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Trends. Demise of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Telling Quote

Editor

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As quoted in The New York Times, the majority leader in the United States (US) Senate, Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, stated, "Why should it [a military coup and unrest in Pakistan] have any bearing on this debate [regarding the Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty]? What we're talking about in this treaty is the national security of our own country. Nothing we do here will have any effect on the Government in Pakistan."

Granted, this quote may merely be a rhetorical and partisan flourish with no correspondence to the Senator’s belief system on security issues. One still must consider the quote as a successful vehicle of political engagement. It mirrors the success of a perspective that remarkably forswears and discounts the interdependence of nation-states and other political entities—in fact, contemporary globalization. It conveys the sense that security issues and analysis can be validly explored out of context and irrespective of context—beyond the esoteric, technical aspects of treaty verification.