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 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
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 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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 TAGS: OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA ANALYSIS: January 08-10, 2011

PAKISTAN MEDIA ANALYSIS

January 08-10, 2011

Please note that links to these stories are available for a limited time.

Summary: Prime Minister Gilani's acceptance of the 10-point "reform agenda" of PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif dominated headlines in all major newspapers on Monday. Some papers characterized Gilani as "caving in" to the opposition's demands in order to save his government.

The controversy over the Taseer assassination and the blasphemy law remained a major story throughout the weekend and on Monday. Op-ed pages in the English press over the weekend were replete with denunciations of the murder, navel-gazing over popular support for

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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the murderer, and predictions of a dark future for Pakistan unless the liberal voices speak out against the forces of intolerance, while the much more widely-read and influential Urdu press displayed no such introspection or concern. Nearly all Monday morning papers front-paged reports that tens of thousands of people rallied in Karachi against changes to the country's blasphemy law. Most carried the remarks of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazle (JUI-F) Chief Fazalur Rehman that to "bring change in blasphemy law is a U.S. agenda, as Western powers want to change Islamic laws." Several leading Urdu and English papers reported over the weekend the Washington Post's story that U.S. Vice President Joe Biden will soon visit Pakistan to announce more military and economic assistance for Pakistan. On Monday, "The News" in English front-paged a story stating that the "U.S. [is] intervening to handle the economic crisis of Pakistan" because it is displeased at the failure of the politicians to handle the country's serious economic issues. On the same day, two major Urdu papers penned editorials tying the Biden visit to other recent statements by USG officials regarding Pakistan. The Urdu daily "Express," stated "It is commendable that the U.S. has decided to provide more assistance to Pakistan, but there is a possibility that we will get a fresh list of things to do, as the U.S. does not provide aid to anyone without its own interests." The second largest Urdu daily, "Nawa-i-Waqt" decried repeated violations of Pakistani sovereignty by the U.S. and advised that Pakistan must become a self-reliant country not dependent on foreign aid, particularly from the U.S. Some English- and Urdu-language papers over the weekend commented on Ambassador Munter's Friday evening remarks at the Islamabad Program for Global Studies. Some dailies selectively interpreted or quoted the Ambassador out of context, conveying the mistaken impression that the Ambassador had said that the U.S. had a right to intervene in Pakistan's internal affairs because it gives large amounts of aid. Minor-circulation rightist daily "The Nation" went as far as to call his remarks "highly reprehensible." "The News," in an editorial published on Sunday, noted that there may be some truth in Munter's comments, but ultimately his comments are not the way to win the hearts and minds of the Pakistani people. However, more significant was a Sunday editorial in leading English daily "Dawn," which the paper published after the Embassy press officer called to complain about the paper's misleading Saturday article on the Ambassador's speech. In a wry, almost affectionate piece, the paper positively appraised the Ambassador's prescription of Pakistan's ills, opining that "even if it sounded harsh and against diplomatic convention, it is better that we have it on authority today instead of Mr. Assange telling us who thought what of us a few years down the road. . . . Since we cannot leave the grant that we are dished out, neither can we escape the occasional scolding that comes with it." End Summary.

 News Stories

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Top Stories

Gilani

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=10_01_2011_001_003
> Bends Over Backwards To Appease PML-N - "Dawn" (01/10)

"A lazy Sunday had, by the late afternoon, witnessed plenty of political excitement. The indefatigable prime minister, Yousuf Raza Gilani, refused to take the day off and called PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, putting an end to its ultimatum and the dire predictions of a PPP-PML-N divorce in Punjab and a confrontation between the two parties reminiscent of the 1990s."

Thousands Rally

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/t-3210.htm>> Against 'Changes' In Blasphemy Law - "The News" (01/10)

"Thousands of people rallied on Sunday against the attempts to

reform the blasphemy law that had also led to the murder of Governor Punjab Salmaan Taseer.... Maulana Fazlur Rehman declared that the protest rally has sent a clear message to the entire world, particularly the US, that anyone who dared to change the blasphemy law would have to meet the same fate (as that of Governor Taseer) as every person would become a Mumtaz Qadri."

Biden

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=08_01_2011_012_012
> Due In Islamabad Before Zardari Leaves For US - "Dawn" (01/09)

"The United States and Pakistan engage in high-level diplomacy next week when US Vice President Joe Biden arrives in Islamabad and President Asif Ali Zardari flies to Washington after the meeting for more consultations."

US To Offer

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/09-01-2011/ethenews/t-3192.htm>> More Military, Economic Support To Pakistan - "The News" (01/09)

"The Obama administration has decided to offer Pakistan more military, intelligence and economic support, and to intensify US efforts to forge regional peace as Vice President Joseph Biden will visit Pakistan next week to explore assistance for the country so that it could make anti-militant progress along the Afghan border according to The Washington Post on Saturday."

US Intervening To

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/t-3212.htm>> Handle Economic Situation - "The News" (01/10)

"As US Vice President Joe Biden lands in Pakistan carrying a heavy bag of concerns and complaints about Pakistani leadership's failure to handle the economic and security situation, he is, according to the Washington Post, expected to challenge the Pakistanis to articulate a long-term strategy for the region."

Munter's

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=08_01_2011_001_006
> Blunt Talk: We Pay So We Intrude- "Dawn" (01/09)

"US Ambassador Cameron Munter has justified American meddling in

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Pakistan's 'financial and governance' matters for being its largest aid provider."

Gas Supply To

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/t-3217.htm>>

Industries, CNG Stations In Punjab Halted - "The News" (01/10)

"Due to the increasing gas crisis in the country, the government has temporarily halted the supply of Sui gas to all industries and CNG stations across the Punjab province. However, the move failed to lessen the pressure for domestic consumers, who saw no respite from the low gas pressure."

Vice President Joe Biden's Forthcoming Visit to Pakistan

US

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=10_01_2011_012_006>

> Seeks Viable Alternatives To FATA Operation - "Dawn" (01/10)

"The United States and Pakistan are expected to explore an alternative to a full-fledged military operation in North Waziristan when US Vice President Joe Biden arrives in Islamabad on Wednesday."

Ambassador/Embassy

Munter Meets Malik - "The News" (01/09)

"Ambassador of the United States to Pakistan Cameron Munter called on Minister for Interior Rehman Malik here Saturday and discussed bilateral relations. They also discussed the security situation during the U.S. Vice President Joe Biden forthcoming visit to Pakistan." (Link not available)

Diversity,

<<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=24820&Cat=6&dt=1/10/2011>>

Pluralism Not Necessarily Agents Of Dissent - "The News" (01/08)

"The fourth session of the program organized by 'Islamabad Program in Global Studies' (IPGS), the 'Roundtable on the United States of America' with special focus on 'Pakistan and the United States: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Prospects.... The proceedings were conducted by Senator Saadia Abbasi and the keynote speaker was ambassador of USA, Cameron Munter.... Ambassador Munter came across as a sincere individual who is keen to promote and strengthen ties with Pakistan on the basis of respect for each others' point of view."

S-RAP Frank Ruggiero's Visit to Pakistan

US To Provide

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/08-01-2011/ethenews/e-24568.htm>> \$66m

For Gomal Zam, Satpara Dams - "The News" (01/08)

"Frank Ruggiero, acting special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, signed two agreements to provide \$66 million to complete

the Gomal Zam and Satpara dam projects."

Ruggiero, Qureshi

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/08-01-2011/ethenews/t-3184.htm>> Discuss

US Strategic Review - "The News" (01/08)

"Pakistan and the United States reviewed the recently-announced US

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Strategic Review on Afghanistan for the first time, when US Acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Frank Ruggiero met with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday at the Foreign Office."

Ruggiero Calls

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/08-01-2011/ethenews/t-3191.htm>> On Kayani - "The News" (01/08)

"Acting US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Frank J Ruggiero called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani here at the General Headquarters on Friday."

Political Issues

MQM Back To

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/08-01-2011/ethenews/t-3175.htm>> Treasury Benches - "The News" (01/08)

"Following the visit of Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) headquarter Nine Zero on Friday, the MQM Rabita Committee of Pakistan and London decided to sit on the treasury benches in the National Assembly and Senate. However, the MQM will not join the federal cabinet."

Terrorism/ Military Issues

Qadri Is Not A

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/t-3213.htm>> Religious Fanatic: Report - "The News" (01/10)

"Mumtaz Qadri, the assassin of Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer, is not a religious fanatic having extremist ideologies. This was disclosed in the initial report submitted to Interior Minister Rehman Malik."

Pakistan Will

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/e-24893.htm>> Implode If US Does Not Leave Afghanistan: Imran - "The News" (01/10)

"But, as long as the Americans push Pakistan to do more in the tribal areas, the situation will worsen - until Pakistan itself implodes, says Imran Khan in a write-up published in The Observer."

Pakistan To

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/t-3227.htm>> Contact India Over RSS Chief's Confessions - "The News" (01/10)

"Pakistan has decided to approach the Indian government both in Islamabad and in New Delhi next week, in response to the recent confession of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Swami Aseemanand that he along with other Hindu extremists had carried out the Samjhauta Express, Ajmer and Makkah Masjid bombings."

'Meddling

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=10_01_2011_012_009> To Undermine Stability' India Vows To Stay Put In Afghanistan - "Dawn" (01/10)

"Reconciliation efforts between the Taliban and the Afghan government must be led by Kabul, India's foreign minister said on Sunday, warning that outside interference could undermine the prospect of a stable Afghanistan."

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Search On for Cleric Who Motivated Assassin - "Dawn" (01/09) UNCLASSIFIED

"Investigators are looking for a cleric who had motivated Malik Mumtaz Qadri to kill Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer, sources told Dawn on Saturday." (Link not available)

US Worried Over

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/09-01-2011/ethenews/t-3208.htm>>

Increasing Extremism In Pakistan - "The News" (01/09)

"The United States has been expressing concern over the increasing extremism in Pakistan for some time and the killing of Governor Taseer is the latest example, said State Department PJ Crowley during a briefing here the other day."

Frustrated

<<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/09-Jan-2011/Frustrated-family-wants-CIA-detainees-remains>> Family Wants CIA Detainee's Remains - "The Nation" (01/09)

"The family of Gul Rahman is still trying to recover his remains for burial, months after learning that he was stripped naked, doused in cold water and then left to die in a CIA-run Afghan prison known as the Salt Pit, reported topnews360.tmcnet.com on Saturday, quoting an American news agency."

'Pakistan

<<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/09-Jan-2011/Pakistan-tops-landterrorists-ratio>> Tops

Land-Terrorists Ratio' - "The Nation" (01/09)

"Pakistan has more terrorists per square mile than any other country in the world, making it the most dangerous place on earth, claims a former CIA officer."

Pakistan,

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/08-01-2011/ethenews/t-3181.htm>>

Afghanistan Agree On Joint Peace Body - "The News" (01/08)

"Pakistan and Afghanistan Friday agreed to establish a high powered Joint Consultative Commission to pursue the peace process in Afghanistan."

Barrage

<<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/08-Jan-2011/Barrage-of-US-missiles-kills-six-in-NWA>>

Of US Missiles Kills Six In NWA - "The Nation" (01/09)

"At least six persons including two suspected militants were killed when a US spy plane fired four missiles on a vehicle in Shagai area of Datta Khail Tehsil in North Waziristan Agency on Friday."

Environment/Economy

Study Says

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/t-3216.htm>>

Majority Of High Earners Do Not Pay Tax - "The News" (01/10)

"Majority of Pakistanis who never paid a single penny as taxes throughout their life are highly qualified, live in the most expensive locations like the DHAs in Karachi and Lahore, have their accounts in foreign banks and make frequent travelling abroad, disclosed a study."

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Rs425m US Aid

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<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/t-3221.htm>> For Swat Hoteliers - "The News" (01/10)

"The aid from the United States (US) government comprising cash and goods for the affected hoteliers to rehabilitate the tourism industry in Swat district has started reaching the affectees as Rs425 million were released for the purpose on Sunday."

Government Repays Rs. 120b To Meet key IMF Condition - "The News" (01/10)

"The payment of quarterly installment of Rs. 40 billion on profit earned by State Bank of Pakistan, \$633 million reimbursement from USA under Coalition Support Fund (CSF) and improved revenue collection by FBR in December enabled the government to retire its borrowing of over Rs. 120 billion to central bank, meeting one of the major conditions to IMF to revive the suspended \$11.3 billion program." (Link not available)

PPP Govt. Fails

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/09-01-2011/ethenews/t-3199.htm>> To Handle Pak Economy: WP - "The News" (01/09)

"It's easy to blame Pakistan's deepening crisis on its feckless civilian government. President Asif Ali Zardari and his Pakistan People's Party have been ineffectual in managing the country's economy, slow in responding to disasters like last summer's floods and unable to attack Taliban sanctuaries as the United States has been seeking for years.... said an editorial published in The Washington Post."

Archaeologists

<<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=24694&Cat=6&dt=1/9/2011>> Present Papers On Heritage Issues - "The News" (01/09)

"The final papers by archaeologists and scholars have been presented during the concluding session of the three-day conference on 'cultural heritage issues in Pakistan: archaeology, museums and conservation'. The American Institute of Pakistan Studies in collaboration with the US Embassy and the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Ministry of Culture, organized the conference."

USAID

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=08_01_2011_004_005> Launches Sunflower Plan - "Dawn" (01/08)

"The deputy chief of the USAID in Pakistan, Nisar Ahmed Pathan, has said that the development agency has launched a program to boost agriculture sector in flood-hit areas of Sindh by encouraging sunflower cultivation and providing free of cost seed and fertilizer to the growers."

Editorials/Op-eds

Vice President Joe Biden's Forthcoming Visit to Pakistan
Editorial: Show Wisdom And Extricate Yourself From A War Of U.S. Interests, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (01/10)

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"Every American Tom, Dick and Harry gives economic and defense assistance to India but comes to Pakistan to talk and ask us to do

more. When they notice our Army Chief's resistance to their plans, they start making accusations of the Army's links with the Taliban, while the American Ambassadors consider themselves viceroys and feel they have a right to interfere in our internal economic and defense matters. It is an insult for an independent, sovereign and nuclear-power nation that it is forced to implement the U.S. policies. Consequently, our economy has become stagnant, and our sovereignty is jeopardized... It is unfortunate that the democratic government are following the policies of the Musharraf regime that compromised on the national interests. It is also tragic that the Pakistan is capable to shoot down the U.S. drones, but our rulers express their helplessness on this issue. Our civilian and military rulers have ruined Pakistan by joining the war that is being fought to safeguard the U.S. interests, and this fighting resulted in the worst terrorism in our country. We must adopt policies to develop ourselves into a self-reliant country and do not depend on the U.S. assistance. Moreover, we should also make sure transparency in utilizing the assistance that we already have received. We should also quit the role of a frontline ally of the United States, and devise a policy on the drone strikes by considering it as an attack on our sovereignty." (English version not available online)

Ambassador/Embassy

Editorial: Highly

<<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorial/10-Jan-2011/Highly-reprehensible>>

Reprehensible, an editorial in the right-wing, sensational national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/10)

"Events have shown that as the Pakistan government has been meekly accepting such an uncalled-for attitude on the part of US officials, they have felt encouraged to make public statements flaunting their right to interfere.... Apparently, the Obama Administration has come to realize that Pakistan's concerns are not being addressed, and Mr. Biden has been assigned to 'challenge the Pakistanis to articulate their long-term strategy for the region and indicate exactly what assistance is needed for them to move against Taliban sanctuaries in areas bordering Afghanistan.'"

Editorial: Washington's

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/09-01-2011/ethenews/e-24777.htm>>

Wisdom, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/09)

"All of us who have studied international affairs, even at the most rudimentary level, will be aware that wisdom is not necessarily a hallmark of US foreign policy.... It should not be too much to expect that by now leaders in the US would have recognized that many, perhaps most, of Pakistan's problems with militancy stem from the suspicion, even hatred, of America that exists within the

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country.... There can be little doubt that fuel will have been poured on the flames by the comments of US ambassador Cameron Munter...money well spent. While there may be a grain of truth in his comment it is not the way to win the hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan.... Yet Hillary Clinton's terse comments criticizing the reduction in POL prices announced by the government will have only acted to further alienate people already bearing the burden of soaring inflation from Washington, while also raising questions as to whether Pakistan had been stripped of the right to make decisions on its own.... It is unrealistic to expect a total US detachment from Pakistan. Given our perilous economic situation we cannot really afford this either.... At the moment a relationship is being...the strategic partnership with Islamabad would be continued. Its terms should at this point be clarified by Pakistan and the need to retain control over our own future emphasized as an essential prerequisite to reducing the distrust for the US that exists almost everywhere in our country and is derived from years of attempts by Washington to determine the course of events within it."

Editorial: As

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=09_01_2011_007_002> Americans See Us, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (01/09)
 "The Pakistanis' claim of sovereignty is further confirmation of a certain hypocrisy in our ranks and the fear of looking at things as they actually are. Simply, since we cannot leave the grant that we are dished out, neither can we escape the occasional scolding that comes with it."

Terrorism/Military Issues

Editorial: U.S. Considers Pakistan A Mercenary, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000)

(01/10)

"The United States has announced to enhance military aid for Pakistan at a time when Pakistan Army Chief General Kayani, in his meetings with the senior American officials, has reportedly expressed reservations over Washington's attitude towards Islamabad, and has also rejected the mounting U.S. pressure for military operation in North Waziristan. Now, when the United States and its allies are facing a humiliating defeat in Afghanistan and are preparing to begin the withdrawal of their troops from this country, it remains to be seen what viable strategy Pakistan's political and military leadership will devise to safeguard the strategic interests of the country, and to establish friendly relations with the future ruling setup in Kabul... In fact, despite rendering tremendous sacrifices in the war against terrorism, Pakistan has failed in winning the confidence of the U.S. and its western allies, and they still consider Pakistan a mercenary."
 (English version not available online)

Editorial: U.S. Decision To Give More Aid To Pakistan, an editorial

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in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (01/10)

"As far as Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan is concerned, it is clear that Pakistan wants peace in the country and has always played a role in bringing political stability there. Pakistan desires the same in future, which is possible only if the U.S. determines a role for it [Pakistan] before withdrawal from Afghanistan.... It is commendable that the U.S. has decided to provide more assistance to Pakistan, but there is a possibility that we will get a fresh list of things to do, as the U.S. does not provide aid to anyone without its own interests."

Editorial: Internal

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/e-24861.htm>>

Conflict, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/10)

"The inaccessibility of most of the areas of fighting means it is impossible to verify even 'major' news. The confusion that followed the death of Baitullah Mehsud and later, in 2010, surrounded reports of the demise of his successor, is an example of this."

Editorial: For

<<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorial/08-Jan-2011/For-Afghan-peace>>

Afghan Peace, an editorial in the right-wing, sensational national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/08)

"Indeed, the majority of Afghans, including those who are currently busy in putting up resistance against the US and NATO forces, do not favor India poking its nose in their internal affairs, least of all allowing them to determine their future."

WikiLeaks

Opinion: Assange's

<<http://old.thenews.com.pk/10-01-2011/ethenews/e-24854.htm>> Wars, an op-ed by Sana Bucha in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/10)

"For once I find myself agreeing with American radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh, who declared that WikiLeaks has hidden all the good stuff. 'Where is the cable revealing that the CIA invented AIDS? Where is Obama's birth certificate?' he demands. 'Where are the cables of other leftwing lies we've been hearing about all these years.... where's all the good stuff.'"

Political Issues

Editorial: Whither

<http://epaper.dawn.com/ArticleText.aspx?article=10_01_2011_007_003>

Secularism?, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (01/10)

"In fact, there appear to be no liberal parties in the assemblies today and those searching for such outfits are looking in vain for progressive nuances in the working of an ANP here or a PPP there."

MUNTER

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