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ACTION INR-00

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	DS-00	MEDE-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	TEDE-00
	IO-00	L-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00	GIWI-00
	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00
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 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
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 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 016297

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
 SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PPD, DRL
 LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
 CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
 USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
 SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: MEDIA SUMMARY: AUGUST 18, 2006

Summary: Based on an Embassy press release, report of the U.S. grant

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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UNCLASSIFIED

of seventy million dollars for quake-hit areas was prominently displayed by the media on Friday. "U.S. Charge d' Affaires Peter Bodde announced the USAID grant that will improve health and education services in the earthquake-affected areas," reports daily "The Nation" (para 1).

An official of the Pakistan National Crisis Management Cell, who recently visited Washington, was quoted by media as saying that the U.S. is willing to release all but one Pakistani prisoner from the Guantanamo Bay prison (para 2). Reports from Peshawar indicate that the authorities have set "as many as seven foreigners free," who were languishing in the jail for their alleged links with Al Qaeda, and handed them over to the Al-Khidmat Foundation (para 6).

Newspapers also quote President Musharraf as setting "doable parameters, short of independence, for resolving the Kashmir dispute" (para 11).

Commenting on the Lebanon war, renowned and widely read columnist Ayaz Amir, writes in the center-left independent English daily "Dawn" that with its victory over Israel, Hezbollah and its leader, Hasan Nasrallah, "now take their place among the immortals" (para 16). Second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" notes in its editorial that "Israel could not succeed even after spending \$ 5.75 billion on the war" (para 19). End Summary.

News Stories

1. "U.S. to Give \$70m for Quake Hit Areas" "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) and "Nawa-e-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (08/18)

"The Charge d'Affaires in Pakistan Peter Bodde Thursday announced the awarding of US Agency for International Development Earthquake Reconstruction grants worth \$70 million to international and Pakistani non-governmental organizations that will improve health and education services in the earthquake-affected areas and the create economic opportunities for the local population...."

2. "U.S. Willing To Release All Pak Prisoners At Gitmo But One - 26 Pakistanis Still In United States Custody" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (08/18)

"The United States is willing to release all Pakistani nationals detained in Camp X-ray of Guantanamo Bay except one man alleged to have financed Al Qaeda operations. Senior Pentagon officials in Washington gave this assurance to a two-member team of the National Crisis Management Cell (NCMC) headed by Colonel Imran that also visited Camp X-ray and held individual meetings with all six

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Pakistani nationals detained there. NCMC Director General Brig (r) Javed Iqbal Cheema told journalists that the US authorities would soon release two Pakistani nationals, Muhammad Haleem Siddiqui and Zia Shah...."

3. "US Reluctant to Release 'Al Qaeda Financier'" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (08/18)

"The US authorities are reluctant to release Saifullah Paracha, allegedly one of the financiers of Al Qaeda presently languishing in the US-controlled Guantanamo Bay prison camp, according to National Crisis Management Cell (NCMC) director Col Imran, who recently visited the detention cell. "The US authorities fear that Paracha will again get involved in terrorist activities if he is released and repatriated to Pakistan," he told journalists at his office here on Thursday...."

4. "Infighting Led to Revelation" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (08/18)

"Pakistani agencies came to know about the London terror plot at least four months ago when a faction of Al-Muhajiroon passed on a list of its splinter group members allegedly involved in its planning. The Al-Muhajiroon's infighting prompted an exchange of information by Pakistani agencies with the American and British counterparts...."

5. "Jaish Denies Link To UK Terror Plot" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (08/18)

"An aide to the leader of banned militant group Jaish-i-Mohammad denied on Thursday that a British national arrested in Pakistan in connection with the plot to blow up US-bound airliners had ever been a member of the group. "This individual, Rashid Rauf, was never a member of Jaish-i-Mohammad ... and was never ever close to Maulana Masood in any capacity," said Ismail Hamza, referring to the militant group's leader, Maulana Masood Azhar...."

6. "Al-Qaeda Suspects Shifted to Al-Khidmat Foundation" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (08/18)

"As many as seven foreigners were Thursday handed over to Al-Khidmat Foundation who were languishing in the Central Prison Peshawar after law-enforcement agencies nabbed them for their alleged links with al-Qaeda. However, the foundation was bound to produce them before the court whenever they are summoned for case proceedings. The foundation submitted before the court an undertaking in this regard...."

7. "US Gives Pakistan 'Non-Paper' On BIT" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (08/18)

UNCLASSIFIED

"The United States has given a "non paper" to Pakistan that shows some flexibility for signing the much-delayed Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between the two countries soon. Sources told Dawn on Thursday that US Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker had proposed the exchange of non papers between the two sides before holding a final round of talks to conclude the treaty...."

8. "US Likely to Seek Tighter Security at Ports" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (08/18)

"U.S. authorities may ask Pakistan to tighten security at ports after unlisted items in two containers shipped from the country caused a security alert at Seattle port. The panic began when US customs agents peered through the containers using a gamma-ray device, and detected items that did not match the manifest...."

9. "New US Plan To Defuse Waziristan Militancy" "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (08/18)

"A US-backed plan to defeat militants in Pakistan's autonomous tribal areas has backfired badly, and the Bush administration is working with Pakistan to come up with a new strategy to defuse the insurrection, according to a report in McClatchy newspapers. Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf "sees that what he was doing wasn't working," said one U.S. official who's familiar with the new plan. "He really has a mess."...."

10. "Pak, India Diplomats' Movement Restricted" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (08/18)

"In an action replay of 2002 war-like tension days between Pakistan and India, the Indian diplomats are being asked not to move out of

federal capital without the prior permission of the authorities concerned. Pakistan has also been formally informed Thursday evening about the similar restrictions imposed by India on Pakistani diplomats stationed in New Delhi...."

11. "Musharraf Sets Peace Accord Parameters: 'Indian PM Sincere'" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (08/18)

"President Pervez Musharraf has set 'doable' parameters, short of independence, for resolving the Kashmir dispute, which, he says, can yield a friendship treaty with India and the withdrawal of the case from the United Nations Security Council, an Indian magazine reported on Thursday...."

12. "CIA Man Found Guilty of Assaulting Detainee" "Dawn" (cir.

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"A former CIA contractor was found guilty on Thursday of assaulting an Afghan detainee who died in custody. David Passaro, 40, was the first American civilian to be charged with torturing a detainee during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan...."

13. "Bush's Popularity Plummets" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (08/18)

"President Bush's job approval rating has dipped two points in the last three weeks, a new Zogby International telephone poll has shown. The survey was conducted between August 11 and 15 involving 1,018 respondents. Just 62 pc Republicans give him positive marks, while 38 pc rate him negatively...."

14. "'Obscene Dress' Prompts NA Ban on Channels" "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (08/18)

"The opposition protested on Thursday after National Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain effectively banned private television channels from covering proceedings. The ban came into effect because a female journalist from a private television channel interviewing members in the parliament cafeteria was deemed to be in "obscene dress"...."

Editorials/Opinions

15. "Our Dangerous Image," an op-ed by Shafqat Mahmood in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (cir. 55,000) (08/18)

"... It is ironic that our very success in thwarting plots and arresting a large number of terrorists reinforces the perception that this country is a bastion of terrorism. They are here in large numbers, is the message we give across. It is like shooting partridges; the larger the bag, the greater the indication of their abundance. Our triumphs in the war against terror have become advertisements of our failure. Our strategic importance is now entirely negative. The international community is keen to engage with us because we have the potential to cause harm. We are a nuclear weapons state that many fear could be taken over by fundamentalists because in their eyes radical Islam is on the march here...."

16. "Faith Knows no Religious Boundaries," an op-ed by Ayaz Amir in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (08/18)

"With its victory over Israel - a sampling of the Israeli press providing ample acknowledgement of this victory and ample evidence

of the gloom into which Israel has been plunged - Hezbollah and its leader, Hasan Nasrallah, now take their place among the immortals.... It must have felt great to be an Israeli in 1967. That war changed, it almost seemed eternally, the strategic calculus in the Middle East. After the second Lebanese war, Hezbollah can lay claim to changing the strategic equation. The myth of Israeli invincibility lies shattered while American arrogance and folly have been dealt a severe blow. American influence in the region stands degraded...."

17. "Responsibility of the Government and the Opposition Against Western Mudslinging" an editorial in the leading, mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (08/18)

"... Despite Pakistan's immense support in the war on terror, some very responsible British and American quarters are continuously leveling charges against Pakistan. These elements are criticizing not only Islam and Muslims, but also Pakistan. This kind of treatment is creating a perception in Pakistan that in spite of Pakistan's pivotal role in this war, it has got nothing."

18. "Behind the War...", an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (08/18)

"... This war has also exposed Israel's soft underbelly vis-`-vis manpower. As the trend of out-migration these days is starting to overtake immigration to Israel, the threat of attrition looms large for the Israeli army. This defeat has proved that for Israel the only way to survive is to realize that it must halt its expansionist agenda and make peace with the Palestinians and surrounding Arab states, while the US needs to stop supporting Israeli aggression. Otherwise the Middle Eastern region would be in constant turmoil, and Israel and the US would face growing resistance."

19. "Israel's Defeat," an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (08/18)

"Israel has constituted an enquiry commission to probe the failure of the war against Hezbollah. Israel could not succeed even after spending \$ 5.75 billion on the war.... Israel's defeat at the hands of Hezbollah is full of shame for America and its cronies. If all the Islamic countries unite then America and its allies would stand nowhere."

20. "Israel's Defeat in Lebanon," an editorial in the center-right Urdu-language daily, "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (08/18)

"The primary lesson of the Israeli adventurism against Lebanon is that use of force does not solve the problem.... During the war the London bombing conspiracy was uncovered in order to divert world's attention from the massacre in Lebanon. On this occasion President Bush coined the terminology of 'Islamic fascism,' which further alienated the people of Islamic countries...."

21. "Lebanese PM's Request for Peacekeepers," an editorial in the popular Urdu daily "Express" (08/18)

"The U.S. should also realize that issues are not resolved through war; war only complicates the matters further. It should strive to take the world towards peace."

22. "Pak Troops to Lebanon" an editorial note in Islamabad-based Popular Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (08/18)

"The Government of Pakistan is somewhat reluctant in sending troops to Lebanon as some of the neighboring Arab countries have expressed reservations on this issue. No doubt, Lebanon is our brother

country and its Prime Minister has appealed Pakistan more than once to send its forces. However, it would be better to discuss this issue in the Parliament instead of taking any individual decision."

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