

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DOE-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00
	UTED-00	FOE-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	AC-00
	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00
	PA-00	GIWI-00	ACE-00	IRM-00	SA-00	FMP-00	BBG-00
	R-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
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HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TASHKENT

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 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 REACTION: U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; DESECRATION
 OF THE HOLY QURAN; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM; INDIA-
 PAKISTAN RELATIONS; IRAN: NUCLEAR PROGRAM; AFGHAN DPS;
 PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION; MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
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(May 21-23, 2005)

MR Highlights: Most English and Urdu dailies highlight a reported incident of "shelling by U.S. forces" across the Pak-Afghan border with such headlines as: "Coalition Planes Attack Pakistani Territory; Five Killed." Stories in Urdu papers report that "the spokesman of Pakistan Army has said that a few rockets fell in the Pakistani territory but there is no report of any casualty" (paras 11-12). An alliance of Pakistan's top religious parties remains as strident in its anti-U.S. rhetoric as it was when the issue of the alleged desecration of the Quran surfaced more than two weeks ago. "President Bush Should Apologize Otherwise We Will Boycott The U.S. Goods: MMA" reports Urdu daily "Mashriq" (paras 5-6). Even though no official announcement has been made either by the U.S. or Pakistani government, there are several stories about Assistant Secretary of State Rocca's visit to Pakistan in today's papers. "Focus On Pak-India Peace As Rocca Arrives Tomorrow" (para 1).

Liberal English paper "Daily Times" criticizes MMA for one of the aspects of its anti-U.S. stance over the issue of the alleged desecration of Quran. "The statements emanating from the camp clearly show that its leaders are not only gunning for America but also hitting out at Islamabad's larger policy of allying with the U.S. This is counter-productive and smacks of rank political opportunism aimed at confusing the issue," (para 24). An op-ed in "The Nation" suggests "a social boycott of the U.S. Embassy officials," stating: "Would it be asking too much to start a voluntary social boycott of U.S. Embassy officials: don't go to their parties and don't invite them to yours," (para 26). End Highlights.

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

1. "Focus On Pak-India Peace As Rocca Arrives Tomorrow"
"The Nation" (05/23)

Quote: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca, who arrives here Tuesday (tomorrow) on an official visit, will hold talks with top Pakistani leadership on bilateral ties besides regional and global issues. However, the focus of her discussions would be the Indo-Pak peace process.... Apart from talks on Pak-India peace process, Christina Rocca would discuss with President Musharraf and other leaders here the U.S.

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plans to expand trade and economic relations with Islamabad.... The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State would also discuss the ongoing war on terror with officials here whereas the latest situation in Afghanistan would also be looked into, said the sources. Other issues to be discussed during the visit of Ms Rocca include the nuclear proliferation and U.S.-Iran row over Tehran's nuclear program, they added. An official here said Pakistani authorities would also take up with the top U.S. official the alleged desecration of the Holy Quran by US troops at Guantanamo Bay.... Apart from government functionaries, the senior official of U.S. State Department would also meet some important opposition leaders here and discuss with them the country's political situation, the official said. End

quote.

-- Desecration of the Holy Quran

2. "Newsweek Debacle Signals U.S. Diplomacy Challenges"
"The Nation" (05/21)

Quote: When Newsweek magazine backed off a report on Holy Quran desecrations by U.S. troops that sparked bloody protests in the Muslim world, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice could only shake her head sadly. "I hope that everybody will step back and take a look at how they handled this. Everybody," Rice told a small group of reporters this week. "It's just unfortunate because it became a very major problem."... A cable from U.S. Embassy officials in Islamabad advising they had been summoned by the Pakistani government over the Newsweek item apparently got stuck for more than a day somewhere in the State Department bureaucracy. After Pakistan's Foreign Office and Parliament registered indignation at the reported desecration, the State Department drafted 'guidance' for the Press on May 9. But no reporter asked the question. The Pentagon was then slow to confirm it was probing the Holy Quran allegations. By the time Rice made the first public comment by a senior U.S. official on May 12, the protests had grown violent and seven people were dead in Afghanistan.... End quote.

3. "ICRC Says It Received 'Credible' Reports:
Desecration Of The Quran" "Dawn" (05/21)

Quote: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said that it had received 'credible' reports

about US personnel at Guantánamo Bay disrespecting the Holy Quran, but the Pentagon moved quickly to correct the situation. Breaking their customary silence, ICRC officials in Washington said they had not only received 'credible' reports about the alleged desecration of the Holy Quran, but also had raised the issue "several times" with the Pentagon. Spokesman Simon Schorno said the allegations were made by detainees to ICRC representatives who visited the detention facility throughout 2002 and 2003. But he also said the Red Cross heard no more allegations about mishandling of the Holy Quran after the Pentagon issued a set of guidelines about how U.S. personnel should handle the Holy Book. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters on Thursday that Pentagon issued the guidelines in January 2003. He said the U.S. worked closely with the ICRC and acknowledged the group "had heard some concerns about the handling of Holy Quran, which it shared with the U.S."... End quote.

4. "Scholars Want Islamic Court To Rule On Holy Quran Desecration" "Ummat" (05/23)

Quote: Eighteen Saudi Scholars and Thinkers have demanded that those involved in the alleged desecration of the Holy Quran be tried by an Islamic Court. 'It won't do any good if the State Department (eventually) apologizes or if it rejects this act, or if its perpetrators are tried,' they said in a statement obtained by a western news agency. 'That would amount

to fooling people as was the case in the trials of those who committed the crimes of abusing prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib jail ... Muslims will not settle for anything less than the trial of the Guantanamo culprits by an Islamic court,' said the signatories." End quote.

5. "Sacrilege Of Holy Quran: President Bush Should Apologize Otherwise We Will Boycott The American Commodities: MMA" "Mashriq" (05/23)

Quote: ... MMA, the alliance of the religious parties while criticizing the sacrilegious act of the U.S. soldiers in Guantanamo Bay, has said that President Bush should apologize to the entire Muslim world and give sentence to the perpetrators, 'otherwise we will launch a movement to boycott the American products to ruin the U.S. economy'. Addressing a national convention of the clerics in Islamabad, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Hafiz Saeed, and other religious leaders said the U.S. is the biggest

terrorist of the world and Pakistan should change its friendly policy with the U.S.... End quote.

6. "Protest over Desecration of the Holy Quran: Bush Should Apologize Muslims on T.V.; MMA to Launch American Products Boycott Campaign" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (05/23)

Quote: MMA will hold the largest protest demonstration in Islamabad in connection with its worldwide protest call for May 27, against the desecration of the Holy Quran at the hands of American military personnel. The protest rally in Islamabad would be attended by hundreds of thousands of sons of Islam carrying the Quran in their hands.... MMA has said that President Bush should apologize on TV over the desecration of the Holy Quran and the soldiers involved in the crime should be tried in an Islamic court under our laws and punished. If the demand for a public apology were not accepted than a movement for the boycott of American goods would be launched. MMA said that America was the biggest terrorist and after the desecration of the Quran there existed no justification for the government to support American policies. End quote.

7. "Demonstration Will Be Held All Over The World On May 27; People Should Come To The Demos Carrying Quran: MMA Leader Qazi Says," "Jang" (5/23)

Quote: ... Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami and the President of MMA, has said that demonstrations will be held all over the world on May 27 against the sacrilege of the Holy Quran in Guantanamo Bay.... He appealed to the Pakistani nation to come to the demonstration carrying Quran. 'These demonstrations will be historic and we will tell to the enemies of Islam that the honor and the reverence of Muslims are still intact', he said. 'The Mujahideen have been shifted to Guantanamo Bay because the U.S. laws are not applied there', he claimed... End quote.

8. "Indonesian Muslims Say Those Who Desecrate The Quran Should Be Killed" "Daily Times" (05/23)

Quote: Hard-Line Indonesian Muslims at a rally by thousands on Sunday vowed to wage war against America

and said those who desecrate the Quran should be killed. "Destroy America and its allies! Kill those who desecrate Islam!" Muhammad Iqbal alias Abu Jibril, from the Indonesian Mujahideen Council (MMI), exhorted

thousands of protestors through a public address system outside the U.S. Embassy. Muslims around the world have demonstrated in recent days against alleged abuse of the Muslim holy book at the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The unrest, which left at least 14 people dead in Afghanistan, followed a report in Newsweek magazine that U.S. investigators had found that interrogators at the prison threw a Quran in a toilet to rattle Muslim inmates. The magazine last Monday retracted the story after its source developed doubts, and the Pentagon has said its own investigation has found no evidence to support the allegation that Qurans were defiled at the off-shore U.S. prison. End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

9. "U.S. Top Brass Involved In Prisoner Abuse: Report"
"Dawn" (05/22)

Quote: A leaked report on a military investigation into two killings of detainees at a U.S. prison in Afghanistan has produced new evidence of connivance of senior officers in systematic prisoner abuse. The investigation shows the military intelligence officers in charge of the detention center at Bagram airport were redeployed to Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq in 2003, while still under investigation for the deaths of two detainees months earlier. Despite military prosecutors' recommendations, the officers involved have yet to be charged. The Bagram case also suggests that some of the prison guards were given little if any training in handling detainees, and were influenced by a White House directive that "terrorist" suspects did not deserve the rights given to prisoners of war under the Geneva convention. The prosecution dossier from the army's investigation into Bagram, leaked to the "New York Times," deals with the deaths of detainees Dilawar and Habibullah (both, as is common for Afghans, taking a single name). Dilawar was a taxi driver who appears to have driven past a US military base soon after a rocket attack. Habibullah was handed over to the U.S. by an Afghan warlord, and was identified as the brother of a Taliban commander. Both men were seized in late 2002, interrogated, beaten and killed in a hangar used for holding detainees who were being vetted for dispatch to Guantanamo Bay.... End quote.

10. "Afghan President 'Shocked' By U.S. Prisoner Abuse Report" "Daily Times" (05/22)

Quote: Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday he was shocked by a U.S. army report on abuse of detainees in Afghanistan, saying his government wanted custody of all Afghan prisoners and control over U.S. military operations. The abuse described in the report, including details of the deaths of two inmates at an Afghan detention center, happened in 2002 and emerged from a nearly 2,000-page file of US army investigators, the "New York Times" reported on Friday. "It has shocked me thoroughly and we condemn it," Karzai told a

news conference. "We want the U.S. government to take very, very strong action, to take away people like that."... End quote.

11. "Coalition Planes Attacks Pakistani Territory; Five Killed" "Khabrain" (05/23)

Quote: The U.S. planes attacked Lawara Mandi, a border village of North Waziristan and killed five Pakistani people on Sunday. However, Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, the spokesman of Pakistan Army, has said that a few rockets fell in Pakistani territory but there is no report of any casualty. He said that the U.S. Commander had already informed Pakistan that they are launching an operation against Taliban near the Pakistani border. But a Pakistani intelligence official has said that five people have been martyred in Lawara Mandai because of the U.S. bombardment and shelling.... End quote.

12. "North Waziristan: American Bombing On Pak-Afghan Border, 17 Killed" "Pakistan" (05/23)

Quote: Five people were killed at Lawara Mandai, North Waziristan as a result of American shelling in the area. The shells landed in Pakistani territory during U.S. military's clash with militants at Pak-Afghan border inside Afghanistan. According to reports, 12 Taliban were killed in the skirmish inside Afghanistan. Pak Army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan confirmed the incident to ARY TV and said that the coalition forces had informed Pakistan about the operation. End quote.

13. "Bombing by U.S. planes in Pakistani Area; 5 Tribesmen Killed," "Din" (05/23)

Quote: Bombing by American helicopters and jets near the Afghan border resulted in the killing of 5 [Pakistani] tribesmen. According to details, unknown persons on Sunday attacked a camp of the Allied forces

in Paktia province, killing 8 American troops and destroying 3 vehicles. The attackers then fled after taking equipment from the camp. Pursuing them, American helicopters and jets entered Pakistani airspace and dropped bombs, killing 5 tribesmen who were gathering wood. End quote.

14. "Mullah Omar Aide Escapes Multan Raid" "Daily Times" (05/23)

Quote: A close aide to Usama Bin Laden and Mullah Omar escaped before police raided his house in Nagina Colony, Multan, on Sunday, intelligence sources told "Daily Times." Sources said intelligence agencies traced Abdur Rehman Wazir's satellite phone call to Multan and raided his house, but Wazir fled while three activists of a banned militant organization were arrested. "Wazir helped Mullah Omar escape from Kandahar on a motorbike after the fall of the Taliban," sources added. After fleeing from Afghanistan, Wazir hid in Waziristan and formed a group with Al-Qaeda activists Abu Haris and Abu Khalid, sources said, adding that they were killed in military operations in Waziristan after which Wazir also left the place and settled in southern Punjab.... End quote.

15. "New Condition For U.S. Travel" "Dawn" (05/21)

Quote: The United States has announced that it would enforce machine-readable passport requirements upon all travelers from visa waiver program countries from June 26, 2005. The requirements regarding machine-readable passports are not intended to discourage visa waiver program nationals from traveling to the United States, according to a press release of the U.S. Embassy. The rule was enforced in October 2004 but to facilitate travelers, the Department's Customs and Border Protection Bureau had given officials at ports of entry the discretionary authority to grant one-time exemptions on a case-by-case basis to visa waiver program travelers without a visa or a machine-readable passport.... End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

16. "Musharraf Says Now Is Time To Settle Disputes: Call To Seize 'Fleeting Moment'" "Dawn" (05/21)

Quote: President Musharraf said on Friday that Pakistan and India must seize a 'fleeting moment' available to

them to solve their disputes and a possible solution of the Kashmir dispute could make borders irrelevant. In a speech to parliamentarians from South Asian countries at the end of a six-day conference, he said India-Pakistan disputes should better be settled during his and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenures because of a 'complete understanding' existing between them. President Musharraf said he felt 'extremely optimistic' about the future of peace process after his talks with the Indian leadership during a visit to New Delhi last month, because of sincerity of intentions between the two sides. "I feel optimistic about it because more than joint declarations or joint statements, what is important is intentions," he said, adding that no amount of joint declarations or joint statement could bear fruit without sincerity.... End quote.

-- Iran: Nuclear Program

17. "U.S. Warns Iran Of 'Changes'" "Dawn" (05/21)

Quote: U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called on Iran on Thursday to engage in more "stabilizing behavior" in the Middle East, warning Tehran that they were not immune to the "major changes" in the region. "The Iranians should not consider themselves immune from the major changes that are going on in the region, and we would hope that they would begin to engage in more stabilizing behavior," said Rice, speaking after a meeting with Kuwaiti's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah. Ms Rice, who reiterated U.S. concerns over Tehran's nuclear program, described Iran as a "state sponsor of terrorism" that is "out of step with a region that is trying very hard now to move toward a two-state solution," a reference to Israel and the Palestinians.... End quote.

-- Afghan DPs

18. "Iran Bans Afghan DPs' Entry" "Dawn" (05/22)

Quote: Iran banned Afghans from residing in the country's eastern border provinces for unspecified security reasons, a senior Interior Ministry official announced on Saturday. Ahmad Hosseini, head of the ministry's refugees office, who did not elaborate on the reason behind the ban, said the decision included the border provinces of Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchistan, and that Afghans living in the area had to return to Afghanistan as soon as possible. There are about a

million Afghan refugees living in Iran, Tehran expects half of them to leave the country before the end of this year. More than 1.3 million refugees have left Iran through a United Nations repatriation program in the last three years.... End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

19. "President Denies Second Term Claim" "Dawn" (05/21)

Quote: President Musharraf on Friday denied a minister's statement that he would seek another term of office after the present one expires in 2007. "This is a personal opinion and not my opinion, and I have never said anything in this regard," he said when asked to comment on Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's statement on the matter. "I haven't thought future beyond that," Gen Musharraf said in reply to a question after his speech to the concluding session of a six-day SAFMA conference. The president parried a question on whether he would give up his army uniform in 2007 and contest the presidential election as a civilian. General Musharraf said since he had been pinned down for a specific response "my answer is yes and no". Though parliament members from Pakistani opposition parties had participated in all previous sessions of the conference none of them was present during General Musharraf's address.... End quote.

20. "Polls Without Benazir, Nawaz Unacceptable" "The News" (05/23)

Quote: ARD Vice-President and PML-N leader Sardar Rahim Khan and Zain Ansari on Sunday said general elections without Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto would be unacceptable. Real democracy will only restore in the country when the PML-N and the PPP leaders would be allowed to participate in the elections, they said this while addressing a joint press conference at the press club here.... End quote.

21. "APNS, CPNE Resent Advertisements Ban On The Nation, Nawa-e-Waqt" "The Nation" (05/23)

Quote: Local officials of the APNS and CPNE held an emergency session at the Avari Hotel in Lahore on Sunday. The meeting gave a serious thought to government's ban on advertisements to sister organizations daily "The Nation" and "Nawa-e-Waqt." Acting president of the APNS Mujeebur Rehman Shami

presided over the meeting. The meeting urged both the Federal as well as the Punjab governments to reverse their decision and lift the ban immediately. The

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meeting urged Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi to intervene and amend the situation. The meeting, in its resolution, said that the situation had been further deteriorated. Members of the meeting said that supremacy of the Constitution demanded a free press. They said that any pressure in this respect could not be afforded. The meeting urged presidents of both APNS and the CPNE to urgently hold a joint session of the two organizations in Lahore, in order to prepare a future strategy concerning the issue.... End quote.

Editorials/Opinions

-- Desecration of the Holy Quran

22. "Truth About Sacrilege," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (05/23)

Quote: ... However, what seems to have gone largely unnoticed is the fact that prior to publication, the article was vetted by a senior Pentagon official. Also, the allegations regarding the desecration of the Holy Quran are nothing new and have been reported in newspapers worldwide since 2003 quoting prisoners released from U.S. military custody. In fact, one prisoner had alleged that similar acts of desecration had occurred at a U.S. military prison in Afghanistan as well. The proportion of prisoners released from US military prisons who have made such allegations cannot be a coincidence or an accident. However, whenever such allegations surfaced in the media, Washington always dismissed them as baseless. If America really wants to clear the doubts that persist in the minds of many in the Muslim world, it should make public its internal reports on the alleged prisoner abuse and hold senior civilian and military officials accountable. End quote.

23. "Desecration Did Happen," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (05/22)

Quote: The International Committee of the Red Cross has

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given a lie to Pentagon spokesman Whitman's stand that "we haven't found any credible allegation (about US soldiers' desecrating the Holy Quran at Guantanamo Bay) that are of the nature alleged in Newsweek's article." An ICRC spokesman has asserted that Red Cross representatives visiting Gitmo during 2002 and 2003 found credible evidence of desecration on receiving multiple complaints from inmates. After the ICRC had repeatedly approached it, the Pentagon issued guidelines about how US personnel should handle the holy book. Human Rights Watch has gone a step further and said it received reports not only from Gitmo detenus, but also from Iraqi and Afghan prisons of U.S. personnel repeatedly offending their Islamic beliefs and showing disrespect to the Holy Quran.... If the U.S. thought the retraction would work as 'damage control,' it clearly failed. Obviously regarding it as a puerile cover-up, Muslims worldwide felt outraged and protested.

The demonstrating crowd in Afghanistan became violent, leaving 15 dead and over 100 injured. Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, Palestine, Libya and many other places in the Muslim world witnessed a strong wave of anger. Worldwide protests are planned for May 27; there are calls for an apology from the U.S. and condign punishment for the guilty; and the Bush administration's claim, never really considered credible, of respecting all religious beliefs, lies in ruins. End quote.

24. "Desecration Of Holy Quran And Domestic Politics," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (05/22)

Quote: ... In the event, even if the practice stopped, it is important to know how people through the chain of command were dealt with by the administration after it came to know of what was happening. At the minimum an apology is needed from the administration followed by a transparent inquiry into the allegations and punitive measures against those found guilty. In the meantime, however, let us remind the right wing that this is not an issue that it should use for domestic political reasons. The statements emanating from the camp clearly show that its leaders are not only gunning for America but also hitting out at Islamabad's larger policy of allying with the U.S. This is counter-productive and smacks of rank political opportunism aimed at confusing the issue. End quote.

25. "Alliance of Religious and Political Parties

Against Desecration of the Holy Quran," an op-ed by Muzammil Suhrwardy in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (05/23)

Quote: Jamaatud Dawa has gathered all political and religious parties on one platform against the desecration of Holy Quran at Guantanamo Bay, humiliating cartoon about Pakistan in "Washington Times" and the government's pro-America policies. Jamaatud Dawa leader Hafiz Saeed is basically known as a Jihadi leader. He was previously Ameer of the Jihadi group Lashkar-e-Taiba. He dissociated himself from LT when Jihadi groups started being banned in Pakistan after 9/11 and made himself the leader of Jamaatud Dawa. His stance is that the Jamaatud Dawa is neither a political party, nor a Jihadi organization. Hence there is vagueness about the objectives of this group. Coming out against America in this manner can be termed the Jamaatud Dawa's first step in Pakistan's politics.... While this movement [against the U.S.] would give Hafiz Saeed a chance to come out of his shell, it would pose challenge to the government because opposition to the U.S. would translate into opposition of the [Pakistan] government also. End quote.

26. "Hating America," an op-ed by Humayun Gauhar in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (05/22)

Quote: ... If a dog is so loveable, why does Tony Blair hate being called Bush's poodle? When the DoD spokesman called his official "a son of a bitch", was he being complimentary or abusive?... The Americans wonder

why everyone hates them. The most humiliating and degrading thing for Muslims is desecration of the Holy Quran. It makes their blood boil. That such desecration has been committed repeatedly as psychological torture in the Guantanamo concentration camps and in Afghanistan is beyond doubt.... We don't have a voice. Our politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen, landlords, journalists, everyone, thinks it is a great honor if a lowly U.S. Embassy official calls at their residence. They beg editors to print photographs of the exalted visit. They think it some kind of recognition if the US Ambassador invites them to a reception.... Would it be asking too much to start a voluntary social boycott of U.S. Embassy officials: don't go to their parties and don't invite them to yours. Given that our elite is in cultural limbo,

disconnected at home and bad clones in the West, I think it would be asking for too much. How else would they get their B1-B2 multiple entry visas and admission for their children in American universities? How would they be invited to seminars in Washington? How would they get stints in America's think tanks, to write and say what America wants said, all the better by Muslims for it adds great authenticity to U.S. doctrines and strategies? End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

27. "Afghan Prisoners Murder: Karzai's Protest," an editorial note in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (05/23)

Quote: Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has strongly protested over Afghan prisoners deaths at the hands of American soldiers at Bagram airport and demanded of the U.S. administration to stop reoccurrence of such incidents and court martial those who were involved in the crime. America's atrocities have taken such alarming proportion that even puppet President of Afghanistan had to protest. Surprisingly, America champions human rights and publishes annual reports on the plight of human rights the world over, but it does not feel any remorse over trampling of prisoners rights by its military. The report of Holy Quran desecration at Guantanamo Bay was also declared incorrect in order to suppress the truth. American administration should strictly adhere to Geneva Conventions while dealing with prisoners. End quote.

28. "Religious Seminaries and Fundamentalism," an op-ed by Qayyum Nizami in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (05/23)

Quote: One problem with the seminaries is that they impart religious education to their students based on the school of thought they follow, which causes sectarianism and sectarian-terrorism in Pakistan. Religious schools in Pakistan have also had support from Saudi Arabia, Libya and Iran.... [However] There are religious schools established in Pakistan by Jamaat-e-Islami and Maulana Maudoodi based on Allama Iqbal's philosophy where modern education is imparted along with religious training. Similarly, Dr. Tahirul Qadri has established model colleges and universities where science subjects are taught as well as Islamic ones....

To move with the world, it is necessary to teach modern subjects. Hence if our religious schools start teaching science and other subjects, it would not be against Islamic values or anti-Shariat. End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

29. "Catching The 'Fleeting Moment'," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (05/22)

Quote: President Musharraf's statement that now is the time for Pakistan and India to solve their disputes, including the Kashmir dispute, is timely. All peace-loving people on both sides of the border would endorse his views. It is now widely recognized that the people of the two countries are convinced that they stand to benefit if they give up the option of war. Even Kashmir, the intractable dispute, now appears to be within the possibility of a solution - later if not sooner.... President Musharraf's stand on Kashmir has been rational and in the interest of the Kashmiris, India and Pakistan. Rather than seeking the redrawing of boundaries (as Pakistan has been demanding), or formalizing the Line of Control as the boundary (as India has been insisting on), he has suggested a policy that will make borders irrelevant (that is possible by facilitating easy movement of people across the LoC). Since both India and Pakistan are inclined to draw Kashmiris from both sides into the dialogue, the solution that is worked out should have the added advantage of being acceptable to the people of Kashmir. End quote.

-- Mideast Peace Process

30. "Abbas's Visit And Palestinian Cause," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (05/21)

Quote: Pakistan has been among the most consistent supporters of the Palestinian cause. So it should come as no surprise that on his first visit to this country, President Mahmoud Abbas found Pakistan willing to play its due role in promoting a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.... Pakistan has no diplomatic relations with Israel, as pointed out by President Musharraf, and for that reason it cannot act as a mediator. But, Islamabad could use its leverage with the world community, especially Israel's western

friends, to help in a solution.... Given the reality of American power and the hold of the Zionist lobby on its domestic politics, there is little that Pakistan can do to help re-start the peace process. The problem is worsened by the provision of inaction and indifference adopted by the Arab world vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue. No doubt, the Arab world lacks military power, but Arab governments also do not act in concert. They have failed to use the leverage they have with the U.S. to advance the Palestinian cause. The Arab League is little better than a debating club and so is the Organization of Islamic Conference. Both need to be rejuvenated. Perhaps joint diplomatic action by the AL

and OIC could make things move and lead to a resumption of the peace process. End quote.

31. "Abu Mazen And Pakistan's Role In The Palestinian Cause," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (05/22)

Quote: The visiting Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, seems to have upset our right-of-center elements as well as our foreign policy "experts" who are wedded to old paradigms by asking Pakistan to play a role in resolving the Israel-Palestine dispute. Suddenly, we hear a cacophony of voices denouncing Mr. Abbas for suggesting that Pakistan should recognize Israel, because without recognizing it Pakistan cannot effectively mediate the Palestinian-Israel dispute. This does appear to be the hidden assumption of what Mr. Abbas said last Thursday in Islamabad. But two questions arise. Why does Mr. Abbas want to get Pakistan to think about recognizing Israel? Could this also benefit Pakistan? Consider.... There are three broad factors Pakistan needs to keep in mind. The first relates to the Palestinians. Are the Palestinians prepared to deal with Israel? If yes, there should be no reason for Pakistan not to follow suit. The second factor pertains to how Pakistan's closest Arab friends might view such a move. It would, therefore, need to exchange views with them before taking a decision. Finally, Islamabad would need to see whether recognition goes to its advantage in diplomatic, economic and military terms. Until now there has not been much debate on the issue. The knee-jerk reaction is to immediately decry any such thought. That is not the stuff of strategy even though it may seem "principled" and therefore more romantic. End quote.

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32. "Rice's Veiled Warning," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (05/23)

Quote: America has given yet another warning to Iran. Speaking in Kuwait after a meeting with the sheikhdom's Foreign Minister, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that Iran should not consider itself immune to "the major changes" going on in the Middle East. She wanted Tehran to engage in "more stabilizing behavior" at a time when the region was trying to move towards a "two-state solution" in Palestine. Then there was the familiar charge that Iran was a sponsor of terrorism. About the same time, US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns accused Iran of failing to adopt "a constructive role" towards Iraq. It is surprising that the two officials should expect Iran to adopt a "stabilizing" and "constructive" behavior, while America's own policy towards Iran is devoid of these attributes.... It would be a big tragedy if America were to try to effect a regime change in Iran. It is already hopelessly trapped in Iraq, having lost more than 1,600 men. An attack on Iran may or may not lead to regime change, but it would certainly destabilize a region that has seen frequent war and bloodshed since the founding of Israel in 1948. More important, a

destabilization of Iran could affect neighboring countries and possibly lead to a fragmentation of the Middle East. Such a scenario will breed terrorists and extremists rather than help in political stability and the development of democratic institutions. End quote. Crocker

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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DOE-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	AC-00	NEA-00	DCP-00
	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PA-00
	GIWI-00	ACE-00	IRM-00	SA-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00
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 CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
 USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
 SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-PAK RELATIONS; DESECRATION
 OF THE HOLY QURAN; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM; PAKISTAN
 POLITICAL SITUATION; INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS; IRAQ:
 ANTI-INSURGENT OFFENSIVES; NON-PROLIFERATION; MIDEAST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
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(May 28-31, 2005)

MR Highlights: Pakistan's worsening law and order situation, reflected by multiple suicide bombings and political murders in different parts of the country, receives prominent coverage in the papers today and over the long-weekend. "Suicide Blast At Shrine; 20 Killed", "Suicide Attack In Mosque In Karachi; Five Killed", "Jamaat-e-Islami Leader Aslam Mujahid Killed" (paras 12-14). A top Shiite leader blames the U.S. for one of the suicide attacks. "U.S. Is Involved In Bari Imam Tragedy: MMA leader Turabi says," (para 8). High-level talks between India and Pakistan on the thorny issue of Sir Creek and the Indian Prime Minister's proposal to give autonomy to Kashmir were also major stories over the weekend. "Singh Offers Greater Kashmir Autonomy" (para 22 and 24). PAS organized three television interviews for Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca during her recent visit to Pakistan. Leading English daily "The News" reports one of the interviews on its front-page "Rocca Hails Centrifuges Hand-Over" (para 1).

Today and over the weekend the U.S. comes in for some harsh editorial criticism. Rightwing Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" calls the American soldiers "Worse Than Nazis" for allegedly desecrating the Quran, while "The News" criticizes the U.S. for the "abduction and torture" of two U.S. citizens of Pakistani origin. (paras 31-32). Center-left independent national English daily "Dawn", incensed at the suicide bombing at a shrine in Islamabad, demands strict action by the government. "It is time a few heads rolled, and law enforcement agencies were given clear directives to ensure security all around, especially at places of worship," (para 33).
End Highlights.

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

1. "Rocca Hails Centrifuges Hand-Over" "The News" (05/28)

Quote: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca has thanked Pakistan for cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by sharing discarded pieces of centrifuges. In an exclusive interview with "The News" and "Geo TV," Rocca said: "Sharing parts of the discarded centrifuges is an

extremely helpful step the government of Pakistan has taken." Rocca said U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleeza Rice has made it clear Washington believes Iran's attempt to acquire the nuclear weapons "is destabilizing to the United States and allies in the region." "We are supporting the diplomatic efforts including the EU channel, and to let the Iranians know that the ball is in their court," she added. Asked if it is proven that Iran's nuclear program is purely indigenous and there was no external help involved, then would it not undercut the U.S. position, she said: "I cannot discuss the operational aspects of the issue here."... End quote.

2. "ISI Chief Arrives In U.S." "Dawn" "(05/29)

Quote: The Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) Chief Lt-Gen Ashfaq Kiani arrived in the United States on Thursday on an official visit, informed sources told "Dawn." During the visit he is expected to meet senior U.S. officials and think tank members in New York and Washington, the sources added. They said that on Friday he met a number of U.S. think tank in Washington. Pakistan Embassy officials in New York and Washington declined to give details of Mr. Kiani's visit except to confirm his presence in the United States.... End quote.

3. "Pakistan Should Recognize Israel In Order To Play Effective Role In Palestinian Crises: British High Commissioner," "Jang" (05/31)

Quote: British High Commission to Pakistan has declared President Musharraf as a statesman of international caliber and expressed the opinion that Pakistan would have to recognize Israel in order to play an effective role in the resolution of the Palestine issue. Talking to "Jang," Mark J. Loyal Grant said that since a number of other Islamic countries of the region have already recognized Israel, therefore it should not be difficult for Pakistan to follow suit. Replying to a question, he said that had the partition of the sub-continent been done more sensibly, then the Kashmir issue would not have arisen. End quote.

-- Desecration of the Holy Quran

4. "Muslim League Delegation Presents A Resolution To The U.S. Embassy" "Islam" (05/28)

Quote: ... A delegation of ruling Muslim League presented a resolution to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on Friday. The delegation called on the Political Officer Larry Robinson and handed him over the condemnation resolution on the desecration of the Holy Quran.... The resolution says that this incident has deeply hurt the feelings of the Muslims all over the world. 'Muslim League also condemns the inhuman treatment with the detainees of Guantanamo Bay' the resolution says.... End quote.

5. "Five Incidents Of Quran 'Mishandling': Pentagon"
"Dawn" "(05/28)

Quote: A day after FBI memos revealed fresh allegations of desecration at Guantanamo Bay, Pentagon officials said they had identified at least five incidents of military guards and an interrogator "mishandling" the Holy Quran at the U.S. prison facility. The officials, however, characterized the episodes as minor and said most occurred before specific rules on the treatment of the holy book were issued in January 2003. Brig-Gen Jay Hood, Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, told journalists that investigators had looked into 13 specific allegations of desecration at the prison dating to early 2002 and had determined eight of those to be unfounded, lacking credibility or the result of accidental touching of the holy book. Of the five cases

of mishandling, three were "very likely" deliberate and two were "very likely accidental," he said. But Brig-Gen Hood declined to provide details, citing an ongoing investigation.... End quote.

6. "U.S. Apology Sought For Desecration" "Dawn"
"(05/28)

Quote: Big rallies were held all over the country on Friday on Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal's call for a day of worldwide protests against the desecration of the Holy Quran by U.S. personnel in the Guantanamo Bay detention center. Processions and meetings were held in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and other cities and towns. Protesters everywhere demanded an unqualified apology for the outrage from the U.S. as a minimum remedy. Thousands of people attended a big rally at the Jinnah Avenue in Islamabad, which was led by MMA president Qazi Hussain Ahmed. The protesters were first gathered at Aabpara Square from where they marched up to the Jinnah Avenue. The participants

carried banners and placards inscribed with slogans condemning the sacrilege. A large number of women and children, some of them holding the Holy Quran also attended the rally. They were led by MMA's senator Dr. Kausar Firdaus and MNAs Sameea Raheel Qazi and Bilquis Saif.... End quote.

7. "Desecration [Of Holy Quran] Is Extremism; Will Form A Think Tank Against Western Propaganda: OIC," "Khabrain" (05/31)

Quote: An OIC Summit will be held in Makkah in December. No country with a non-Muslim majority would be given OIC membership. There is a need for large-scale reform in the body as well as a need to change its name. These remarks were made by Pakistan's representative to OIC Commission Mushahid Hussain Sayyad and Turk representative Ahmad Daud. End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

8. "U.S. Is Involved In Bari Imam Tragedy: MMA Leader Allama Hassan Turabi" "Islam" (05/31)

Quote: ... Allama Hassan Turabi, a leader of MMA, has alleged that the U.S. is involved in the Bari Imam tragic incident. It was an act of those elements that wanted to thwart the protest demonstrations on Friday against the desecration of Holy Quran. Allama Turabi, while talking to the Radio Tehran said that some American officials had met with the office bearers of some terrorist organizations. Following the meetings, Sipha Sahaba (a banned Sunnite extremist organization) started its meetings.... He said that the U.S. was involved in every unpleasant incident occurred in Pakistan. 'It is provoking the Shiite-Sunnite differences among the masses and it has apprehensions that if it attacked Iran, Pakistani public would vehemently oppose it', he added.... End quote.

9. "RAW's Probable Involvement In Shrine Blast Being Probed" "The Nation" (05/31)

Quote: While many theories have surfaced thus far about the terrorist act at Bari Imam shrine situated near the Prime Minister's House and the diplomatic enclave in Islamabad on Friday, the official circles are seriously probing into the reported tip-off regarding the probability of the involvement of Indian premier foreign intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing

(RAW).... End quote.

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10. "Karachi And Bari Imam Blasts Can Cause Civil War In The Country: MMA Leader Liaqat Baloch" "Khabrain" (05/31)

Quote: ... MMA leader Liaqat Baloch and other religious leaders have said that the present rulers are responsible for the tragic incidents of Bari Imam and Karachi. 'And if this state of affairs persists, it can cause a civil war in the country'.... Liaqat Baloch said there is law of the jungle in Pakistan and the government itself is marring the law and order situation.... End quote.

11. "Suicide Blast in Karachi, Namazi, Guard, Policeman Killed, Three Assailants Killed; Rioters Burnt Buildings, Vehicles" "Nawa-e-Waqt" (5/31)

Quote: Suicide attack on Madinatul Ilm Mosque in densely populated Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi resulted in the killing of six people including three suicide attackers, one policeman, one security guard and one worshiper. One attacker was arrested in severely wounded condition.... The suicide attackers had strapped explosives and detonators with their bodies. The explosion at the mosque led to tension and rioting in the area. End quote.

12. "Jamaat-e-Islami Leader Aslam Mujahid Killed: Suicide Attack in a Karachi Mosque, 5 Killed," "Khabrain" 905/31)

Quote: Unknown assailants in Karachi have kidnapped, tortured and killed Jamaat-e-Islami leader Aslam Mujahid. The killers left the dead body near the Landhi Degree College and fled Aslam Mujahid was going home after attending a funeral when he was kidnapped. End quote.

13. "Suicide Attack In Mosque In Karachi; Five Including Two Attackers Killed," "Jang" (05/31)

Quote: At least five people, including two attackers, were killed and 26 other injured in a suicide attack on a Shiite mosque in Karachi. The incident triggered widespread disturbances in the city in which arsonists set three petrol pumps and a restaurant of a foreign fast food chain on fire besides putting to torch several other vehicles. End quote.

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14. "Suicide Blast At Shrine; 20 Killed" "Dawn"
" (05/28)

Quote: Twenty people, including a suspected suicide

bomber, were killed and nearly 100 others injured in a powerful explosion during a crowded Majlis at the Bari Imam shrine here on Friday, police and hospital authorities said. Casualty figures may rise as 12 of the injured were said to be in critical condition in different hospitals of Islamabad. Seven of the critically wounded were operated upon at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Security guards and witnesses said that some 8,000 to 10,000 followers of both Sunni and Shia sects were attending the Majlis when a bearded man of medium height and dark complexion walked up to the stage and blew himself up. "The suicide bomber tossed up in the air like a big ball of fire and his body disintegrated. The scene was like a slaughterhouse with body parts scattered everywhere. It was terrible," Mohammad Asif, suffering shrapnel wounds, said from a hospital bed. A police official posted a few yards from the Majlis said: "After the blast, a tall plume of fire went up in the sky and several people were killed." Charred bodies beyond identification were found at the scene of the blast. The upper part of the body of a man believed to be the suicide bomber was also found lying a few yards from the blast site.... End quote.

15. "Jamaat-e-Islami Leader Aslam Mujahid Kidnapped, Killed In Karachi," "Jang" (05/31)

Quote: Unknown terrorists on Monday abducted the deputy chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, Aslam Mujahid, in Karachi and later killed him. The Jamaat-e-Islami leader was returning from the burial ceremony of another party worker when he was kidnapped and later found dead. End quote.

16. "Jamaat-e-Islami Blames Government's Coalition Partner For Murder Of Its Leader," "Jang" (05/31)

Quote: The head of Jamaat-e-Islami and the Religious Parties' Alliance, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has alleged that the government's coalition partner, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), was involved in the killing of its workers. End quote.

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17. "No High Value Target In Tribal Area: Army" "The News" (05/29)

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Quote: As many as 306 terrorists were killed while 700 arrested by the security forces in around 50 anti-terrorist operations carried out in North and South Waziristan agencies. This was stated by Director General ISPR Major General Shaukat Sultan and General Officer Commanding and in-charge Anti-Terrorist Operations Major General Niaz Muhammad Khattak while briefing media persons who undertook a daylong visit to different parts of South Waziristan agency Saturday.... Answering a question, Maj Gen Khattak said these miscreants may be hiding in parts of the agency but they are in small groups and further operations could be carried out on as and when required basis. When his attention was drawn towards a recent statement by General Barno of American Army regarding need for launching massive anti-terrorist operations in the area,

Khattak categorically stated that there was no such need as most of the area had been cleansed of the miscreants and if there were some miscreants in the area they could be dealt with through adoption of modern techniques and methods as had been done in the recent past.... End quote.

-- Iran: Nuclear Program

18. "U.S. Willing To Use N-Arms" "Dawn" " (05/29)

Quote: Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Javad Zarif said on Friday that US threat to Iran's nuclear program were a "smoke screen to divert attention from its violations" that included a U.S. willingness "to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states." Talking to reporters following the failure of Nuclear Non-Proliferation review conference here Mr. Zarif said the United States never intended to scrap its nuclear arsenal, despite promising to eventually disarm when it signed the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the landmark arms control pact. Iran's chief delegate asserted that Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons, was the threat to the Middle East region. "There is unanimity on the threat that is posed not only by Israeli nuclear weapons but by its aggressive policy", he said. "Israel is the threat to the region," he said. "It is one of the great ironies of our age that a country outside the framework of legality in the area of non-proliferation is one of the countries

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that is the most active participants against Iran," he UNCLASSIFIED
said.... End quote.

19. "Iran Asks Musharraf To Explain Nukes Comment" "The
Nation" (05/30)

Quote: Iran on Sunday asked President Pervez Musharraf
to explain his claim that Tehran was keen to obtain a
nuclear bomb, a statement that was at odds with the
clerical regime's repeated denials. In an interview
with Germany's Der Spiegel magazine published on
Saturday, Musharraf was quoted as saying that Iran was
'very anxious to have the bomb' - something Iran said it
hoped was a misquote. 'We hope that the Pakistanis
explain that this report was distorted,' Iranian Foreign
Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters. 'I
would say there was a distortion, and it is unlikely
that such comments were made. Asefi added that he
believed it was 'very unlikely that President Musharraf
said such a thing, because he knows better'.... End
quote.

20. "Iran N-Bomb Comment Denied" "Dawn" "(05/30)

Quote: President Musharraf did not say that Iran was
very anxious to acquire a nuclear bomb, Foreign Office
spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani categorically stated here
on Sunday. "The president has not been quoted
correctly," the spokesman said when Dawn sought his
confirmation on President Musharraf's reported comment
on Tehran's nuclear ambition in an interview with
Germany's Der Spiegel weekly. The German weekly had
quoted the president as saying: "I do not know. They

are very anxious to have the bomb," when apparently
asked how to prevent Iran from developing a military
nuclear program. The interview was published on
Saturday. According to the spokesman, when President
Musharraf was asked if Iran was anxious to obtain a
nuclear bomb, the president merely repeated the question
posed to him and then said: "I don't know." The
spokesman expressed his disappointment at the wrong
attribution of the statement on a sensitive issue to
President Musharraf. In this context he underlined that
Pakistan had always supported an EU-Iran dialogue and
peaceful resolution of Tehran's nuclear program issue.
In the interview to the German weekly President
Musharraf had reportedly opposed a preventive war
against Iran and warned that it could be disastrous....
End quote.

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21. "Attack On Iran To Spell Disaster, Says Musharraf"
"The News" (05/29)

Quote: Iran is very anxious to obtain a nuclear bomb, President Musharraf said in an interview published on Saturday, while stating his opposition to any pre-emptive attack on the fellow-Muslim nation. Asked by Germany's Der Spiegel weekly how to prevent Iran from developing a military nuclear program, Musharraf said: "I do not know. They are very anxious to have the bomb." But a pre-emptive war against Tehran would lead to "a disaster considering the current state of the world," the Pakistani leader said. "It would provoke a rebellion in the Muslim world. Why open up new fronts?" he was quoted by the weekly as saying. Musharraf insisted that Pakistan, which already has nuclear weapons, was against proliferation. Unlike Pakistan, which said it developed its defensive nuclear program because it shares a border with nuclear-armed archrival India, "Iran does not have common borders with Israel," he said. "We were really threatened," Musharraf added.... End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

22. "Singh Offers Greater Kashmir Autonomy" "The News"
(05/30)

Quote: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called on Pakistan to dismantle militant camps in held Kashmir, warning on Monday that one major terror attack could derail the peace process between the South Asian neighbors. However, Singh said that cross-border incursions by militants into India had declined and believed efforts to end decades of enmity between India and Pakistan were on track, though he declined to offer a timeframe. "I do believe we have moved forward," the Indian Prime Minister told journalists from foreign news organizations at his residence. "We have today an atmosphere in which we can start discussing basic problems," Singh added. "We are willing to discuss all problems with Pakistan including the Kashmir issue."... End quote.

23. "FO Comes Clean On 'Kashmir Autonomy'" "The News"
(05/30)

Quote: Pakistan on Monday clarified remarks attributed to President Pervez Musharraf in which he reportedly

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commented on autonomy or semi-autonomy for any part of Kashmir. "The president never made any such statement," Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told a weekly media briefing. He said Pakistan's quest was to seek a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute. The spokesman said: "In this respect, the president made certain remarks; unacceptability of a solution based on the Line of Control (LoC), respect to the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, resolution of the dispute which is acceptable to all the stakeholders, including Pakistan, India and Kashmiris, demilitarization which is a prerequisite for extending right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and is inherent in the UN resolutions, and finally empowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir".... End quote.

24. "No Headway On Sir Creek" "Dawn" (05/30)

Quote: The two-day talks on the Sir Creek maritime border dispute between Pakistan and India ended on Sunday without making any headway as both sides stuck to their positions. The talks were held at the defense ministry to discuss the demarcation of the boundary in the Sir Creek area. Pakistan reiterated that the boundary should start with the Eastern Bank on the basis of the 1914 Resolution Map, considered to be most authentic, but India insisted that it should run through the middle of Sir Creek, sources told Dawn. A joint press statement issued after the dialogue declared that the talks were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere and the two sides decided to hold further discussions. The two sides exchanged views on various issues involved and agreed to continue their discussions aimed at an early resolution of the issue for the mutual benefit of the two countries, said the statement Singh hails Musharraf's proposal on Kashmir - The News New Delhi: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has welcomed President Musharraf's proposal to demilitarize a part of Kashmir and give it autonomy. President Musharraf had made this proposal about two weeks ago as a possible solution to the Kashmir dispute. Addressing a press conference in Shimla on Sunday, Manmohan Singh said if there was any progress on the outstanding issues between the two countries then the proposal of President Musharraf might be given a due consideration. However, he observed that Indo-Pak relations were improving. Manmohan Singh said India would make "full and sincere" efforts to resolve all bilateral problems through talks. He also did not rule out the possibility of increasing

the frequency of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.... UNCLASSIFIED
End quote.

25. "India Lobbying To Block U.S. Arms Sale To Pakistan" "The News" (05/29)

Quote: India has activated its lobbies to get blocked a proposal being tabled by the Bush administration in the House Committee on International Relations of the US Congress to seek approval for supply of defense

equipment including the most sophisticated version of 75 F-16s aircraft to Pakistan. The meeting is being scheduled to be held in the second week of next month.... Indians have gathered information from their sources and are now openly working to muster support in the committee. New Delhi is opposing the sales of defense equipment to Pakistan on the plea that it would disturb the defense balance in the region and cause harm to the ongoing process of normalization between Pakistan and India.... End quote.

26. "Indian Government Allows Kashmiri Leaders To Visit Pakistan On Intervention Of Sonia Gandhi," "Jang" (05/31)

Quote: The Indian government has allowed the Hurriat leaders to visit Islamabad and Lahore on the intervention of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. However, the Kashmir leaders have been bound to keep the Indian High Commission in Islamabad apprised of their whereabouts all the time. End quote.

27. "Geelani Rejects Invitation To Visit Pakistan" "The News" (05/30)

Quote: Head of a hard line faction of the All Parties Hurriat Conference (APHC) said on Sunday he has declined an invitation from Pakistan to travel by bus to visit Azad Kashmir along with other Kashmiri leaders this week. "We are thankful to Pakistan for inviting us but we have decided that we will not visit ... Pakistan by bus on June 2," Syed Ali Geelani told a news conference after a six-hour meeting with supporters. "Pakistan's present leadership is deviating from that country's basic stance on Kashmir. We have decided not to go to express our resentment over it," Geelani told reporters. Last week, Islamabad invited the moderate and hard line factions of the Hurriat to make their first visit to Azad Kashmir using a bus service launched April 7 as

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part of a 16-month peace process between the South Asian rivals. The invitation was for Thursday's fifth run of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service. Moderate APHC leaders led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq accepted the invitation, as did Yasin Malik, head of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front.... End quote.

-- Iraq: Anti-Insurgent Offensives

28. "31 Dead In Iraq Violence" "The News" (05/29)

Quote: Attacks and suicide bombings have killed at least 31 people in continued violence in Iraq on Saturday. Two suicide attackers detonated car bombs in northern Iraq, killing at least five Iraqis, and the government confirmed the death of a Japanese hostage abducted earlier this month.... The Iraqi confirmation of the Japanese hostages death follows Friday's Internet release of a video in the name of the Ansar al-Sunnah Army terrorist group showing the bloodied body of an Asian man, apparently Saito, lying on his back with arms outstretched. A statement accompanying the video said the body was Saitos and that he died after being seriously wounded during clashes that broke out after the ambush.... End quote.

-- Pakistan Political Situation

29. "PML-N Won't Allow N-Plan Rollback" "Dawn" (05/29)

Quote: Leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) on Saturday pledged that the military rulers would not be permitted to roll back the nuclear program or make any compromise on sensitive national assets. Speaking at a public meeting held at Nasar House to mark the 'Yaum-i-Takbir', they paid tribute to exiled party leader Nawaz Sharif for carrying out nuclear tests.... End quote.

Editorials/Opinions

-- Desecration of the Holy Quran

30. "Now A Fake Quran," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (05/28)

Quote: General Musharraf and other Pakistani leaders rightly conveyed to U.S. Under Secretary of State Ms

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Christina Rocca, whose visit here coincided with worldwide protests against the desecration of the Holy Quran by Gitmo interrogators, the deep resentment that the people of Pakistan feel at this shameful act. She agreed that action should be taken against the culprits and assured the President that the Bush Administration had already ordered an enquiry into this incident. But while the pain and anger of sacrilegious act is still alive among Muslims, they received another shock. Two U.S. publishers-Omega 2001 and Wine Press-parodied the Holy Quran in their joint publication "The True Furqan," also titled "The 21st Century Quran." A 366-page book with both Arabic and English editions, which was distributed to school students in Kuwait, describes jihad as haram while also declaring various other tenets of Islam as non-permissible. It would have been better had our authorities also taken up this issue with Ms Rocca.... Now that two American publishing houses have made another attempt to hurt the sentiments of Muslims, the issue should have been highlighted to make Ms Rocca come up with an official explanation, rather than secretly intimating the Education Ministry to prevent this book from being circulated in our schools. It is time that the U.S. also realized that while it is already being accused of committing gross human rights violation, it would give more offence to the Muslim world by overlooking such sacrilegious acts. End quote.

31. "American Soldiers Worse Than Nazis," an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (05/31)

Quote: U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Richard Myers has said that American soldiers treat prisoners humanely and the prisoners are provided Islamic Halal food. The prisoners have been provided with the copies of Holy Quran with translation in 13 languages.... Under a plan, the Holy Quran was not only

desecrated in Guantanamo Bay, but at Bagram Afghanistan and Abu Gharaib, Iraq. American General accepted that American soldiers desecrated the Quran for more than five times. General Myers statement after all this is nothing, but shameful lie and deception. End quote.

-- Campaign Against Terrorism

32. "The Afzal Brothers' Ordeal," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (05/30)

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Quote: The "war on terror" seems to have allowed license to governments to flout their own laws, as illustrated by the abduction, eight-month-long detention, and torture of the brothers, Zain and Kashan Afzal. The New York-based group Human Rights Watch, which has been following the case of these U.S. citizens of Pakistani origin, alleges Pakistan illegally detained and tortured them to extract confessions about terrorism and Al-Qaeda, and that American FBI agents questioned them at least six times. Pakistan's response has been wishy-washy. Interior minister Aftab Sherpao told The Washington Post on May 24 that that the brothers were never arrested in Pakistan, and Foreign Ministry spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani, talking to The News the following day, sidestepped the question by asserting that Pakistan is committed to the protection and promotion of human rights. The U.S. response has not been any better. The FBI denied being complicit in the torture, but did not deny interrogating the brothers in Pakistan. The U.S. Consul General in Karachi told HRW in March "the safety and security of Americans overseas is of paramount importance to us, and we continue to work both here and abroad to provide all possible assistance to our citizens." But he refused to provide any additional information on the brothers, citing the Privacy Act. American diplomats made no effort to meet them in court or in prison until seven months after their abduction. Obviously, some American citizens are more unequal than others. End quote.

33. "Attack On Bari Imam," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (05/28)

Quote: ... It is ominous that terrorists should have chosen to attack a shrine, which symbolizes harmony between the Shia and Sunni communities at the people's level. Motives other than sectarian cannot also be ruled out. But what happened yesterday should not have come as a surprise to the intelligence agencies; a similar assault at a shrine of a Sufi saint revered by both communities took place in March at Gandhawa, near Naseerabad in Balochistan, which killed 44 people. The bombing at Bari Imam, thus, exposes a total paralysis in the working of the several intelligence and law enforcement agencies operating in the country.... It is time a few heads rolled, and law enforcement agencies were given clear directives to ensure security all around, especially at places of worship. It is irrelevant which act of terror claims how many lives;

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the fact that such attacks have continued for years and that they have resulted in the loss of lives

and property is the basic problem that needs to be tackled effectively. Equally basic is the bigotry and intolerance that has permeated our society, and has often been exploited by our state agencies and religious and sectarian groups. End quote.

34. "Afghanistan's Abu Ghraib," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (05/31)

Quote: The Bush administration's relentless efforts to spread freedom and democracy around the globe have been blighted by three damning disclosures of prisoner abuse by U.S. interrogators, in this month alone. At Bagram airbase near Kabul, two Afghan prisoners were done to death by American soldiers in December 2002. The two men were chained to the ceiling; kicked and beaten by American soldiers in sustained assaults that caused their deaths, according to U.S. Army criminal investigative reports. One soldier, Pfc. Willie V. Brand, was charged with manslaughter in a closed hearing in February in Texas in connection with one of the deaths. Private Brand, who acknowledged striking a detainee named Dilawar 37 times, was accused of having maimed and killed him over a five-day period by "destroying his leg muscle tissue with repeated unlawful knee strikes." The attacks on Mr. Dilawar were so severe that "even if he had survived, both legs would have had to be amputated," the Army report said.... President Karzai, who concluded a strategic partnership with the United States in Washington last Tuesday, insisted the blame for the prisoners' murders lay on "those individuals" who carried them out. These things happen everywhere," he added. Everywhere, indeed, not just in the Third World or in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories -- as if this were justification for allowing them to continue. End quote.

-- Iran: Nuclear Program

35. "Gross Misreporting," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (05/31)

Quote: Pakistan Foreign Office statement that President Musharraf was misquoted by a German magazine about Iran's nuclear ambitions must clear any misgivings that might have arisen as a result between the two countries. Tehran took up the case with Islamabad promptly after

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Der Spiegel magazine published President Musharraf's interview, quoting him as having said that Iran wanted to develop nuclear weapons.... However, Islamabad must not stop at clarifying its position. It will do well to take legal action against this gross misreporting by the magazine in an effort to preempt any such events in future that have potential of creating serious misunderstandings among states.... Nevertheless the leaders and officials of the Pakistan government will have to walk a tightrope on the nuclear issue and be very careful in what they say. The clandestine deals made by Pakistani scientists to export the nuclear technology and its wherewithal have hurt the world's confidence in Islamabad's ability to protect its strategic assets. While Islamabad has to work proactively to prove its credentials as a responsible

nuclear state, the government must develop certain guidelines regarding public statements over the issue. Any slip of tongue may create unnecessary issues that could and should be avoided. End quote.

36. "Centrifuges To Vienna," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (05/28)

Quote: ... Vienna in the custody of a team of Pakistani scientists, who would be cooperating with IAEA experts in the analysis and testing process and when that is over, would bring it back to Pakistan. As it consisted of "old and discarded" components, he argues, it would not compromise Pakistan's national security. It is doubtful whether Mr. Kasuri's hope would come true, that Islamabad's compliance with the IAEA demand to cooperate with it would prove to the world that it is a responsible nuclear power and against proliferation. The West, particularly Washington, would not hesitate to arraign us on the charge when it suits its interests.... Considering Washington's determination to prevent a nuclear power from emerging in the Middle East to rival Israel, it is not far-fetched to assume that, facing a deadlock, it might employ all possible tactics to manipulate the results of the IAEA probe to substantiate its charges. The Pakistani scientists charged with the responsibility of cooperating in the investigation need to ensure that this does not happen. End quote.

37. "Accusation and Pakistan's Clarification," an editorial note in the populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (05/31)

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Quote: Iran has asked the Pakistan government to clarify President Musharraf's statement to the effect that Iran is desirous of acquiring a nuclear bomb. President Musharraf's statement negates Iran's oft-repeated stance.... Pakistan Foreign Ministry has told AFP that President Musharraf's statement was misquoted in the German magazine. The spokesman said that the President was asked if Iran was anxious to build a nuclear bomb at which he replied that he did not know.... The government of Pakistan is justified in protesting to the German magazine and asking it to present the statement in the correct context so that this controversy between Iran and Pakistan can be stopped here. End quote.

-- India-Pakistan Relations

38. "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pervez Musharraf's Proposal," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (05/31)

Quote: This is the first time that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has hinted at India reconsidering its stand on Kashmir. The proposal seems to have made some headway and India seems to have discerned that progress towards resolution of the Kashmir dispute is need of the hour and without its resolution an atmosphere of friendship in the Subcontinent was impossible.... The hint is welcome to this extent, but one can't say

anything with certainty about the actual designs of India.... President Musharraf's proposal for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute has far reaching implication; it is surprising that the opposition did not come out with a serious commentary and analysis of the proposal.... General Pervez Musharraf government and other policymakers should not forget that final resolution of the Kashmir dispute rests with the people of Kashmir. End quote.

39. "How Long Will this Process of 'Meet, Talk and Disperse' Continue?" an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (05/31)

Quote: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has reiterated yet again that his government will continue to strive for resolving all issues with Pakistan peacefully... Siachen, Baglihar Dam and Sir Creek are issues that need CBMs. When both countries agree on this

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and keep making announcements to the effect that frequently, this sentiment must see practical shape also. How long will this process of meet, talk and disperse continue? End quote.

40. "Independence for Part of Kashmir: Dr. Manmohan Singh's Statement... Danger Bell," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (05/31)

Quote: Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has supported withdrawal of troops from Siachin and the proposal for making a part of Kashmir independent.... Dr. Manmohan Singh's has given impression of considering independence for Kashmir and making it military free zone, which smacks of something sinister. After all Kashmiris did not give so many sacrifices for limited independence and indefinite dominance of India. End quote.

41. "Demand From U.S. To Get Political Disputes Of Islamic World Resolved," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban/Jihad Urdu daily, "Jang" (05/31)

Quote: President Musharraf while addressing the Commission of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has called upon the United States to get the political disputes confronting the Muslim world resolved which are the basis of extremism and terrorism. This is the right demand made by the President since it is the U.S. which has a pivotal role in complicating all these outstanding issues. As long as the U.S. got serious in resolving these issues, the UN despite all its influence would not be able to deliver any thing. But the U.S. is definitely not going to respond in affirmative to this call. So long the Muslim countries united and stood as a single power against America and its interests, the U.S. is not going to pay any heed. End quote.

-- Non-Proliferation

42. "NPT Talks' Failure," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (05/30)

Quote: The failure of the nuclear non-proliferation conference in New York should surprise no one. Given the sharp differences among the 188 members who are signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), only a miracle could have secured a consensus on re-writing the 1968 NPT. The aim before the conference was to plug

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the loopholes in the NPT that allow UNCLASSIFIED to seek to develop nuclear weapons. From this point of view, the drafters of the treaty are nearly four decades behind time. The basic flaw is the original treaty itself, for instead of striving for a nuclear-free world, the NPT legalized the nuclear monopoly of a few nations. Those who possess them are also permanent members of the Security Council with a veto, and they expect all other nations of the world not to aspire for a nuclear status. In 1974, India tested a nuclear device, and in 1998, following the Indian nuclear tests, Pakistan also followed suit. All along, Israel has been developing nuclear weapons with the full knowledge and support of some NATO nations. France gave Israel a nuclear reactor, and the Americans one day discovered that the uranium "stolen" from one of their reactors had landed in Israel. End quote.

-- Mideast Peace Process

43. "Bush's New Stand," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (05/28)

Quote: Thursday's statement by President George Bush is one of the most categorical declarations he has ever made on the Palestinian issue. Addressing a press conference with visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the White House, the American president said that "a great achievement of history" - a Palestinian state - was within reach. It was "a difficult journey", he conceded, but hoped that "we will take it together".... This US administration came up with a roadmap in April 2003 calling for a complete halt to settlement activity and visualizing the emergence of a Palestinian state by 2005. However, later Mr. Bush had second thoughts and said 2005 was an unrealistic deadline for it.... Thursday's statement by Mr. Bush, however, seems to hold out some hope that a Palestinian state may after all come into being. This assumes that Washington will not allow Tel Aviv to drag its feet, continue with settlement activity or proceed with the construction of the barrier. Nor must Israel be allowed to obfuscate the two-state issue by raising non-issues - like the PA's internal matters. After all that has happened in Iraq, the U.S. owes it to the Arab-Islamic world to do something positive. The continued occupation of Al Quds and parts of Palestine is the biggest source of unrest and terrorism in the Arab-Islamic world. End quote. Crocker

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