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RELEASE IN PART B6

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To: H <HDR22@clintonemail.com>

Subject: zardari

Pakistani president returns from medical treatment

KARACHI, Pakistan - (AP) A senior government official says Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has returned home nearly two weeks after traveling to Dubai for medical treatment that sparked rumors of his downfall.

Mansoor Wassan says Zardari landed at an air base in the southern city of Karachi early Monday. Wassan is the home minister in Sindh province, where Karachi is the capital. Zardari traveled to Dubai on Dec. 6 for treatment, but officials never disclosed exactly what was wrong with the president. One associate said privately that Zardari suffered a "mini stroke." The president's trip sparked speculation that he was fleeing the country under pressure from the army over a memo scandal that has already forced the Pakistani ambassador to the U.S. to resign.

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