he had said that Pakistan was not doing enough against foreign terrorists in its tribal areas. End quote.

4. "Pakistan Has Disrupted Al-Qaeda Network: US" "Dawn" (04/21)

Quote: Top US military commander in Afghanistan has credited Pakistan for successfully disrupting the Al Qaeda network in tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, saying it had significantly affected its ability to support a suspected Taliban insurgency across the border in Afghanistan. The Commander of the US-led forces in Afghanistan, Lt-Gen David Barno, made these remarks in an interview in Kabul that appeared in "New York Times" (NYT) on Tuesday. Notably these remarks from the US Commander came just a day after a statement by the US Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad that "Pakistan should do more" on this front. The statement had evoked a hard-hitting response from Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman who insisted on Monday that "Pakistan is doing more than enough" and announced: "We will lodge a protest with the US government on the foolish and irresponsible utterances by the US Ambassador in Kabul."... End quote.

5. "Pakistan Made Bold Moves Against Terrorists: US General" "The Nation" (04/21)

Quote: A couple of days after United States Ambassador

in Kabul Zalmay Khalilzad accused Pakistan of not doing enough to check the activities of Al-Qaeda and Taliban remnants, the top American general in Afghanistan gave full marks to Islamabad for making 'bold moves' against the terrorist groups. In what amounted to be a snub to the Afghan-born Khalilzad, Lt. Gen. David Barno said that Pakistan had successfully disrupted Al-Qaeda's network in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and significantly affected its ability to support the Taliban insurgency across the border. In Islamabad, taking strong exception to Khalilzad's statement, Foreign Office Spokesman Masood Khan said Monday that Pakistan will be lodging a protest with the US government over his irresponsible utterances. General Barno, who was interviewed by the New York Times in Kabul, commended the Pakistani military for its 'bold moves' against foreign fighters in the Pakistani tribal area of Waziristan in March, and said it had so far prevented an anticipated spring offensive by the Taliban in Afghanistan.... End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

6. "We Are Willing to Find the Middle Ground with President Musharraf without Compromising on Principles: Benazir Bhutto," "Jang" (04/21)

Quote: Chairperson of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians has yet again extended her offer of

sharing power with President Musharraf saying "we are willing to find the middle ground with President Musharraf without compromising on basic principles". Talking to a private television channel, she said in order to reach a "meaningful settlement of the issues, President Musharraf will have to accept our conditions". When asked to comment on the alleged differences within the rulers, she said something is "brewing" and a lot is going to happen very soon. End quote.

7. "Musharraf Refuses To Let Him Proceed Abroad As Free Man" "Daily Times" (04/21)

Quote: Asif Ali Zardari, the detained spouse of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, on Tuesday turned down the government's offer to travel to Switzerland and appear in a Swiss court as a prisoner, after President Musharraf refused to let him go abroad as a free man.... Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed had claimed at a press conference to have with him a handwritten

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request from Mr. Zardari to have the President release him from jail. But Senator Babar categorically said that this request should not be misconstrued as a 'mercy petition'. "It has been our long-standing demand that Mr. Zardari be released. But there is no question of filing a mercy petition," Senator Babar said, adding that Mr. Zardari's decision to appear in the Swiss court, if the hearing is deferred, would be made at the time of next hearing keeping in view doctors' advice. PPP-P spokesman Senator Farhatullah Babar told "Daily Times."... End quote.

8. "Jammat-e-Islami Threatens To Launch Campaign Against Aga Khan Foundation," "Ummat" (04/21)

Quote: The Chief of the Jammat-e-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad has warned the Aga Khan Foundation not to become a stooge of the United States and keep itself away from the educational system of Pakistan. Otherwise, he said, a campaign would be launched against it. End quote.

-- U.S.-Pak Relations

9. "U.S. Cooperation in Agriculture Sector to Continue" "The Nation" (04/21)

Quote: The United States on Tuesday said it would continue to cooperate with Pakistan for the development of agriculture sector as both the states enjoyed long-term relationship. Addressing a press conference at National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), the U.S. Deputy Secretary Department of Agriculture, James Moseley said, "U.S. has a long-term relationship with Islamabad and we hope it would enhance in the coming years."... End quote.

-- Iraq: Anti-U.S. Uprising

10. "22 Dead In Baghdad Prison Attack" "The News" (04/21)

Quote: Twenty-two prisoners were killed and nearly 100 were injured on Tuesday when 12 mortar rounds slammed into a detention facility west of Baghdad, US military officials said. Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, the US-led coalition's deputy director of military operations, told a press conference that the rounds hit the Baghdad Confinement Facility administered by the coalition at Abu Gharib, 20 kilometers west of the Iraqi capital.

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Ninety-two people were injured and 25 of the most badly hurt were taken away by helicopter, some to the fortified green zone in the center of Baghdad for treatment, a spokesman for the US-led coalition said....
End quote.

11. "Prisoners in Baghdad Jail, Mujahideen in Fallujah Bombed, 30 Iraqis Martyred, 100 Wounded; Honduras to Withdraw Troops in Six to Eight Weeks; If Situation Turned More Dangerous Then We will be Forced to Withdraw Troops: Thailand" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (04/21)

Quote: Mortar attack on Abu Gharib jail resulted in the death of 22 prisoners and injuries to 100 of the inmates.... According to BBC those killed were all Iraqis arrested for attacking American troops. Honduras President has announced that his country would soon call back 368 of its troops from Iraq.... Thailand Prime Minister has said that if the situation in Iraq turned more dangerous and it became difficult to continue humanitarian work in Iran then he would be constrained to call back Thai troops from Iraq. End quote.

Editorials/Opinions: Watch list Items

-- Pakistani Anti-Terror Efforts

12. "Conduct Unbecoming," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (04/21)

Quote: ... Mr. Khalilzad's thoughtless remarks will make no difference to the degree of understanding between Islamabad and Washington on the broad contours of the fight against terror. The campaign against Al-Qaeda and Taliban is not going to be easy. Both enjoy a degree of support among certain sections of the population in Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal belt. Mr. Khalilzad, who is an American of Afghan origin, would do a better job if he gave some advice to the Kabul authorities on how to tackle the terrorists who still exist in Afghanistan and who often cross over into Pakistan. End quote.

13. "Zalmay Khalilzad's nonsense" an editorial in the Islamabad-based Urdu daily "Jinnah" (04/21)

Quote: Pakistan has taken a strong note of the recent

statement by the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan and has rejected it as a "foolish utterance." Masood Ahmad Khan, the spokesman of Pakistani Foreign office said in his news briefing that Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad is not aware of diplomatic norms and that he is trying to create misunderstandings between the U.S. administration and the government of Pakistan.... The U.S. Ambassador has no right to interfere in the internal affairs of a third country.... Pakistan should ask the U.S. that it should keep its envoy within his limits. Zalmay Khalilzad must be advised that he should mind his language, so that he

does not repeat this stupid comment once again.... End quote.

14. "Irresponsibility of American Ambassador to Afghanistan," an editorial in the Lahore-based popular Urdu daily "Din" (04/21)

Quote: The reaction of foreign office spokesperson appears to be harsh and bitter as words like 'foolish' or 'irresponsible' are seldom used. However, if we look at the attitude of U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad, which he has consistently demonstrated, then Pakistan spokesperson's choice of words would not appear objectionable.... This is worth noting that there is a yawning gap between the points of view of the U.S. administration and the U.S. ambassador to Kabul vis-...-vis Pakistan's role and performance against terrorism.... The attitude of expatriate Afghan and U.S. Ambassador shows that he lacks diplomatic training otherwise he would have known that diplomats talk only about the host country and that too through official channels only. End quote.

15. "What To Complain Of U.S. Ambassador," an editorial in the sensationalist Urdu daily, "Ummat" (04/21)

Quote: There is no denying the fact that the U.S. government wants to get its interests served by the government of Pakistan through the use of flattery and sycophancy. Pakistan very actively participated in the setting up and strengthening of Karzai government in place of Taliban in Afghanistan but the U.S. government was never fully satisfied. The latest accusations by U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in this regard are nothing new but a continuation of the "carrot and stick" policy as revealed by Condoleeza Rice the other day. We want to point out to our Foreign Office that Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad is not suffering from any "attention

deficit disorder" but he is doing whatever job he has been assigned by the U.S. End quote.

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16. "You Have Produced This Melancholia," an editorial in the Karachi-based, right-wing, pro-Islamic unity Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (04/21)

Quote: It goes without saying that nobody else but the subsequent Pakistani governments have been responsible for the careless discourses that the U.S. Ambassadors and diplomats have got engaged in with reference to Pakistan. Albeit late, it is good that Pakistan has made an attempt to shut up the U.S. Ambassador in Afghanistan. We hope that gradually Pakistan would also try to control the language [used by the] U.S. ambassador to Pakistan and other experts sitting in the U.S. State Department. End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

17. "Asif Zardari will not go along," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (04/21)

Quote: ... Has the government made a deal with Mr. Zardari which might include letting him off the hook through the ruse of jumping parole? Or is the

government setting a trap for him? We think it is the latter. In the event, Mr. Zardari is most likely to see through it and refuse to fall for it. He is likely to reckon that a senior NAB representative had not long ago visited Geneva and talked to the judicial authorities there. No one knows what kind of a deal was struck during that visit. It is possible that an 'arrangement' was agreed upon whereby Mr. Zardari could be detained after the trial hearing in Geneva and sent to jail to serve the sentence he has been awarded and then handed back to Pakistan to be jailed again. This strategy would be a win-win for the government. It would discredit Mr. Zardari while keeping him in prison all the time. But the truth of the matter is that a fair-and-square handing-over of Mr. Zardari to the Swiss authorities is not possible because Pakistan has no extradition treaty with Switzerland that allows the signatories to formally ask for the transfer of alleged or convicted criminals within their jurisdictions.... End quote.

-- Iraq: Anti-U.S. Uprising

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18. "Bloody April," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (04/21)

Quote: ... The ceasefire at Falluja agreed on Sunday, end of its siege by the US and promise of a \$77 million reconstruction plan of the town might, apart from providing Washington some sense of relief, suggest that the days of Iraqis' agony and US's bewilderment are coming to an end, though it would be premature at this stage to say whether the peace holds. The only viable guarantee lies in Washington's realization that the attack was a fatal blunder and that it is time to pack up, leaving the charge of the troubled land to UN's care with the intention that sovereignty passes on to Iraqis in due course. End quote.

19. "Announcement of Spanish Troops Withdrawal from Iraq," an editorial note in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (04/21)

Quote: Spain's newly elected Prime Minister has announced that he has ordered Spanish troops in Afghanistan to return to the country. Like Britain, Spain was in the forefront in the American adventurism against Iraq, but now Spain's policy has taken a 180-degree turn with the success of Socialist Party in the election. America should learn a lesson from the change and end aggression against Iraq. End quote.

20. "Unwarranted Threat to Syria," an editorial in the Islamabad rightist English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (04/21)

Quote: ... The Iraqi people are in greater misery today than they were under Saddam. As for the Syrian connection, it's a matter of record that Washington had threatened to target Syria and Iran even before launching aggression against Iraq. The US should, therefore, mend its ways in Iraq rather than blaming other countries of interference. It's in her own interest to keep its hands off Syria, as any attempt to target Damascus will drift US to deeper crisis both in

the regional as well as in international context....
End quote.

-- Mideast: Bush Endorsement

21. "Assassination Is Kosher," an op-ed by Shireen M.

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Quote: ... The only way to deal with the new norms is to maintain favorable positions on the ground and a psychological strength in oneself. The old rules of the game are on their way out, the new ones are just coming into play - in between anarchy is taking over and there is space for maneuver if we are prepared psychologically. Did you know the difference between assassination and murder? According to the Oxford Reference Dictionary, murder is the "intentional and unlawful killing of one person by another" (it does not have to be by violent means); assassination refers to killing 'an important person' by "violent means usually for political or religious motives." So, while murder may remain unlawful in most societies, assassinations will soon become kosher worldwide, if the new trend catches on! God help us all! End quote. Powell

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