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PROPRIETARY CLASSIFICATION: BUSINESS-IN-CONFIDENCE

SPECIAL REPORT: TERRORIST THREAT IN D.C.

A TALIBAN leader threatened Washington with a terrorist attack “that will amaze everyone in the world.”



Baitullah Mehsud. (Un-marked photo from GLOBAL SECURITY.)

A prime suspect in the 2007 assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the 2008 bombing of the Islamabad Marriott, **Baitullah Medsud conveyed the threat in an interview yesterday in which he claimed responsibility for the attack on the police academy in Lahore** Monday that killed 7 and wounded 100 others. His ability to strike and kill in one of Pakistan’s largest, most developed cities demonstrates his influence and effectiveness.

Mehsud leads TEHRIK-I-TALIBAN PAKISTAN (TTP), the umbrella group that dominates the tribal areas. The militant leader and AL QAEDA affiliate succeeded earlier this year in unifying other Pakistani insurgent groups that previously backed Islamabad and fought TTP.¹

He is a primary, recurring target of U.S. UAV Hellfire missile attacks, and his threat signals that those attacks are impacting the insurgency. Mehsud specifically threatened “the White House” to retaliate against “drone attacks,” saying:

You can't imagine how we could avenge this threat inside Washington, inside the White House.

As if in reply to his comments Tuesday, the U.S. launched today its first drone/**Hellfire** missile attacks in the Pashtun tribal region southwest of the city of Peshawar, hitting a suspected TALIBAN training center and killing 12. A TALIBAN spokesman said the missiles hit what he termed “a camp for guests” and killed “some foreigners,” meaning foreign fighters.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION terrorism expert James Phillips said **Mehsud is “adamantly committed to his extremist goals and is unlikely to be brought to justice by law enforcement actions,”** much less deterred by threat of the bounty on his head, which was set at \$5 million just last week. “It will take a war to defeat him in South Waziristan, and I think that shows that the term War on Terrorism remains applicable there.”

Assessment: This killer is joined at the hip with AL QAEDA, and AQ's network may be essential if Mehsud is to keep his promise to attack. He himself will die trying (“I wish to die and embrace martyrdom,” he has said). Any threat by Mehsud must be treated as credible and serious.

Postscript: The TALIBAN rejected SECSTATE Hillary Clinton's offer of “honorable reconciliation” as a “lunatic idea.” Mrs. Clinton made the offer in the Hague yesterday, offering an “honorable form of reconciliation ... if they are willing to abandon violence, break with AL QAEDA, and support the [Afghan] constitution.”² “This matter was also raised in the past,” TALIBAN spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said, referring to President Obama's offer to have talks with “moderate TALIBAN.”

They have to go and find the moderate TALIBAN, their leader and speak to them. This is a lunatic idea.

He vowed that the TALIBAN would fight until the U.S. and other foreign soldiers left the region and added, “There is no other way.”

DEMONSTRATORS LAY SIEGE TO LONDON FINANCIAL DISTRICT

In London this morning, **several thousand protesters invaded the city's main financial district**, laid siege to the Bank of England and forced their way into a major branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland, all the while fighting police, smashing windows and throwing paint, smoke bombs, bottles and cans.

As the street battle ensued outside, a major dispute raged inside. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said neither his government nor that of Germany would be satisfied with the proposals as they now stand. President Barack Obama is working with U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown to keep Mr. Sarkozy at the summit, and **German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke out strongly against the U.S. and the U.K. strategy to spend their way out of the crisis.**

Saying the U.S. will no longer be the “voracious consumer” that has spurred growth in the past, **President Obama had his first face-to-face meetings with China's President Hu Jintao and Russia's Dmitry Medvedev.**

¹ “Pakistan Out of Hand.” *FORWARD-LEANING INSIDER* 09-051, 24 February 2009.

² Afghanistan: All Together Now.” *FORWARD-LEANING INSIDER* 09-082, 31 March 2009.

The G20 is comprised of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Germany and the U.S. as well as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea and Turkey. The European Union is considered the 20th member.

Postscript: Rescue Nearly Equals GDP. BLOOMBERG FINANCIAL is reporting that the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve have spent, lent or guaranteed \$12.8 trillion, an amount that approaches the value of everything produced in this nation last year.

PROPRIETARY CLASSIFICATION: BUSINESS-SENSITIVE
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