

RELEASE IN FULL

From: McHale, Judith A <McHaleJA@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 5:16 AM
To: H
Cc: Reines, Philippe I; Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: TV Talk Shows' Summary - February 18, 2010

I get these reports every morning. They are somewhat painful to read since, as you know, in Pakistan, the media can be particularly outrageous. However, we can't ignore the fact that these talk shows are the most watched programming in prime time.. The report below is fairly typical. The host sets up the discussion in a fairly provocative way and the guests, who come from across the political spectrum, respond. As you can see, the first commentator is strongly anti US. However, what I have observed since our media offensive began last Fall is that there is usually a more moderate guest as well, who will argue along the lines that it is only natural for the US to protect its interests and GOP should do a better job of protecting Pakistan. Believe it or not there have even been instances where we get credit for some of the things we do. Also on occasion where there have been particularly egregious attacks on US policy, the host will read a statement from our Embassy in the following programming. We try to get airtime on these programs whenever possible but it is hard. It 's a hard slog getting this right but we are making progress.

jm

From: Baber, Suhail **On Behalf Of** Islamabad, Information Section
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 4:37 AM
To: Snelsire, Richard W
Cc: Schwartz, Larry; Gill, Muazzam; Wade, Joseph W (Peshawar)
Subject: TV Talk Shows' Summary - February 18, 2010

TV Talk Shows' Summary

February 18, 2010

Program: "Center Stage" Express TV (02/18)

Host: Fahad Hussain

Participants: Munawwar Hassan (Ameer Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan); Shahid Amin (Analyst)

Topic: U.S. Agenda In The Region

Host: Pakistan has rendered countless sacrifices in the war against terrorism but it seems that the United States is not ready to trust us. Washington's policy towards Islamabad is ambiguous. On the one hand, the U.S. has assigned Pakistan the role of a frontline state in the war against terrorism while, on the other, it has signed nuclear deal with our worst enemy, India. What, in your opinion, is the real U.S. agenda in our region?

Munawwar Hassan: The U.S. wants to make India the mini-superpower in this region. This American policy prompted the Indian army chief to boast that his country can fight against China and Pakistan simultaneously. The U.S. needs our cooperation against Iran and China. It also wants our help to occupy the resources of the Central Asian states. The current wave of extremism in the region is the reaction of imperialistic policies of Washington. Despite our recognition of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, Pakistan treated their ambassador in Islamabad in a very humiliating manner. In fact, our rulers have become the slaves of the United States. But Pakistan will get nothing by befriending the U.S. and helping Americans in their conspiracies against our neighbors. The history tells us that Washington's enmity is dangerous, and its friendship is fatal.

Shahid Amin: Every country devises its policies to safeguard its national interests and same is true for the United States. However, it is the responsibility of our governments to protect Pakistan's interests while dealing with Americans. Today, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda constitute the biggest threat to the U.S. security. But these terrorist organizations also pose a potential threat to the security and integrity of Pakistan. Hence, like America, their elimination is also in our own national interest.

The following programs were monitored, but as they dealt with domestic issues, therefore, were not summarized:

Program: "Kal Tak" Express TV (02/18)

Host: Javed Chaudhry

Participants: Abid Sher Ali (PML-N); Asma Arbab Alamgir (PPP); Kashmala Tariq (PML-Q)

Topic: Government-Opposition Relationship

Program: "Aaj Kamran Khan Kay Saath" Geo TV (02/18)

Host: Kamran Khan

Participants: Dr. Ejaz Shafi (Chairman Gallop Pakistan); Muhammad Sohail (Economist); Rahimullah Yousufzai (Resident Editor The News)

Topic: Performance of PPP Government

Program: "Capital Talk" Geo TV (02/18)

Host: Hamid Mir

Participants: Hameedullah Jan Afridi (Minister for Environment); Dr Muhammad Omer (Health Expert); Senator Tariq Azeem

Topic: Lack Of Clean Drinking Water

Program: "Islamabad Tonight" Aaj TV (02/18)

Host: Nadeem Malik

Participants: Shazia Marri (PPP); Pervaiz Rasheed (PML-N); Aasia Riaz (PILDAT)

Topic: Democracy In Pakistan and Failure Of Political Leadership

Program: "Off The Record" ARY TV (02/18)

Host: Kashif Abbasi

Participants: Farzana Raja (PPP); Raza Hayat (PML-Q); Khawaja Saad Rafique (PML-N)

Topic: What Is Good Governance?

Program: "Late Edition" ARY TV (02/18)

Host: Asma Sherazi

Participants: Marvi Memon (PML-Q); Khurram Dastgir (PML-N); Asma Arbab Alamgir (PPP); Zahid Hussain (Analyst)

Topic: Two Years Of Democratic Setup

Program: "Dunya Today" Dunya TV (02/18)

Host: Moeed Pirzada

Participants: Fauzia Wahab (PPP); Ali Ahmed Kurd (Senior Lawyer); Abid Sher Ali (PML-N)

Topic: Consequences of Government's U-Turn On Judges Issue

Program: "Live With Talat" (02/18)

Host: Talat Hussain

Participants: Fauzia Wahab (PPP); Haroon Rasheed (Analyst); Ayaz Amir (PML-N)

Topic: Government's Failure To Honor Its Promises

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