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Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 6:09 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: WikiLeaks Coverage Update 11.29 as of 0430
Attachments: Media Coverage Wikileaks Update 11.29.2010.doc

RELEASE IN PART
B3,B6

DoD news roundup

----- Original Message -----

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 Sent: Mon Nov 29 05:24:16 2010
 Subject: FW: WikiLeaks Coverage Update 11.29 as of 0430

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 5:10 AM

Subject: WikiLeaks Coverage Update 11.29 as of 0430

Media coverage of WikiLeaks' release of classified U.S. State Department cables remains heavy across all mediums. Reports underscored that the leaked documents provide candid views of foreign leaders and blunt assessments on terrorism and nuclear proliferation filed by U.S. diplomats. Attention centered on new revelations about "long-simmering" nuclear trouble spots, detailing U.S., Israeli and Arab world fears of Iran's growing nuclear program, American concerns about Pakistan's atomic arsenal and U.S. discussions about a united Korean peninsula as a long-term solution to North Korean aggression. However, coverage also italicized that most of the revelations were not "explosive" nor would "shatter any international relationships."

B6

Print, online, and wire coverage consisted of official condemnation of the release of leaked documents and stories detailing the contents of the

cables, including reports that U.S. diplomats were encouraged to spy on counterparts at the U.N. and information about various countries including China, North Korea, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Israel, Yemen, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Reporters emphasized that the documents illustrate how frightened the Arab world is of Iran's rising ambitions and its nuclear program -- and how much Iran has become the center of attention in capitals around the world. In the wake of the release, the press added that to prevent further breaches, the Pentagon announced Sunday it had ordered the disabling of a feature on its classified computer systems that allows material to be copied onto thumb drives or other removable devices.

Among the five media groups to receive the documents prior to the WikiLeaks release -- America's New York Times, Britain's The Guardian, Germany's Der Spiegel, France's Le Monde, and Spain's El País and -- the Times has been heavily referenced, with the issues it covered influencing the direction of the overall coverage. Coverage by Agence France Presse has been extensive. Broadcast coverage consisted of both brief "readers" as well as full reports on the release of the State Department documents.

Full text articles are included in the attachment.

Highlights

Characterization of the Leak

* Agence France Presse: Whistleblower website WikiLeaks on Sunday unleashed a flood of US cables detailing shocking diplomatic episodes, from a nuclear standoff with Pakistan to Arab leaders urging a strike on Iran... In an introduction, it painted the United States as a hypocritical superpower and attacked "the contradictions between the US's public persona and what it says behind closed doors.

* Associated Press: Hundreds of thousands of State Department documents leaked Sunday revealed a hidden world of backstage international diplomacy, divulging candid comments from world leaders and detailing occasional U.S. pressure tactics aimed at hot spots in Afghanistan, Iran and North Korea... None of the revelations is particularly explosive, but their publication could prove problematic for the officials concerned. And the massive release of material intended for diplomatic eyes only is sure to ruffle feathers in foreign capitals, a certainty that prompted U.S. diplomats to scramble in recent days to shore up relations with key allies in advance of the disclosures.

* Reuters: The diplomatic cables so far released by WikiLeaks might embarrass U.S. diplomats but probably won't shatter any international relationships... The key lesson so far seems to be just how much easier the information age has made it to steal vast quantities of data -- and how much harder it is to keep secrets.

* McClatchy: However, the cables' blunt language and their unvarnished statements of U.S. positions on a wide range of issues as well as internal U.S. assessments of world leaders could prove highly embarrassing, hurt ties with allies and other countries and diminish trust in Washington's ability to safeguard secrets. The first tranche of documents, released by WikiLeaks, the whistle-blowing website, didn't contain any explosive revelations,

although a cable outlining U.S. efforts to convince China to stop commercial air shipments of North Korean missile parts to Iran via Beijing appeared to divulge a top-secret U.S. intelligence operation.

Mideast

* Wall Street Journal: U.S. diplomats and defense officials have worried the disclosures could undercut the ability of foreign leaders to continue cooperating with Washington on counter-terror and counter-proliferation operations, with Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan among those most focused on.

Iran

* Agence France Presse: The United States has told France that Israel could strike Iran without US military support but the operation might not be successful, according to a leaked document published Sunday.

* Agence France Presse: Israel has warned its US ally that President Barack Obama's attempt to engage diplomatically with Iran over its nuclear weapons program will fail, according to leaked memos published Sunday.

* Bloomberg: Iran obtained 19 advanced missiles from North Korea, potentially giving the Islamic nation the capability of attacking Moscow and cities in Western Europe, according to embassy cables posted by WikiLeaks.org and provided to the New York Times.

* Los Angeles Times: Leaders of oil-rich Arabian Peninsula monarchies who are publicly reluctant to criticize Iran have been beseeching the United States in private to attack the Islamic Republic and destroy its nuclear facilities, according to a series of classified diplomatic cables released by the WikiLeaks website.

* New York Times: These warnings are part of a trove of diplomatic cables reaching back to the genesis of the Iranian nuclear standoff in which leaders from around the world offer their unvarnished opinions about how to negotiate with, threaten and perhaps force Iran's leaders to renounce their atomic ambitions.

* Reuters: King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia repeatedly exhorted the United States to "cut off the head of the snake" by launching military strikes to destroy Iran's nuclear program, according to leaked U.S. diplomatic cables.

* Washington Post: The United States believes Iran has obtained advanced missiles from North Korea that could reach Moscow and cities across Western Europe, one of several secret diplomatic assessments of Iran's weapons program disclosed publicly for the first time Sunday.

Pakistan

* Agence France Presse: The United States has led top secret efforts to remove highly enriched uranium from Pakistan for years, worried it could be used to make an "illicit" nuclear device, according to leaked US cables.

* Washington Post: The latest document dump from WikiLeaks reveals the diplomatic high wire the United States is often walking in its relationship with countries that are considered crucial allies in fighting terrorism, such as Pakistan. Cables that pertain to the U.S. relationship with Pakistan show the extent to which U.S. diplomatic officials think the American agenda is often undermined by the poor standing of the superpower among Pakistanis.

Yemen

* Agence France Presse: Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh admits lying to his own people by pretending that US military strikes against Al-Qaeda are carried out by Yemeni forces, according to a leaked US document.

* Wall Street Journal: Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh allowed American forces to conduct counter-terror operations against al Qaeda militants inside his country. During a January meeting with visiting U.S. Gen. David Petraeus, the Yemeni leader made clear he wanted to disguise Washington's role, according to a cable from the American ambassador in Sana'a.

Afghanistan

* Bloomberg: The leaked documents include details about governments and officials, including an episode last year in which Afghanistan's then-vice president, Ahmed Zia Massoud, was found carrying \$52 million in cash while visiting the United Arab Emirates. Massoud denied taking any money out of Afghanistan, according to the Times.

* Agence France Presse: Leaked US documents on Monday painted President Hamid Karzai's controversial younger brother as a corrupt drugs baron, exposing deep US concerns about graft undermining the war against the Afghan Taliban... Ahmed Wali Karzai has long been dogged by allegations of unsavory links to Afghanistan's lucrative opium trade and private security firms. But as a powerful figure in Kandahar, where US forces are leading the fight to break a nine-year Taliban insurgency, Western officials have kept quiet in public on the president's younger half brother's tainted record. Leaked cables from the US embassy in Kabul now reveal their true feelings in moves that could complicate already strained relations between Washington and Karzai at a key juncture in the war.

Iraq

* Agence France Presse: Iranians applying for diplomatic visas to Iraq were vetted by the US embassy in Baghdad for as long as 16 months before their application was decided upon, a leaked US document showed Monday.

Turkey

* Reuters: U.S. diplomats have cast doubts on the reliability of NATO ally Turkey, portraying its leadership as divided and permeated by Islamists, according to the German Der Spiegel magazine's website.

Israel

* Agence France Presse: Israel discussed its planned war on Gaza with the Palestinian leadership and Egypt ahead of time, offering to hand them control of the strip if it defeated Hamas, US documents released by WikiLeaks showed.

Asia

China

* Agence France Presse: The United States believes that China's leadership has directed a hacking campaign into computers of Google and Western governments, according to US diplomatic files leaked Sunday.

* Agence France Presse: The United States confronted China on information it tried to pressure Kyrgyzstan to pull the rug from a US base, possibly due to a dispute over Guantanamo detainees, a leaked document said Sunday.

* Reuters: The United States has complained to Beijing several times over the transshipment of missile components from North Korea to Iran via China, the Guardian newspaper reported.

* Wall Street Journal: The cables reflect continuing U.S. concern that China isn't doing enough to prevent proliferation of missile and chemical weapons technology despite Beijing's introduction of export controls in 2002... The cables also highlight U.S. concerns about China's computer warfare capability, and its influence in Central Asia. And they give potentially embarrassing blow-by-blow accounts of meetings between U.S. and Chinese officials.

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Koreas

* Agence France Presse: South Korea believes that the offer of commercial deals could help a reluctant China get on board the idea of Korean reunification, according to US diplomatic cables cited by the New York Times.

* Reuters: Separately, the New York Times said the leaked cables showed that U.S. and South Korean officials have discussed the prospects for a unified Korea, should the North's economic troubles and political transition lead the state to implode.

Americas

* Agence France Presse: Washington ordered its diplomats in 2008 to probe a possible Al-Qaeda presence in a border zone between Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil, according to a confidential cable released Sunday by WikiLeaks.

* McClatchy: The events surrounding the June 2009 coup in Honduras was a carnival of illegal actions by every branch of government, including the successor of the deposed president, according to a diplomatic cable signed by the U.S. ambassador.

Europe

* Agence France Presse: The United States voiced concern to France earlier this year over the possible sale of a French warship to Russia, saying it sent a "mixed signal" to both Moscow and Eastern European allies, according to a leaked US document published Sunday.

Intelligence

* Agence France Presse: The United States has ordered its diplomats to play a larger intelligence role by performing espionage work like obtaining the credit card and frequent flyer numbers of foreign dignitaries, according to leaked US documents published Sunday.

* Los Angeles Times: U.S. diplomats have been directed by Washington to gather detailed data on their foreign counterparts, including the kinds of information usually sought by spies, according to diplomatic cables made public Sunday.

Reactions - Government/International Organizations

United States

* Agence France Presse: The White House hit back, saying the release was a "reckless and dangerous action" that put lives in danger... The Pentagon, which was infuriated by the website's publication of secret Afghanistan and Iraq war logs earlier this year, also condemned the latest, more far-reaching release and unveiled new steps to prevent future leaks.

* Hill: The White House condemned "in the strongest terms" Sunday the anticipated leak of three million classified documents, including hundreds of thousands of State Department cables that have sent the administration scrambling to stem the damage in advance.

World

* Agence France Presse: The United Nations said Sunday that it relies on member states to respect immunities granted to the world body, in its first statement on leaked documents which told how US officials were ordered its officials to spy on the UN leadership.

* Agence France Presse: Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari criticized the release of confidential US diplomatic cables by Internet whistleblower WikiLeaks as "very, very unhelpful" on Monday.

* Associated Press: Pakistan on Monday criticized the release of classified U.S. diplomatic cables that reportedly raise concerns that highly enriched uranium could be diverted from its nuclear program to build an illicit weapon.

* Agence France Presse: Israel reacted calmly Monday to the release of a massive trove of US diplomatic cables by whistleblower website WikiLeaks, saying they showed the Jewish state's consistent concern about Iran.

* Agence France Presse: The slow release of thousands of US diplomatic documents by WikiLeaks is a "threat to democratic authority", French government spokesman Francois Baroin told Europe 1 radio on Monday.

* Agence France Presse: New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said Monday he expected some embarrassing fallout when US diplomatic cables from Wellington are released by whistleblower website WikiLeaks.

* Agence France Presse: Canada said Sunday that WikiLeaks' release of thousands of US diplomatic cables was 'irresponsible' and could threaten national security.

* Associated Press: Pakistan has criticized the release of classified U.S. diplomatic cables that reportedly raise concerns about the country's nuclear program.

Views on Foreign Leaders

* Agence France Presse: Diplomats are by definition known for the niceties of their public statements, but leaked documents out Sunday show that US officials can be merciless in their assessments behind closed doors... The thousands of secret cables released by the whistle-blower website WikiLeaks feature unflattering descriptions of the leaders of both US allies and adversaries.

* Agence France Presse: Veteran Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi fears flying over water, prefers staying on the ground floor and almost never travels without his trusted Ukrainian nurse, a "voluptuous blond," according to a US document released Sunday by WikiLeaks.

* Agence France Presse: Britain's Guardian newspaper Monday promised it would release leaked memos in which US officials offer "embarrassing" assessments of Prime Minister David Cameron and "weak" ex-leader Gordon Brown.

* Agence France Presse: The top US diplomat in Rome found Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to be an "ineffective" leader who wastes his energy on parties, according to US documents leaked by WikiLeaks.

* Agence France Presse: French President Nicolas Sarkozy's senior diplomatic advisor branded Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez "crazy" in talks with top US officials, according to a diplomatic cable leaked Sunday.

* Agence France Presse: Diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks to German news magazine Der Spiegel include embarrassingly frank US assessments of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is described as a weak leader.

* Reuters: U.S. diplomats describe German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle as arrogant, vain and critical of America, documents released on Sunday by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks showed.

* EUobserver.com: American diplomats speak about EU leaders in terms of "Teflon Merkel," "authoritarian Sarkozy" and a "feckless, vain and ineffective Berlusconi" who is a "mouthpiece" for Russia, a first batch of secret cables sent to and from US embassies abroad and published by WikiLeaks shows.

* Hill: French President Nicolas Sarkozy is referred to as a "naked emperor," while Afghan President Hamid Karzai is said to be "driven by paranoia."

Newspapers Defend Publication of Leaked Diplomatic Memos

* Agence France Presse: The New York Times, The Guardian and Le Monde on Sunday defended their decision to publish hundreds of secret US diplomatic memos obtained by WikiLeaks while voluntarily withholding certain information.

* AlterNet: The job of the media is not to protect power from embarrassment... Clearly, it is for governments, not journalists, to protect public secrets. Were there some overriding national jeopardy in revealing them, greater restraint might be in order. There is no such overriding jeopardy, except from the policies themselves as revealed. Where it is doing the right thing, a great power should be robust against embarrassment.

Pentagon - Information Control

* Bloomberg: The Pentagon said yesterday it will take action to prevent future reoccurrences, such as monitoring user behavior in a way similar to steps taken by credit-card companies to detect fraud. The military will also conduct security oversight inspections at forward bases and remove the ability of classified computers to download information onto removable disks.

* Politico: The Pentagon on Sunday announced new approaches for how it

would safeguard information in the wake of the leak of documents from WikiLeaks, amid allegations that the Obama administration went too far in improving information-sharing across the government.

WikiLeaks

* Agence France Presse: WikiLeaks evaded a massive cyber attack Sunday to begin posting hundreds of thousands of classified US diplomatic documents, the whistleblower organization said.

* Associated Press: Attorney-General Robert McClelland says police are investigating whether any Australian law has been broken by the latest leaking of confidential documents by online whistle-blower WikiLeaks.

* Associated Press: The online website WikiLeaks on Sunday blamed the temporary outage of its site on a denial-of-service attack by unknown hackers trying to prevent its release of hundreds of thousands of classified U.S. State Department documents... James Lewis, a cybersecurity expert and a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said it's unlikely the U.S. or some other government would use denial-of-service attacks against WikiLeaks.



Media Research Analyst

OSD Public Affairs

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