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From: Howard, Ariel Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 4:11 PM To: Schwartz, Larry Subject: Strategic Dialogue Press Coverage (3/22 - 3/31) U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Media Summary

The U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue dominated Pakistani media on March 24 and March 25. All major English and Urdu language networks carried live the Secretary and Foreign Minister Qureshi's remarks at the opening session. On Thursday morning, nearly all television networks led with coverage of the joint press availability. All major English and Urdu language dailies featured the talks on their front pages, highlighting the Secretary's announcement of \$125 million in aid to Pakistan's energy sector. Reporting was straight-forward with favorable headlines: Dawn—"U.S, Pakistan pledge to boost and broaden ties" and "U.S. to provide \$125m for energy, power plants"; The News—"US vows to boost energy, defence, trade ties"; Nawa-i-Waqt—"U.S. will neither abandon nor dictate to Pakistan"; The Nation—""New day' for US, Pakistan: Hillary." Media highlighted the positive shift in U.S.-Pakistan relations, echoing Secretary Clinton's statement that the talks are the beginning of a new chapter. Reports also focused on the question of nuclear cooperation and U.S. engagement in the Kashmir dispute; however the U.S. position on these issues had been widely reported by the media prior to the Dialogue. The Nation published an editorial, entitled "Negative starting note," criticizing the talks before they began. The daily stated that "promises will be made on some issues, including on nuclear cooperation, which will not see fruition." Other editorials stressed the need for a sustained commitment on both sides, beyond March 24, to produce results: Dawn—"Prospects for Pak-US ties," and Daily Times—"Pak-US Strategic Dialogue." End Summary.