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

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; DESECRATION

OF THE HOLY QURAN; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM; INDIA-

PAKISTAN RELATIONS; PAK-TURKEY RELATIONS; PAKISTAN

POLITICAL SITUATION; UN EXPANSION; MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS

DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2011 200908726

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(June 02, 2005)

MR Highlights: The issue of the alleged desecration of the Quran is still alive, although not as intense as it was when it began more than a month ago. "Desecration Of The Holy Quran: Senate Of Pakistan Demands Impartial Investigation Through International Tribunal" reads a headline in country's largest Urdu daily "Jang" (para 4). Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's meeting with his Turkish counterpart in Ankara is a major story in the papers today. "Pakistan, Turkey To Cooperate In Defense Industry: Increase In Trade Volume Discussed" (para 20).

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher's remarks on al Libbi's extradition to the U.S. is widely reported in the Pakistani press. The headline in independent "The Daily Times" reads: "Libbi's extradition Not Discussed Yet: says Boucher" (para 8).

On the editorial pages, the Lahore-based Urdu daily, "Din" questions President Musharraf's assertion on CNN that Pakistan's war against terror is being waged because it is in "Pakistan's interest." The paper writes, "... the nation is not willing to buy this argument, because the 700 terrorists" Pakistan has handed over to the U.S. so far were always present in Pakistan's tribal areas, even before 9/11. "Why was Pakistan's interest not so dear to President Musharraf then (before 9/11)?" (para 26). End Highlights.

-- News Stories/U.S.-Pak Relations

1. "U.S. Delegation Of Missile Technology Regime Arrives In Pakistan" "Islam" (06/02)

Quote: A delegation of the U.S. Missile Technology Regime is in Pakistan to review the issue that Pakistan is acquiring Chinese missiles. The U.S. experts have concluded their talks with the Pakistani officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this regard.... End quote.

2. "SHC Repeats Notice To U.S. Consulate-General" "The News" (website) (06/02)

Quote: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday repeated notice to the U.S. Consulate-General for June 10 on petition of a local businessman for registration of case against U.S. officials of the Consulate for allegedly

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manhandling and confining him at the Consulate-General building in March this year. Mirza Aslam Baig submitted that police refused to lodge a case against the U.S. officials, who maltreated him at Sharea Faisal near Awami Markaz on March 22 without any reason when he was on his way to office. His counsel Akhtar Channa alleged that U.S. officials, whose name to be disclosed by the Consulate General, forcibly took him to the U.S. Consulate General Building in Karachi and confined him there for hours and interrogated him. After confinement by U.S. authorities, the counsel said, the petitioner was handed over to the Artillery Police Station who after detaining him for some more hours released him ensuring he will not report this incident. The court prayed to direct police to register FIR against U.S.

officials and sent them for trial. The comments of police officials were today filed.... End quote.

-- Desecration of the Holy Quran

3. "Desecration Of The Holy Quran: U.S. Government Is Not Involved; Will Take Action Against Those Responsible: American Political Secretary," "Din" (06/02)

Quote: The U.S. has decided to take strong action against those responsible for the desecration of the Holy Quran. The U.S. government is not involved in such incidents. The U.S. is not against religious parties in Pakistan. U.S. Embassy's Political Secretary Bryan Hunt made these remarks in a meeting with Senior Vice President of the Jamiat Ulema-I-Islam Hamidul Haq Haqqani. Political Officer Divya Swami was also present in the meeting.... [Expressing views after the meeting, Hamid Haqqani said that the] American Secretary for Political Affairs said that the U.S. government would take strong action against those responsible for the desecration. End quote. (Also in "Khabrain" with the following headline, "Have decided to take strong action against those who desecrated the Holy Quran: U.S Diplomat"). End quote.

4. "Desecration Of The Holy Quran: Senate Of Pakistan Demands Impartial Investigation Through International Tribunal," "Jang" (06/02)

Quote: The Senate on Wednesday adopted a unanimous resolution on the desecration of the Holy Quran incident in Guantanamo Bay and demanded an inquiry into the

incident through an impartial and independent international tribunal. The resolution expressed its regrets and anguish over the desecration of Holy Koran at the hands of American troops. The resolution also condemned the treatment meted out to the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. End quote.

5. "Religious And Political Parties Launch Protest Demos Against The Sacrilege Of Quran, U.S. Flag Set Ablaze" "Khabrain" (06/02)

Quote: ... Some country's political and religious parties launched a protest demonstration in Rawalpindi against the incident of sacrilege of Quran. Thousands of political workers and the members of religious organizations attended the rally. They were chanting slogans against the U.S.... The speakers, while addressing the rally, demanded President Musharraf to ask the U.S. to award sentences to the perpetrators of the sacrilegious act.... End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

6. "Complete Strike In Karachi On MMA's Call" "The News" (06/02)

Quote: On the call of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, a complete and peaceful strike was observed in the metropolis on Wednesday against the killing of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Aslam Mujahid and Tahir Jamal and attack

on Madinat-ul-Ilm, Karachi, and the shrine of Bari Imam (RA) in Islamabad. Almost all the major political parties endorsed the strike call and demanded of the government to immediately wind up its business for failure in controlling the law and order situation. The PPP, the PML-N, the Tehrik-e-Insaaf and other parties have strongly condemned the incidents of killings and arson, which claimed several lives in the city. The people of Karachi positively responded to the strike call. All the major shopping centers, including Tariq Road, Bohri Bazaar and Gulf Market in Clifton remained closed. The SITE and other industrial areas also shut their businesses. There was no transaction at the port also.... End quote.

7. "U.S. In Touch With Pakistan About Al Libbi, State Department" "The Nation" (06/02)

Quote: The U.S. State Department said on Tuesday that

it was in touch with Pakistan about the suspected top Al-Qaeda member, Abu Faraj Al Libbi, but declined to confirm that he was being deported to the United States. 'We saw the comments, but the answer is no,' State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said when asked for the confirmation of President Musharraf's statement that Pakistan would deport Al Libbi, a Libyan national, to the U.S. 'I don't think there's formal process underway at this point,' Boucher told news briefing in Washington.... End quote.

8. "Libbi's Extradition Not Discussed Yet, Says Boucher" "Daily Times" (06/02)

Quote: State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Tuesday the United States was talking to Pakistan about senior al-Qaeda terrorist suspect Abu Faraj al-Libbi but had not yet discussed his extradition. Asked if extradition had come up Boucher replied, "Not at this point." Then he added, "Certainly, we're in touch with the Pakistani government about al-Libbi, and as far as where ultimately he ends up for trial or custody remains a question. I don't have an answer at this point." Al-Libbi was arrested on May 2 after a shootout in northwestern Pakistan. End quote.

9. "Musharraf May Not Know, But Usama's In Pakistan" "Daily Times" (06/02)

Quote: Gary Schroen, the CIA officer who has just published a book on his exploits in Afghanistan, says Usama Bin Laden is in Pakistan but President Musharraf may not know it and may not even want to know. According to the CIA veteran, "I can only speculate, but it is based on almost 20 years of dealing with the Pakistani military and ISI officers. I think at some level, probably the colonel level, there are officers probably in ISI who know where Bin Laden is at."... Schroen's Afghan mission was codenamed 'Jawbreaker' and met rapid success in helping to topple the Taliban, using cash, contacts and air strikes coordinated by the CIA and U.S. Special Forces. When Tora Bora was attacked, Bin Laden fled to Pakistan. Asked where Bin Laden is today, Schroen said, "He's hiding in Pakistan in the northern tribal areas above Peshawar - an area

that is rugged, hilly, heavily forested. The U.S. government and the U.S. military are not authorized by the Musharraf government to enter there unilaterally."... End quote.

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10. "Tribesmen sold Al-Qaeda suspects to US like fish"  
"Daily Times" (06/02)

Quote: A CIA agent who landed in Afghanistan with \$3 million in cash was able to pay tribal chiefs and others to turn over Al-Qaeda or Taliban elements or those suspected of being part of those outfits. The detailed account by the CIA veteran of 32 years, now out in a book, can be said to have destroyed the myth that Afghans and the Pashtoon would rather lay down their own lives than hand over to the enemy someone who has sought shelter with them. Many of those handed over for cash have turned out to be innocent of wrongdoing. According to Associated Press (AP), Gary Shroen, the former CIA officer has said that Afghan warlords like General Rashid Dostum were among those who received bundles of notes. "It may be that we were giving rewards to people like Dostum because his guys were capturing a lot of Taliban and Al-Qaeda," he said.

11. "U.S. Forces Release 53 Afghan Prisoners" "Daily Times" (06/02)

Quote: U.S. forces in Afghanistan released 53 prisoners no longer considered a threat on Wednesday, saying their freedom was a sign of peace and progress, but at least one of those set free said he had been abused. The release came days after President Hamid Karzai called for custody of all Afghan prisoners in US detention following an outcry over a report of prisoner abuse. "This is a gesture of friendship with the government of Afghanistan and a sign of peace that symbolizes continued progress towards a united Afghanistan," U.S. military spokesman Colonel Jim Yonts told a news conference. The "low-level combatants" had been detained for attacks on civilians, U.S.-led or Afghan government forces, he said. The men, all Afghans, were being set free from U.S. bases at Bagram, near Kabul. The United States is holding more than 500 prisoners from its war on terrorism at the Guantanamo Bay naval base on Cuba. Many of them were detained in Afghanistan after the Taliban overthrow in late 2001. U.S. forces are also believed to be holding several hundred Afghans in Afghanistan. Karzai's call for the return of detainees came after The New York Times last month reported details of abuse of Afghan detainees in 2002, including the deaths of two inmates at Bagram. End quote.

12. "Twenty Dead In Suicide Bombing At Afghanistan

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Quote: A suicide attack on the funeral of a key anti-Taliban cleric on Wednesday killed at least 20 people including one of Afghanistan's top policemen and wounded 40 in the southern city of Kandahar. The blast ripped through a mosque in the center of the city, the birthplace of the hard-line Islamic Taliban regime that was ousted by U.S.-led forces three and a half years ago, as hundreds of mourners gathered inside. The

attack was the worst in Afghanistan this year and one of the most serious since the fall of the Taliban, which gave shelter and support to Usama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. End quote.

13. "Forty-Five Including 15 Americans Killed In Afghanistan," "Islam" (06/02)

Quote: At least fifteen American troops were killed and several others injured in the Paktika and Khost province of Afghanistan as a result of Taliban attack. End quote.

14. "100,000 Afghan Refugees Returned During Last Quarter," "Jang" (06/02)

Quote: United Nations High Commission for Refugees has said that some 100,000 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan during the last three months. It said that the target of voluntarily sending back some 400,000 refugees would be achieved this year. End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

15. "Advani Proposes Joint Parliamentary Friendship Body" "The News" (06/02)

Quote: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President and opposition leader in Indian Lok Sabha LK Advani on Wednesday proposed formation of a parliamentary friendship association between the parliaments of Pakistan and India. "I have proposed the formation of a parliamentary friendship association to the Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan," he said in a brief chat with reporters at the Parliament House here after meeting Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain.... End quote.

16. "BJP Backs Indo-Pakistan Peace Process, Says

Quote: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supports the ongoing India-Pakistan peace process and any assertion to the contrary is without foundation, according to BJP leader Jaswant Singh. The former Indian External Affairs Minister, who is on a short visit to the United States, was answering a question from "Daily Times." When asked if it was true that the BJP might at some point try to derail the process, he replied, "How can we? We started it." To the observation that there were doubts on that count in certain quarters, he replied in Urdu, "Vaiham ka ilaj tau Hakim Luqman ke paas bhi nahin tha." Translated roughly, it means that apprehensions that have no basis in reality were hard to fight.... End quote.

17. "Peace Process Backed By Opposition: Leaders Meet Advani" "Dawn" (06/02)

Quote: Veteran Indian politician Lal Krishan Advani held separate meetings with MMA leader Maulana Fazlur Rahman and a People's Party Parliamentarians team here on Wednesday. Mr. Advani called on Maulana Fazl in his Parliament House chamber where they also addressed a joint press conference after the meeting. Later, a PPP delegation led by Makhdoom Amin Fahim met Mr. Advani at his hotel. Speaking at the press conference, Mr. Advani and Maulana Fazl said the current peace process between Pakistan and India was irreversible and would ultimately lead to the resolution of all contentious issues. Both leaders called for exchange of more visits between Indian and Pakistani parliamentarians to improve relations. "The peace process has become irreversible as people from both sides, belonging to all sections of the society desire settlement of disputes," Mr. Advani said. The BJP leader said he would talk to the Indian Lok Sabha speaker regarding setting up of a joint friendship association of parliamentarians to boost ties between the two countries. He urged elected representatives of both sides to play their role in strengthening relations between the two countries.... End quote.

18. "Hurriat Leaders To Get Warm Welcome: Anwar" "The News" (06/02)

Quote: Leaders of All Parties Hurriat Conference arriving here on Thursday (today) would be accorded a

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warm welcome, President of Azad Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Anwar Khan said on Wednesday. In an interview with AJK television, he highlighted the significance of the "historic" visit of the APHC leadership. He said the visit would enable Kashmiri leaders from both parts of the Himalayan state to exchange views and coordinate their efforts in the quest for a solution to the Kashmir dispute.... End quote.

19. "Dialogue With Hurriat Conference Necessary; Could Hold Talks With Militants As Well," "Jang" (06/02)

Quote: The head of Bhartiya Janta Party, Lal Krishan Advani, who is currently on a visit to Pakistan, has said that it was necessary to hold talks with the leaders of Hurriat Conference. He said that he has even no objection to begin dialogue with the Kashmiri militants. End quote.

-- Pak-Turk Relations

20. "Pakistan, Turkey To Cooperate In Defense Industry: Increase In Trade Volume Discussed" "Dawn" (06/02)

Quote: Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to step up efforts to boost trade and cooperation in defense industry, the leaders of the two countries said here on Wednesday. "This visit is a turning point in our relations in terms of our desire to raise the level of cooperation between our countries," Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said at a joint news conference with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan here on Wednesday. The trade volume between the two countries should be increased to at least one billion dollars from the current level of \$400 million, he said.... End quote.

21. "Turkey For Quick Kashmir Resolution" "The News" (06/02)

Quote: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday expressed commonality of views on regional and global issues as Turkey called for the resolution of the decades-old Kashmir dispute "as soon as possible". The two leaders told reporters after their formal talks that they discussed the entire gambit of bilateral relations and regional and international issues including Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iran, the Middle East and proposed UN reforms and Cyprus. "We believe that all approaches by

Pakistan for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue are very positive and we appreciated these approaches," the Turkish Prime Minister said. "Turkey fully supports Pakistan on Kashmir. This problem should be tackled as soon as possible. There should be no more bloodshed, no more loss of life," he said, calling for a fair and just resolution of the dispute. Shaukat Aziz said that Pakistan was holding a composite dialogue with India to resolve all outstanding issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He also reiterated Pakistan's full support to Turkey on Northern Cyprus. "Whatever steps Turkey has outlined on this issue, we have said that we will support them 100 per cent," he said and hoped this will promote peace and harmony in Cyprus.... End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

22. "Differences On National Security Council In MMA Are Not Serious Issue: Qazi Hussain Ahmad" "Mashriq" (06/02)

Quote: ... Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the Chief of MMA and the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, has said that whatever he wrote in his letter to the general council of MMA, was an internal matter of the alliance and this issue would be discussed within the MMA.... Addressing a convention in Lahore, Qazi Hussain said that all the government institutions were working under the direct supervision of Pakistan Army. 'The National Security Council is an infringement of our democratic rights', he said.... End quote.

-- UN Expansion

23. "China Likely To Veto Move To Expand UNSC" "Dawn" (06/02)

Quote: China has indicated that it would use its veto power to block a proposed resolution by G-4 states to expand the UN Security Council and give permanent seats to Japan, Germany, India and Brazil. China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said in an interview: "I think what has been proposed by G-4 is very dangerous, so as far as China is concerned, we will work with others to see that this will not happen". G-4 states - Japan, Germany, India and Brazil - circulated the resolution on May 16 and indicated they would put it to a vote in the General Assembly session in June. Wang said the resolution would split the UN membership, and if the G-4

push for a vote "the whole atmosphere in this house would be undermined and would be destroyed."... End quote.

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 Editorials/Opinions  
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-- Desecration of the Holy Quran

24. "Who Is A Liar: American General or White House?"  
 an op-ed by Tanveer Qaiser Shahid in the center-right  
 Urdu daily "Pakistan" (06/02)

Quote: The White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said, "We doubt allegations of desecration of the Holy Quran made by detainees at Guantanamo Base. These allegations have been made by detainees who were trained by Al-Qaeda to tell lies and make false accusations. The U.S. State Department has as yet not received any confirmation of these allegations." It is strange that on the day that Mr. McClellan made these remarks, American newspapers carried a statement by a U.S. General which negates his [White House Spokesman's] statement and confirms the desecration incident.... These newspapers are neither owned by 'Al-Qaeda' nor are they published by the Taliban so the U.S. administration cannot say that these papers are telling lies as they were trained to do so. End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

25. "Abu Faraj's Extradition to America," an editorial  
 note in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (06/02)

Quote: President Pervez Musharraf has disclosed in interview with CNN that Abu Faraj has been handed over to America and he might have been shifted to America by now.... According to FBI's most wanted list, Abu Faraj was not wanted by America and State Department briefing yesterday said that America hasn't demanded Abu Faraj's custody. Following Abu Faraj's arrest Sheikh Rashid, Information Minister, had clearly stated that he would not be handed over to America, but now President Musharraf has confirmed his extradition. The people of Pakistan can only express their surprise over these contradictory statements. End quote.

26. "President Musharraf's Address To The CNN  
 Conference And Two Questions," an op-ed by Qayyum Nizami

in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (06/02)

Quote: Bob Woodward writes in his book [Bush at War] that President Bush said, "It seems as if we have got everything." There is no need to analyze this statement; readers can understand how the U.S. got the [Pakistani] leadership to acquiesce to its demands beyond its imagination. So if President Musharraf now says that he is fighting a war for Pakistan's interests, the nation is not willing to buy this argument because the 700 terrorists Pakistan has handed to the U.S. were present in Pakistan's tribal areas even before 9/11. Why was Pakistan's interest not dear to President Musharraf then? The journalist's question seemed appropriate and justified that President Musharraf gave extraordinary cooperation to the U.S. but did not extract a reasonable price for it in return... While Pakistan might have handed over 700 terrorists to the

U.S., the government has been unable to control sectarianism, which is purely a problem for the nation. Is controlling these terrorists not in Pakistan's interests? End quote.

27. "Gulag Of Our Times," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (06/02)

Quote: President Bush and a large section of the U.S. press appear incensed by the statement of the Amnesty International secretary-general that the American-run prison facilities at Guantanamo Bay are "the gulag of our times". Mr. Bush has termed the comparison as absurd while a number of U.S. papers are of the view that the excesses committed at Guantanamo bear no resemblance to those perpetrated on prisoners sent to forced labor camps in Stalin's Soviet Union. One cannot dismiss American feelings as being unnecessarily sensitive on a matter of semantics. It is worth recalling the anger unleashed in the Muslim world when, soon after the events of 9/11, Mr. Bush referred to the struggle against terrorism as a "crusade". Moreover, millions perished in the Siberian gulags which, for the sheer scale of physical and mental torture endured by the inmates, may have few parallels in history. Nevertheless, Amnesty's strongly worded condemnation reflects the growing resentment of millions across the globe at the increasingly unilateralist posture of muscle flexing that the U.S. has come to adopt. Guantanamo has been among the worst manifestations of

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this. Human rights bodies, journalists, former inmates, even servicemen, have pointed to the rampant physical and mental abuse of the prisoners who, until last year, had no way of challenging their detention in a court of law. Many were subsequently released without charge when even brutal interrogation methods failed to elicit any useful information from those who must now bear the burden of lifelong memories of physical and mental trauma. Neither the Bush administration nor the US press can afford to whitewash America's sins by raising objections to Amnesty's criticism. While comparisons with the hated communists might be a blow to America's ego, the failure to recognize the deviations from the democratic principles on which the country was founded will serve to alienate it even further from the world community. End quote.

28. "Karachi KFC And Our Image Abroad," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (06/02)

Quote: ... The mob that set fire to the KFC outlet brought down the shutters of the restaurant and stood outside to prevent anyone from rescuing the employees trapped inside. The Shia youth vented their rage on an apparently American symbol because of what their not-so-well-informed leaders had obviously told them. Such "symbolic" acts of vandalism have happened in the past too, but the latest incident was gruesome in the extreme. First of all, there was not a dollar of American money invested in the KFC that was burnt. All the investment was local and the employees were from the poor class learning to be useful in the catering

service. The news of what the mob has done to them has already spread around the world. The subliminal message is that Pakistan is not safe even for domestic investment and that granting franchises is tantamount to inviting violence from the local religious communities. If Islamabad is sincere in trying to integrate Pakistan's economy into the global economy, it should do something about this xenophobic trend encouraged by the illiterate cleric. All countries of the Third World are trying hard to create linkages with the global economy to achieve quicker growth rates through foreign investment. Pakistan on the other hand is busy rolling back the investment from domestic sources. To stem this trend, the government must immediately provide protection to the franchises that offer opportunities of dignified employment and punish the criminals who killed

the six KFC employees in Karachi. End quote.

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29. "Sponsored Terrorism," letter to the Editor in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (06/02)

Quote: History is an unforgiving and tenacious taskmaster for Pakistan, as the country has so far refused to learn that it cannot compartmentalize Islamic terrorism by sponsoring it in Indian Kashmir, Afghanistan and, of course, within its own borders, especially when Islamic terrorists threaten the security of the president or ministers.... It is the same extremist Sunni mullahs, militants and a section of Pakistan's establishment who want to continue cross-border terrorism in India and Afghanistan as well as eliminate Shias and other religious minorities in Pakistan. President Musharraf, the government and Pakistan's media must remove their blinkers and fight against 'all' terrorism, whether it is within or beyond Pakistan's borders. The terrorists are surely leading the country towards civil war. While the country is burning, political and non-political fiddlers are busy making their proverbial music. Western leaders are also responsible because they have not forced President Musharraf to shut down all terrorist camps and infrastructure in all Pakistan-controlled areas. It is not only about the country's well being, the fight against global Islamic terrorism and the security of the world could be threatened if Pakistan disintegrates. In such an unfortunate event, Islamic terrorists and extremists could gain control of the country's nukes. End quote.

30. "U.S. Policies Should Change Director, Not Name," letter to the Editor in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (06/02)

Quote: ... Opposition against the U.S. is springing all over the world because of its unjustified foreign policies. The attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq are the cause of a new generation of opposition against the U.S. Moreover, what U.S. soldiers did in Abu Gharib and in Guantanamo Bay has really damaged the country's image before its allies. If the U.S. government has not understood the full danger of extremism, then the people of the U.S. should at least feel it and rise against their country's inappropriate policies. Instead of

finding the root cause of violation, which is increasing

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day by day, U.S. experts give a new name to their mission. If they do not stop their attacks against oppressed countries then the threat of violent extremism will increase immensely even within the U.S. and destroy the country. After that there will be no expert to suggest a new name for U.S. policies. End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

31. "Advani In Islamabad," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (06/02)

Quote: BJP leader L.K Advani has said there is an understanding between him and General Musharraf that peace is the only option between India and Pakistan and that the process should be taken to its logical end. While recalling that the peace process was set in motion under the BJP government, he paid tribute to General Musharraf, as without his commitment to fight terrorism there would not have been a breakthrough.... Mr. Advani says General Musharraf agrees the process of dialogue should continue in an atmosphere of mutual trust and free of violence. This can happen only if there is an understanding over a time frame for the resolution of the outstanding issues. Open-ended discussions that fail to produce results are likely to cause frustration and give birth to cynicism. End quote.

32. "A Kashmir Timeframe," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (06/02)

Quote: President Musharraf in his meeting with visiting BJP President L.K. Advani has rightly emphasized the need for a timeframe on Kashmir.... It was indeed a positive sign when the right-wing Hindu nationalist leader thanked the President for having played a key role in normalizing Indo-Pak relations.... Advani's visit also reflects the fact that the radical lobby within the BJP is now reading the popular sentiments in India that support peace and coexistence with Pakistan.... However, Mr. Advani and his ilk will have to work harder to develop their credentials as trustworthy partners in peace, considering their role over the past decades in creating an atmosphere of animosity in the region. End quote.

33. "Peace Process: 'dj... vu'?" an op-ed by Najmuddin A. Shaikh in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (06/02)

Quote: ... It is sad that the recent inconclusive negotiations on Siachen and Sir Creek suggest that the abandonment of cynicism with regard to Indo-Pakistan relations was premature. It is "deja vu" rather than a fresh start that we saw in the bland statements issued after the inconclusive talks on both subjects, which could speak only of a better understanding of each other's viewpoints and could not even indicate dates on which the negotiations would be resumed....

Surprisingly, the Indian Army Chief of Staff proposed on the very day that the Siachen negotiations were to commence that India and Pakistan should authenticate the LoC in the Siachen region (i.e. the entire 100 km length

that the line would run from point NJ 9842) to "ensure that there are no complications after demilitarization".... A perverse Indian attitude and the forsaking of an opportunity, however, makes sense if the Indian intent is what the Indian chief of army staff has, in effect, said and that is that the talks should be used to force Pakistan to accept the Indian interpretation of the Karachi agreement and to have an LoC defined along the lines India wants in anticipation of whatever settlement is reached on Kashmir.... End quote.

-- Mideast Peace Process

34. "Ill-conceived Statement On Recognition of Israel," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (06/02)

Quote: Speaking at CNN World Report Conference, President Musharraf said that if Palestinian state is established Pakistan would recognize Israel.... If government really has this kind of approach, it should divest itself of such a notion. This kind of thinking would weaken our stand on Kashmir and Pakistan would fall from grace in Palestine and Arab world. Talking of Israel recognition in the era of Israeli oppression is tantamount to rubbing salt in the wounds of Palestinian people. End quote.

35. "Looking For An Excuse," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (06/02)

Quote: The President's public utterances have, for some time past, given strong indications that he was looking for some kind of an excuse to recognize Israel. This

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also became evident from the response he gave to a question at a forum organized by CNN.... The talk of Israel and its recognition by Islamabad under these circumstances must remain a taboo. Recognition by Pakistan is too premature to even refer to. Islamabad must not lose sight of the fact that like Tel Aviv, New Delhi is steadfastly refusing to implement UN resolutions about the land it illegally occupies. Palestinians and Kashmiris are sailing in the same boat. Forsaking one would lead to forsaking the other. And there appears to be no other way to get justice for Kashmiris than through the implementation of these resolutions.... End quote. Crocker

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