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| | TEDE-00 | IO-00 | LAB-01 | L-00 | VCE-00 | AC-01 | NEA-00 |
| | DCP-01 | NSAE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | OPIC-01 | PA-00 | PC-01 |
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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
 SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PD, DRL
 LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
 CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
 USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
 SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM;
INDO-PAK TENSION

(JANUARY 07, 2002)

NEWS:

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM
INDO-PAK TENSION

OPINION:

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM
INDO-PAK TENSION

NEWS

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-- CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM

1. HEADLINES

"MULLAH ZAEFF SHIFTED TO AMERICAN SHIP," "DIN" (01/07)

"SEARCH FOR MULLAH OMAR CONTINUES IN HERAT; SEVERE
U.S. BOMBING IN BAGHRAN," "JANG" (01/07)

"U.S. SOLDIERS IN 8 HELICOPTERS LAND IN KHOST,
AFGHANISTAN," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (01/07)

"USAMA'S WIFE, DAUGHTER, BODYGUARD HELD IN YEMEN,"
"UMMAT" (01/07)

"A PLAN BY INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RAW TO STAGE
SUICIDE ATTACKS ON U.S. PLANES AT JACOBABAD AIRPORT
FOILED; 4 RAW AGENTS ARRESTED WITH ARMS," "AUSAF"
(01/07)

"ARAB MUJAHIDEEN SHOOT DOWN A U.S. PLANE IN THE AFGHAN
AREA OF SPAINGHAR," "KAINAAT" (01/07)

"USAMA WANTED TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN BUT WE BROUGHT HIM
BACK TWICE: MULLAH OMAR SAYS IN AN INTERVIEW," "ASSAS"
(01/07)

"MULLAH ZAEFF TAKEN TO U.S. SHIP FOR INTERROGATION,"
"JANG" (01/07)

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"SEVERE U.S. BOMBING IN JALALABAD," "NAWA-E-WAQT"

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"ARRESTED AL-QAEDA ACTIVISTS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE U.S.: INTERIOR MINISTER MOINUDDIN HAIDER," "AUSAF" (01/07)

"300 AL-QAEDA MEMBERS ARRESTED ON PAK-AFGHAN BORDER HANDED OVER TO THE FBI," "KAINAAT" (01/07)

"240 ARABS WHO FLED FROM AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN ARRESTED: INTERIOR MINISTER MOINUDDIN HAIDER," "JANG" (01/07)

"USAMA HAS FLED TO PAKISTAN: U.S. SENATOR EDWARD," "JANG" (01/07)

"PASSENGERS GOING TO NEPAL ON PAKISTANI PASSPORTS SUSPECTED TO BE AL-QAEDA MEMBERS," "JANG" (01/07)

"THE WORLD MUST TAKE NOTE, WE HAVE TAKEN MANY STEPS AGAINST EXTREMISTS: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF," "KHABRAIN" (01/07)

"INDIA WILL HOLD TALKS AFTER THE THREAT FROM PAKISTANI GROUPS DIMINISHES: TONY BLAIR," "KHABRAIN" (01/07)

"INDIA AGREES TO RE-INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH PAKISTAN," "UMMAT" (01/07)

"ARRESTED ARAB MILITANTS TO BE HANDED OVER TO U.S.: INTERIOR MINISTER," "JASARAT" (01/07)

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-- NEWS

2. "MULLAH ZAEF BEING INTERROGATE AT U.S. NAVAL SHIP," UMMAT (01/07)

QUOTE: THE U.S. MILITARY HAS MOVED THE FORMER TALIBAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN, MULLAH ABDUS SALAM ZAEF, TO ITS NAVAL SHIP IN THE ARABIAN SEA AND HAS STARTED INTERROGATING HIM. END QUOTE.

3. "MULLAH ZAEF REJECTS U.S. INCENTIVES FOR REBELLION AGAINST MULLAH OMAR," "UMMAT" (01/06)

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QUOTE: FORMER TALIBAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN HAS REJECTED THE OFFER MADE BY THE U.S. FBI TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AGAINST USAMA BIN LADEN AND MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR AND TERM THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORISM.

HIGHLY INFORMED SOURCES HAVE REVEALED THAT THE U.S. TEAM CURRENTLY INTERROGATING MULLAH ZAEEF HAD OFFERED HIM POLITICAL ASYLUM IN PAKISTAN, U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND FIVE BILLION DOLLARS IF HE REVOLTED AGAINST THE TALIBAN REGIME. ON HIS FAILURE TO DO SO, HE WAS TOLD, THAT HE WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE KARZAI GOVERNMENT WHERE HE WOULD BE MADE A TARGET OF SEVERE TORTURE. END QUOTE.

4. "A PLAN BY INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RAW TO STAGE SUICIDE ATTACKS ON U.S. PLANES AT JACOBABAD AIRPORT FOILED; 4 RAW AGENTS ARRESTED WITH ARMS," "AUSAF" (01/07)

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QUOTE: ... AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN FOILED TO DESTROY U.S. PLANES AND KILL SOLDIERS AT JACOBABAD AIRPORT IN SUICIDE ATTACKS. THE PLAN WAS AIMED AT SABOTAGING PAK-U.S. RELATIONS. POLICE HAVE ARRESTED FOUR MEN WHO HAD TIED BOMBS WITH THEIR BODIES. ON THE NIGHT BETWEEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, ACTING ON A TIP OFF, SHO JACOBABAD CITY RAIDED A HOUSE AND ARRESTED 4 MEN WHO HAD TIME BOMBS TIED TO THEIR BODIES AND THEY WERE READY TO STAGE A SUICIDE ATTACK. 10 TIME BOMBS, 6 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, 2 MAPS OF THE AIRBASE AND 4 MOBILE PHONES WERE RECOVERED FROM THE ARRESTED PEOPLE. THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION AND INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE THESE TERRORISTS BELONG TO THE INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RAW. IT HAD PLANNED TO HAVE U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED AND PLANES DESTROYED AT JACOBABAD AIRBASE IN AN ATTEMPT TO DESTABILIZE PAK-U.S. RELATIONS. WHEN CONTACTED BY THE "ONLINE" NEWS AGENCY, SSP JACOBABAD NEITHER DENIED NOR CONFIRMED THE REPORT.... END QUOTE. "ONLINE"

5. "AFGHAN REFUGEES WILLING TO RETURN," "DAWN" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE AFGHAN REFUGEES ARE WILLING TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN IF PEACE IS RESTORED TO THE WAR-TORN COUNTRY AND THE U.S. STOPPED BOMBING AND KILLING OF THE INNOCENT PEOPLE, THEY SAID.... END QUOTE.

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-- INDO-PAK TENSION

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6. "60 MORE HELD IN CRACKDOWN ON ISLAMISTS," "THE NEWS" (01/07)

QUOTE: PAKISTAN DETAINED YET MORE MEMBERS OF KASHMIR MILITANT GROUPS AT THE CENTER OF A MILITARY STANDOFF BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA ON SUNDAY AS DIPLOMATIC MOVES INTENSIFIED TO DEFUSE TENSION BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR NEIGHBORS.... END QUOTE.

7. "17 MORE KASHMIRIS MARTYRED, 4 IN CUSTODY," "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE INDIAN TROOPS IN THEIR CONTINUING SPURT OF TERRORISM, MARTYRED 17 MORE KASHMIRIS, 4 OF THEM IN CUSTODY.... END QUOTE.

8. "PRESIDENT CALLS FOR END TO BITTERNESS," "FRONTIER POST" (01/07)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF ON SUNDAY UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM STEPS TO END BITTERNESS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. ADDRESSING THE NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE 11TH SUMMIT OF THE SAARC.... END QUOTE.

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9. "REBUILDING AFGHANISTAN," AN EDITORIAL IN THE KARACHI-BASED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DAILY, "DAWN" (01/07)

QUOTE: ... THE WORLD COMMUNITY NOW NEEDS TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE AREAS AND SECTORS SO THAT THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION COULD BEGIN WHEN THE MOMENT ARRIVES....

AT THE LAST UNDP AND WORLD BANK-SPONSORED THREE-DAY RECONSTRUCTION OF AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD, PARTICIPANTS SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN NOTIONS

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OF A 'CIVIL SOCIETY' THAT THEY THOUGHT AFGHANISTAN NEEDED, AND SPENT TIME DEBATING ISSUES THAT CAN WAIT.... THE PROPOSED CULTURAL RE-ORIENTATION OF A NATION CANNOT BE MADE A PRIORITY IN A COUNTRY WHERE MILLIONS GO WITHOUT FOOD AND DRINKING WATER AND ARE AT RISK OF BEING KILLED BY INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND UBIQUITOUS LANDMINES. MAKING THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS CONDITIONAL UPON SUCH PREMISES [AS WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT OR THE DISARMING OF AFGHAN MALES] WILL NOT SERVE ANYONE'S CAUSE, MUCH LESS THAT OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. INDEED, MANY AFGHANS WILL SEE ANY SUCH IMPOSITION OF THE 'GLOBAL' - READ WESTERN - PARADIGM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AS A CULTURAL INTERVENTION, AND THUS RESIST IT.... THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE EFFORTS AND NOT TO CULTURAL RE-ORIENTATION OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. END QUOTE.

10. "MULLAH OMAR ESCAPES," AN EDITORIAL IN THE
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CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (01/07)

QUOTE: WITH THE ESCAPE OF MULLAH OMAR FROM BAGHRAN, THE GRAPHIC DETAIL OF HIS FLEEING ON A MOTORCYCLE ADDING SOME COMIC RELIEF TO A GRIM SITUATION, IT SEEMS THE AFGHANS ARE NOT GOING TO SEE PEACE FOR SOME TIME LONGER. THINGS SEEM TO BE LIMPING BACK TO NORMAL IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE INDUCTION OF THE KARZAI INTERIM

ADMINISTRATION AT KABUL, BUT U.S. BOMBING RAIDS CONTINUE.... IT MAY BE MORALLY INDEFENSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO GO ON BOMBING CIVILIANS, AS IT SEEMS THAT IT IS DELIBERATELY BOMBING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT ANYONE GIVING TALIBAN OR AL-QAEDA ELEMENTS REFUGE, BUT IT IS NOT EASY TO SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE, MORE HUMANE, METHOD OF ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF PURGING AFGHANISTAN OF ALL TERRORIST OR PRO-TERRORIST ELEMENTS. IT SEEMS THERE ARE GRAY AREAS DEVELOPING IN AFGHANISTAN, AND IN ATTITUDES THERE.... [THE U.S. ARREST OF MULLAH ZAEEF] RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THERE IS ANY SERIOUSNESS ABOUT RE-INTEGRATING THE TALIBAN, OR EX-TALIBAN, INTO AFGHAN SOCIETY.... IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE THE LOGIC OF MULLAH OMAR BEING TRIED FOR THE HIGH CRIME OF BEING HEAD OF AN UNRECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT, AND PERHAPS HE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED SOME KIND OF ACCESSORY TO AL-QAEDA ACTIONS, BUT FOR AN AMBASSADOR TO BE PUNISHED FOR REPRESENTING A GOVERNMENT IN A STATE THAT

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DID RECOGNIZE IT SEEMS UNFORTUNATE. PAKISTAN CAN PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN THIS REGARD. SINCE THE AREAS BEING BOMBED ARE PASHTUN, IN WHICH PAKISTAN HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST DUE TO ITS OWN PASHTUN COMMUNITY, AND SINCE

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MULLAH ZAEEF WAS AMBASSADOR IN PAKISTAN, QUIET DIPLOMACY TO OBTAIN HUMANE TREATMENT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE. END QUOTE.

11. "MALTREATMENT OF TALIBAN PRISONERS," AN EDITORIAL NOTE IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY, "NAWA-E-WAQT" (01/07)

QUOTE: HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MALTREATMENT OF THE TALIBAN PRISONERS IN THE AFGHANISTAN... THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BLAMED AMERICA FOR THE INHUMAN TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE PRISONERS. THESE TALIBAN ARE PRISONERS OF WAR AND NOT ORDINARY CRIMINALS; THEY SHOULD BE TREATED IN KEEPING WITH GENEVA CONVENTION. END QUOTE.

12. "UNJUST TREATMENT OF TALIBAN PRISONERS," AN EDITORIAL NOTE IN THE PRO-MUSLIM LEAGUE URDU DAILY, "PAKISTAN" (01/07)

QUOTE: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE PLIGHT OF THE TALIBAN PRISONERS IN A JAIL IN AFGHANISTAN... AMERICA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SITUATION AND IT SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE NOTICE OF THE COMPLAINT. THE PRISONERS SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE PRISONERS OF WAR. END QUOTE.

13. "U.S. BARBARISM," AN EDITORIAL IN "JASARAT" (01/07)

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QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES HAS WRITTEN A NEW HISTORY OF BARBARISM IN AFGHANISTAN. BUT ITS PASSION OF REVENGE IS NOT COOLING DOWN EVEN AFTER THE ANNIHILATION OF TALIBAN. THE REASON FOR THIS SEEMS TO BE THAT TERRORISM AND BLOOD LETTING IS IN THE ROOTS OF THE U.S. THE U.S. IS THIRSTY FOR MUSLIM BLOOD. IT IS CONDUCTING A RACIAL ANNIHILATION OF MUSLIMS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR WHICH IT WOULD HAVE TO PAY TOMORROW,

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IF NOT TODAY. END QUOTE.

14. "AIR STRIKES IN AFGHANISTAN BE COMPLETELY HALTED," AN EDITORIAL IN "JANG" (01/07)

QUOTE: IT IS INDEED SURPRISING THAT THE U.S. BOMBINGS IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE NOT HALTED AS YET. IT IS

UNIMAGINABLE THAT AFTER SO MUCH OF U.S. BOMBARDMENT USAMA BIN LADEN OR MULLA MOHAMMAD OMER WOULD BE HIDING SOMEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN. QUARTERS PRIVY TO THE AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS IN AFGHANISTAN SHOULD NOT TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY THE TRIBAL LEVEL OF RUMOR-MONGERING. WHAT IS THE FAULT OF THOSE CHILDREN AND WOMEN WHO BECOME TARGETS FOR DEATH WITHOUT ANY REASON? AFTER THE END OF THE TALIBAN GOVERNMENT WHAT IS THE LOGIC OF DISTRIBUTING DEATH IN PEACEFUL AFGHAN TOWNS? END QUOTE.

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15.Q"GENERAL PERVEZ'S SINCERE OFFER OF RAPPROCHEMENT TO VAJPAYEE," AN EDITORIAL IN "JANG" (01/07)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF OF PAKISTAN, BY SINCERELY OFFERING RAPPROCHEMENT TO INDIA AND TAKING THE INITIATIVE OF EXTENDING A HAND OF FRIENDSHIP, HAS NOW FORCED INDIAN PRIME MINISTER VAJPAYEE TO TELL THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHY INDIA IS NOT HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. NO DOUBT THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN HAS TAKEN A VERY BOLD AND PRUDENT STEP DURING THE SAARC CONFERENCE AND HAS PROVED THAT PAKISTAN WAS READY TO HOLD DIALOGUE ANY TIME, ANYWHERE AND AT ANY LEVEL FOR LASTING PEACE IN SUB-CONTINENT. END QUOTE.

16. "HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS THE ENEMY," AN EDITORIAL IN "UMMAT" (01/07)

QUOTE: JUST LIKE AGRA, PRESIDENT GENERAL PERVEZ MUSHARRAF HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TOWARDS KASHMIR BY DEMONSTRATING PAKISTAN'S SINCERITY, GOODWILL AND FEELING OF COMPROMISE TOWARDS INDIA IN KATMANDU. HE HAS ONCE AGAIN PROVED TO THE WORLD THAT PAKISTAN HAS NEVER DESISTED FROM HAVING BETTER RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND RESTORATION OF PEACE IN THE REGION. END QUOTE.

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17. "DESIRE FOR GENUINE FRIENDSHIP" AND INDIAN STUBBORNESS," AN EDITORIAL IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY, "NAWA-E-WAQT" (01/07)

QUOTE: WHATEVER GENERAL MUSHARRAF HAS DONE TO EVADE
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WAR IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.... IF VAJPAYEE STILL MAKE THE DIALOGUE WITH PAKISTAN CONDITIONAL WITH THE END TO "TERRORISM" THEN PAKISTAN NEED NOT CAPITULATE UNDER THE PRESSURE OF UNJUST INDIAN DEMANDS. THE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT IS NOT A NEED OF PAKISTAN ONLY. END QUOTE.

18. "HAND OF FRIENDSHIP," AN EDITORIAL IN THE POPULAR URDU DAILY "DIN" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE IMPRESSION CREATED [AT THE SAARC SUMMIT] IS THAT ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN HAS EXTENDED A HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS INDIA; THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S CAUSTIC COMMENTS HAVE SENT OUT THE MESSAGE INDIA IS NOT SERIOUS IN THIS ISSUE. THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH SHOWS THAT INDIA WANTS TO TELL THE WORLD THAT THE PAKISTANI LEADERSHIP IS NOT RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY. THE PAKISTANI LEADERSHIP SHOULD WEIGH EACH WORD CAUTIOUSLY BEFORE UTTERING IT AND TAKE EACH STEP AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

19. "WELL DONE, PERVEZ MUSHARRAF, THE BALL IS NOW IN INDIA'S COURT," AN EDITORIAL IN THE SENSATIONALIST URDU DAILY "KHABRAIN" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HAS TERMED PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF'S ATTITUDE [AT THE SAARC SUMMIT] AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.... HOWEVER, THE NEGATIVE STANCE ADOPTED BY THE INDIAN SPOKESPERSON GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE REPRESENTS
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THE HAWKS IN THE INDIAN CABINET -- WHO DO NOT WISH FOR PEACE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN -- AND NOT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS ACTUALLY THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TENSE SITUATION AT THE BORDER. PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS WOULD NOT ONLY NORMALIZE, BUT TAKE THE SHAPE OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP, IF THESE PERSONS WERE CONTROLLED. THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT IN THE FACT THE PM VAJPAYEE ALSO WANTS PEACE. EVEN IN THE PAST,

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AS FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. VAJPAYEE WAS FRIENDLY TOWARDS PAKISTAN. PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES REVEAL THAT HE IS TRAPPED AMONG HAWKS. END QUOTE.

20. "A WRONG DECISION," AN OP-ED BY TAUSEEF AHMAD KHAN IN THE POPULAR URDU DAILY "DIN" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE MUSHARRAF GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED A BAN ON THE SCREENING OF INDIAN CHANNELS.... OUR INFORMATION MINISTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FOOLISH DECISION. WHETHER FEDERAL OR PROVINCIAL, THE ONLY TASK OF OUR INFORMATION DEPARTMENT IS TO TELL US THAT ALL IS WELL, THAT THE LION AND THE GOAT DRINK WATER FROM THE SAME RIVER.... ALL I WANT TO SAY IS THAT THE COMMON MAN NEITHER WATCHES PTV NOR LISTENS TO RADIO PAKISTAN. HE WATCHES BBC AND CNN. THE SITUATION WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS LONG AS YOU [PTV] KEEP SHOWING THE SAME OLD FACES. THE WORLD IS A SMALL PLACE. YOU CANNOT HIDE ANYTHING, FOR THE NEXT DAY FACTS WILL BE KNOWN TO ALL.... PTV SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE WHAT FOREIGN CHANNELS DID WHEN INDIA CLOSED DOWN THE SAMJHOTA EXPRESS AND THE FRIENDSHIP BUS SERVICE. OBSERVERS SAID THAT INDIA HAS ONLY EARNED CURSES BY TERMINATING THESE

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SERVICES. YOU TOO [THE GOVERNMENT] HAVE NOT ACHIEVED ANYTHING BY BANNING INDIAN CHANNELS. END QUOTE.

21. "MUSHARRAF EMERGES TALLER," AN EDITORIAL IN THE ISLAMABAD'S RIGHTIST ENGLISH DAILY, "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (01/07)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF'S HAS UNPRECEDENTED GESTURE OF GOODWILL TOWARDS NEW DELHI WON HIM PROFOUND AND PROLONGED APPLAUSE FROM SAARC LEADERS AND DELEGATES. HE ALSO REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED DIALOGUE WITH INDIA. THE PRESIDENT'S GESTURE NOT ONLY GAVE A PLEASANT SURPRISE TO EVERYONE, BUT ALSO CHANGED THE MOOD IN THE CONFERENCE HALL.... IRRESPECTIVE OF THE FACT THAT VAJPAYEE FAILED TO MATCH GEN MUSHARRAF'S PEACE INITIATIVE IN HIS SUBSEQUENT REMARKS, A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER HAS CERTAINLY OCCURRED. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS ALSO LAUDED PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF'S GESTURE OF EXTENDING THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS VAJPAYEE. HE HAS ONCE AGAIN PROVED HIMSELF TO BE A MAN OF PEACE. MUSHARRAF HAS, IN FACT, EMERGED TALLER IN THE PRESENT CRISIS DUE TO HIS MATURE, SOBER AND STATESMANLIKE HANDLING OF THE GRAVE

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CRISIS THAT HAD OVERTAKEN THE SUBCONTINENT DUE TO INDIA'S UNWARRANTED OVER-REACTION TO THE DEC 13 INCIDENT.... VAJPAYEE IS NOW UNDER MORAL OBLIGATION TO TAKE SUITABLE MEASURES TO DE-ESCALATE THE BORDER SITUATION BY SCALING DOWN THE MILITARY BUILD-UP WITH THE SAME SPEED AS IT WAS MOUNTED.... INDIAN LEADERSHIP MUST ESCHEW WAR HYSTERIA AND BRING THE

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TEMPERATURE DOWN IN RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN'S INITIATIVE
FOR PEACE. END QUOTE.

22. "PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF'S CONCILIATORY STEP," AN EDITORIAL IN THE PRO-MUSLIM LEAGUE URDU DAILY, "PAKISTAN" (01/07)

QUOTE: IN VIEW OF THE PAKISTAN PRESIDENT'S CONCILIATORY STEP AND INDIA'S STUBBORNNESS THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY DOUBTS LEFT THAT INDIA WANTS TO MAINTAIN TENSION AND WAR LIKE SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA.... AFTER INDIA'S REFUSAL TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH PAKISTAN OR ACCEPT MEDIATION, THE WORLD IS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL SO THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD DO SOMETHING TO SAVE SOUTH ASIA FROM WAR DESTRUCTION. END QUOTE.

23. "BLAIR MISSION," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTRIST NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NEWS" (01/07)

QUOTE: BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR ARRIVES IN PAKISTAN ON THE SECOND LEG OF HIS PEACE MISSION WITHOUT HIS TASK BEING MADE ANY EASIER BY THE INABILITY OF INDIAN PRIME MINISTER ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE TO GRASP AT AN OPPORTUNITY IN KATHMANDU TO REDUCE THE TENSION IN THE REGION.... INDIA WANTS MUCH MORE FROM THE STATES ARRAYED AGAINST TERRORISM AND COALITION PARTNERS OF PAKISTAN THAN WHAT IS AVAILABLE AT PRESENT. THE WELL-MEANING MEDIATORS, IN INDIAN

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EYES, TEND TO EQUATE THE SOUTH ASIAN OPPONENTS WHEN THERE IS A NEED TO IDENTIFY THE TROUBLEMAKER.... MR. BLAIR'S TALKS IN ISLAMABAD WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON HOW WELL HIS TALKS WENT IN DELHI. BUT IF MR. VAJPAYEE'S PERFORMANCE IN KATHMANDU IS ANY INDICATION, THEN THE BRITISH PREMIER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE

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ANYTHING EXCEPT TO ACT AS A MESSENGER, WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY HAD MR. VAJPAYEE AGREED TO MEET MR. MUSHARRAF AT THE SAARC SUMMIT. END QUOTE.

24. "SMALL BREAKTHROUGH," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE BRIEF, INFORMAL MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA, ON THE SIDELINES, SO TO SPEAK, OF THE MEETING OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN KATHMANDU, IS A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE DEADLOCK THAT HAS PERSISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE INDIA WENT ON THE WARPATH.... THE 70-MINUTE MEETING OF MR. SATTAR AND MR. JASWANT SINGH HAS LED TO NO DECISIONS.... YET, THE FACT REMAINS THAT IT HAS TAKEN PLACE.... THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN IMPORTANT. IT CANNOT BE A COINCIDENCE THAT SECRETARY POWELL CALLED UP BOTH MR. SATTAR AND MR. SINGH IN KATHMANDU, HOURS BEFORE THEY HELD THEIR UNSCHEDULED MEETING. HOPEFULLY, BENEATH THE DIPLOMATIC PLEASANTRIES, THE MESSAGE FROM MR. POWELL AND MR. BLAIR IS CLEAR TO INDIA: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. AS TIME PASSES, INDIA'S APPARENT EQUATING OF THE DECEMBER 13 ATTACKS WITH THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS BECOMES INCREASINGLY RIDICULOUS, WERE IT NOT THAT IT WAS BEING USED AS AN EXCUSE TO

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SPARK OFF A WAR THAT COULD END IN NUCLEAR EXCHANGES. INDIA HAS ALSO TRIED TO REPRODUCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITSELF AND PAKISTAN AS OBTAINED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFGHANISTAN. THIS TOO IS RIDICULOUS.... THE HOPES OF THE WHOLE SUBCONTINENT LIE ON PEACE BEING PRESERVED, AND IT IS HOPED THAT INDIAN BOORISHNESS AT KATHMANDU IS DUE TO IRRITATION AT BEING UPSTAGED, RATHER THAN TO MINDS BEING MADE UP THAT WAR IS TO BE IMPOSED AT ALL COSTS. END QUOTE.

25. "THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP," AN EDITORIAL IN THE PESHAWAR-BASED INDEPENDENT, "FRONTIER POST" (01/07)

QUOTE: ... IT WAS A GRACEFUL AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO UNDERLINE WHAT ISLAMABAD HAS BEEN SAYING SINCE THE DECEMBER 13 ATTACK ON THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT. THOSE WORDS HAVE BEEN BACKED UP BY MEASURES AGAINST THE EXTREMIST GROUPS ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK. UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH MR. VAJPAYEE ACKNOWLEDGED THE GESTURE OF HIS PAKISTANI COUNTERPART, HE DID NOT RECIPROCATE IN FULL MEASURE THE SENTIMENT BEHIND THE ACT.... WAR BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH ASIAN NEIGHBORS

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WILL NOT SOLVE ANYTHING, LET ALONG KASHMIR. ALL IT CAN PROMISE IS A SCALE OF DESTRUCTION AND DEVASTATION THAT WOULD LEAVE HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI LOOKING LIKE A PICNIC. HISTORY WOULD THEN JUDGE THE TWO LEADERSHIPS ON THE SCALE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY WERE THE TWO COUNTRIES TO BE REDUCED THROUGH A NUCLEAR EXCHANGE TO SMOKING RUINS. THERE REALLY IS NO ESCAPE FOR EITHER SIDE FROM THE NECESSITY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS, NO MATTER

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HOW OLD OR CONTENTIOUS, THROUGH A DIALOGUE, DIFFICULT AS THE EXERCISE IS KNOWN TO BE, AND HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO BE.... THE LOGIC IS INESCAPABLE, THE NECESSITY OBVIOUS. WHAT REMAINS PERHAPS IS FOR SOME FORM OF GENTLE MEDIATION TO NUDGE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT OFF THE INTRANSIGENT STOOL IT HAS PERCHED ITSELF ON. IF THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR, CURRENTLY IN INDIA AND EXPECTED HERE SOON, NO ONE SHOULD OBJECT. IF THE SPECIAL ENVOY THE US IS THINKING OF SENDING TO SOUTH ASIA FOR THE PURPOSE CAN EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE IN NEW DELHI TO RECIPROCATE THE FRIENDLY GESTURES AND WILLINGNESS TO TALK OF PAKISTAN, ALL THE BETTER. THE URGENCY OF DEFUSING TENSIONS ON THE LINE OF CONFRONTATION BEFORE A SOLITARY INCIDENT OR TWO CAN SPARK OFF A WIDER CONFLAGRATION DICTATES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD BETTER EXERCISE DISPATCH IN ITS MEDIATORY EFFORTS BEFORE THINGS REACH THE POINT OF NO RETURN. END QUOTE.

26. "CABLE WARS," AN EDITORIAL IN THE PESHAWAR-BASED INDEPENDENT, "FRONTIER POST" (01/07)

QUOTE: ... EVEN IF IT IS ACCEPTED THAT THE INDIAN CHANNELS, NAY THE ENTIRE MEDIA, IS CURRENTLY CHURNING OUT THE MOST BRAZEN ANTI-PAKISTAN PROPAGANDA (CLEARLY SOME OF THEM ARE), THE PTA MANDARINS AS USUAL ARE UNDERESTIMATING THE PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE AND WISDOM. OUR PEOPLE ARE MATURE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT IS PROPAGANDA AND WHAT IS FACT, AND HOW TO RESPOND TO IT. HAD SIMILAR WISDOM GUIDED OUR PTA MANDARINS, THEY

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WOULD HAVE LET THE TRANSMISSION OF INDIAN CHANNELS CONTINUE. THE VIEWERS HERE WOULD HAVE SEEN THEM IN THE WORST LIGHT, PARADING PATENT LIES, UNTRUTHS AND MOTIVATED STUFF ABOUT PAKISTAN. THEIR CREDIBILITY WOULD HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO DUST.... THE WAY TO

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COUNTER HOSTILE PROPAGANDA IS NOT TO BAN FOREIGN CHANNELS BUT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR OWN NETWORKS PROFESSIONALLY BY OPENING THEM UP TO DIVERSE VIEWS AND NEWS.... BANS OR CENSORSHIP ARE SELF-DEFEATING EXERCISES. THESE SHOULD BE BANNED. IDEAS CAN ONLY BE FOUGHT WITH IDEAS. PROPAGANDA CAN ONLY BE COUNTERED WITH CONVINCING ARGUMENT. BUT ALL THAT IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF YOUR OWN MEDIA ENJOYS PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVITY, OPENNESS AND ROBUSTNESS. THAT IS WHAT IN EFFECT SHOULD ENGAGE OUR MANDARINS. END QUOTE. CHAMBERLIN

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
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INDO-PAK TENSION

(JANUARY 07, 2002)

NEWS:
CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM
INDO-PAK TENSION

OPINION:
CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM
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NEWS

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-- CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM

1. HEADLINES

"MULLAH ZAEF SHIFTED TO AMERICAN SHIP," "DIN" (01/07)

"SEARCH FOR MULLAH OMAR CONTINUES IN HERAT; SEVERE
U.S. BOMBING IN BAGHRAN," "JANG" (01/07)

"U.S. SOLDIERS IN 8 HELICOPTERS LAND IN KHOST,
AFGHANISTAN," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (01/07)

"USAMA'S WIFE, DAUGHTER, BODYGUARD HELD IN YEMEN,"
"UMMAT" (01/07)

"A PLAN BY INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RAW TO STAGE
SUICIDE ATTACKS ON U.S. PLANES AT JACOBABAD AIRPORT
FOILED; 4 RAW AGENTS ARRESTED WITH ARMS," "AUSAF"
(01/07)

"ARAB MUJAHIDEEN SHOOT DOWN A U.S. PLANE IN THE AFGHAN
AREA OF SPAINGHAR," "KAINAAT" (01/07)

"USAMA WANTED TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN BUT WE BROUGHT HIM
BACK TWICE: MULLAH OMAR SAYS IN AN INTERVIEW," "ASSAS"
(01/07)

"MULLAH ZAEF TAKEN TO U.S. SHIP FOR INTERROGATION,"
"JANG" (01/07)

"SEVERE U.S. BOMBING IN JALALABAD," "NAWA-E-WAQT"
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"ARRESTED AL-QAEDA ACTIVISTS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO
THE U.S.: INTERIOR MINISTER MOINUDDIN HAIDER," "AUSAF"
(01/07)

"300 AL-QAEDA MEMBERS ARRESTED ON PAK-AFGHAN BORDER
HANDED OVER TO THE FBI," "KAINAAT" (01/07)

"240 ARABS WHO FLED FROM AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN
ARRESTED: INTERIOR MINISTER MOINUDDIN HAIDER," "JANG"

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(01/07)

"USAMA HAS FLED TO PAKISTAN: U.S. SENATOR EDWARD,"
"JANG" (01/07)

"PASSENGERS GOING TO NEPAL ON PAKISTANI PASSPORTS
SUSPECTED TO BE AL-QAEDA MEMBERS," "JANG" (01/07)

"THE WORLD MUST TAKE NOTE, WE HAVE TAKEN MANY STEPS
AGAINST EXTREMISTS: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF," "KHABRAIN"
(01/07)

"INDIA WILL HOLD TALKS AFTER THE THREAT FROM PAKISTANI
GROUPS DIMINISHES: TONY BLAIR," "KHABRAIN" (01/07)

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
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"INDIA AGREES TO RE-INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH PAKISTAN,"
"UMMAT" (01/07)

"ARRESTED ARAB MILITANTS TO BE HANDED OVER TO U.S.:
INTERIOR MINISTER," "JASARAT" (01/07)

-- NEWS

2. "MULLAH ZAEF BEING INTERROGATE AT U.S. NAVAL
SHIP," UMMAT (01/07)

QUOTE: THE U.S. MILITARY HAS MOVED THE FORMER TALIBAN
AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN, MULLAH ABDUS SALAM ZAEF, TO
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ITS NAVAL SHIP IN THE ARABIAN SEA AND HAS STARTED
INTERROGATING HIM. END QUOTE.

3. "MULLAH ZAEF REJECTS U.S. INCENTIVES FOR
REBELLION AGAINST MULLAH OMAR," "UMMAT" (01/06)

QUOTE: FORMER TALIBAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN HAS
REJECTED THE OFFER MADE BY THE U.S. FBI TO HOLD A
PRESS CONFERENCE AGAINST USAMA BIN LADEN AND MULLAH
MOHAMMAD OMAR AND TERM THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORISM.
HIGHLY INFORMED SOURCES HAVE REVEALED THAT THE U.S.
TEAM CURRENTLY INTERROGATING MULLAH ZAEF HAD OFFERED
HIM POLITICAL ASYLUM IN PAKISTAN, U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND
FIVE BILLION DOLLARS IF HE REVOLTED AGAINST THE
TALIBAN REGIME. ON HIS FAILURE TO DO SO, HE WAS TOLD,

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THAT HE WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE KARZAI GOVERNMENT WHERE HE WOULD BE MADE A TARGET OF SEVERE TORTURE. END QUOTE.

4. "A PLAN BY INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RAW TO STAGE SUICIDE ATTACKS ON U.S. PLANES AT JACOBABAD AIRPORT FOILED; 4 RAW AGENTS ARRESTED WITH ARMS," "AUSAF" (01/07)

QUOTE: ... AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN FOILED TO DESTROY U.S. PLANES AND KILL SOLDIERS AT JACOBABAD AIRPORT IN SUICIDE ATTACKS. THE PLAN WAS AIMED AT SABOTAGING PAK-U.S. RELATIONS. POLICE HAVE ARRESTED FOUR MEN WHO HAD TIED BOMBS WITH THEIR BODIES. ON THE NIGHT BETWEEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, ACTING ON A TIP OFF, SHO JACOBABAD CITY RAIDED A HOUSE AND ARRESTED 4 MEN WHO
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HAD TIME BOMBS TIED TO THEIR BODIES AND THEY WERE READY TO STAGE A SUICIDE ATTACK. 10 TIME BOMBS, 6 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, 2 MAPS OF THE AIRBASE AND 4 MOBILE PHONES WERE RECOVERED FROM THE ARRESTED PEOPLE. THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION AND INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE THESE TERRORISTS BELONG TO THE INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RAW. IT HAD PLANNED TO HAVE U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED AND PLANES DESTROYED AT JACOBABAD AIRBASE IN AN ATTEMPT TO DESTABILIZE PAK-U.S. RELATIONS. WHEN CONTACTED BY THE "ONLINE" NEWS AGENCY, SSP JACOBABAD NEITHER DENIED NOR CONFIRMED THE REPORT.... END QUOTE. "ONLINE"

5. "AFGHAN REFUGEES WILLING TO RETURN," "DAWN" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE AFGHAN REFUGEES ARE WILLING TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN IF PEACE IS RESTORED TO THE WAR-TORN COUNTRY AND THE U.S. STOPPED BOMBING AND KILLING OF THE INNOCENT PEOPLE, THEY SAID.... END QUOTE.

-- INDO-PAK TENSION

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6. "60 MORE HELD IN CRACKDOWN ON ISLAMISTS," "THE NEWS" (01/07)

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QUOTE: PAKISTAN DETAINED YET MORE MEMBERS OF KASHMIR MILITANT GROUPS AT THE CENTER OF A MILITARY STANDOFF BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA ON SUNDAY AS DIPLOMATIC MOVES INTENSIFIED TO DEFUSE TENSION BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR NEIGHBORS.... END QUOTE.

7. "17 MORE KASHMIRIS MARTYRED, 4 IN CUSTODY," "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE INDIAN TROOPS IN THEIR CONTINUING SPURT OF TERRORISM, MARTYRED 17 MORE KASHMIRIS, 4 OF THEM IN
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CUSTODY.... END QUOTE.

8. "PRESIDENT CALLS FOR END TO BITTERNESS," "FRONTIER POST" (01/07)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF ON SUNDAY UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM STEPS TO END BITTERNESS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. ADDRESSING THE NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE 11TH SUMMIT OF THE SAARC.... END QUOTE.

OPINION

-- CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM

9. "REBUILDING AFGHANISTAN," AN EDITORIAL IN THE KARACHI-BASED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DAILY, "DAWN" (01/07)

QUOTE: ... THE WORLD COMMUNITY NOW NEEDS TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE AREAS AND SECTORS SO THAT THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION COULD BEGIN WHEN THE MOMENT ARRIVES....

AT THE LAST UNDP AND WORLD BANK-SPONSORED THREE-DAY RECONSTRUCTION OF AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD, PARTICIPANTS SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN NOTIONS OF A 'CIVIL SOCIETY' THAT THEY THOUGHT AFGHANISTAN NEEDED, AND SPENT TIME DEBATING ISSUES THAT CAN WAIT.... THE PROPOSED CULTURAL RE-ORIENTATION OF A NATION CANNOT BE MADE A PRIORITY IN A COUNTRY WHERE
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MILLIONS GO WITHOUT FOOD AND DRINKING WATER AND ARE AT RISK OF BEING KILLED BY INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND

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UBIQUITOUS LANDMINES. MAKING THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS CONDITIONAL UPON SUCH PREMISES [AS WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT OR THE DISARMING OF AFGHAN MALES] WILL NOT SERVE ANYONE'S CAUSE, MUCH LESS THAT OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. INDEED, MANY AFGHANS WILL SEE ANY SUCH IMPOSITION OF THE 'GLOBAL' - READ WESTERN - PARADIGM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AS A CULTURAL INTERVENTION, AND THUS RESIST IT.... THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE EFFORTS AND NOT TO CULTURAL RE-ORIENTATION OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. END QUOTE.

10. "MULLAH OMAR ESCAPES," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (01/07)

QUOTE: WITH THE ESCAPE OF MULLAH OMAR FROM BAGHRAN, THE GRAPHIC DETAIL OF HIS FLEEING ON A MOTORCYCLE ADDING SOME COMIC RELIEF TO A GRIM SITUATION, IT SEEMS THE AFGHANS ARE NOT GOING TO SEE PEACE FOR SOME TIME LONGER. THINGS SEEM TO BE LIMPING BACK TO NORMAL IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE INDUCTION OF THE KARZAI INTERIM

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PD, DRL
LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
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TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM;
INDO-PAK TENSION

ADMINISTRATION AT KABUL, BUT U.S. BOMBING RAIDS
CONTINUE.... IT MAY BE MORALLY INDEFENSIBLE FOR THE
U.S. TO GO ON BOMBING CIVILIANS, AS IT SEEMS THAT IT
IS DELIBERATELY BOMBING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT ANYONE
GIVING TALIBAN OR AL-QAEDA ELEMENTS REFUGE, BUT IT IS
NOT EASY TO SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE, MORE HUMANE,
METHOD OF ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF PURGING AFGHANISTAN OF
ALL TERRORIST OR PRO-TERRORIST ELEMENTS. IT SEEMS
THERE ARE GRAY AREAS DEVELOPING IN AFGHANISTAN, AND IN
ATTITUDES THERE.... [THE U.S. ARREST OF MULLAH ZAEF]
RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THERE IS ANY
SERIOUSNESS ABOUT RE-INTEGRATING THE TALIBAN, OR EX-
TALIBAN, INTO AFGHAN SOCIETY.... IT IS POSSIBLE TO
SEE THE LOGIC OF MULLAH OMAR BEING TRIED FOR THE HIGH
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CRIME OF BEING HEAD OF AN UNRECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT, AND
PERHAPS HE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED SOME KIND OF ACCESSORY
TO AL-QAEDA ACTIONS, BUT FOR AN AMBASSADOR TO BE
PUNISHED FOR REPRESENTING A GOVERNMENT IN A STATE THAT
DID RECOGNIZE IT SEEMS UNFORTUNATE. PAKISTAN CAN PLAY
A POSITIVE ROLE IN THIS REGARD. SINCE THE AREAS BEING

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BOMBED ARE PASHTUN, IN WHICH PAKISTAN HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST DUE TO ITS OWN PASHTUN COMMUNITY, AND SINCE MULLAH ZAEEF WAS AMBASSADOR IN PAKISTAN, QUIET DIPLOMACY TO OBTAIN HUMANE TREATMENT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE. END QUOTE.

11. "MALTREATMENT OF TALIBAN PRISONERS," AN EDITORIAL NOTE IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY, "NAWA-E-WAQT" (01/07)

QUOTE: HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MALTREATMENT OF THE TALIBAN PRISONERS IN THE AFGHANISTAN... THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BLAMED AMERICA FOR THE INHUMAN TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE PRISONERS. THESE TALIBAN ARE PRISONERS OF WAR AND NOT ORDINARY CRIMINALS; THEY SHOULD BE TREATED IN KEEPING WITH GENEVA CONVENTION. END QUOTE.

12. "UNJUST TREATMENT OF TALIBAN PRISONERS," AN EDITORIAL NOTE IN THE PRO-MUSLIM LEAGUE URDU DAILY, "PAKISTAN" (01/07)

QUOTE: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
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EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE PLIGHT OF THE TALIBAN PRISONERS IN A JAIL IN AFGHANISTAN... AMERICA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SITUATION AND IT SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE NOTICE OF THE COMPLAINT. THE PRISONERS SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE PRISONERS OF WAR. END QUOTE.

13. "U.S. BARBARISM," AN EDITORIAL IN "JASARAT" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES HAS WRITTEN A NEW HISTORY OF BARBARISM IN AFGHANISTAN. BUT ITS PASSION OF REVENGE IS NOT COOLING DOWN EVEN AFTER THE ANNIHILATION OF TALIBAN. THE REASON FOR THIS SEEMS TO BE THAT TERRORISM AND BLOOD LETTING IS IN THE ROOTS OF THE U.S. THE U.S. IS THIRSTY FOR MUSLIM BLOOD. IT IS CONDUCTING A RACIAL ANNIHILATION OF MUSLIMS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR WHICH IT WOULD HAVE TO PAY TOMORROW, IF NOT TODAY. END QUOTE.

14. "AIR STRIKES IN AFGHANISTAN BE COMPLETELY HALTED," AN EDITORIAL IN "JANG" (01/07)

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QUOTE: IT IS INDEED SURPRISING THAT THE U.S. BOMBINGS
IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE NOT HALTED AS YET. IT IS

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PD, DRL
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TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

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INDO-PAK TENSION

UNIMAGINABLE THAT AFTER SO MUCH OF U.S. BOMBARDMENT
USAMA BIN LADEN OR MULLA MOHAMMAD OMER WOULD BE HIDING
SOMEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN. QUARTERS PRIVY TO THE
AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S.
MILITARY OFFICIALS IN AFGHANISTAN SHOULD NOT TAKE VERY
SERIOUSLY THE TRIBAL LEVEL OF RUMOR-MONGERING. WHAT
IS THE FAULT OF THOSE CHILDREN AND WOMEN WHO BECOME
TARGETS FOR DEATH WITHOUT ANY REASON? AFTER THE END OF
THE TALIBAN GOVERNMENT WHAT IS THE LOGIC OF
DISTRIBUTING DEATH IN PEACEFUL AFGHAN TOWNS? END
QUOTE.

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15.Q"GENERAL PERVEZ'S SINCERE OFFER OF RAPPROCHEMENT
TO VAJPAYEE," AN EDITORIAL IN "JANG" (01/07)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF OF PAKISTAN, BY SINCERELY
OFFERING RAPPROCHEMENT TO INDIA AND TAKING THE
INITIATIVE OF EXTENDING A HAND OF FRIENDSHIP, HAS NOW
FORCED INDIAN PRIME MINISTER VAJPAYEE TO TELL THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHY INDIA IS NOT HOLDING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. NO DOUBT THE PRESIDENT OF
PAKISTAN HAS TAKEN A VERY BOLD AND PRUDENT STEP DURING
THE SAARC CONFERENCE AND HAS PROVED THAT PAKISTAN WAS
READY TO HOLD DIALOGUE ANY TIME, ANYWHERE AND AT ANY
LEVEL FOR LASTING PEACE IN SUB-CONTINENT. END QUOTE.

16. "HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS THE ENEMY," AN
EDITORIAL IN "UMMAT" (01/07)

QUOTE: JUST LIKE AGRA, PRESIDENT GENERAL PERVEZ
MUSHARRAF HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY TOWARDS KASHMIR BY DEMONSTRATING PAKISTAN'S
SINCERITY, GOODWILL AND FEELING OF COMPROMISE TOWARDS
INDIA IN KATMANDU. HE HAS ONCE AGAIN PROVED TO THE
WORLD THAT PAKISTAN HAS NEVER DESISTED FROM HAVING
BETTER RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND RESTORATION OF PEACE
IN THE REGION. END QUOTE.

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17. "DESIRE FOR GENUINE FRIENDSHIP" AND INDIAN STUBBORNNESS," AN EDITORIAL IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY, "NAWA-E-WAQT" (01/07)

QUOTE: WHATEVER GENERAL MUSHARRAF HAS DONE TO EVADE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 00093 05 OF 09 071058Z WAR IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.... IF VAJPAYEE STILL MAKE THE DIALOGUE WITH PAKISTAN CONDITIONAL WITH THE END TO "TERRORISM" THEN PAKISTAN NEED NOT CAPITULATE UNDER THE PRESSURE OF UNJUST INDIAN DEMANDS. THE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT IS NOT A NEED OF PAKISTAN ONLY. END QUOTE.

18. "HAND OF FRIENDSHIP," AN EDITORIAL IN THE POPULAR URDU DAILY "DIN" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE IMPRESSION CREATED [AT THE SAARC SUMMIT] IS THAT ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN HAS EXTENDED A HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS INDIA; THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S CAUSTIC COMMENTS HAVE SENT OUT THE MESSAGE INDIA IS NOT SERIOUS IN THIS ISSUE. THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH SHOWS THAT INDIA WANTS TO TELL THE WORLD THAT THE PAKISTANI LEADERSHIP IS NOT RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY. THE PAKISTANI LEADERSHIP SHOULD WEIGH EACH WORD CAUTIOUSLY BEFORE UTTERING IT AND TAKE EACH STEP AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

19. "WELL DONE, PERVEZ MUSHARRAF, THE BALL IS NOW IN INDIA'S COURT," AN EDITORIAL IN THE SENSATIONALIST URDU DAILY "KHAABRAIN" (01/07)

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TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM;
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QUOTE: THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HAS TERMED PRESIDENT
MUSHARRAF'S ATTITUDE [AT THE SAARC SUMMIT] AND THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT....
HOWEVER, THE NEGATIVE STANCE ADOPTED BY THE INDIAN
SPOKESPERSON GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE REPRESENTS
THE HAWKS IN THE INDIAN CABINET -- WHO DO NOT WISH FOR
PEACE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN -- AND NOT THE
INDIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS ACTUALLY THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TENSE SITUATION AT THE BORDER.
PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS WOULD NOT ONLY NORMALIZE, BUT
TAKE THE SHAPE OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP, IF THESE PERSONS
WERE CONTROLLED. THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT IN THE FACT
THE PM VAJPAYEE ALSO WANTS PEACE. EVEN IN THE PAST,

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AS FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. VAJPAYEE WAS FRIENDLY TOWARDS
PAKISTAN. PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES REVEAL THAT HE IS
TRAPPED AMONG HAWKS. END QUOTE.

20. "A WRONG DECISION," AN OP-ED BY TAUSEEF AHMAD
KHAN IN THE POPULAR URDU DAILY "DIN" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE MUSHARRAF GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED A BAN ON
THE SCREENING OF INDIAN CHANNELS.... OUR INFORMATION
MINISTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FOOLISH DECISION.
WHETHER FEDERAL OR PROVINCIAL, THE ONLY TASK OF OUR
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT IS TO TELL US THAT ALL IS WELL,
THAT THE LION AND THE GOAT DRINK WATER FROM THE SAME
RIVER.... ALL I WANT TO SAY IS THAT THE COMMON MAN
NEITHER WATCHES PTV NOR LISTENS TO RADIO PAKISTAN. HE
WATCHES BBC AND CNN. THE SITUATION WILL REMAIN THE
SAME AS LONG AS YOU [PTV] KEEP SHOWING THE SAME OLD
FACES. THE WORLD IS A SMALL PLACE. YOU CANNOT HIDE
ANYTHING, FOR THE NEXT DAY FACTS WILL BE KNOWN TO
ALL.... PTV SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE WHAT FOREIGN
CHANNELS DID WHEN INDIA CLOSED DOWN THE SAMJHOTA
EXPRESS AND THE FRIENDSHIP BUS SERVICE. OBSERVERS SAID
THAT INDIA HAS ONLY EARNED CURSES BY TERMINATING THESE
SERVICES. YOU TOO [THE GOVERNMENT] HAVE NOT ACHIEVED
ANYTHING BY BANNING INDIAN CHANNELS. END QUOTE.

21. "MUSHARRAF EMERGES TALLER," AN EDITORIAL IN THE
ISLAMABAD'S RIGHTIST ENGLISH DAILY, "PAKISTAN
OBSERVER" (01/07)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF'S HAS UNPRECEDENTED
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GESTURE OF GOODWILL TOWARDS NEW DELHI WON HIM PROFOUND
AND PROLONGED APPLAUSE FROM SAARC LEADERS AND
DELEGATES. HE ALSO REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S
COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED
DIALOGUE WITH INDIA. THE PRESIDENT'S GESTURE NOT ONLY
GAVE A PLEASANT SURPRISE TO EVERYONE, BUT ALSO CHANGED
THE MOOD IN THE CONFERENCE HALL.... IRRESPECTIVE OF
THE FACT THAT VAJPAYEE FAILED TO MATCH GEN MUSHARRAF'S
PEACE INITIATIVE IN HIS SUBSEQUENT REMARKS, A CHANGE
FOR THE BETTER HAS CERTAINLY OCCURRED. THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS ALSO LAUDED PRESIDENT
MUSHARRAF'S GESTURE OF EXTENDING THE HAND OF
FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS VAJPAYEE. HE HAS ONCE AGAIN PROVED

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HIMSELF TO BE A MAN OF PEACE. MUSHARRAF HAS, IN FACT, EMERGED TALLER IN THE PRESENT CRISIS DUE TO HIS MATURE, SOBER AND STATESMANLIKE HANDLING OF THE GRAVE CRISIS THAT HAD OVERTAKEN THE SUBCONTINENT DUE TO INDIA'S UNWARRANTED OVER-REACTION TO THE DEC 13 INCIDENT.... VAJPAYEE IS NOW UNDER MORAL OBLIGATION TO TAKE SUITABLE MEASURES TO DE-ESCALATE THE BORDER SITUATION BY SCALING DOWN THE MILITARY BUILD-UP WITH THE SAME SPEED AS IT WAS MOUNTED.... INDIAN LEADERSHIP MUST ESCHEW WAR HYSTERIA AND BRING THE TEMPERATURE DOWN IN RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN'S INITIATIVE

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FOR PEACE. END QUOTE.

22. "PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF'S CONCILIATORY STEP," AN
EDITORIAL IN THE PRO-MUSLIM LEAGUE URDU DAILY,
"PAKISTAN" (01/07)

QUOTE: IN VIEW OF THE PAKISTAN PRESIDENT'S
CONCILIATORY STEP AND INDIA'S STUBBORNNESS THERE
SHOULD NOT BE ANY DOUBTS LEFT THAT INDIA WANTS TO
MAINTAIN TENSION AND WAR LIKE SITUATION IN SOUTH
ASIA... AFTER INDIA'S REFUSAL TO ENTER INTO A
DIALOGUE WITH PAKISTAN OR ACCEPT MEDIATION, THE WORLD
IS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE
UN SECURITY COUNCIL SO THAT THE INTERNATIONAL

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COMMUNITY COULD DO SOMETHING TO SAVE SOUTH ASIA FROM
WAR DESTRUCTION. END QUOTE.

23. "BLAIR MISSION," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTRIST
NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NEWS" (01/07)

QUOTE: BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR ARRIVES IN
PAKISTAN ON THE SECOND LEG OF HIS PEACE MISSION
WITHOUT HIS TASK BEING MADE ANY EASIER BY THE
INABILITY OF INDIAN PRIME MINISTER ATAL BEHARI
VAJPAYEE TO GRASP AT AN OPPORTUNITY IN KATHMANDU TO
REDUCE THE TENSION IN THE REGION... INDIA WANTS MUCH
MORE FROM THE STATES ARRAYED AGAINST TERRORISM AND
COALITION PARTNERS OF PAKISTAN THAN WHAT IS AVAILABLE
AT PRESENT. THE WELL-MEANING MEDIATORS, IN INDIAN
EYES, TEND TO EQUATE THE SOUTH ASIAN OPPONENTS WHEN
THERE IS A NEED TO IDENTIFY THE TROUBLEMAKER... MR.

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BLAIR'S TALKS IN ISLAMABAD WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON HOW WELL HIS TALKS WENT IN DELHI. BUT IF MR. VAJPAYEE'S PERFORMANCE IN KATHMANDU IS ANY INDICATION, THEN THE BRITISH PREMIER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING EXCEPT TO ACT AS A MESSENGER, WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY HAD MR. VAJPAYEE AGREED TO MEET MR. MUSHARRAF AT THE SAARC SUMMIT. END QUOTE.

24. "SMALL BREAKTHROUGH," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (01/07)

QUOTE: THE BRIEF, INFORMAL MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA, ON THE SIDELINES, SO TO SPEAK, OF THE MEETING OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN KATHMANDU,

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IS A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE DEADLOCK THAT HAS PERSISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE INDIA WENT ON THE WARPATH.... THE 70-MINUTE MEETING OF MR. SATTAR AND MR. JASWANT SINGH HAS LED TO NO DECISIONS.... YET, THE FACT REMAINS THAT IT HAS TAKEN PLACE.... THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN IMPORTANT. IT CANNOT BE A COINCIDENCE THAT SECRETARY POWELL CALLED UP BOTH MR. SATTAR AND MR. SINGH IN KATHMANDU, HOURS BEFORE THEY HELD THEIR UNSCHEDULED MEETING. HOPEFULLY, BENEATH THE DIPLOMATIC PLEASANTRIES, THE MESSAGE FROM MR. POWELL AND MR. BLAIR IS CLEAR TO INDIA: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. AS TIME PASSES, INDIA'S APPARENT EQUATING OF THE DECEMBER 13 ATTACKS WITH THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS BECOMES INCREASINGLY RIDICULOUS, WERE IT NOT THAT IT WAS BEING USED AS AN EXCUSE TO SPARK OFF A WAR THAT COULD END IN NUCLEAR EXCHANGES. INDIA HAS ALSO TRIED TO REPRODUCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITSELF AND PAKISTAN AS OBTAINED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFGHANISTAN. THIS TOO IS RIDICULOUS.... THE HOPES OF THE WHOLE SUBCONTINENT LIE ON PEACE BEING PRESERVED, AND IT IS HOPED THAT INDIAN BOORISHNESS AT KATHMANDU IS DUE TO IRRITATION AT BEING UPSTAGED, RATHER THAN TO MINDS BEING MADE UP THAT WAR IS TO BE IMPOSED AT ALL COSTS. END QUOTE.

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JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TASHKENT

AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 09 ISLAMABAD 000093

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA

SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PD, DRL

LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON

CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER

USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN

SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION; CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM;

INDO-PAK TENSION

25. "THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP," AN EDITORIAL IN THE
PESHAWAR-BASED INDEPENDENT, "FRONTIER POST" (01/07)

QUOTE: ... IT WAS A GRACEFUL AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO

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UNDERLINE WHAT ISLAMABAD HAS BEEN SAYING SINCE THE DECEMBER 13 ATTACK ON THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT. THOSE WORDS HAVE BEEN BACKED UP BY MEASURES AGAINST THE EXTREMIST GROUPS ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK. UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH MR. VAJPAYEE ACKNOWLEDGED THE GESTURE OF HIS PAKISTANI COUNTERPART, HE DID NOT RECIPROCATE IN FULL MEASURE THE SENTIMENT BEHIND THE ACT.... WAR BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH ASIAN NEIGHBORS WILL NOT SOLVE ANYTHING, LET ALONG KASHMIR. ALL IT

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CAN PROMISE IS A SCALE OF DESTRUCTION AND DEVASTATION THAT WOULD LEAVE HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI LOOKING LIKE A PICNIC. HISTORY WOULD THEN JUDGE THE TWO LEADERSHIPS ON THE SCALE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY WERE THE TWO COUNTRIES TO BE REDUCED THROUGH A NUCLEAR EXCHANGE TO SMOKING RUINS. THERE REALLY IS NO ESCAPE FOR EITHER SIDE FROM THE NECESSITY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS, NO MATTER HOW OLD OR CONTENTIOUS, THROUGH A DIALOGUE, DIFFICULT AS THE EXERCISE IS KNOWN TO BE, AND HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO BE.... THE LOGIC IS INESCAPABLE, THE NECESSITY OBVIOUS. WHAT REMAINS PERHAPS IS FOR SOME FORM OF GENTLE MEDIATION TO NUDGE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT OFF THE INTRANSIGENT STOOL IT HAS PERCHED ITSELF ON. IF THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR, CURRENTLY IN INDIA AND EXPECTED HERE SOON, NO ONE SHOULD OBJECT. IF THE SPECIAL ENVOY THE US IS THINKING OF SENDING TO SOUTH ASIA FOR THE PURPOSE CAN EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE IN NEW DELHI TO RECIPROCATE THE FRIENDLY GESTURES AND WILLINGNESS TO TALK OF PAKISTAN, ALL THE BETTER. THE URGENCY OF DEFUSING TENSIONS ON THE LINE OF CONFRONTATION BEFORE A SOLITARY INCIDENT OR TWO CAN SPARK OFF A WIDER CONFLAGRATION DICTATES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD BETTER EXERCISE DISPATCH IN ITS MEDIATORY EFFORTS BEFORE THINGS REACH THE POINT OF NO RETURN. END QUOTE.

26. "CABLE WARS," AN EDITORIAL IN THE PESHAWAR-BASED INDEPENDENT, "FRONTIER POST" (01/07)

QUOTE: ... EVEN IF IT IS ACCEPTED THAT THE INDIAN
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CHANNELS, NAY THE ENTIRE MEDIA, IS CURRENTLY CHURNING OUT THE MOST BRAZEN ANTI-PAKISTAN PROPAGANDA (CLEARLY SOME OF THEM ARE), THE PTA MANDARINS AS USUAL ARE UNDERESTIMATING THE PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE AND WISDOM.

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OUR PEOPLE ARE MATURE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT IS PROPAGANDA AND WHAT IS FACT, AND HOW TO RESPOND TO IT. HAD SIMILAR WISDOM GUIDED OUR PTA MANDARINS, THEY WOULD HAVE LET THE TRANSMISSION OF INDIAN CHANNELS CONTINUE. THE VIEWERS HERE WOULD HAVE SEEN THEM IN THE WORST LIGHT, PARADING PATENT LIES, UNTRUTHS AND MOTIVATED STUFF ABOUT PAKISTAN. THEIR CREDIBILITY WOULD HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO DUST.... THE WAY TO COUNTER HOSTILE PROPAGANDA IS NOT TO BAN FOREIGN CHANNELS BUT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR OWN NETWORKS PROFESSIONALLY BY OPENING THEM UP TO DIVERSE VIEWS AND NEWS.... BANS OR CENSORSHIP ARE SELF-DEFEATING EXERCISES. THESE SHOULD BE BANNED. IDEAS CAN ONLY BE FOUGHT WITH IDEAS. PROPAGANDA CAN ONLY BE COUNTERED WITH CONVINCING ARGUMENT. BUT ALL THAT IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF YOUR OWN MEDIA ENJOYS PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVITY, OPENNESS AND ROBUSTNESS. THAT IS WHAT IN EFFECT SHOULD ENGAGE OUR MANDARINS. END QUOTE. CHAMBERLIN

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ACTION INR-00

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| | TEDE-00 | IO-00 | LAB-01 | L-00 | VCE-00 | AC-01 | NEA-00 |
| | DCP-01 | NSAE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | OPIC-01 | PA-00 | PC-01 |
| | PM-00 | PRS-00 | ACE-00 | P-00 | SCT-00 | SP-00 | IRM-00 |
| | SSO-00 | SS-00 | TEST-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 | SA-00 |
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