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NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(through Mr. Nambiar)

DPI Weekly Press Review

Amid swirling speculation about the findings of the UN inquiry into the killing of Louis Maxwell, this week's Press Review highlights some of the notable trends in the coverage of this story.

Looking ahead, we can anticipate close questioning by the press of where the UN stands on the results of the probe and, in particular, whether it is prepared to hold the Afghan Government accountable for actions by its security forces. Based on media's initial reaction, the risks of negative coverage lie not so much in the circumstances of the episode itself, as in what could be perceived as reluctance by the UN to have a clear and transparent position on the probe and our follow-up with the Afghan authorities. With Press Freedom Day approaching – and its theme highlighting “The Right to Know” -- some journalists may put the UN to the test in our handling of this investigation.

In this context, coverage of the Bhutto report, which is also examined in this week's review, seems to provide a good example of a well-handled launch of a report on a highly sensitive subject. The report - and the panel producing it -- received overwhelmingly positive reviews, resulting in numerous headlines and stories depicting “the UN” as a bold and credible actor.

The Press Review also looks at the coverage of the opening of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which was marked by media's very positive reaction to New Zealand's decision to reverse its earlier stance on indigenous rights. It should be noted that indigenous issues have particular resonance in Latin America, where reporting was particularly intensive.

We are working with your office on arranging a meeting and photo op with members of the Permanent Forum and representatives of indigenous peoples at the conclusion of their meeting next week.

Thank you.

PR: Kept by SG. *Man*



Kiyo Akasaka  
23 April 2010

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cc: The Deputy-Secretary-General / Mr. Pascoe / Mr. Kim / Mr. Orr / Mr. Haysom / Mr. Meyer / Mr. Nesirky