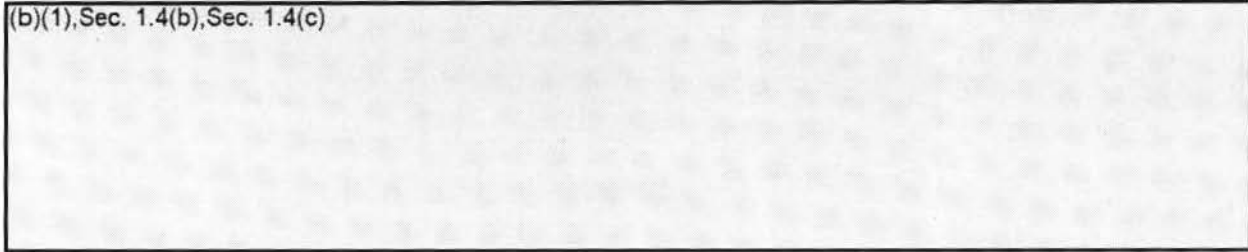



(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

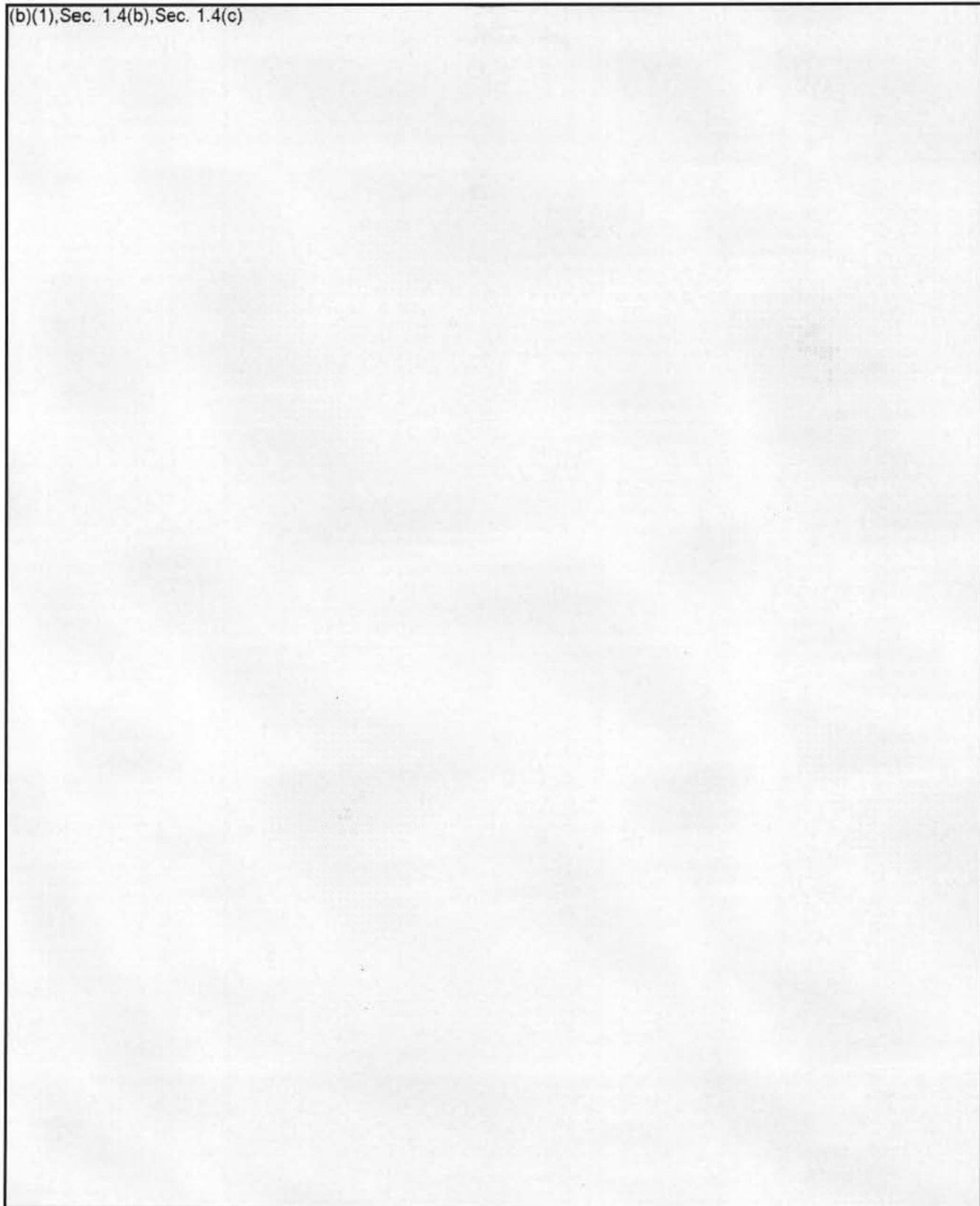


- (U) We are unable to report on U.S. citizens participating in the event.
- (U) M/V LINDA has been renamed to M/V RACHEL CORRIE.

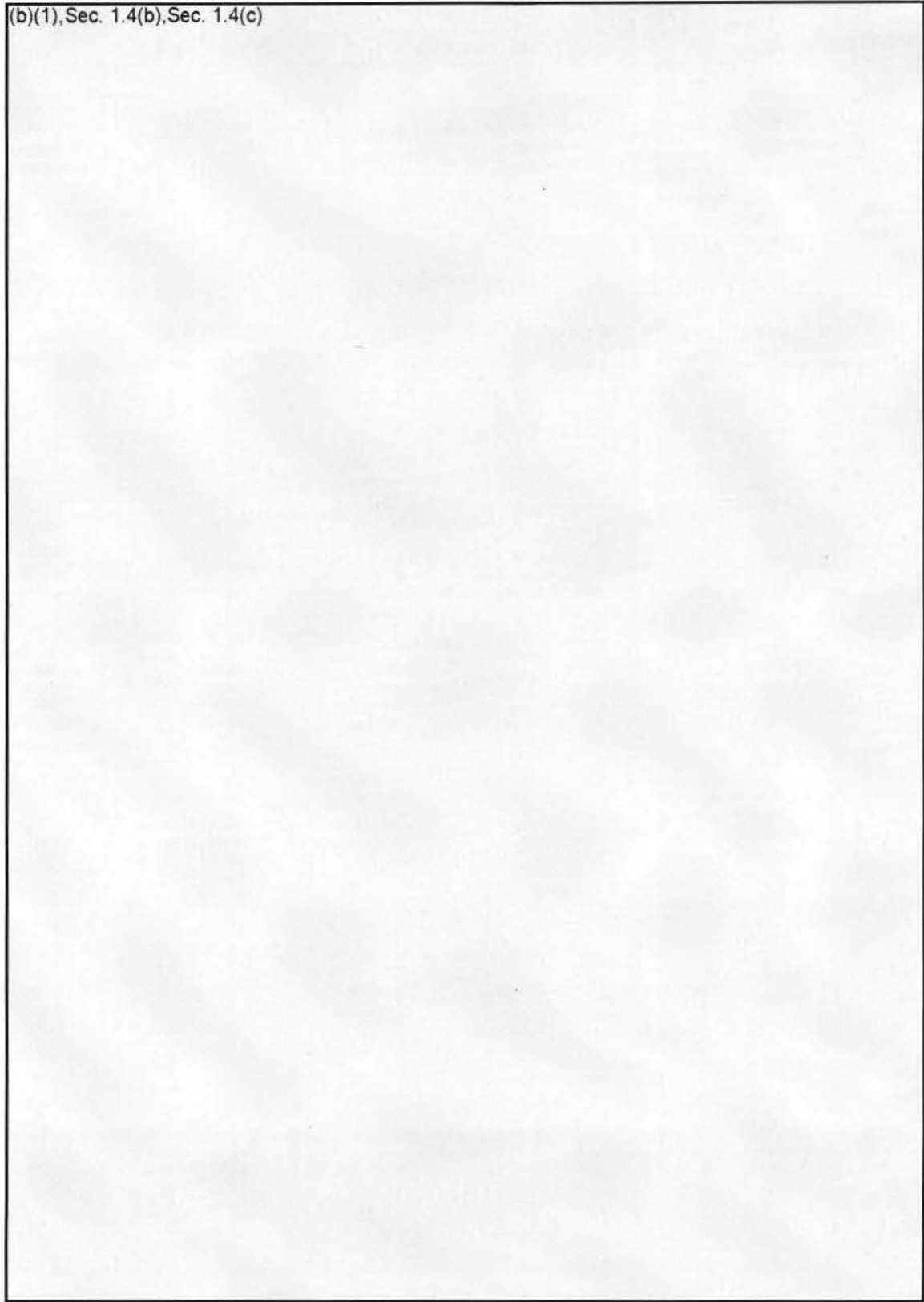
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



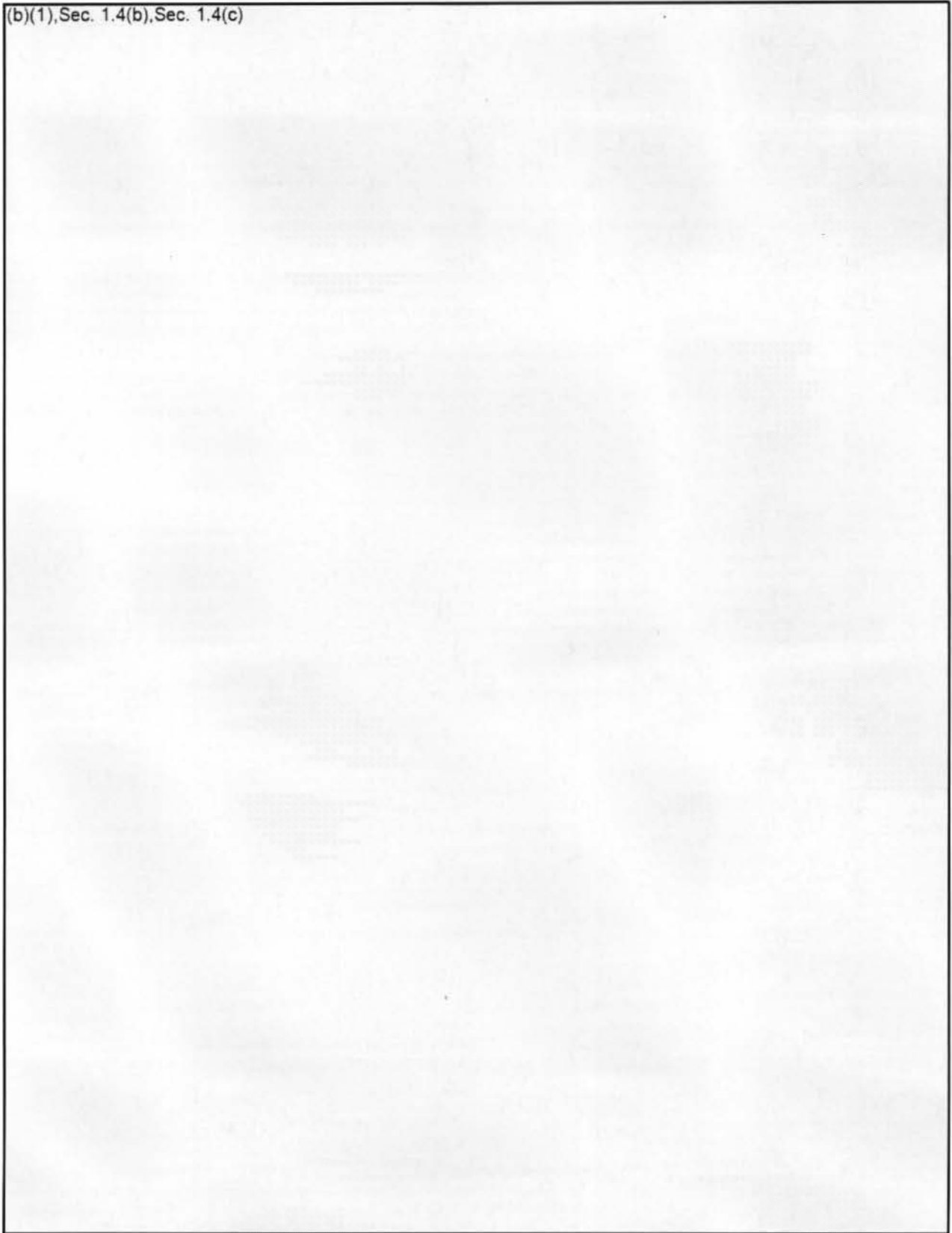
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



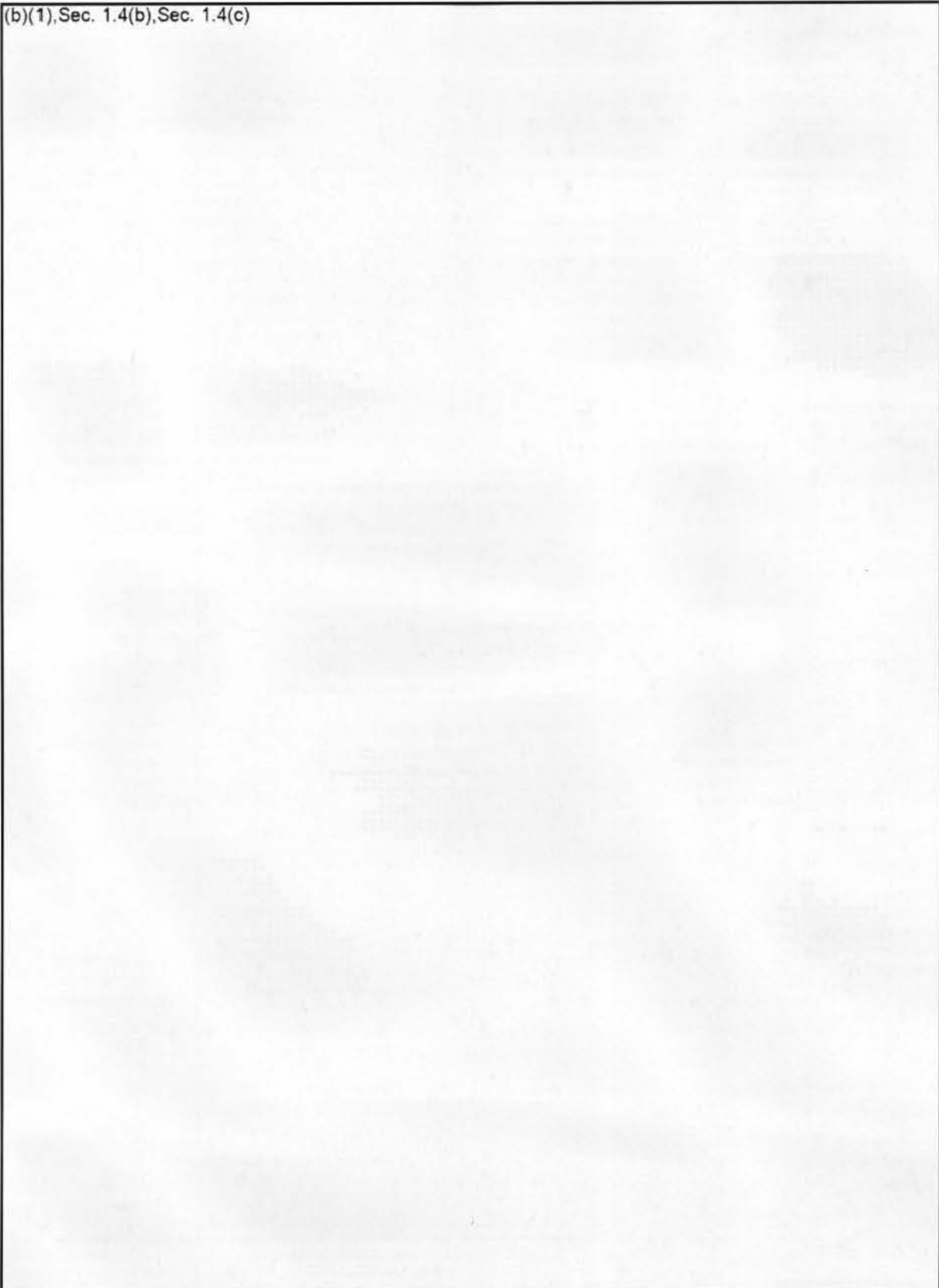
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



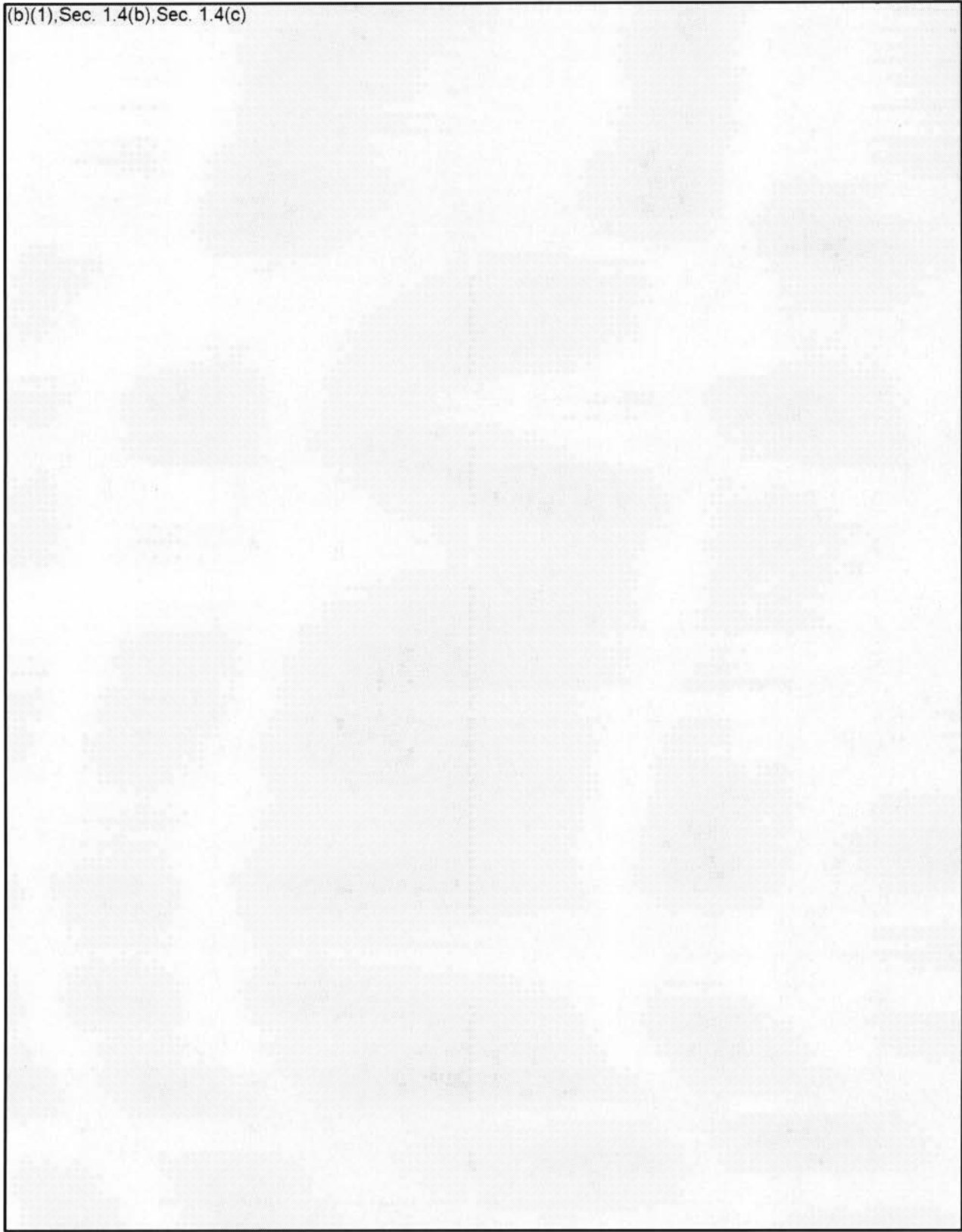
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



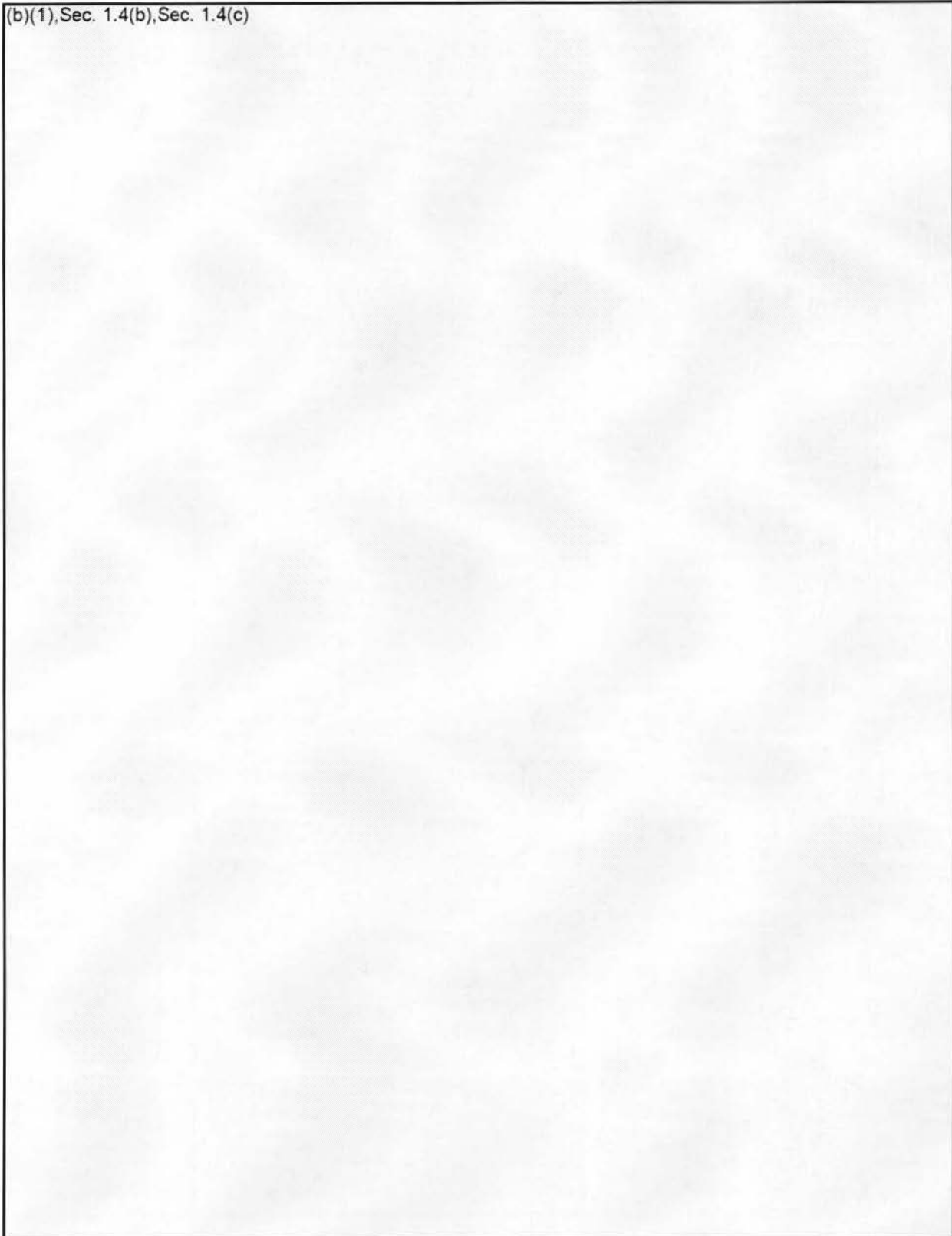
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



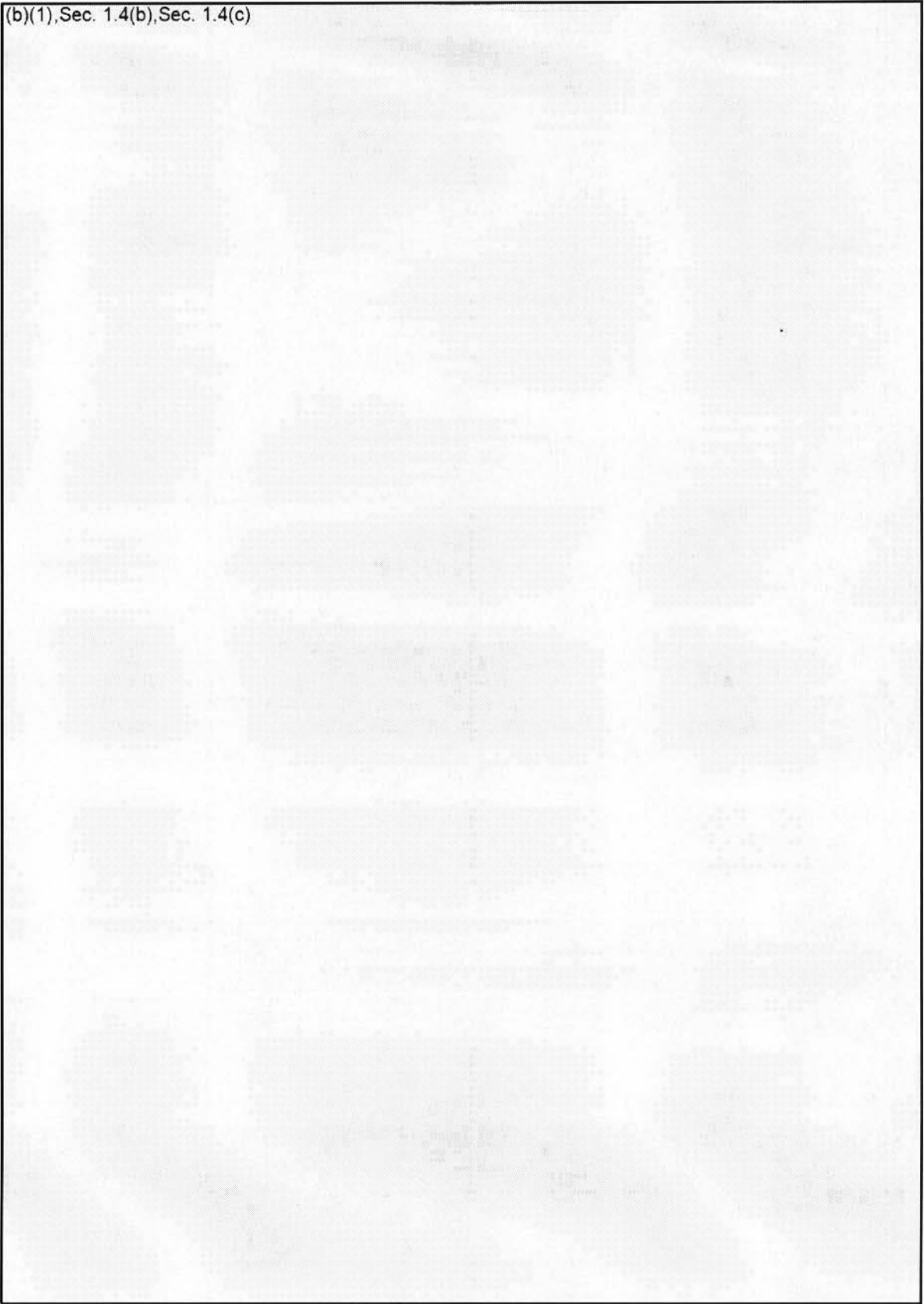
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



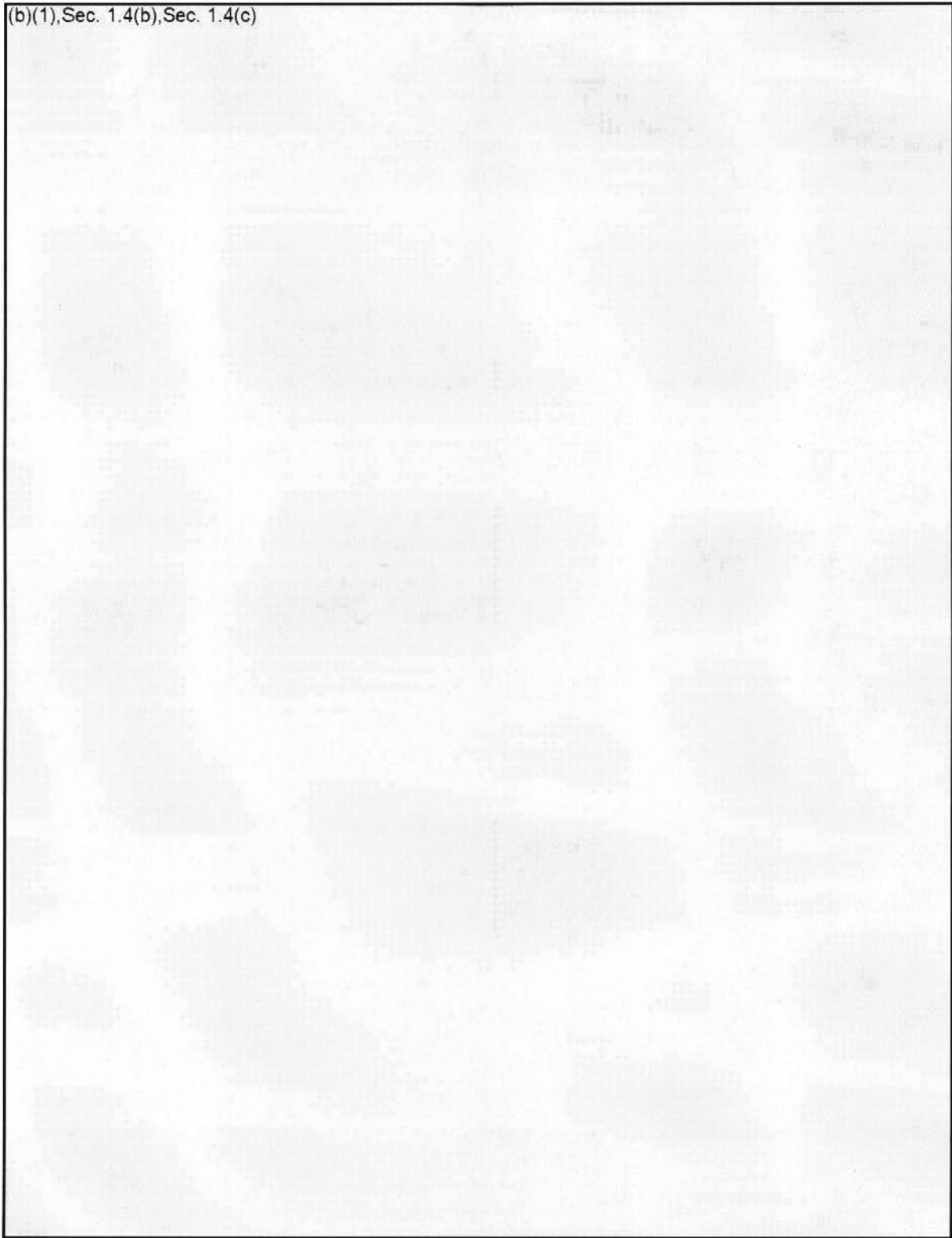
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



Webb, Arthur C.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 11:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: (U) RE: Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~ (b)(1)

Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 4:10 PM
To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS (b)(1) ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE

ALCON,

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) ONI Assessment

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Background

(U) On Friday, 28 May, several vessels participating in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla – a group of approximately eight vessels ranging in size from yachts to cargo ships sailing from Greece, Turkey, and Ireland to “break Israel’s siege on the Gaza Strip” and deliver humanitarian aid – were underway in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Israel Naval Forces (INF) is prepared for a confrontation with this group; it intends to interdict any vessels that do not turn back or sail voluntarily to Ashdod, Israel.

(U) Open source reporting and ship manifests passed from American Embassy Athens indicate that there will be American citizens onboard some of these ships and that two participating yachts (CHALLENGER I and CHALLENGER II) are US-flagged. ONI cannot confirm the flags of these vessels.

(U) Current Maritime Situation

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

V/R,

(b)(6)

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.
DECLASSIFY ON: 20350528

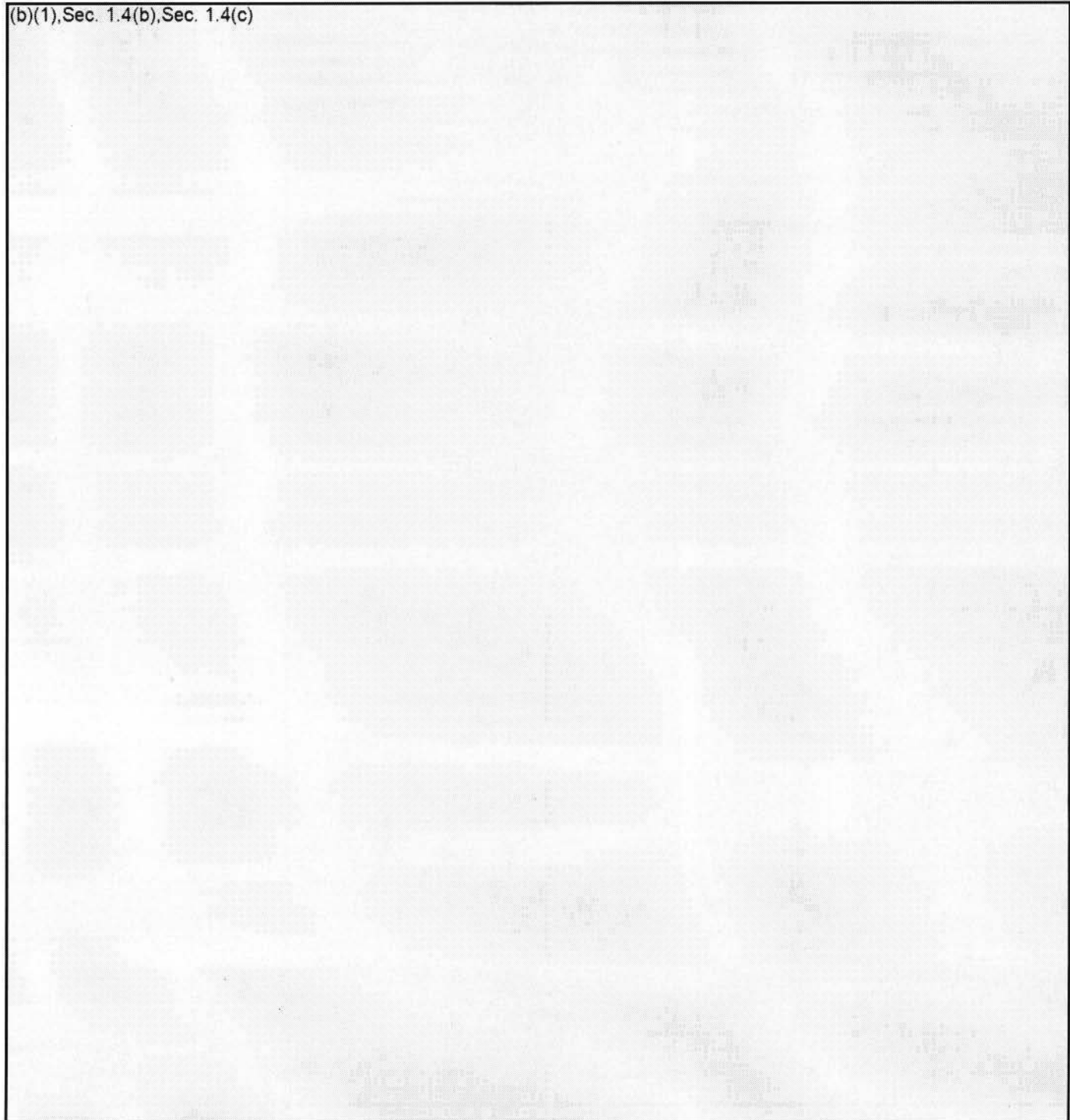
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(b)(1) CAVEATS: NOFORN
REL TO: NONE

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//COMINT//NOFORN~~

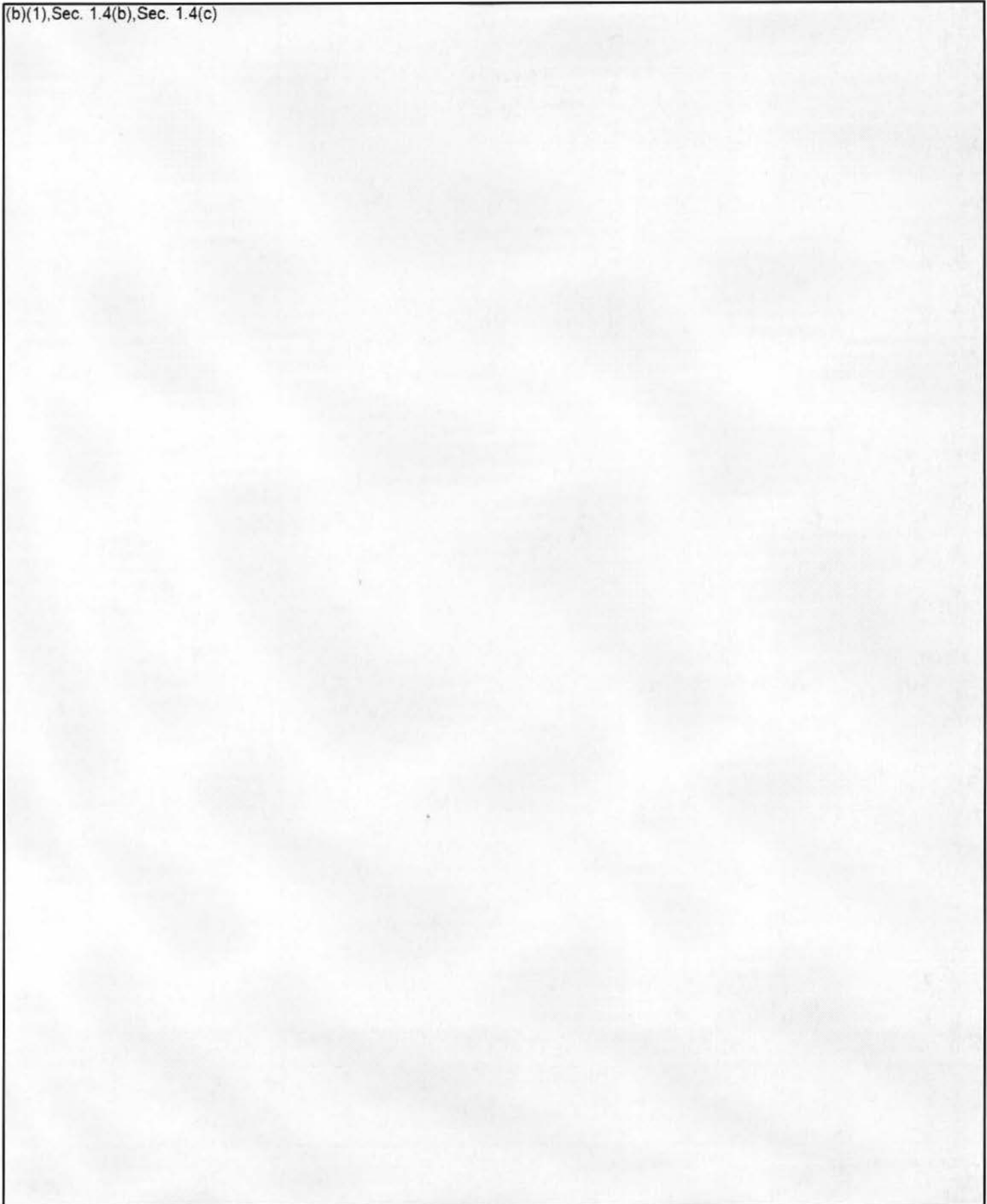
Webb, Arthur C.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:50 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: EGYPT OPENS GAZA BORDER IN WAKE OF ISRAEL ATTACK ON FLOTILLA

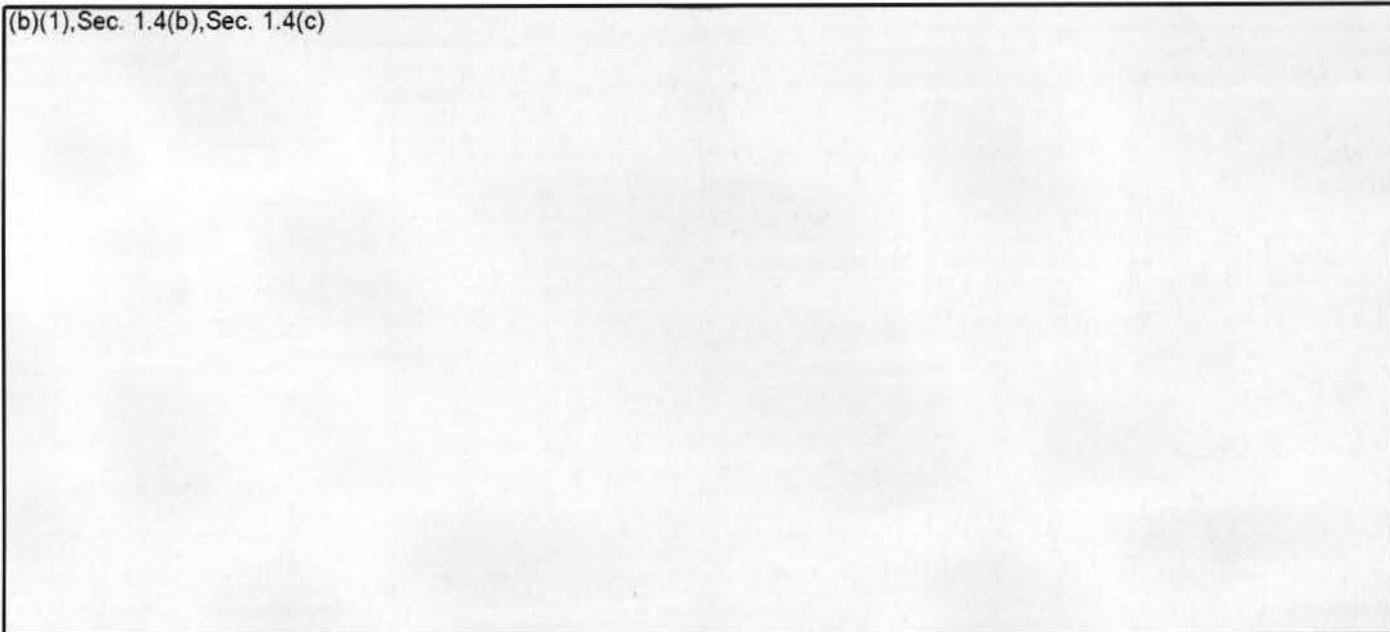
(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)



(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



39 - 2



7. (U) THERE HAVE BEEN SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS IN NUMEROUS EGYPTIAN CITIES CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ATTACK AND PAYING HOMAGE TO THOSE KILLED. (NOTE: PROTESTS MAY HAVE BEEN LIMITED BECAUSE THE OPPOSITION WAS FOCUSED ON THE JUNE 1 SHURA COUNCIL ELECTIONS. END NOTE). IN PUBLIC, EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE PLAYED UP EGYPT'S DECISION TO OPEN THE GAZA BORDER, CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI ATTACK AND CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF THOSE DETAINED IN ISRAEL AND THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PEOPLE IN GAZA. PRIVATELY, SENIOR-LEVEL CONTACTS NOTE THEY SHARE THE GOAL OF PRESERVING PROXIMITY TALKS, BUT STRESS HOW TOUGH THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS FOR THAT.

TUELLER

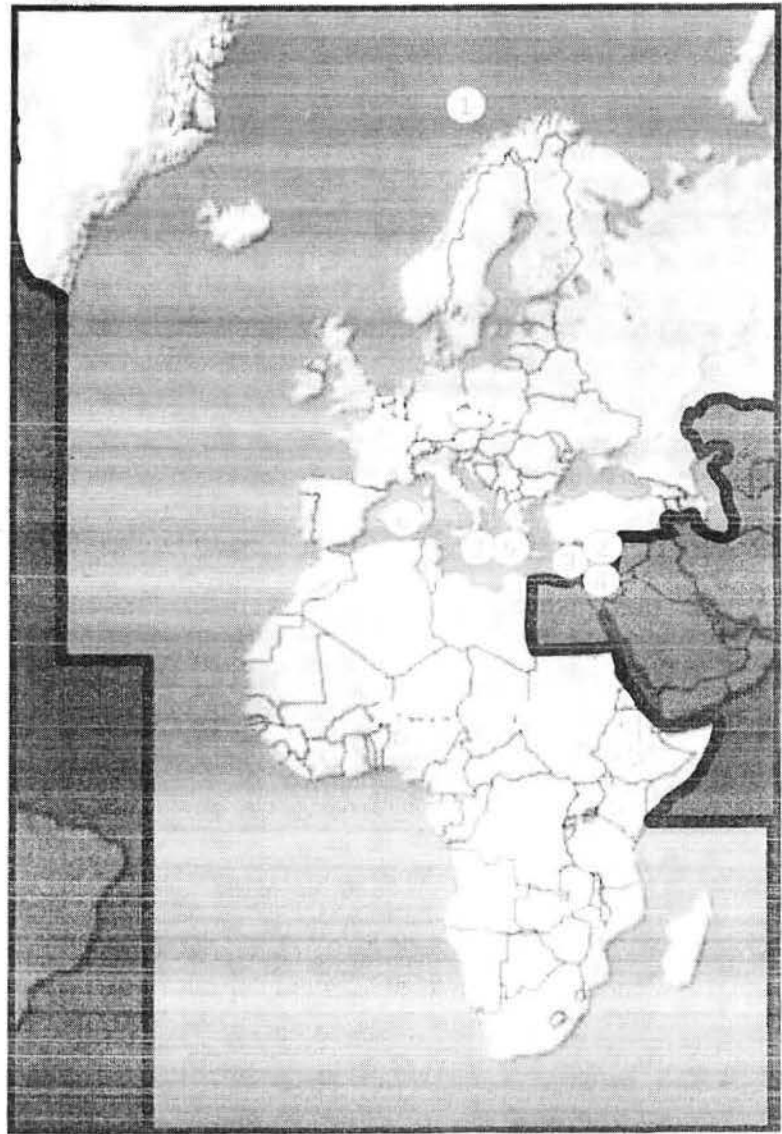
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(b)(1)



10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000155



(b)(1)

(U) Items Of Interest:

1. (U) Russian Northern Fleet Activity
 - [Redacted] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)
2. (U) Russian Black Sea Fleet Activity
 - [Redacted] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)
3. (U) Gaza Freedom Flotilla Coalition
 - (U) Open source indicates Israeli forces have interdicted the Flotilla using a helo, commandos, and RHIBs
 - (U) Reports indicate between 10-19 activists have been killed and up to 30 have been injured after an altercation with Israeli commandos
 - (U) Reports are inconclusive as to who started the conflict
 - (U) Media reports indicate some of the flotilla vessels may have arrived in Ashdod, Israel
 - [Redacted] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)
 - M/V RACHEL CORRIE remains underway [Redacted] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c) Open source states that she will still attempt to reach Gaza.
4. (U) Israeli Naval Activity
 - [Redacted] 2x DOLPHIN SS MFI Haifa Naval Base @ 010713Z MAY 10 (IMINT)
5. (U) VOI UPDATE: M/V MARIA K
 - Carrying shipment of Czech Origin military cargo to Yemen
 - (U) M/V MARIA K LOC [Redacted] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c) (AIS)
6. (U) VOI UPDATE: M/V ATLANT FRAUKE
 - Transporting ammunition and detonators from Ukraine to Yemen
 - [Redacted] (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

N

Israel: Freedom Flotilla Intercepted

By: J22-MNA

Source Pack Created by: (b)(6) J22-MNA

Coordinated With:

56-1

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000211

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

56-3

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

56-4

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000212

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

1-99

56-5

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000213

UNCLASSIFIED

DTG

311346Z MAY 10

FROM

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

CONTROLS

UNCLAS ANKARA 000772

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS

***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

BODY

SUBJECT: TURKEY: SITREP 1 ON HUMANITARIAN AID FOUNDATION FLOTILLA,
12:00 PM TURKEY TIME

REF: 10 ISTANBUL 199; 10 ISTANBUL 195

DE OTALVARO EMAIL OF 31 MAY 10 AT 12:55 TO SES-O

1. ~~(SBU)~~ ACCORDING TO TURKISH PRESS SOURCES, AT APPROXIMATELY 4:30
A.M. ON MAY 31, THE ISRAELI MILITARY ALLEGEDLY LANDED SOLDIERS ON
THE DECK OF THE TURKISH FLAGGED SHIP "BLUE MARMARA", WHILE IT WAS
IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, BETWEEN 69 AND 70 MILES FROM ISRAEL'S
SHORE. THE SHIP WAS PART OF THE TURKISH NGO HUMANITARIAN AID
FOUNDATION (IHH) FLOTILLA ATTEMPTING TO REACH GAZA AND ALLEGEDLY
DELIVER HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES. THE LATEST PRESS REPORTS INDICATE
THAT SHOTS WERE FIRED ON THE SHIP AND SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 10 AND 16
PEOPLE WERE KILLED. ISRAEL PRIME MINISTRY SPOKESMAN GENDELMAN SAID
THAT THERE WERE FIREARMS, KNIVES AND BATONS ON THE SHIP, AND THAT
FIRE WAS OPENED AGAINST THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS. GENDELMAN REPORTED
THAT BETWEEN EIGHT AND TEN SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED, SOME IN SERIOUS
CONDITION.

2. ~~(SBU)~~ SO FAR THE PRESS HAS NOT IDENTIFIED ANY AMERICANS AMONG
THE VICTIMS. ACCORDING TO AL JAZEERA TV, 9 OF THE DEAD ARE
TURKISH CITIZENS. ACCORDING TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, IHH OFFICIAL
OMER FARUK KORKMAZ REPORTED THAT ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE TAKING THE
SHIP TO HAIFA. IHH HEADQUARTERS IN ISTANBUL ALSO REPORTED THAT
THEY HAVE LOST RADIO CONTACT WITH THE FLOTILLA. THE TURKISH PRESS
REPORTED THAT THE ISRAELI MILITARY JAMMED THE FLOTILLA'S RADIO
COMMUNICATION STARTING AT 3:30 A.M. ISRAELI TELEVISION STATIONS
HAVE REPORTED THAT THE WOUNDED -- CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS -- WERE
TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITALS IN ASHKELON. TURKISH TELEVISION STATIONS
REPORTED THAT PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO DETAIN SOME CIVILIANS IN
PRISONS.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ FOLLOWING THE INTERVENTION, THE PRIME MINISTRY ESTABLISHED

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A CRISIS TASK FORCE TO FOLLOW EVENTS AFTER 7:00 A.M. DEPUTY PM BULENT ARINC, INTERIOR MINISTER BESIR ATALAY, PRIME MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY EFGAN ALA, AND TURKISH GENERAL STAFF OPERATIONS COMMANDER GENERAL MEHMET EROZ ARE FOLLOWING THE ISSUE. THE TURKISH MFA RELEASED A STRONG STATEMENT THAT CONDEMNED THE ATTACK AND PROTESTED THE USE OF FORCE BY THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES AGAINST THE CIVILIANS ON THE FLOTILLA, WHO WERE FROM MANY COUNTRIES AND WANTED TO TRANSPORT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE IN GAZA. IT POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN AMONG THE PASSENGERS, AND THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED REPORTS SO FAR THAT THE INTERVENTION HAD CAUSED 2 DEATHS AND MORE THAN 30 PEOPLE TO BE INJURED. IT SAID ISRAEL HAS "ONCE AGAIN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT IT DOES NOT VALUE HUMAN LIVES AND PEACEFUL INITIATIVES THROUGH TARGETING INNOCENT CIVILIANS." CALLING THE INTERVENTION AN "INHUMAN ACT," IT SAID THE INCIDENT, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE HIGH SEAS IN A GROSS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, "MIGHT CAUSE IRREVERSIBLE CONSEQUENCES IN OUR RELATIONS." IT SAID THAT THE EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV WOULD CONDUCT INITIATIVES TO PROTEST THE EVENT, AND THAT THE INCIDENT IS BEING "STRONGLY PROTESTED" IN ANKARA, WHILE AN EXPLANATION FROM THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA HAS BEEN DEMANDED AT THE MINISTRY. IT SAID THE ACTIONS AGAINST CIVILIANS CONDUCTING PEACEFUL ACTIVITIES -- WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVES -- WERE UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACTIONS, WHICH CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. IN CLOSING THE STATEMENT SAID "MAY GOD BESTOW HIS MERCY UPON THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES. WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED, AND SWIFT RECOVERY TO THE WOUNDED."

4. ~~(SBU)~~ (b)(6) TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE PERSONALLY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE INTERVENTION COULD HAVE HAPPENED. HE AND OTHERS WERE WORKING WITH THE ISRAELIS, HE ADMITTED, AND THEY THOUGHT THAT THEY HAD A SOLUTION TO KEEP EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL. HE STRESSED AS WELL THAT THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES TO THE INTERVENTION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT TURKS ARE OUTRAGED THAT THE ISRAELIS ACTED WHEN THE SHIPS WERE 69 MILES FROM GAZA, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. HE INTIMATED THAT 'A SOLUTION' MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE, OR AT LEAST MORE UNDERSTANDING, WERE THE SHIPS INTERCEPTED -- AS HE HAD THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE -- CLOSER TO GAZA. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE NEED TO PROTECT BOTH U.S. AND ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS FROM CROWDS OF PROTESTERS IN TURKEY, AND URGED CAUTION ON ANY ACTION UNTIL ALL OF THE FACTS WERE IN. (b)(6) IN TURN URGED FOR US TO ASK WASHINGTON TO SAY SOMETHING CRITICAL ABOUT THIS OPERATION, INDICATING THAT THIS WOULD HELP, ALTHOUGH THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT RESPOND TO THE REQUEST.

***** START OF SECTION 2 *****

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS

SUBJECT: TURKEY: SITREP 1 ON HUMANITARIAN AID FOUNDATION FLOTILLA.

12:00 PM TURKEY TIME

5. ~~(SBU)~~ ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY, GABY LEVI, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT WHILE HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO THE MFA, HIS RESIDENCE HAD BEEN BLOCKADED BY PROTESTORS AND SO HE WAS UNABLE TO

62-2

MOVE. HE WAS "UNDER SIEGE" AT HIS EMBASSY. HE ANTICIPATED "THE WORST" FROM THE TURKS, AND THAT THERE WILL BE DIPLOMATIC CONSEQUENCES TO THE INTERVENTION. THE TURKISH PRESS REPORTED THAT MFA DEPUTY U/S UNAL CEVIKOZ SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR LEVI FOR 20 MINUTES, AND IN ADDITION TO CONDEMNING THE ATTACK, HE URGED ISRAEL TO SEND THE PASSENGERS AND WOUNDED TO TURKEY IMMEDIATELY. CEVIKOZ ALSO REMINDED LEVI THAT TURKEY PRESERVES ALL ITS RIGHTS STEMMING FROM INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE TURKISH PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE VISIT OF AN ISRAELI TOURIST SHIP TO ALANYA PORT TODAY WAS CANCELLED.

6. (~~SBU~~) THERE WERE PROTESTS IN SEVERAL CITIES TURKEY AGAINST ISRAELI AND U.S. INSTALLATIONS. MEDIA OUTLETS REPORTED THAT A LARGE CROWD OF PROTESTORS GATHERED OUTSIDE THE ISRAELI CONSULATE IN ISTANBUL STARTING AT 5:00 A.M. THE GROUP HAD BEEN VERY AGITATED BUT AT THE MOMENT WAS CALM, AND HAD BEEN CONTAINED BY TURKISH POLICE, USING WATER CANNONS AND PEPPER GAS. MISSION RSOS SENT SMS MESSAGES THROUGH ITS WARDEN NETWORK TO AVOIDING PROTESTS IN THE AREAS AROUND ISRAELI OR U.S. DIPLOMATIC BUILDINGS. IN ADANA AT APPROXIMATELY 1:45 A.M. A GROUP OF 30-40 PROTESTORS HELD A SIT-IN IN FRONT OF THE U.S. CONSULATE FOR HALF AN HOUR, AND ANOTHER PROTEST IS EXPECTED.

7. (~~SBU~~) TURKISH MEDIA OUTLETS REPORT THAT HAMAS CALLED THE OPERATION "BRUTAL", AND URGENTLY URGED THE UN TO INTERFERE, WHILE PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT ABBAS TERMED THE ATTACK AS "MASSACRE" AND DECLARED THREE DAYS OF MOURNING.

8. (~~SBU~~) POST WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR EVENTS AND REPORT AS NEEDED.

(b)(6)

ADMIN

BT
#0772
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UNCLASSIFIED

62-3

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000231

~~SECRET~~
~~NOFORN~~

DTG

310600Z MAY 10

FROM

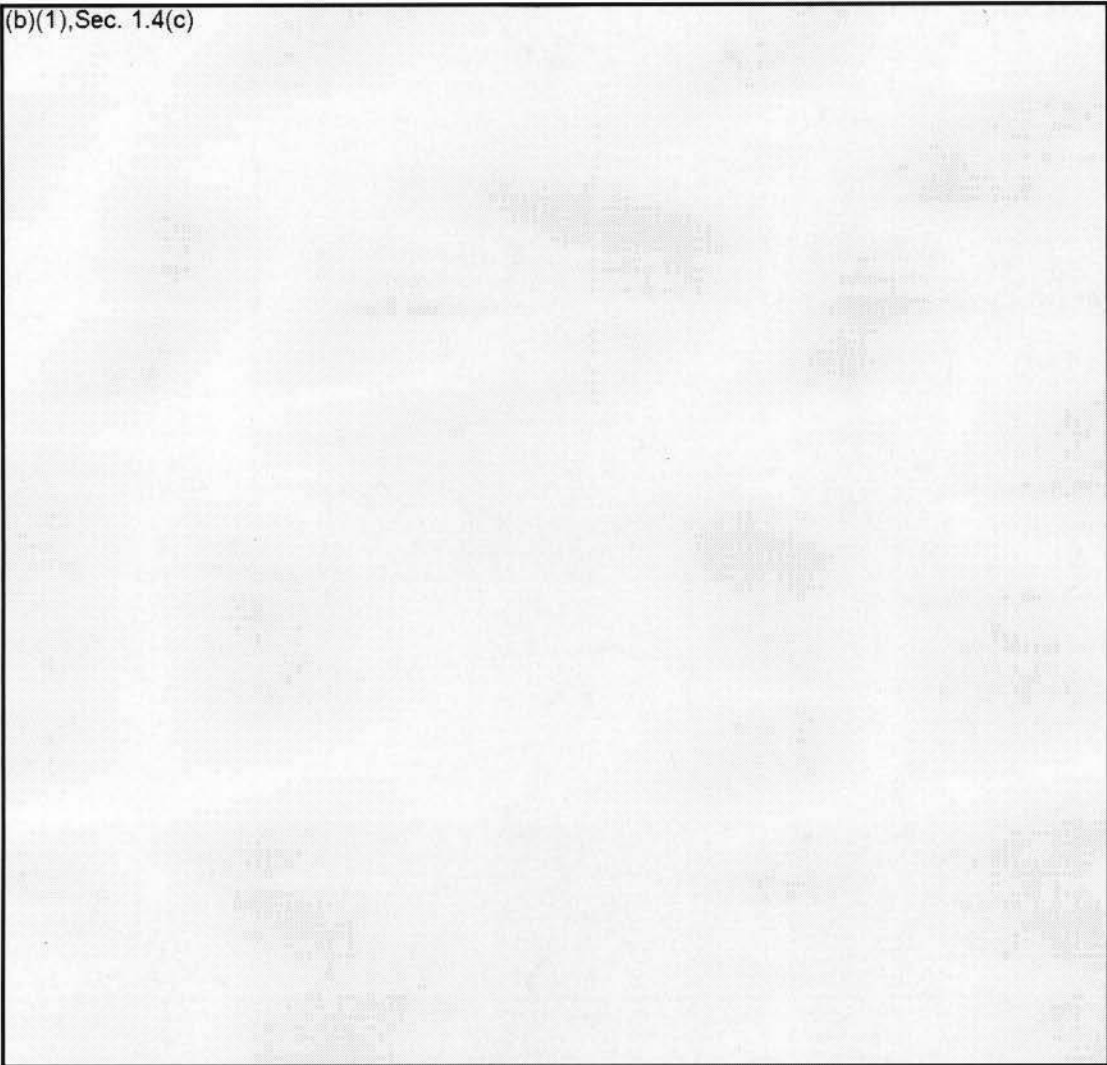
FM JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

CONTROLS

~~SECRET NOFORN~~
QQQQ

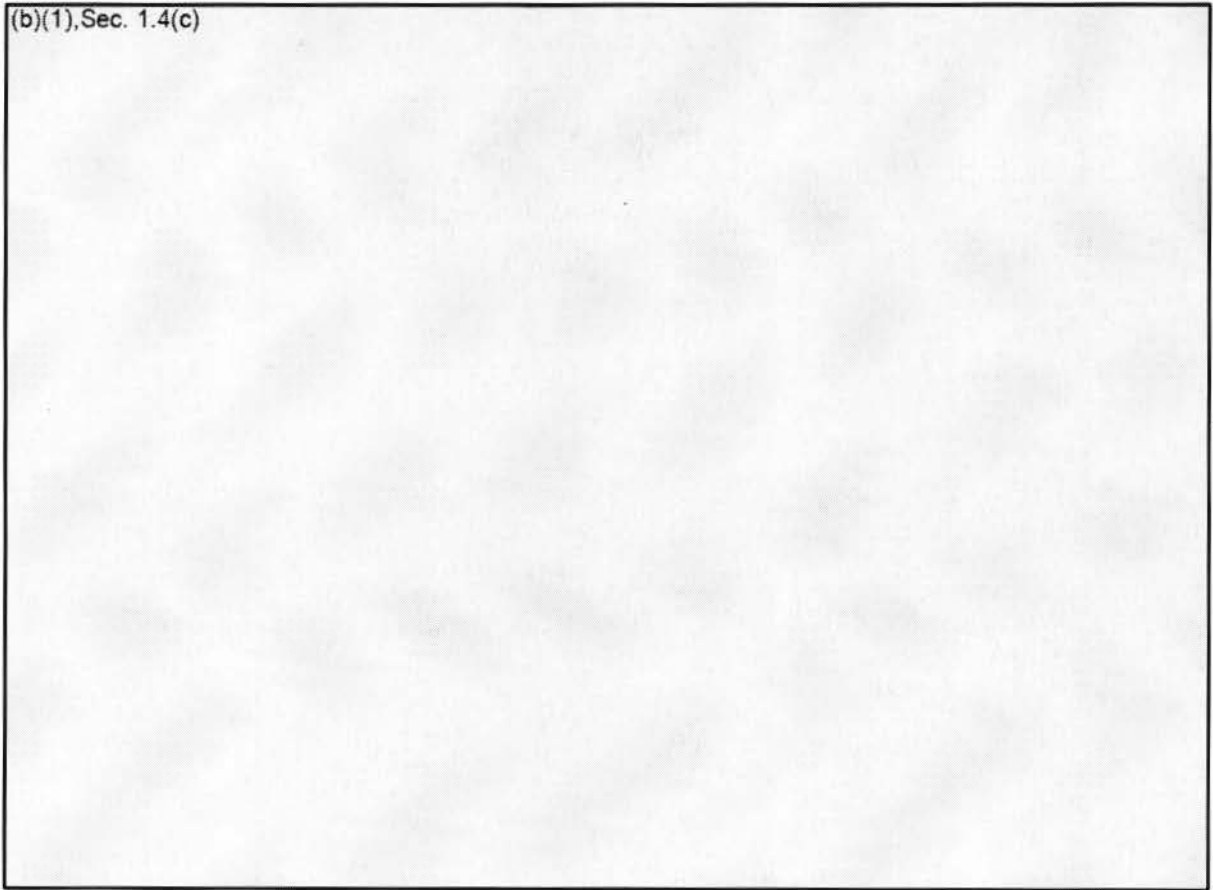
BODY

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)



6-8-1
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000256

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)



ADMIN

DECL/DB//

BT

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~~SECRET~~
~~NOFORN~~

68-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000257

UNCLASSIFIED

DTG

311051Z MAY 10

FROM

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONTROLS

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 000921
SENSITIVE
DEPT FOR S/ES-O, NEA/IPA
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS
***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

BODY

SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION UPDATE
SUMMARY

1. ~~(SBU)~~ SENIOR PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (PA) OFFICIALS CONDEMNED ISRAEL'S NAVAL INTERDICTION OF THE "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA ON MAY 31, BUT EMPHASIZED A COMMITMENT TO KEEP THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK UNDER CONTROL. A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION WAS ONGOING IN RAMALLAH AT MID-DAY ON MAY 31, AND PROTEST ACTIVITIES APPEARED TO BE GEARING UP ELSEWHERE IN THE WEST BANK. ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WERE ON HIGH ALERT IN EAST JERSUALEM, BUT THE OLD CITY WAS QUIET, WITH MANY SHOPS IN THE MUSLIM QUARTER CLOSED IN PROTEST. POST IS INVESTIGATING A REPORT OF AN AMCIT INJURED IN A PROTEST IN THE WEST BANK. END SUMMARY.

OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN REACTIONS

2. (U) PA PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS HAS DECLARED A THREE-DAY PERIOD OF MOURNING IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF DEATHS OF A NUMBER OF THOSE ON BOARD THE "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES EARLY ON MAY 31. CALLING THE ISRAELI NAVAL OPERATION A "MASSACRE," ABBAS CALLED ON THE ARAB LEAGUE TO HOLD AN EMERGENCY MEETING.

3. (SBU) A JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) AND THE FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ALREADY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT 6:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON MAY 31 TO DISCUSS OTHER TOPICS, WILL NOW DISCUSS THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT, ACCORDING TO PALESTINIAN SOURCES.

4. ~~(SBU)~~ IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH POST, A NUMBER OF SENIOR PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS REPORTED HAVING BEEN CONTACTED BY MAJOR GENERAL EITAN DANGOT, THE ISRAELI COORDINATOR OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES, WHO OFFERED A BRIEFING ON THE INCIDENT. A SENIOR PLO OFFICAL SAID DANGOT CALLED THE ISRAELI ACTIONS ABSOLUTELY JUSTIFIED. THE PLO OFFICIAL SAID HE ASKED DANGOT HOW THE INCIDENT OCCURRED. GIVEN THAT PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS BY ACTIVISTS

69-1

TO CARRY SUPPLIES TO GAZA BY BOAT HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO PROCEED. DANGOTT ANSWERED THAT ISRAELI MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE ATTACKED, AND SAID HE WAS SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED, ACCORDING TO THE SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL.

5. ~~(SBU)~~ THE SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL PREDICTED CONSEQUENCES AS A RESULT OF THE ISRAELI ACTIONS -- WHICH HE CALLED "UNJUSTIFIED" -- PARTICULARLY IF ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL-NORTHERN BRANCH LEADER RA'ED SALAH, ALLEGEDLY WOUNDED IN THE ISRAELI INTERDICTION OF THE FLOTILLA, WERE TO DIE. NOTE: PRESS REPORTS ON SALAH'S SITUATION ARE CONTRADICTORY. END NOTE. HE SAID THAT "WE KNOW WHO" -- THAT IS, HAMAS -- WILL USE THIS INCIDENT FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. HE NOTED ALJAZEERA REPORTAGE "CALLING FOR DEMONSTRATIONS," INCLUDING IN CAIRO, AND FOR THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO OPEN THE RAFAH CROSSING BETWEEN THE GAZA STRIP AND EGYPT. SUCH COVERAGE WAS BREAKING HAMAS'S WAY, ACCORDING TO THE SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL; "EVERYONE WILL USE IT." HE NOTED FURTHER THAT THE INCIDENT WAS OCCURRING AT THE SAME TIME THAT CANDIDATES ARE BEING SELECTED FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE WEST BANK ON JULY 17; IT COULD HAVE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS, HE SAID.

6. (SBU) A TOP PA OFFICIAL TOLD POST THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING UP ON SECURITY RAMIFICATIONS OF THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT, DESCRIBING THAT AS HIS MAJOR FOCUS AT THE MOMENT. HE HAD LIKEWISE HEARD FROM DANGOTT, ALTHOUGH DANGOTT DID NOT RELAY ANY INFORMATION NOT ALREADY BEING CARRIED BY THE NEWS MEDIA, HE SAID.

7. ~~(SBU)~~ THE PA OFFICIAL STATED THAT, AS IN PREVIOUS SITUATIONS, PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK WOULD HAVE ROOM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES PEACEFULLY. THE PA'S GOAL WOULD BE TO KEEP DEMONSTRATORS AWAY FROM POTENTIAL FLASHPOINTS OF CONFLICT WITH ISRAELI SECURITY PERSONNEL, HE SAID. HE EXPECTED SOME PUBLIC EVENTS; AS OF THIS MORNING, BUT HAD ONLY HEARD OF DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITY IN RAMALLAH (SEE BELOW).

8. ~~(SBU)~~ ACCORDING TO A SENIOR PA SECURITY OFFICIAL, PA PRIME MINISTER SALAM FAYYAD HELD A MEETING WITH SECURITY CHIEFS JUST AFTER A VERY SHORT CABINET MEETING ON THE MORNING OF MAY 31. IN THE MEETING WITH SECURITY CHIEFS, FAYYAD STRESSED THE NEED TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. PA SECURITY FORCES ARE ON HIGH ALERT AND WILL DEPLOY SURVEILLANCE DETECTION UNITS TO SPOT ANY SIGNS OF FRICTION WITH ISRAELI MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE WEST BANK, THE SENIOR PA SECURITY OFFICIAL SAID.

9. ~~(SBU)~~ THE SENIOR PA SECURITY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED HAVING RECEIVED FROM ISRAELI COUNTERPARTS A REQUEST TO HELP KEEP THE SITUATION CALM. HE SAID HE RESPONDED BY CHARACTERIZING THIS LATEST EVENT AS A NEW CHALLENGE, BUT EMPHASIZED A CONTINUING PA COMMITMENT TO PREVENT ANY PROVOCATIONS. THE SENIOR PA SECURITY OFFICIAL

***** START OF SECTION 2 *****

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR S/ES-O, NEA/IPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS

SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION UPDATE

NOTED CALLS FOR PROTESTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WEST BANK. HE CALLED THE SITUATION TENSE BUT SAID PA SECURITY FORCES WERE WORKING TO ENSURE CALM.

10. (U) PRIME MINISTER FAYYAD ISSUED A STATEMENT ON MAY 31, REFERRING TO THE INTERDICTION OF THE FLOTILLA, THE STATEMENT SAID THAT THE "PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNS THIS CRIME." IT CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONDEMN THE ISRAELI

69-2

ACTIONS, AND ALSO CALLED FOR "LIFTING THE SIEGE" ON GAZA.

11. (U) PLO CHIEF NEGOTIATOR SAEB EREKAT LIKewise ISSUED A STATEMENT, CALLING THE INTERDICTION OF THE FLOTILLA A "WAR CRIME." EREKAT CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO "ACT IMMEDIATELY TO END THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI SIEGE AND TO PROTECT THE CIVILIANS SAVAGELY ATTACKED BY ISRAELI FORCES," ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT.
HAMAS REACTION

12. (U) IN THE GAZA STRIP, HAMAS "PRIME MINISTER" ISMAIL HANIYEH HAS CALLED ON THE PA TO STOP TALKS WITH ISAREL IN RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI INTERDICTION OF THE FLOTILLA.

13. (SBU) A GAZA-BASED SOURCE TOLD POST THAT HAMAS HAS CALLED FOR A GENERAL STRIKE IN THE WEST BANK AS WELL AS THE GAZA STRIP. A NUMBER OF POLITICAL FACTIONS IN GAZA WERE PLANNING DEMONSTRATIONS IN PROTEST OF THE FLOTILLA'S INTERDICTION. THE GAZA-BASED SOURCE SAID.

WEST BANK

14. (SBU) A WEST BANK "POPULAR COMMITTEE" LEADER TOLD POST THAT DEMONSTRATIONS IN BETHLEHEM'S NATIVITY SQUARE WOULD BEGIN AT 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME. VARIOUS "POPULAR COMMITTEES" WERE ORGANIZING PROTESTS THROUGHOUT MAJOR WEST BANK CITIES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH THE FLOTILLA, HE SAID. AMONG THESE EVENTS, VARIOUS PALESTINIAN POLITICAL FACTIONS WERE PARTICIPATING IN A MID-DAY DEMONSTRATION IN RAMALLAH'S MANARA SQUARE. POST CONTACTS EXPECTED TO THE DEMONSTRATION TO BE PEACEFUL.

15. (SBU) (b)(6) FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES "PEACEFUL RESISTANCE" DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE WEST BANK AGAINST THE ISRAELI SEPARATION BARRIER TOLD POST THAT 70 DEMONSTRATORS HAD ASSEMBLED IN RAMALLAH'S MANARA SQUARE AS OF 11:00 A.M. FATAH HAD ANNOUNCED IT WOULD JOIN, AND THAT A REPORTED STRIKE BY PA EMPLOYEES WAS EXPECTED TO SWELL PARTICIPATION FURTHER. A REPORT OF AN INCIDENT OF STONE-THROWING NEAR THE QALANDIYA CHECKPOINT WAS THE ONLY SIGN OF VIOLENCE IN EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK AS OF MID-DAY MAY 31.
JERUSALEM

16. (SBU) ISRAELI POLICE WERE ON HIGH ALERT AND DEPLOYED IN FORCE THROUGHOUT EAST JERUSALEM, INCLUDING THE OLD CITY, AS OF MID-DAY MAY 31. JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY, PARTICULARLY THE MUSLIM QUARTER, WAS VERY QUIET AS OF MID-DAY MAY 31, WITH MANY SHOPS HAVING CLOSED IN PROTEST OF THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT.

17. (SBU) (b)(6) WITH INSIGHTS INTO SALAH'S ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF ISRAEL-NORTHERN BRANCH DESCRIBED SALAH'S APPEAL IN PREDOMINANTLY ARAB EAST JERUSALEM AS STRONG (AND NOTED ITS USE OF TOOLS LIKE PHONE TREES TO ORGANIZE THAT SUPPORT), BUT NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO TRUMP GENERAL AVERSION TO MASS-PROTEST EVENTS. HE DID NOT EXPECT WIDESPREAD VIOLENT PROTEST IN JERUSALEM IMMEDIATELY, BUT RATHER PREDICTED ATTEMPTS BY SALAH'S SUPPORTERS TO MOBILIZE EVENTS LATER IN THE WEEK, IN CONJUNCTION WITH FRIDAY PRAYERS.
AMERICAN CITIZENS

18. (SBU) POST IS ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM A REPORT OF ONE AMCIT HAVING BEEN INJURED BY A TEAR GAS CANNISTER FIRED DURING A DEMONSTRATION IN THE WEST BANK ON MAY 31.
RUBINSTEIN

6-9-3

ADMIN

BT
#0921
C625

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

69-4



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

SITUATION REPORT No. 6

Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01

Wednesday, June 2, 2010
1800 EDT

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

(SBU) Thirteen American citizens were transferred to Ben Gurion Airport and are scheduled to depart by June 3. Three additional American dual-nationals are departing to their countries of origin: Kuwait, Jordan, and Ireland. One Israeli-American was released without conditions, and the Embassy is trying to locate one additional American citizen.

(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

(S) The Israeli government initiated deportation for all of the 637 foreign detainees, including those suspected of instigating violence. Proceedings are expected to be completed by June 3. Four injured detainees may depart later in the week. Detention has been extended for four Israeli-Arab leaders from the boats. *(Tel Aviv 1225)*

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

(S/NF) The RACHEL CORRIE is currently expected to arrive at a staging point near Cyprus early June 5. The CHALLENGER II and Greek-flagged DIMITRIS-K are docked in Cyprus. IDF officials have not informed the Embassy of the specific actions they plan to take, but have confirmed the boats will not be allowed to reach Gaza. *(Tel Aviv 1225)*

HUMANITARIAN GOODS

(SBU) UNRWA and ICRC are unable to confirm that eight truckloads actually entered Gaza from Israel. Media report 10 additional truckloads will be transferred on June 2.

(MGGZ01/PRM e-mail)

ISRAELI RESPONSE

- (U) PM Netanyahu publicly defended the military operation, emphasized the importance of the blockade for Israeli security, and rejected international pressure to launch an investigation of IDF actions. *(Reuters)*
- (U) Pro-IDF demonstrators are calling for a boycott of Turkish products. *(Tel Aviv 1225)*

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

(SBU) There has been a slight uptick in protest activities and violence in the West Bank and along the Gaza-Israel border, including sporadic mortar firing from Gaza. Jerusalem remains tense. *(Jerusalem 928)*

78-1

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- (U) ASEAN-GCC: Foreign ministers condemned the Israeli raid as “an act of violence,” and urged release of the detainees and an end to the blockade. *(MGGZ01/EAP e-mail)*
- (U) UNHRC: The Human Rights Council approved a Palestinian-drafted resolution condemning the “outrageous attack by the Israeli forces” by a vote of 32 yes, three no (U.S.), nine abstentions, and three no-shows. The resolution establishes an international fact-finding mission to investigate alleged violations of international law. *(MGGZ01/IO Bureau e-mail)*

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- (SBU) Egypt: The government opened the Rafah crossing indefinitely and allowed shipment of electric generators into Gaza, the first non-food or medical shipment from Egypt since the 2008-2009 Gaza conflict. Reportedly, 200 to 800 Gazans have crossed into Egypt. *(Cairo 611)*
- ~~(S)~~ Turkey: (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d) Political statements from June 2 by senior Turks were more moderate in tone than those earlier in the week. *(Tel Aviv 1225)*
- (U) Palestinian Authority: President Abbas rejected calls to suspend proximity talks. *(jpost.com)*
- ~~(SBU)~~ Jordan: A warden message was issued warning American citizens to avoid crowds and maintain a low profile due to anti-American sentiment and expected protests. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Amman e-mail)*
- (U) EU: Members of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee almost unanimously condemned Israeli actions. Some called for suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement. One MEP called for opening talks with Hamas. *(MGGZ01/USEU Daily Report e-mail)*
- (U) Tunisia: A Gaza solidarity demonstration took place in Tunis. *(Tunis 395)*

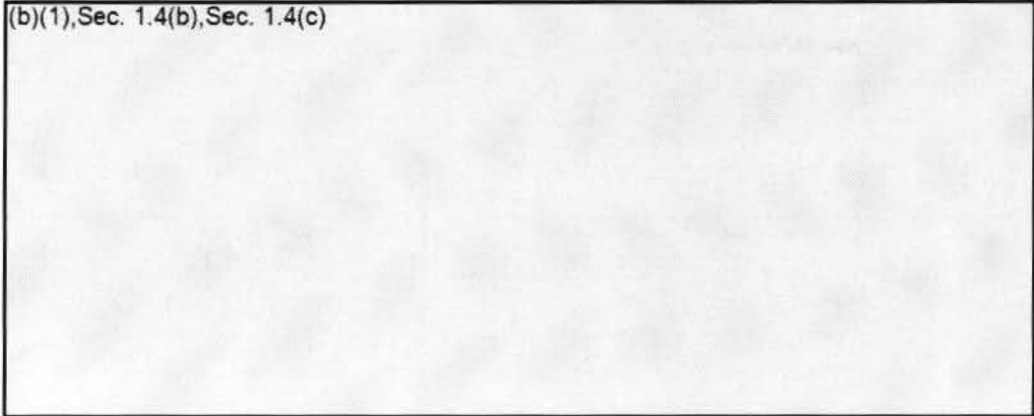
For more information about the Gaza Flotilla, please see the Ops portal at the following link:
http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010

Drafted (b)(6)
Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS

Approved (b)(6)

78-2

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)



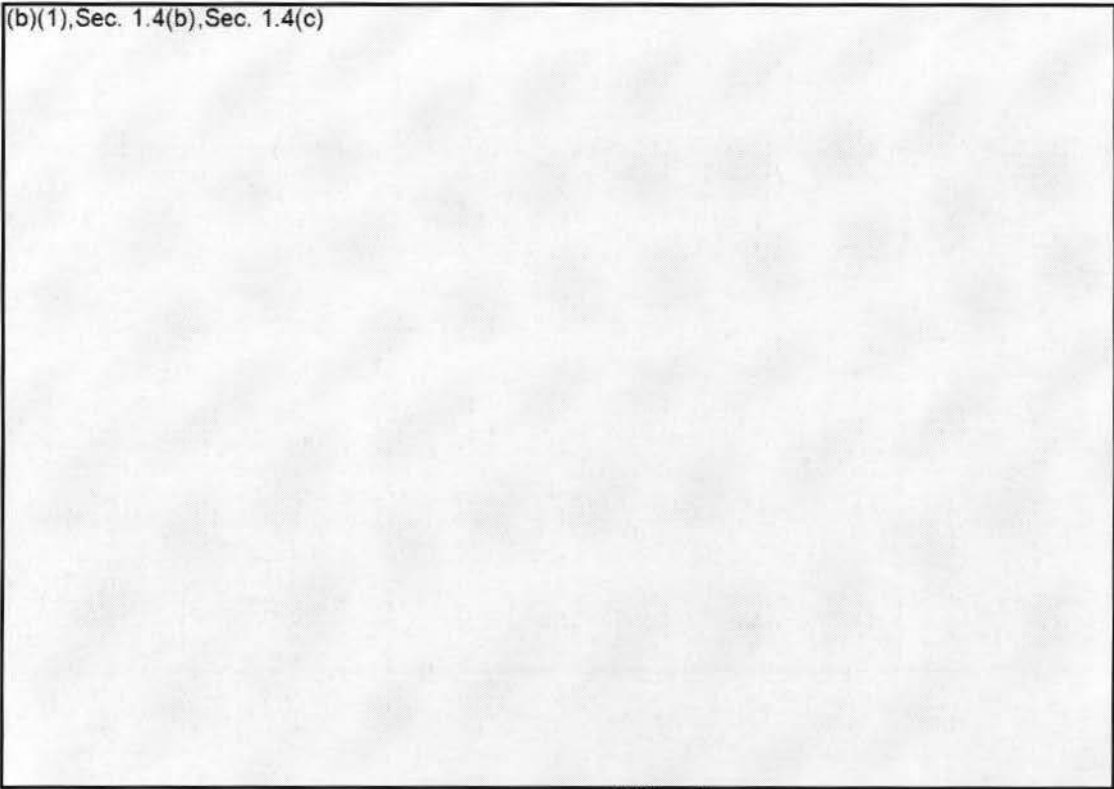
(U) Background

(U) On Friday, 28 May, several vessels participating in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla - a group of approximately eight vessels ranging in size from yachts to cargo ships sailing from Greece, Turkey, and Ireland to "break Israel's siege on the Gaza Strip" and deliver humanitarian aid - were underway in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Israel Naval Forces (INF) is prepared for a confrontation with this group; it intends to interdict any vessels that do not turn back or sail voluntarily to Ashdod, Israel.

(U) Open source reporting and ship manifests passed from American Embassy Athens indicate that there will be American citizens onboard some of these ships and that two participating yachts (CHALLENGER I and CHALLENGER II) are US-flagged. ONI cannot confirm the flags of these vessels.

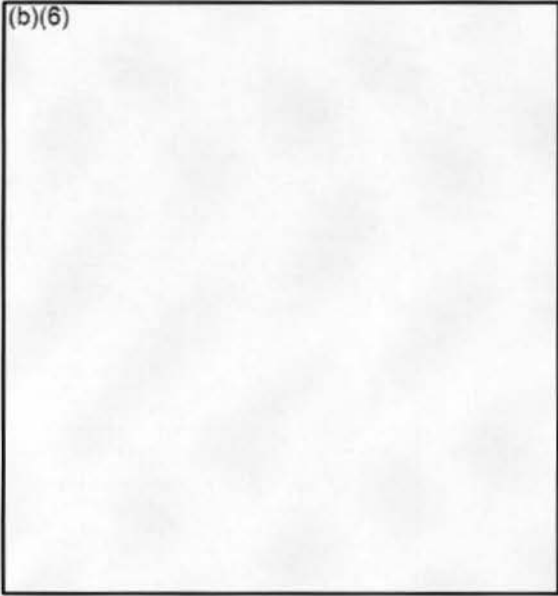
(U) Current Maritime Situation

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)



V/R,

(b)(6)



DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.
DECLASSIFY ON: 20350528

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(1) CAVEATS NOFORN
REL TO: NONE

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1-Human

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: ~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(1) CAVEATS W/O ATCH NOFORN

REL TO W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

(b)(1)

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC §424,(b)(3):50 USC §3024 ,(b)(5),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c),Sec. 1.4(d)

- (U) *M/V MAVI MARMARA Violence*: Addressed in the below interdiction details.
- ~~TS~~ (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1),(b)(5),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Maritime Interdiction Operation:

(U) During the early morning hours of 31 May, approximately 70 nautical miles off the Israeli coast, the INF intercepted and took control of six vessels headed to the Gaza Strip to "break Israel's blockade" and deliver humanitarian aid. The six vessels, sailing from Turkey and Greece with passengers from over 40 countries, were M/V MAVI MARMARA, M/V GAZZE (previously known as M/V YUNIS SIRIN), M/V SOFIA, M/V DEFNE Y, yacht CHALLENGER I, and SFENDONI (type unknown); open source indicates that they are currently in port Ashdod, Israel.

~~TS~~ (b)(1),(b)(5),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)
(b)(1),(b)(5),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

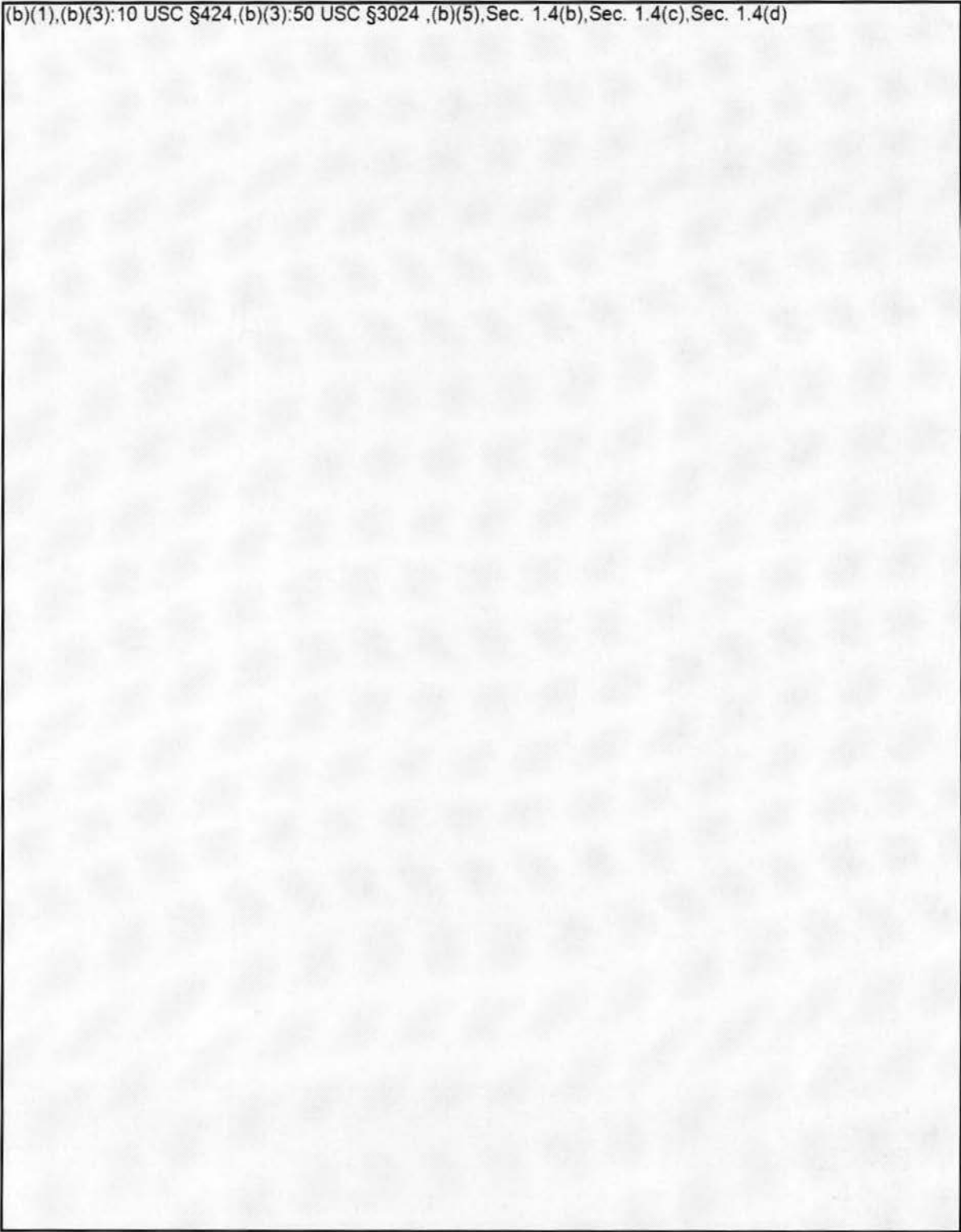
~~(SBU)~~ Although the INF did not report any incidents while boarding five of the six vessels, passengers on board M/V MAVI MARMARA attacked the Israeli boarding teams reportedly with knives and additional items likely found on board the ship, such as metal rods and poles.³ VADM Eli Marum stated that the naval commandos "had no choice but to respond in kind" to the violence they faced on M/V MAVI

(b)(1)

~~TOP SECRET~~ (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

MARMARA." It is not clear whether passengers also used small arms brought on board the ship, or whether passengers seized INF commandos' weapons.

(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC §424, (b)(3): 50 USC §3024, (b)(5), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c), Sec. 1.4(d)



~~TOP SECRET~~ (b)(1), Sec. 1.4 (b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC §424,(b)(3):50 USC §3024 ,(b)(5),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c),Sec. 1.4(d)

81-3

FW Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update - 31 MAY 2010

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:43 AM
To: (b)(6)
CC:
Subject: FW: Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update - 31 MAY 2010
Attachments: ONI_INF response to Gaza Flotilla - Draft_31 MAY 10.doc

(b)(6)

Attached is summary MIR of yesterday's, Israeli activity.

VR, - (b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:53 PM
Subject: Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update - 31 MAY 2010

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

V/R,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 4:10 PM
Subject: Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update

ALCON,

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Background

(U) On Friday, 28 May, several vessels participating in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla - a group of approximately eight vessels ranging in size from yachts to cargo ships sailing from Greece, Turkey, and Ireland to "break Israel's siege on the Gaza Strip" and deliver humanitarian aid - were

Page 1

89

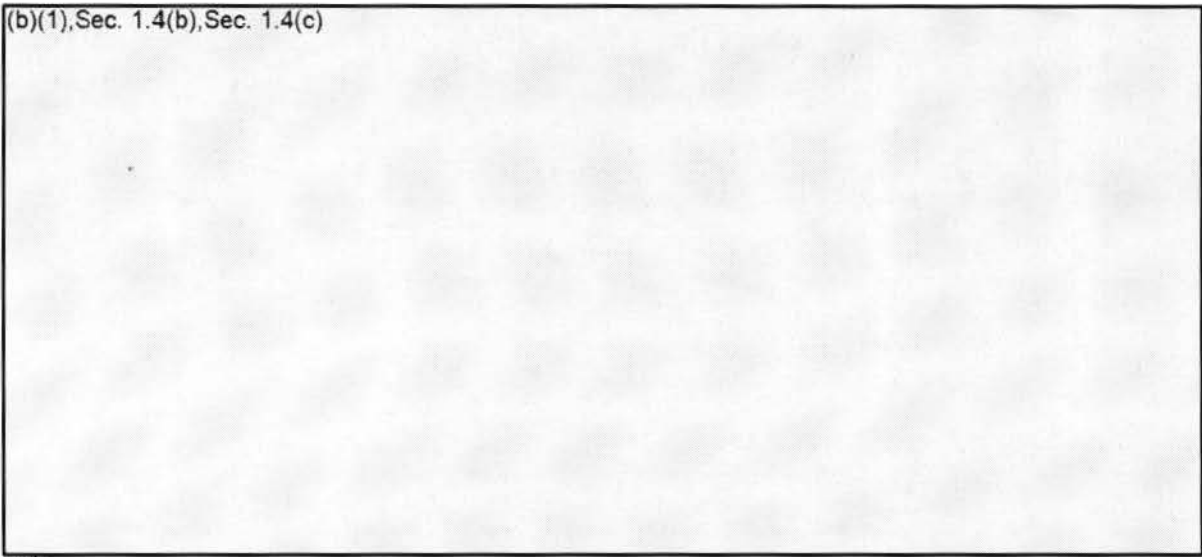
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000310

FW Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update - 31 MAY 2010
underway in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Israel Naval Forces (INF) is prepared for a confrontation with this group; it intends to interdict any vessels that do not turn back or sail voluntarily to Ashdod, Israel.

(U) Open source reporting and ship manifests passed from American Embassy Athens indicate that there will be American citizens onboard some of these ships and that two participating yachts (CHALLENGER I and CHALLENGER II) are US-flagged. ONI cannot confirm the flags of these vessels.

(U) Current Maritime Situation

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



V/R,

(b)(6)



DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.
DECLASSIFY ON: 20350528

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~
CAVEATS: (b)(1)
REL TO: NONE

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1-Human

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: ~~TOP SECRET~~

89-2
Page 2

FW Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update - 31 MAY 2010

CAVEATS W/O ATCH: (b)(1),Sec. 1.4
(c)

REL TO W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(c)

REL TO: NONE

FW ISRAEL TURKEY REJECTS COMPROMISE OFFER ON GAZA-BOUND
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:55 AM
To: Watch Europe
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: ISRAEL: TURKEY REJECTS COMPROMISE OFFER ON GAZA-BOUND

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEATS: NONE
REL TO: NONE

Apparently the INF is calling the Gaza Flotilla interdiction "Operation Sky winds." Not sure where that came from.

V/R,

(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)
[mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 12:02 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: ISRAEL: TURKEY REJECTS COMPROMISE OFFER ON GAZA-BOUND

UNCLAS
QQQQ
CITE OSC RESTON VA 378089

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100525739001

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL: TURKEY REJECTS COMPROMISE OFFER ON GAZA-BOUND 'PEACE FLOTILLA'
(U)

REF: 1. ISRAELI NAVY BUILDS PORT COMPOUND TO HOLD GAZA-BOUND
FLOTILLA DETAINEES NEXT WEEK GMP20100521739013 YISRA'EL
HAYOM HEBREW 0000 GMT 21 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW 25 MAY 10 P 4(U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY YOSI YEHOASHU'A AND ITAMAR EICHNER: "ISRAEL OFFERED A COMPROMISE, TURKEY REFUSED." THIS PRODUCT IS PROVIDED BY THE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT ISRAEL NEWS TODAY, JERUSALEM, AND HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER US GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS. OSC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDITORIAL STANDARDS OF THIS TRANSLATION. (U)

PUBLICATIONS

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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ISRAEL WANTS VERY MUCH TO PREVENT THE ARRIVAL IN GAZA OF THE "PEACE FLOTILLA" FROM EUROPE. AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT INITIALLY SUPPORTED THE FLOTILLA BUT THEN WITHDREW THEIR PARTICIPATION AS A

90 - Page 1

FW ISRAEL TURKEY REJECTS COMPROMISE OFFER ON GAZA-BOUND
RESULT OF ISRAELI PRESSURE, YEDIOTH AHRONOTH HAS LEARNED THAT A PROPOSAL THAT
ISRAEL MADE TO TURKEY WAS REJECTED.

AS PART OF THE "PEACE FLOTILLA" THAT WAS ORGANIZED BY AID ORGANIZATIONS
ACROSS EUROPE, TEN SHIPS LADEN WITH FOOD, CLOTHES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND
OTHER GOODS, SET SAIL YESTERDAY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA FOR THE GAZA STRIP.
THE FLOTILLA, IN WHICH 700 HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE TAKING PART, IS
SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE AT THE GAZA COAST ON THURSDAY. ISRAEL, WHICH WOULD LIKE TO
PREVENT THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIPS IN THE GAZA STRIP BUT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO
AVOID HAVING TO HAVE IDF TROOPS CLASH WITH THE ACTIVISTS ON BOARD THE SHIPS,
APPLIED PRESSURE ON A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO TAKE ACTION TO CANCEL THE
FLOTILLA.

AS OPPOSED TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT AGREED TO ISRAEL'S REQUEST, YEDIOTH
AHRONOTH HAS LEARNED THAT TURKEY REFUSED. ISRAEL PROPOSED TO TURKEY THAT IT
WOULD ALLOW FOR THE EQUIPMENT TO BE DELIVERED TO THE ASHDOD PORT, AND THAT IT
WOULD ENSURE THAT THE EQUIPMENT MADE ITS WAY INTO THE GAZA STRIP BY MEANS OF
INTERNATIONAL AID GROUPS AND THE UN, UNDER ISRAELI SUPERVISION. ISRAEL ASKED
WHETHER TURKEY WOULD BE PREPARED, IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT TO ALLOW
THE EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION INTO THE GAZA STRIP, TO TAKE ACTION TO HAVE THE
FLOTILLA CANCELLED. TURKEY REJECTED THAT PROPOSAL.

THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL TO TURKEY WAS MADE BY COORDINATOR OF GOVERNMENT
ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES MAJ. GEN. EITAN DANGOT IN A MEETING WITH THE
TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, WITH WHOM HE MET IN THE LAST NUMBER OF DAYS.
THAT MEETING WAS HELD WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE
DEFENSE MINISTER.

THE ISRAEL NAVY IS PREPARED WITH BACK-UP TROOPS FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE BOATS
ON THURSDAY. THE MILITARY OPERATION, OPERATION SKY WINDS, WILL BE COMMANDED BY
NAVY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. ELIEZER
(CHENEY) MAROM. THIS IS TO BE A RELATIVELY COMPLEX OPERATION FOR ISRAEL'S
SMALL NAVY. IDF OFFICIALS ARE AFRAID THAT THE ACTIVISTS ON BOARD THE SHIPS
WILL SEEK TO CLASH WITH THE IDF TROOPS, WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO OVERPOWER THEM
BEFORE THEY REACH THE GAZA COAST, AND WILL TRY TO DOCUMENT THE ANTICIPATED
UPHEAVAL SO AS TO EMBARRASS ISRAEL.

THE SHIPS THAT ARE TAKEN OVER BY THE NAVY WILL BE TOWED TO THE ASHDOD PORT,
WHERE A SPECIAL DETENTION CENTER HAS BEEN SET UP FOR THE PEACE ACTIVISTS AND
PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS WHO WILL BE ARRESTED BY THE IDF.

THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT TURKEY WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FLOTILLA.
AN ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOAL HARBORED BY THE ORGANIZERS OF
THE FLOTILLA WAS TO CREATE A PROVOCATION AND NOT TO HAVE GOODS ENTER THE GAZA
STRIP.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW -- INDEPENDENT,
CENTRIST, LARGEST CIRCULATION HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER

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SOURCE METADATA

SOURCE NAME: YEDI'OT AHARONOT
SOURCE TYPE(S): PUBLICATIONS
SOURCE CITY: TEL AVIV
SOURCE COUNTRY: ISRAEL
SOURCE START DATE: 25 MAY 10
SOURCE END DATE: 25 MAY 10
LANGUAGE(S): HEBREW

FW ISRAEL TURKEY REJECTS COMPROMISE OFFER ON GAZA-BOUND

ARTICLE METADATA

DOCUMENT ID: GMP20100525739001
CONTENT TYPE: TRANSLATION/TRANSCRIPTION
PROCESSING IND: OSC TRANSLATED TEXT
PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY
COUNTRY(S): ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK
REGION(S): MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE
SUBREGION(S): MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH EUROPE
TOPIC(S): INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

BT
#9123
90A3

NNNN

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEATS: NONE
REL TO: NONE

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:57 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Israeli options
Attachments: Israeli options.doc

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~

REL TO: NONE

All,

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c), Sec. 1.4(d)

V/R,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:46 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Israeli options

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

(b)(6)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c), Sec. 1.4(d)

91-1

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(6)

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

Classified By: 2281711
Derived From: Multiple Sources
Reason: 1.4(c)
Declassify On: 20350602

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 20350602

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS W/O ATCH: ~~NOFORN~~

REL TO W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~

REL TO: NONE

91-2

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 11:45 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Israeli Shipboarding AN for Second Look
Attachments: ShipboardingAN (2)_smt_21JUN.doc

CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

Here's my quick updates. Let me know what you think and we can respond soonest.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 11:32 AM
To: (b)(6)

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC §424,(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(c)

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 20350531

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: TOP SECRET

92-1

CAVEATS W/O ATCH: (b)(1)

REL TO W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

92-2

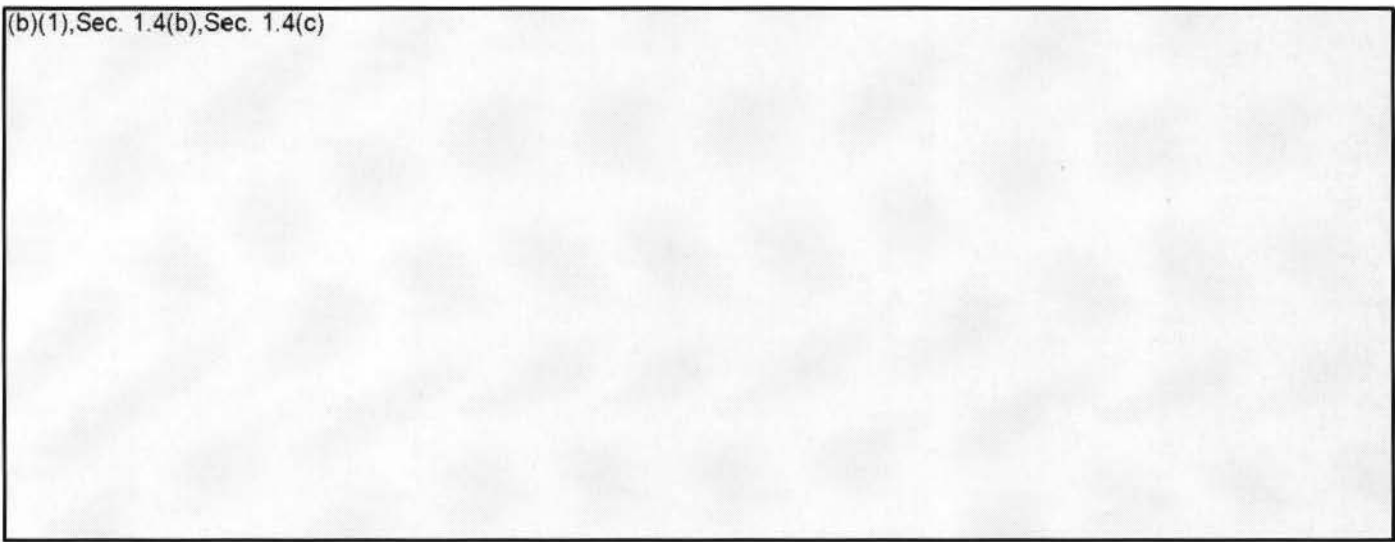
Webb, Arthur C.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:26 PM
To: CNO IP Watch Officer
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Gaza Flotilla

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE

CNO-IP,

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



V/r,

(b)(6)



DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.
DECLASSIFY ON: 20350602

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 11:19 AM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

Gaza Flotilla, INF Response

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS: NONE

REL TO: NONE

(b)(6)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

V/R,

(b)(6)

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 20350519

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS: NONE

REL TO: NONE

98-1

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 4:10 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc:

Subject: Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

ALCON,

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) ONI Assessment

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Background

(U) On Friday, 28 May, several vessels participating in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla – a group of

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

100-1


10-L-1242/GCR Gallagher/ONI/000346

approximately eight vessels ranging in size from yachts to cargo ships sailing from Greece, Turkey, and Ireland to "break Israel's siege on the Gaza Strip" and deliver humanitarian aid – were underway in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Israel Naval Forces (INF) is prepared for a confrontation with this group; it intends to interdict any vessels that do not turn back or sail voluntarily to Ashdod, Israel.

(U) Open source reporting and ship manifests passed from American Embassy Athens indicate that there will be American citizens onboard some of these ships and that two participating yachts (CHALLENGER I and CHALLENGER II) are US-flagged. ONI cannot confirm the flags of these vessels.

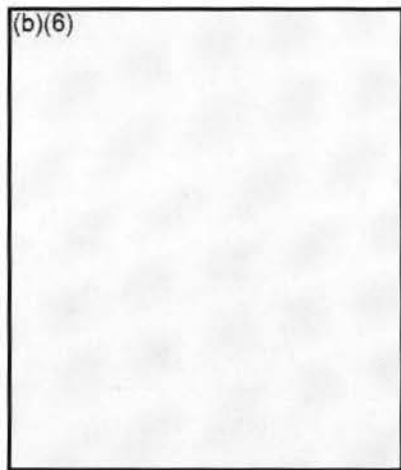
(U) Current Maritime Situation

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



V/R,

(b)(6)



DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.
DECLASSIFY ON: 20350528

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

100-2

REL TO: NONE

100-3

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Monday, May 31, 2010 3:53 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update - 31 MAY 2010

Attachments:

ONI_INF response to Gaza Flotilla - Draft_31 MAY 10.doc

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS:

(b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

All,

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

V/R,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

101-1

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 4:10 PM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Gaza Freedom Flotilla Update

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

ALCON,

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) ONI Assessment

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Background

(U) On Friday, 28 May, several vessels participating in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla – a group of approximately eight vessels ranging in size from yachts to cargo ships sailing from Greece, Turkey, and Ireland to “break Israel’s siege on the Gaza Strip” and deliver humanitarian aid – were underway in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Israel Naval Forces (INF) is prepared for a confrontation with this group; it intends to interdict any vessels that do not turn back or sail voluntarily to Ashdod, Israel.

(U) Open source reporting and ship manifests passed from American Embassy Athens indicate that

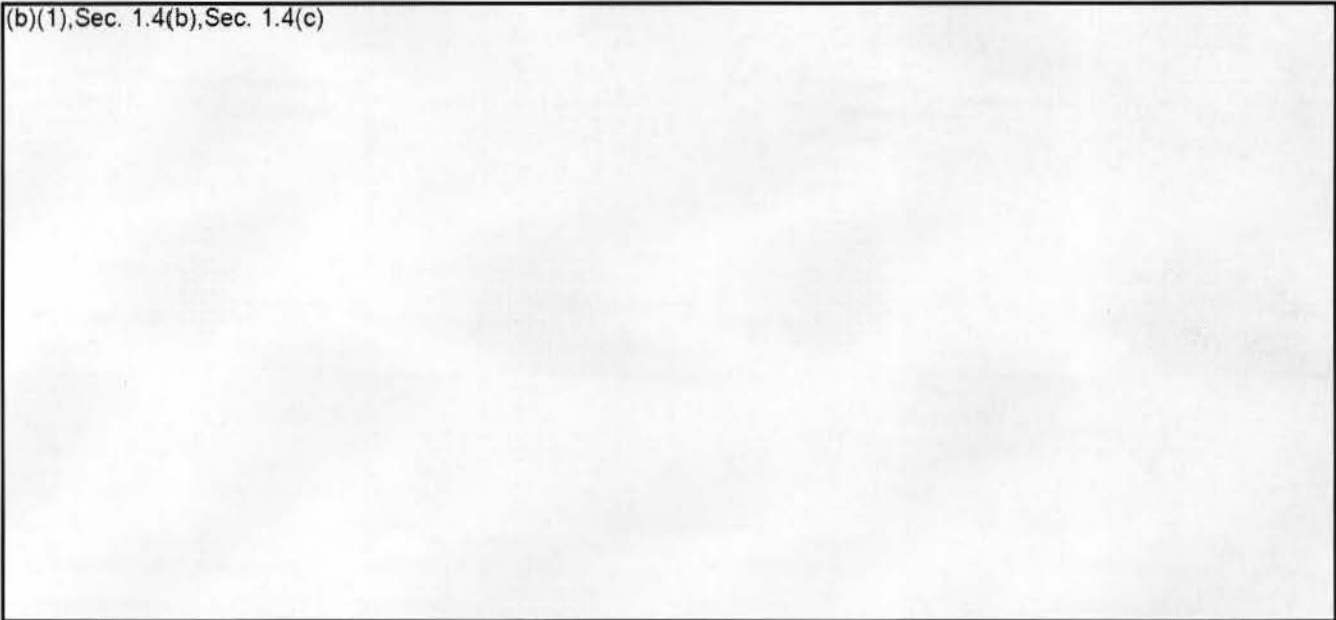
101-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000350

there will be American citizens onboard some of these ships and that two participating yachts (CHALLENGER I and CHALLENGER II) are US-flagged. ONI cannot confirm the flags of these vessels.

(U) Current Maritime Situation

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



V/R,

(b)(6)



DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.
DECLASSIFY ON: 20350528

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~
CAVEATS: (b)(6)
REL TO: NONE

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1-Human

101-3

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS W/O ATCH: (b)(1)

REL TO W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

101-4

(b)(6)

From: friedm (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 12:24 PM
To: friedm (b)(6)
Subject: GOA LEADERS DISMAYED BY ISRAELI RAID, CALL FOR ISRAEL TO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 000405

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL
VLADIVOSTOK AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO
AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS
TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01

TAGS: ASEC, MARR, PREL, PINR, IS, GZ, AU

SUBJECT: GOA LEADERS "DISMAYED" BY ISRAELI RAID, CALL FOR ISRAEL TO ABIDE BY UN RESOLUTIONS

CLASSIFIED BY: J. DEAN YAP, ECON/POL COUNSELOR, STATE, ECON/POL;

REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: GOA LEADERS EXPRESSED "DISMAY" JUNE 1 AT THE LOSS OF LIFE DURING THE ISRAELI RAID
OF A GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA AND CALLED FOR RESTRAINT. PRO-PALESTINIAN AND PRO-ISLAMIC GROUPS
HELD NON-VIOLENT PROTESTS IN VIENNA. (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)

END SUMMARY.

CHANCELLOR/VICE CHANCELLOR STATEMENTS

2. (U) IN A JUNE 1 STATEMENT, GOA LEADERS EXPRESSED "DISMAY" AT THE VIOLENT OUTCOME OF THE
ISRAELI RAID. CHANCELLOR FAYMANN SAID AUSTRIA COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT AFTER SUCH AN INCIDENT,
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOTING THAT THE GOA WOULD WAIT FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION
BEFORE MAKING A FINAL ASSESSMENT. THE CHANCELLOR EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS AND
CALLED ON ALL PARTIES INVOLVED TO LOWER TENSIONS. FAYMANN ADDED THAT, AS A UNSC MEMBER,
AUSTRIA WOULD "ACTIVELY WORK TOWARD ENDING THE VIOLENCE." VICE CHANCELLOR PROELL, WHO HAD
JUST RETURNED FROM A THREE-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL, CALLED THE ISRAELI REACTION "UTTERLY EXCESSIVE
AND IMPROPER."

102 - 1
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000353

FM, UN AMBASSADOR WEIGH IN

3. (U) AUSTRIAN FM SPINDELEGGER CALLED THE BLOODSHED "SHOCKING" IN A MAY 31 STATEMENT AND SAID HE WAS "DISMAYED AT THE BLOODY ESCALATION OF EVENTS." HE CALLED ON ISRAEL TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND DIRECTED THE MFA SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUMMON THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. SPINDELEGGER FURTHER CALLED ON ISRAEL TO END THE GAZA BLOCKADE, "AS THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE EU HAVE EMPHATICALLY AND REPEATEDLY DEMANDED." THE MFA SAID THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV WAS INVESTIGATING REPORTS THAT AUSTRIAN CITIZENS WERE ON BOARD THE FLOTILLA.

4. (U) THOMAS MAYR-HARTING, AUSTRIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, SAID ISRAEL HAD BROUGHT ABOUT THE SITUATION THROUGH ITS FAILURE TO ABIDE BY UN RESOLUTIONS. MAYR-HARTING URGED ISRAEL TO ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.

RALLIES HELD IN VIENNA

5. (U) A NUMBER OF PRO-PALESTINIAN AND PRO-ISLAMIC GROUPS HELD RALLIES IN VIENNA JUNE 1 TO PROTEST THE INCIDENT. A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS HELD A VIGIL IN FRONT OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY. THE ORGANIZATION "STOP THE MASSACRE IN GAZA" CALLED ON THE GOA TO PROMOTE SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE UNSC AND PRESSED CHANCELLOR FAYMANN TO CANCEL HIS JUNE 23-24 VISIT TO ISRAEL.

COMMENT: (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)

EACHO

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EB38

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R 151606Z JUL 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 695459

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100715738002
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: IDF RELEASES EILAND REPORT'S VIDEO TIMELINE OF 31 MAY FLOTILLA INCIDENT (U)

REF: 1. ISRAELI ARMY PROBE INTO 31 MAY MAVI MARMARA RAID FINDS 'MISTAKES, NOT FAILURES' GMP20100712739009 THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE
ENGLISH 1403 GMT 12 JUL 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH 0856 GMT 15 JUL 10 (U)

TEXT:

PRESS RELEASE: "VIDEO TIMELINE OF FLOTILLA INCIDENT AS PRESENTED BY EILAND TEAM OF EXPERTS (ENGLISH VERSION) ON 13 JULY 2010." FOR A COPY
OF THE VIDEO, CONTACT (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507

INTERNET

OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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ONLY. ANY REPRODUCTION, DISSEMINATION, OR USE IS SUBJECT TO THE OSC USAGE POLICY AND THE ORIGINAL COPYRIGHT. (U)

BELOW ARE VIDEOS OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT AS PRESENTED BY THE EILAND TEAM OF EXPERTS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.
THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO AND THROUGHOUT THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT ARE RECOUNTED IN THE VIDEO, AS PRESENTED BY THE
TEAM OF EXPERTS LED BY MAJ. GEN. (RES.) GIYORA EILAND IN THE IDF'S INTERNAL INQUIRY. (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED:
GMP20100715738002001.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW 08:34-MINUTE PART 1, (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED:
GMP20100715738002002.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW 08:52-MINUTE PART 2

IN LIGHT OF WEAPONS SMUGGLING ATTEMPTS, A MARITIME CLOSURE WAS ESTABLISHED DURING THE 2008-2009 GAZA
OPERATION. UNDER THE GUISE OF PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID, A NUMBER OF SHIPS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REACH THE GAZA
STRIP, SOME PERMITTED TO ENTER, WHILE OTHERS WERE STOPPED.

DUE TO THESE ATTEMPTS, THE IDF GENERAL STAFF AND NAVY OUTLINED ORDERS TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE ATTEMPTS TO BREAK
THE CLOSURE, AND IN PREPARING FOR THE MAY 31ST FLOTILLA, THE IDF PLANNED FAR IN ADVANCE WITH EXTENDED DISCUSSION,
AND VARIOUS SIMULATION MODEL SCENARIOS. IDF ATTACHES ABROAD AND FOREIGN ATTACHES TO ISRAEL WERE ALL BRIEFED IN
ADVANCE.

IN ADDITION, THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, LT. GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI SENT A LETTER TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND PRIME
MINISTER EMPHASIZING THE FOLLOWING: "COOPERATION BETWEEN NATION MINISTRIES IS REQUIRED AND THE MILITARY OPTION
WHICH INCLUDES SEIZING, CONFISCATING AND DETAINING THE SHIP'S ACTIVISTS IS A LAST RESORT AND AT A LOW PRIORITY."

THE VIDEO GOES ON TO DESCRIBE THE VARIOUS SHIPS IN THE FLOTILLA AND THE COURSES OF THEIR ATTEMPTED JOURNEY TO THE
GAZA STRIP, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER AND EXTENT OF ISRAELI RESPONSE SHIPS, AIRCRAFT, AND ABSORPTION CENTER FOR THE
SHIPS' PASSENGERS. THE VIDEO ALSO OUTLINES THE ORDERS GIVEN TO THE IDF SOLDIERS BOARDING THE FLOTILLA SHIPS,
INCLUDING THE POLICY OF USING GRADUAL FORCE, AND USING LIVE WEAPONS ONLY IN LIFE THREATENING SCENARIOS.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE OPERATION: THE IDF RELAYED THE MESSAGE THAT THE FLOTILLA SHIPS WERE IN AN AREA OF A MARITIME
CLOSURE, AND OFFERED THE SHIPS TO TRANSFER THEIR CARGO FROM THE ASHDOD PORT TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE SOFIA SHIP DID
NOT RESPOND AT ALL, WHILE THE OTHER SHIPS RESPONDED WITH REFUSAL AND/OR PROFANITY.

THE IDF FORCES WERE DIVIDED AND EACH GROUP BOARDED A DIFFERENT SHIP. THE SOLDIERS ARRIVED AT THE MAVI MARMARA AT
4:28 AM, BUT COULD NOT BOARD THE SHIP DUE TO METAL OBJECTS BEING THROWN AT THEM, AND ELECTRIC BUZZ SAWS USED BY
THE DEMONSTRATORS TO SLICE THE LADDERS IDF SOLDIERS NEEDED TO BOARD THE MARMARA. AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL
ATTEMPT TO BOARD THE SHIP BY SMALLER BOATS, A HELICOPTER ARRIVED AT 4:30 AM WITH 15 IDF SOLDIERS. THE FIRST ROPE
DROPPED BY THE HELICOPTERS WAS TIED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS TO THE DECK OF THE SHIP IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE
SOLDIERS' DESCENT.

122-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000427

SOLDIERS THAT DESCENDED DOWN THE SECOND ROPE WERE MET BY 2-4 DEMONSTRATORS EACH WHO WIELDED KNIVES, AXES, AND METAL POLES. THE SECOND SOLDIER TO DESCEND WAS SHOT IN THE STOMACH BY A DEMONSTRATOR. THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE IN DANGER OF THEIR LIVES WERE FORCED TO USE THEIR LIVE WEAPONS. FIVE SOLDIERS WERE INJURED BY STABBING, BLOWS AND LIVE FIRE BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. WITHIN SECONDS OF BOARDING THE SHIPS, THREE SOLDIERS WERE THROWN OFF THE DECK BY DEMONSTRATORS. THE INJURED WERE DRAGGED TO THE HULL OF THE SHIP.

A REINFORCEMENT OF SOLDIERS ARRIVES FROM A SECOND HELICOPTER, WHICH IS ALSO ATTACKED BY DEMONSTRATORS, AND THE SOLDIERS ARE MET WITH VIOLENCE WHEN THEY ATTEMPT TO ACCESS THE LOWER DECK OF THE SHIP.

AT 4:46 AM A THIRD HELICOPTER ARRIVES TO THE MAVI MARMARA, AND THE TWO GROUPS OF SOLDIERS COMBINE FORCES ON THE SHIP ROOF AND DESCEND TO THE OTHER PARTS OF THE SHIP, WHERE THEY ARE ALSO MET WITH LETHAL VIOLENCE, AND THUS RESPOND WITH LIVE FIRE.

MANY OF THE DEMONSTRATORS ENTER INSIDE OF THE SHIP AS THE SMALLER BOATS ARRIVE AT THE SIDE OF THE SHIP, HOWEVER SOME STILL VIOLENTLY ATTACK THE INCOMING BOATS AND THE SOLDIERS RESPOND WITH LIVE FIRE.

THE COMMANDER OF THE SPECIAL NAVY FORCES BOARDS THE SHIP, AND WHILE EVALUATING THE FORCES, IT IS DISCOVERED THAT THREE SOLDIERS ARE MISSING. THE MISSING AND INJURED SOLDIERS ARE DISCOVERED TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY A NUMBER OF VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS, WHO ABANDON THE SOLDIERS AND RUN BACK INTO THE SHIP WHEN FIRED AT.

TWO OF THE INJURED SOLDIERS JUMP OFF THE SHIP SO THAT THEY CAN BE PICKED UP BY THE IDF BOATS. THE THIRD INJURED SOLDIER IS ON THE BOW OF THE BOAT AND SLIPPING OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS. IDF SOLDIERS REMAINING ON THE BOAT COME TO HIS AID.

AT 5:17 AM THE SITUATION IS EVALUATED AND SOME OF THE FINDINGS: LIVE FIRE WAS USED BY DEMONSTRATORS TOWARDS IDF SOLDIERS WHO WERE ON THE SHIP, INCLUDING ONE SOLDIER WHO DESCENDED DOWN THE ROPE AND WAS SHOT IN THE ABDOMEN. LIVE FIRE BY THE DEMONSTRATORS WAS ALSO AIMED AT THE SOLDIERS ON THE SMALL ISRAELI NAVY BOATS NEXT TO THE MARMARA. THE FIRST OCCURRENCE OF LIVE FIRE WAS THAT USED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. IN ADDITION, A GUN WITH EMPTIED MAGAZINES WAS FOUND IN THE HULL OF THE SHIP.

IDF FORCES HAD BOARDED THE OTHER SHIPS WITHOUT INCIDENT. TREATMENT AND EVACUATION WAS CARRIED OUT FOR THE INJURED SOLDIERS AND DEMONSTRATORS ALIKE. 38 INJURED WERE AIRLIFTED, 7 OF THEM SOLDIERS.

THE THREE SOLDIERS WHO HAD BEEN ATTEMPTED TO BE KIDNAPPED AND WERE TAKEN TO THE HULL OF THE SHIP WERE WITNESS TO AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS, AND OTHER PASSENGERS OF THE MARMARA WHO ASKED THE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS TO CEASE THEIR VIOLENT ACTIVITY. SOME 24 OF THE INJURED PASSENGERS WERE DIAGNOSED AT THE ASHDOD PORT AND TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN ISRAEL.

AFTER THE OPERATION ENDED, THE SHIPS ARRIVED AT THE ASHDOD PORT ACCOMPANIED BY ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES. AN INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT FOUND THAT 40 OF THE IHH ACTIVISTS PREVIOUSLY BOARDED THE MARMARA SHIP FROM ISTANBUL BEFORE JOINING THE OTHERS.

THE 8 OF THE 9 DEMONSTRATORS KILLED WERE MEMBERS OF THE IHH OR OTHER ALLIED GROUPS. AROUND HALF OF THOSE KILLED HAD DECLARED IN FRONT OF THEIR FAMILIES THEIR ASPIRATION TO DIE AS MARTYRS ("SHAHIDS"). FOOTAGE ON THE MARMARA SHOWS THAT THE VIOLENCE HAD BEEN PREPARED: METAL POLES AND CHAINS WERE PREPARED, SLINGSHOTS, BUZZ SAWS, GAS MASKS, TEAR GAS, BULLETPROOF VESTS, KNIVES, AND MORE. A BRIEFING HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE THE IDF HAD BOARDED THE SHIP, WITH THE LEADER OF THE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS TELLING THE GROUP TO ATTACK THE IDF SOLDIERS AT ANY COST.

THERE WERE 718 TOTAL PASSENGERS OF THE FLOTILLA SHIPS. MOST WERE RELEASED WITHOUT UNDERGOING ANY INVESTIGATION. THE LAST PASSENGER LEFT ON JUNE 6TH.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE; URL: [HTTP://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH](http://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000428

From: Watch Europe
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:55 AM
To: (b)(6)

Subject: Imagery of Ashdod

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE



FLOTILLA IPT.jpg



MV DEFNE.jpg

V/R,



DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.
DECLASSIFY ON: x25

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEATS W/O ATCH: ~~FOUO~~
REL TO W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE

Webb, Arthur C.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:17 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Intelligence Sharing with Israeli Naval Intelligence ~~(S)~~

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE

(b)(6) Thanks for this concise rundown. Exactly what I needed and efficient use of words is always appreciated.

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

VR,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:19 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: ONI proposed topics for (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE

(b)(6)

Per your request below, here is a short summary of the situation (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

(U//FOUO) Open source reporting also states that a second vessel, described as "an American ship" that was part of the original group – likely a reference to CHALLENGER II, whose manifest declares it as US-flagged – will join RACHEL CORRIE. CHALLENGER II remains in port Cyprus after she experienced mechanical problems and dropped out of the first voyage. If CHALLENGER II is able to get underway, it will likely take two days to transit from Cyprus to Gaza.

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

Please let us know if you need any additional information or have any questions.

V/R,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:20 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: ONI proposed topics for (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c)

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~

REL TO: NONE

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:15 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: ONI proposed topics for (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~

REL TO: NONE

(b)(6)

(b)(6) is asking for a short summary of the next vessel set to test the Israeli blockade. Can you forward that to him or myself.

Thanks

(b)(6)

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 20350528

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(6)

REL TO: NONE

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 20350601

CLASSIFICATION: ~~TOP SECRET~~

CAVEATS: (b)(1)

REL TO: NONE

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

157-3

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000537

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Friday, May 21, 2010 2:21 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Subject:

Israeli Navy Builds Port Compound To Hold Gaza-Bound Flotilla Detainees
Next Week

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEATS: FOUO

REL TO: NONE

Israeli Navy[0] Builds Port Compound To Hold Gaza-Bound Flotilla Detainees Next Week (U)
GMP20100521739013 Tel Aviv Yisra'el Hayom in Hebrew 21 May 10 p 7 (U)
[Report by Lilakh Shoval: "Siege Put to the Test." This product is provided by the commercial establishment Israel News Today, Jerusalem, and has not been coordinated with other US Government components. OSC is not responsible for the editorial standards of this translation. (U)]

[OSC Translated Text]

Preparations for the large flotilla are underway. The Israel Navy[0] is preparing for the arrival of ten vessels next week that intend to attempt to break through what the flotilla's organizers call "the siege on Gaza." Over the past several days, the navy[0] has also begun to construct a compound at Ashdod Port that will hold, if necessary, the hundreds of people who will be arrested when they arrive in Israel as part of this flotilla. As happened in previous flotillas that tried to run the blockade, this time, too, the navy[0] is preparing to prevent the activists from reaching the Gaza Strip.

In addition, meetings were held on how to cope with the public relations aspect, and a decision was made to dispatch PR personnel to the foreign media in order to remind them of the nature of the HAMAS regime in Gaza.

Palestinian sources in Gaza who are in contact with the organizers of the flotilla, which has become known as "the ships' Intifadah," told Yisra'el Hayom that before the beginning of next week, ten vessels are expected to arrive in order to participate in the protest flotilla and reach the coast of the Gaza Strip carrying tons of humanitarian equipment, basic foodstuffs and medical equipment. According to assessments, the vessels will set sail from Cyprus or from Turkey near midnight tomorrow.

Over the past several days, the flotilla increased the tension between Jerusalem and Ankara even more. The reason: Turkey is the only country that, despite direct warnings from Israel, is assisting the organization of the flotilla. In addition, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with the flotilla's organizers (members of the Turkish organization IHH) and went public with his support of "breaking the siege on Gaza." According to one report, members of the Turkish administration, artists and media personnel will be joining the flotilla.

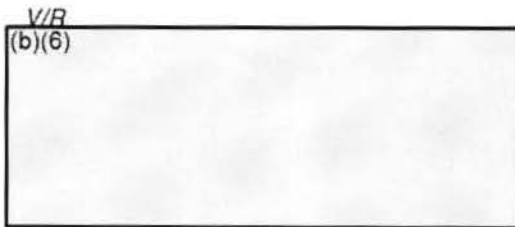
The Foreign Ministry's deputy director general for Western Europe, Na'or Gilon, held a meeting with the ambassador of Turkey in Israel last week, during which he told him that as far as Israel is concerned, the flotilla is "a provocation and a violation of Israeli law." The deputy director general asked the ambassador to act to stop the flotilla, and to issue a firm and public call to his country's citizens not to take part in it.

"Shortly before the departure, the ships' crews will receive a call to go to one of the ports in Turkey or in Cyprus, and all the ships will set out for the Gaza Strip in a single convoy. This is in the hope that Israel will not want to lose points in world public opinion, and will not prevent the entry of hundreds of peace activists who will be arriving in the Gaza Strip on the boats," a Palestinian Authority official said yesterday.

158-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000538

[Description of Source: Tel Aviv Yisra'el Hayom in Hebrew -- Second-largest circulation daily distributed free of charge; owned by American businessman Sheldon Adelson, a staunch supporter of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu]

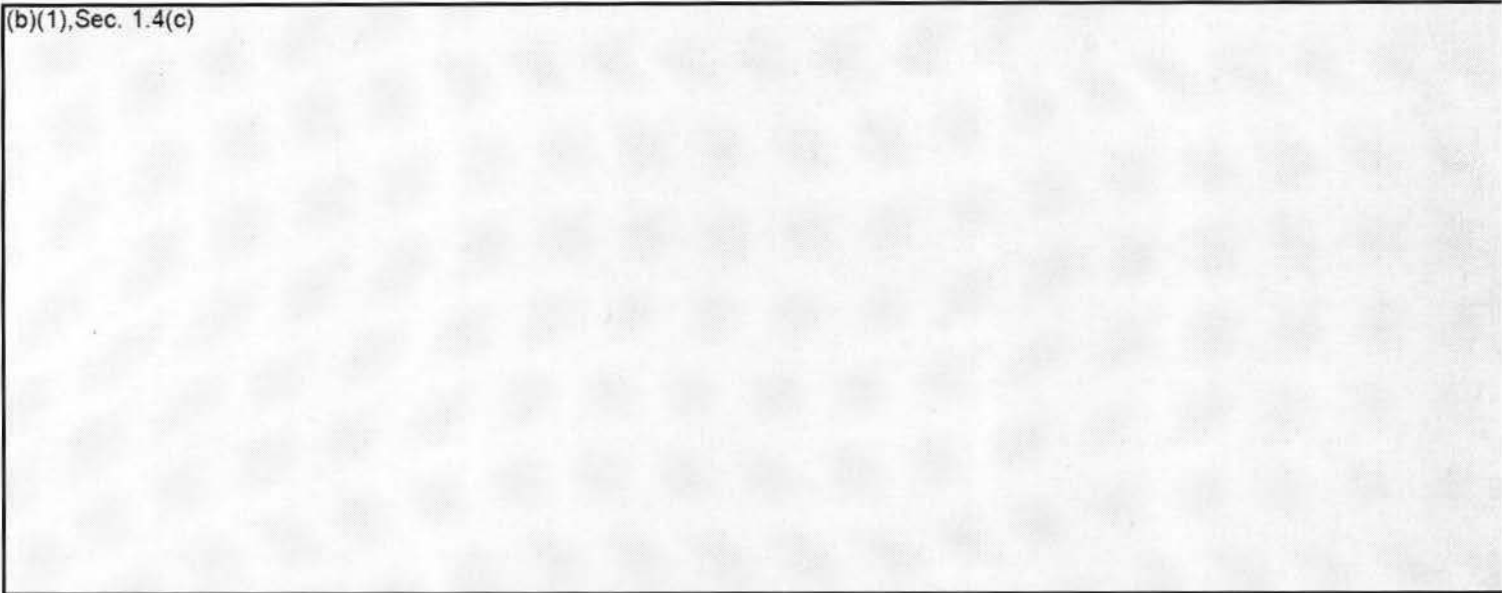


CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEATS: FOUO
REL TO: NONE

158-2

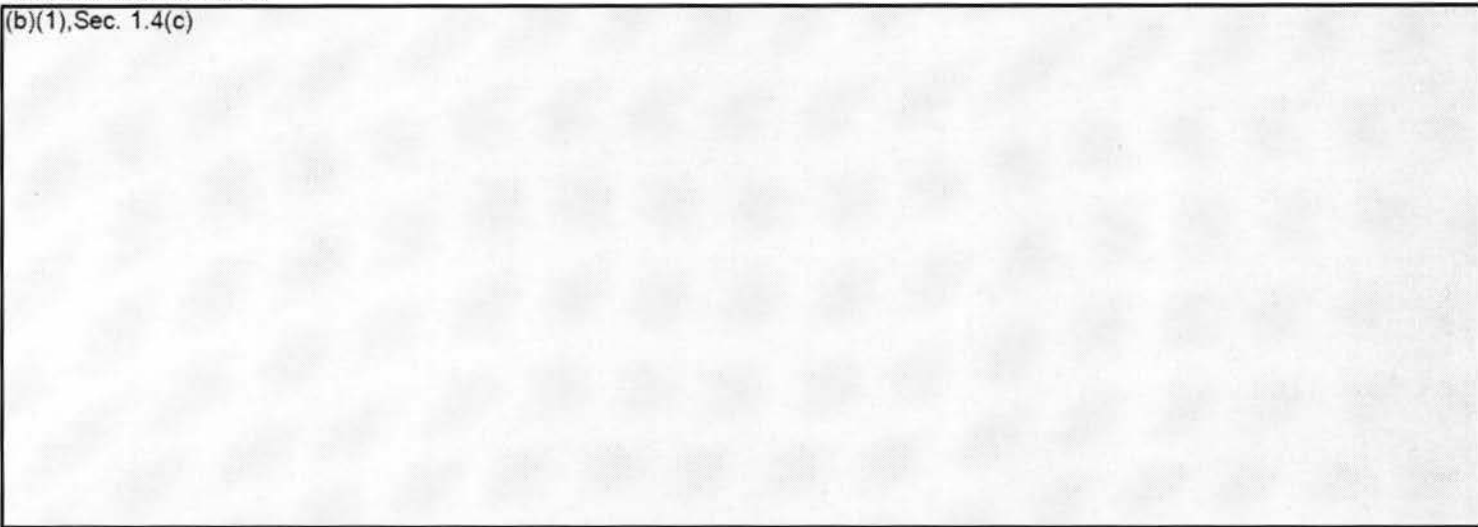
P 311800Z MAY 10
FM JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
TO INTEL ALL SIXTHFLT
S E C R E T NOFORN
QQQQ
SUBJ: MARITIME SPOT: EASTERN MED ACTIVITY

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(c)



(1) (U) NAVAL ACTIVITY:

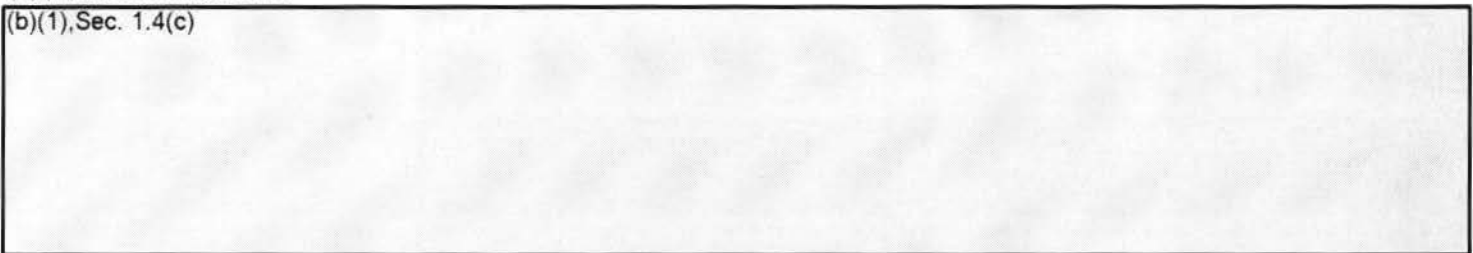
(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(c)



(3) (U) SUBSURFACE ACTIVITY: NTR.

(4) (U) SURFACE ACTIVITY:

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(c)



(5) (U) AIR ACTIVITY: NTR.

(6) (U) CLOSURE AREA: NTR.

DECLASSIFY ON: 20350531

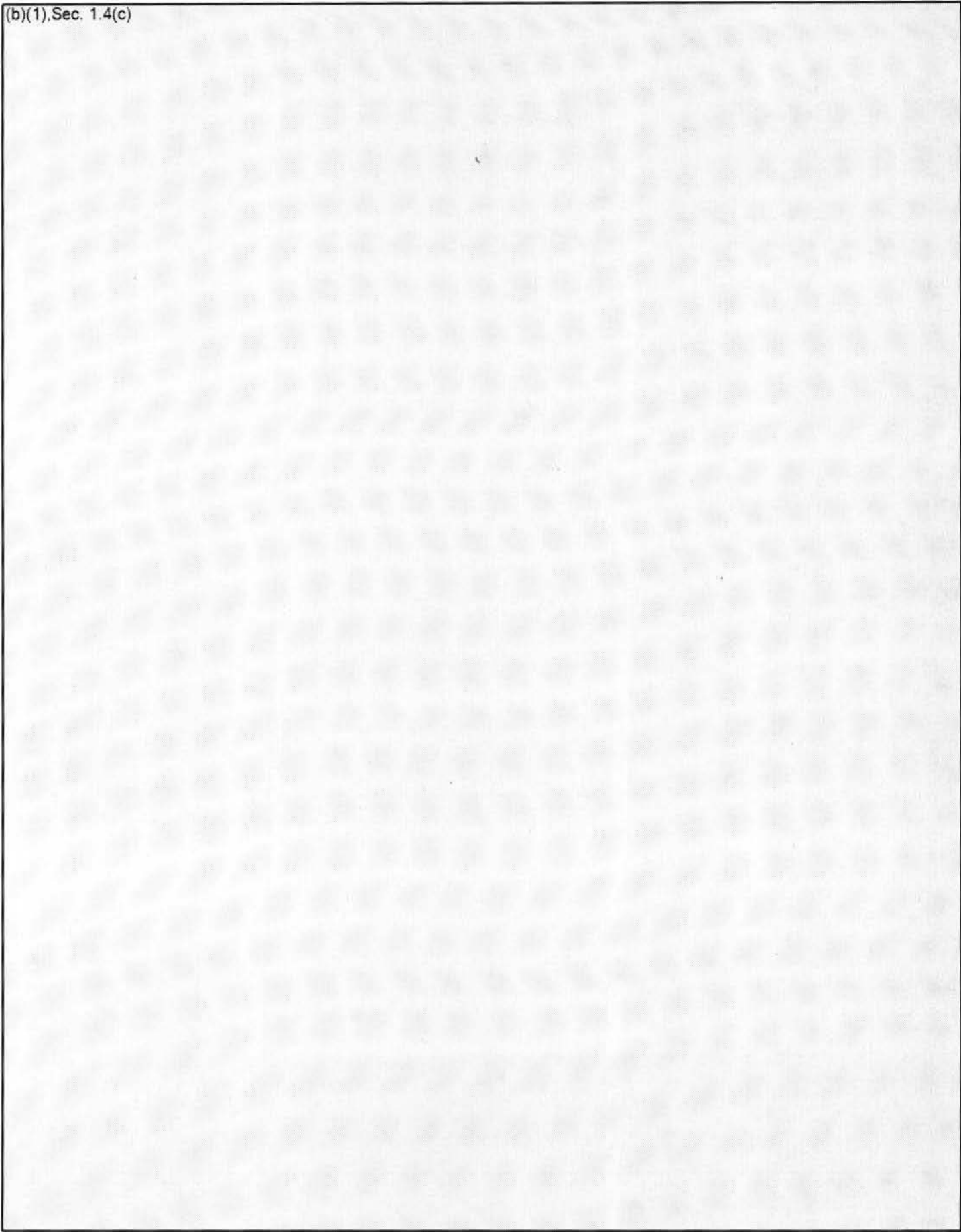
SOURCES: FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

DECL/DB//

160-1

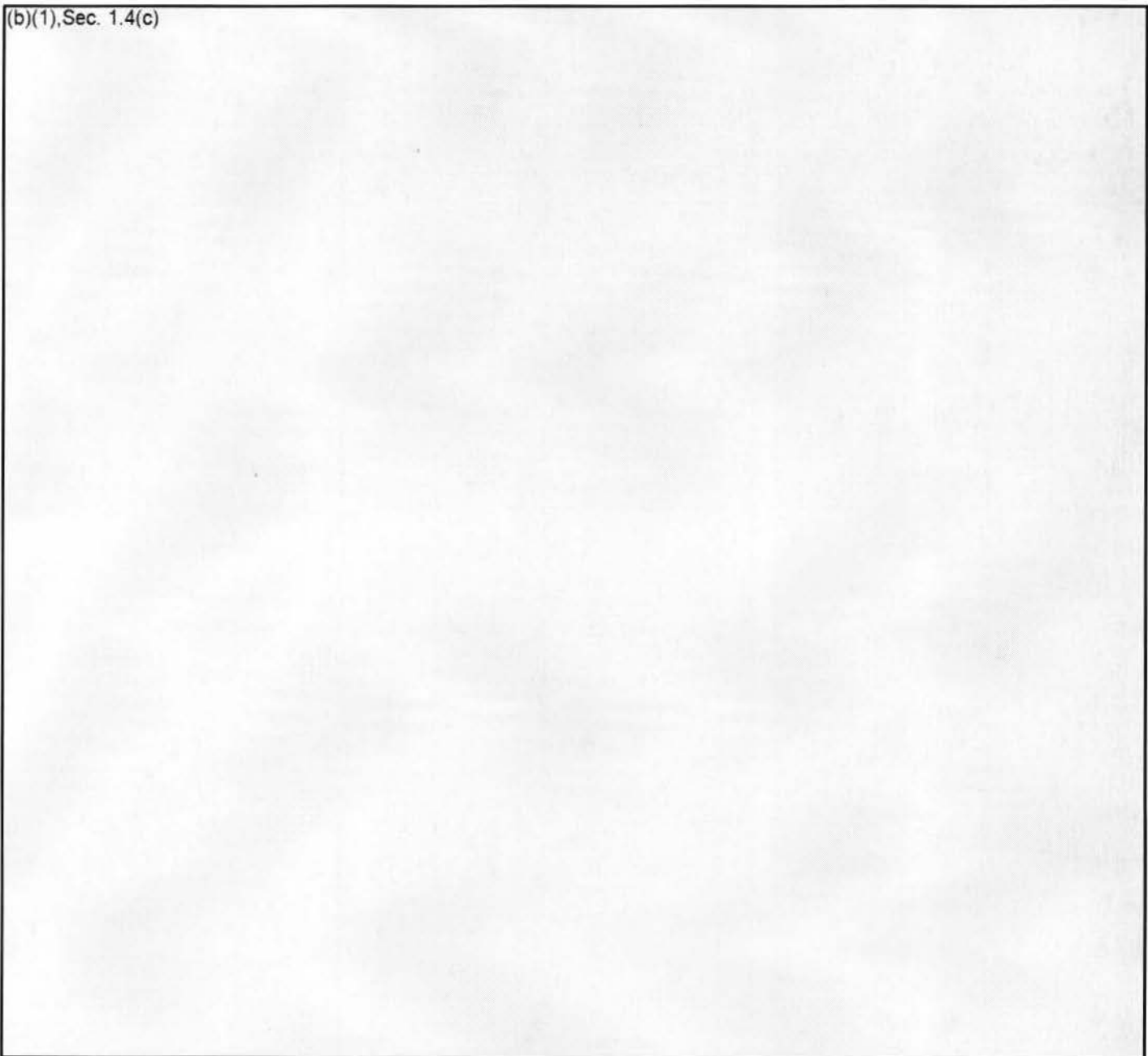
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000545

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)



160-2
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000546

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)



END TEXT
DAALDER

BT
#7799
C114

NNNN

160 - 3
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000547

FML STATE

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ USNATO 000289

SIPDIS

~~NOFORN~~

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01

TAGS: PREL, NATO, PGOV, IS, TU, AEMR, ASEC, CASC, MARR, PINR, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: NATO AND THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

CLASSIFIED BY: JOHN HEFFERN, CHARGE, STATE, USNATO; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: AT THE REQUEST OF TURKEY, THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) MET ON JUNE 1 TO DISCUSS THE GAZA FLOTILLA SITUATION. REGULARLY REFERRING TO THE STATEMENTS BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENCY AND EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE ASHTON, ALLIES REGRETTED THE LOSS OF LIFE, CONDEMNED THE DISPROPORTIONATE USE OF FORCE, CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF THE CAPTURED CIVILIANS AND OF THE THEIR VESSELS, AND EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT. (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d) THE CHARGE MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT PREPARED TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION UNTIL AFTER THE INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN COMPLETED. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE SECRETARY GENERAL - WHO WAS ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND THE NAC - ISSUED A STATEMENT ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT CAN BE FOUND IN PARA 6. END SUMMARY

2. ~~(C)~~ DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BISOGNIERO (DSYG) OPENED THE JUNE 1 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL BY EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO ALL ALLIED NATIONS WHO LOST NATIONALS IN GAZA FLOTILLA. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY THE TURKISH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d)

3. ~~(SBU)~~ FOLLOWING REPORTS BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SPAIN ON

161-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000548

BEHALF OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND EU, RESPECTIVELY, CHARGE DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

* WE NOTE THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

* WE TAKE NOTE OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED HERE TODAY AND WE EXPRESS DEEP REGRET FOR THE LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURIES SUFFERED DURING YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT, IN PARTICULAR THOSE DEATHS AND INJURIES SUFFERED BY OUR NATO ALLY TURKEY. OUR PRESIDENT WILL BE SPEAKING TO PM ERDOGAN LATER TODAY, AND THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER IS MEETING WITH GENERAL JONES AND SECRETARY CLINTON IN WASHINGTON TODAY AS WELL.

* WE SUPPORT A PROMPT, IMPARTIAL, CREDIBLE AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS SURROUNDING THIS TRAGEDY. THIS WAS AGREED UPON AT THE UN LAST NIGHT. WE SHOULD NOT TAKE FURTHER SPECIFIC ALLIANCE ACTION UNTIL THOSE FACTS ARE FULLY KNOWN.

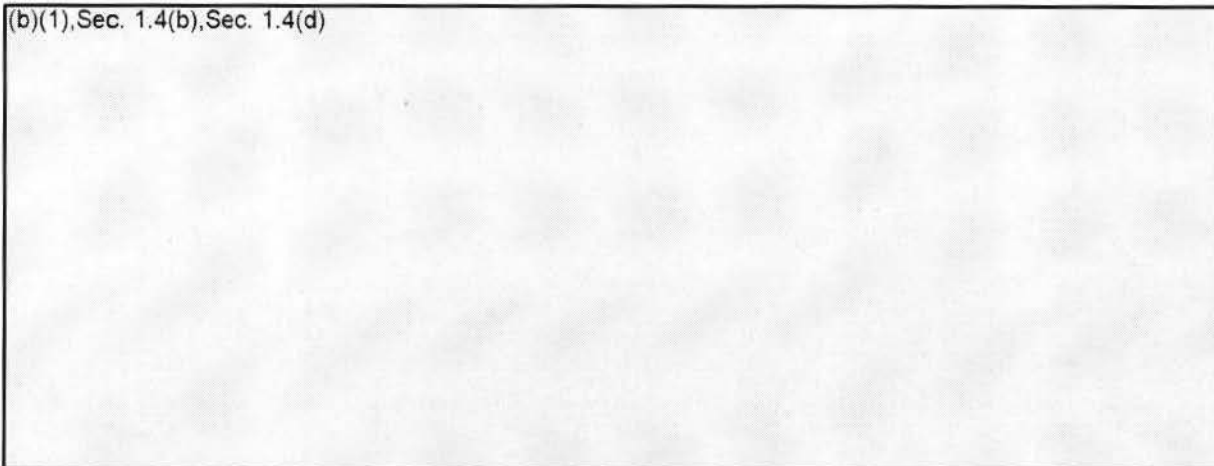
* ULTIMATELY, THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THIS CONFLICT IS THROUGH AN AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES, THAT ESTABLISHES AN INDEPENDENT, CONTIGUOUS, AND VIABLE PALESTINIAN STATE LIVING SIDE BY SIDE IN PEACE AND SECURITY WITH ISRAEL.

* FOR THIS REASON, PRESIDENT OBAMA, SECRETARY OF STATE CLINTON, AND SPECIAL ENVOY MITCHELL HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY FROM DAY ONE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO LAUNCH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

* THE PROXIMITY TALKS THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY ARE THE ONLY CURRENT HOPE FOR RE-STARTING DIRECT, CREDIBLE, AND PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WE ARE PURSUING THEM, WORKING WITH THE PALESTINIANS. THEY MUST CONTINUE. FURTHER DELAY IN NEGOTIATIONS ONLY EMPOWERS EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES AND POSTPONES THE DAY WHEN PALESTINIANS CAN LIVE IN A SECURE AND INDEPENDENT STATE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

* THE U.S. IS LEADING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT SITUATION AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d)



161-2

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d)

5.

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(d)

6. FOLLOWING THE NAC, THE SECRETARY GENERAL - WHO COULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING DUE TO OFFICIAL TRAVEL - ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO ON ISRAELI OPERATION AGAINST SHIPS BOUND FOR GAZA

TODAY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) MET FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE RECENT ISRAELI OPERATION AGAINST SHIPS BOUND FOR GAZA. THERE WAS AN EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG ALLIES ON ALL ASPECTS OF THIS TRAGIC EVENT. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEP REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF LIVES AND THE OTHER CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM THE USE OF FORCE DURING THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE CONVOY SAILING TO GAZA. I OFFER SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF ALL VICTIMS AND CONDEMN THE ACTS WHICH HAVE LED TO THIS TRAGEDY. I ADD MY VOICE TO THE CALLS BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR A PROMPT, IMPARTIAL, CREDIBLE AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT. AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, I ALSO REQUEST THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE DETAINED CIVILIANS AND SHIPS HELD BY ISRAEL.

END TEXT
DAALDER

161-3

P R 050703Z JUN 10

FM NGA WNY NES

TO KARON

~~TOP SECRET NOFORN~~

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED] CHANNELS ONLY

QQQQ

SERIAL: IW1006453

(b)(1), Sec.
1.4(c)

SUBJ: ~~(S REL USA GBR)~~ IS: FORCES READINESS - AIR ACTIVITY IW

~~(U FOUO)~~ WARNING: THIS CABLE IS CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

(b)(1), Sec.
1.4(c)

~~(S REL USA GBR)~~ ISRAELI AIR FORCE ATTACK HELICOPTER AND UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE UNITS AT PALMAHIM WERE AT INCREASED READINESS. ~~(b)(1), Sec. 1.4~~ THE UNITS MAY HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO INCREASED READINESS TO RESPOND TO POTENTIAL UNREST IF THE ISRAELI NAVY INTERCEPTS THE M/V RACHEL CORRIE, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY EN ROUTE TO THE GAZA STRIP TO TRY AND BREAK THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE ON 5 JUNE.

(S NF) THIS INFORMATION IS IN ADDITION TO THAT REPORTED IN THE NGA I&W CABLE IW1006452 FOR 5 JUNE.

TEXT:

1. I&W: ISRAELI READINESS IP NIMAISMONI

~~(S REL USA GBR)~~ AIR FACILITY --

PALMAHIM AB AFLD

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)

(S REL USA GBR) SIX AH-1 COBRA WERE ON ALERT PADS ~~(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)~~

~~(b)~~ COBRA ARE NOT NORMALLY PARKED ON THE ALERT PADS, SUGGESTING THE ATTACK HELICOPTERS SQUADRON IS AT INCREASED READINESS. FIVE HERMES 450 UAV'S ALSO REMAINED ON THE SOUTHERN OPERATIONS APRON AND THREE MORE WERE ALSO VISIBLE IN THE UAV OPERATIONS AREA WITHIN THE SOUTHEASTERN PORTION OF THE AIRFIELD. THE SIGHTING OF COBRA ON ALERT PADS AND HERMES 450 UAV'S IN RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBERS ON A SATURDAY SUGGEST THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE IS PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE REACTION(S), IN THE GAZA STRIP OR ELSEWHERE, FOLLOWING THE POSSIBLE INTERCEPTION OF THE M/V RACHEL CORRIE, WHICH WAS EN ROUTE TO THE GAZA STRIP ON 5 JUNE. THE VESSEL IS ASSOCIATED WITH A FLOTILLA OF MERCHANT VESSELS CARRYING VARIOUS SUPPLIES AND ATTEMPTING TO BREAK THE SEA BLOCKADE OF GAZA. A PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE WAS INTERDICTED ON 31 MAY.

~~(S REL USA GBR)~~ NINE UH-60 BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS ALSO REMAINED AT THE AIRFIELD SINCE ~~(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)~~ ALL OF THE BLACK HAWK REMAINED IN NORMAL PARKING POSITIONS IN THE NORTHERN HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AREA.

(TS ~~(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)~~) ACCORDING TO SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE (SIGINT) REPORTING, THE GAZA RELIEF VESSEL "RACHEL CORRIE" REPORTED THAT THEY WERE AWARE OF TWO ISRAELI NAVAL FORCE MISSILE PATROL BOATS SHADOWING IT DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 5 JUNE. FURTHER SIGINT REPORTING ALSO INDICATED THAT THE RELIEF VESSEL REPORTED AT 0157Z THAT THE ISRAELI SHIPS WERE QUICKLY APPROACHING.

(U) COLLATERAL REFERENCES:

(U FOUO) OPEN SOURCE CENTER. EUP20100604071002, 4 JUNE 2010. "NOBEL PRIZE WINNER SAYS IRISH AID BOAT PLANS TO BREAK ISRAELI BLOCKADE." DOCUMENT IS CLASSIFIED U.

(U FOUO) OSC. GMP20100604739004, 4 JUNE 2010. "ISRAEL SAYS NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH RACHEL CORRIE", NAVY TO ACT FIRMLY." DOCUMENT IS CLASSIFIED U.

(TS SI REL USA FVEY) USJ-800. 3/CY/505334-10, 5 JUNE 2010. "ISRAEL NAVAL ACTIVITY: GAZA RELIEF VESSEL "RACHEL CORRIE" AWARE OF ISRAELI NAVAL SHADOW, INCREASES SPEED; REPORTS ISRAELI BOATS QUICKLY APPROACHING SHIP, MORNING HOURS OF 5 JUNE 2010." DOCUMENT IS CLASSIFIED TS SI REL USA FVEY.

~~(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(c)~~

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, ~~(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC §424, Sec. 1.4(c)~~

DECL: X1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000551

From:

(b)(6)

FM ONI

Sent:

Monday, June 07, 2010 6:04 PM

To:

(b)(6)

Cc:

Subject:

→ ONI PDB Memo to USDP on (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO: NONE

Email: ←

of Monday Jun 07



ONI PDB LINE

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b),

Sirs,

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

[Redacted]

V/R,

(b)(6)

[Redacted]

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1-Human

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: ~~SECRET~~

215-1

CAVEATS W/O ATCH: ~~NOFORN~~
REL TO W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~
CAVEATS: NOFORN
REL TO: NONE

215-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000658



TIMELY - RELEVANT - PREDICTIVE

★ Gaza Flotillas & the Israeli Response

Brief of 21 Jul 10

(b)(6)

Levant/North Africa Analyst
ONI Sixth Fleet Geocell
21 July 2010

This briefing is: ~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(1)

817-1



Origins of Gaza Flotilla Activism 2008-2009

Free Gaza Movement & allied organizations

- Narrow activist scope & participation
- Limited resources
- Five successful voyages to Gaza in 2008
- Three unsuccessful voyages during/post-CAST LEAD

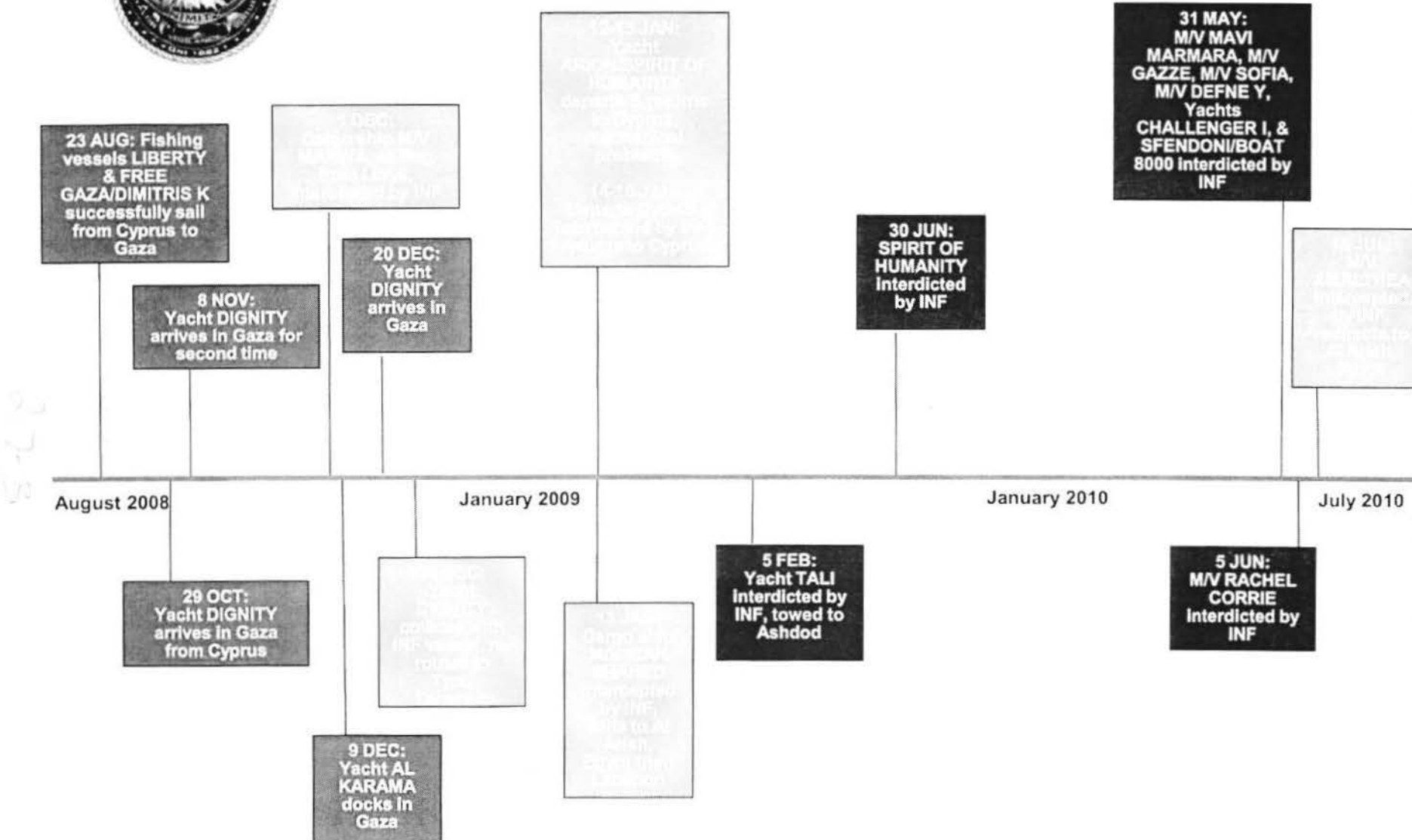
Parallel efforts by other organizations (Libya, Iran, Lebanon)



Israel grants access to Gaza on case-by-case basis; voyages from 'hostile' countries & those during/following CAST LEAD denied



Activist Efforts to Sail to Gaza



5-2-09

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000664

6-6-10

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000665



Future Blockade Challenges

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



5118

Baseline Assessment



(U) ISRAEL/GAZA STRIP: Challenging the Gaza Maritime Blockade

16 November 2010

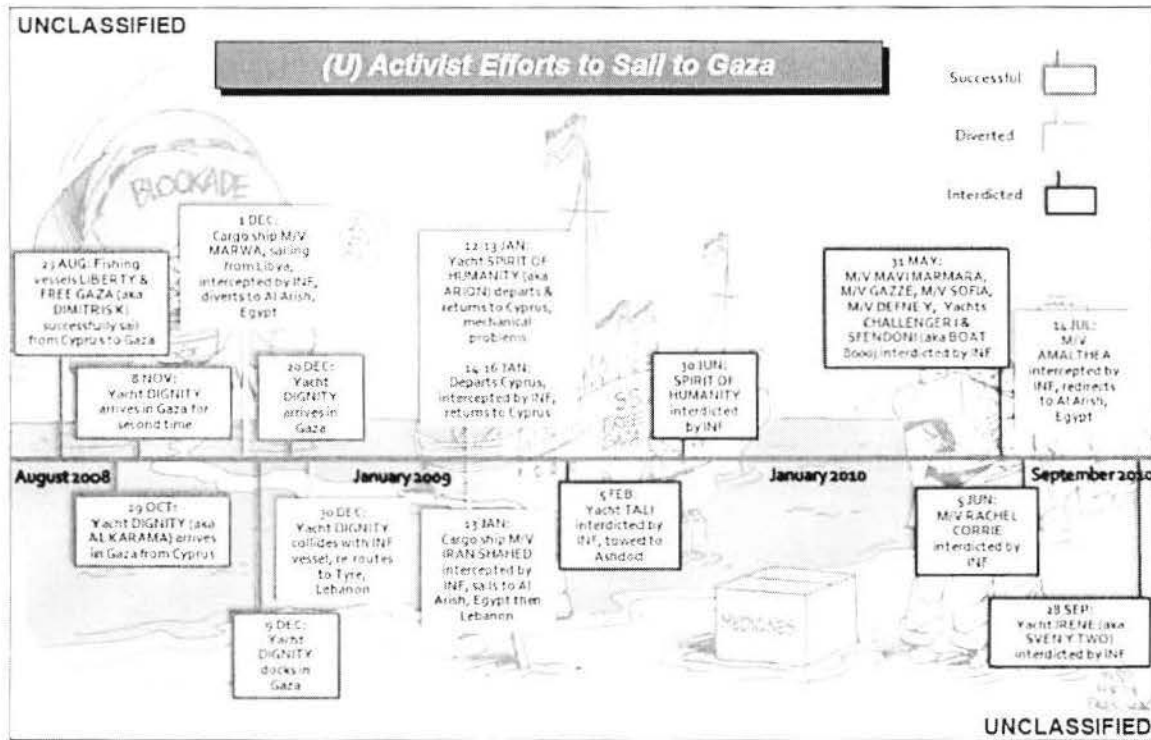
(U) Author: (b)(6) North Africa and Levant Naval Analyst, Commercial (b)(6)

(U) Summary

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Details

(U) Background



(U) Figure 1. Activist Efforts to Sail to Gaza

(U) Anti-Blockade Trends

(U) The Free Gaza Movement (FGM) organized and executed the first voyage to Gaza in August 2008. It employed two small vessels, renamed LIBERTY and FREE GAZA, to sail from Cyprus. These boats successfully reached Gaza after the Israeli government reportedly decided that "an operation was not worth conducting," which likely means that Israel judged the risk of a confrontation at sea and attracting additional media attention was greater than the benefits the FGM would derive from reaching Gaza. Following its initial success, the FGM entered Gaza via the sea four more times: in October, November and twice in December 2008. However, during the third December voyage the FGM's yacht DIGNITY collided with an INF vessel and was forced to reroute to Tyre, Lebanon. After this failure the FGM attempted two more trips in 2009, but neither was successful.

(U) Following the FGM's example, other organizations began to sponsor ships to Gaza in December 2008, but all of these efforts failed to reach the territory. In response, the INF conducted five interdiction operations during which it seized ten vessels.

(U) The May 2010 Gaza Freedom Flotilla marked a turning point in the tactics employed by activist groups exploiting the ambiguous status of Gaza's maritime domain. Instead of sending small vessels individually or in pairs, several like-minded organizations joined forces to create a flotilla composed of multiple craft, varying in size from yachts to passenger ships. This will likely be repeated in late 2010 or early 2011 when the proposed Freedom Flotilla II sets out for Gaza, but these multi-faceted endeavors are prone to coordination problems, financial difficulties, and administrative delays.

(U) Another apparent trend over the past two years of Gaza anti-blockade activity is the intermittent use of cargo vessels to transport greater quantities of humanitarian aid. The first such ship was the Libyan-sponsored M/V MARWA in December 2008, closely followed by the Iranian-sponsored M/V IRAN SHAHED in January 2009, the Lebanese-sponsored M/V TALI in February 2009, and later by M/V GAZZE, M/V SOFIA, M/V DEFNE Y, M/V RACHEL CORRIE, and the Libyan-sponsored M/V AMALTHEA in 2010. ONI assesses that by utilizing these types of ships the activist groups sacrifice a higher number of passengers for a larger cargo capacity, but possibly influence public perception in their favor by emphasizing the humanitarian aid aspect of their voyages.

• (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Other types of vessels have their disadvantages and advantages for the activist groups as well. By utilizing smaller craft, such as yachts, with a limited cargo capacity, the activist groups invite Israeli criticism that they are not actually interested in providing humanitarian relief. Large passenger ships and ferries, such as MAVI MARMARA, allow organizations to accommodate numerous volunteers and help to create an image of wide public support for the cause.

(U//~~FOUO~~) ONI assesses that violence is likely not an emerging trend for the anti-blockade movements given the outstanding majority of non-violent interdictions thus far; the MAVI MARMARA incident involving the Turkish Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH) activists is an anomaly. The majority of the boarding operations carried out by the INF went smoothly. The vessels leading up to 31 May, five out of the six vessels on 31 May, and the three vessels intercepted post-31 May, did not react violently when confronted by the INF. Furthermore, the organizations participating in these voyages recognize the public relations advantages of maintaining passive resistance rather than adopting a violent stance. The FGM describes itself as "an international nonviolent resistance project" that will "demonstrate the potential of nonviolent resistance methods." Some reporting indicates that the passengers planning to travel onboard these vessels are required to sign a letter of non-violent intent. A majority of the IHH activists,

including many of those on MAVI MARMARA, followed a non-violent example as well and two out of the three IHH-sponsored ships did not resist the Israeli boarding at all. A number of reports indicate that a group of IHH activists on MAVI MARMARA were prepared to actively resist the INF boarding, but these were mainly propagated by the Israeli media, which calls into question the reports' objectivity. ONI judges that IHH ship organizers will likely be loathe to repeat a violent scenario in order to curry the favor of the media and retain its "victim" status.

(U) However, ONI cannot rule out the possibility that some interactions between the INF and anti-blockade vessels could turn violent like the MAVI MARMARA case. Minority activist elements, such as the relatively small group of violent passengers onboard MAVI MARMARA, may seek to provoke the INF into a confrontation to repeat the international condemnation against Israel following the 31 May interdiction. Additionally, panicked passengers may lash out at the perceived threat posed by INF personnel during a boarding. Spokespersons for Gaza-bound ships have voiced violent intentions, but ONI has no information to suggest that they intended or intend to follow through on this rhetoric.

(U) In fact, in the wake up of the MAVI MARMARA incident, more groups are avoiding the challenge and controversy of maritime shipments directly to Gaza altogether by declaring Al Arish, Egypt as their destination from the outset. The cargo is then transferred overland to the Egyptian-controlled Rafah and/or Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossings into Gaza. ONI assesses that this legitimizes the groups' humanitarian aspects as it demonstrates their genuine interest in expediting aid to Gaza by avoiding delays caused by politically-sensitive actions, such as maritime shipments.

(U) Egypt's Al Arish Quandary

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Israel's Efforts to Counter the Anti-Blockade Initiatives

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

- (U) Likewise, the activist groups' determined attempts to reach Gaza, including their voyages into an active war zone, may have convinced Israel that they would not stop and a different, more aggressive, approach was necessary.
- (U) Israel's refusal to allow ships to access Gaza in some of these cases, unlike the first five FGM trips, could be partly attributed to the sponsoring group's national affiliation. For example, when a Libyan-sponsored ship headed for Gaza in December 2008, Israeli officials announced to the press that they would "treat this boat differently than the earlier ones [since]...Libya is a hostile state to Israel." Israeli fears that aid ships will carry weapons are also likely exacerbated by voyages originating in countries with a history of supporting Palestinian militants, such as Libya, Iran, and Lebanon, and likely factor into Israel's decision to stop those attempts.

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Outlook

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) ICOD: 27 October 2010

(U) Contributors: (b)(6) *Levant Naval Analyst*

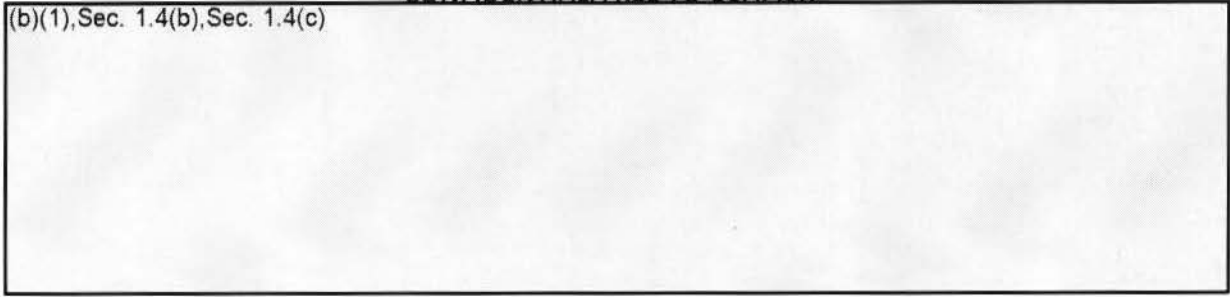
(U) External Collaboration: (b)(6)

DERIVED FROM: MULTIPLE SOURCES
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1-Human

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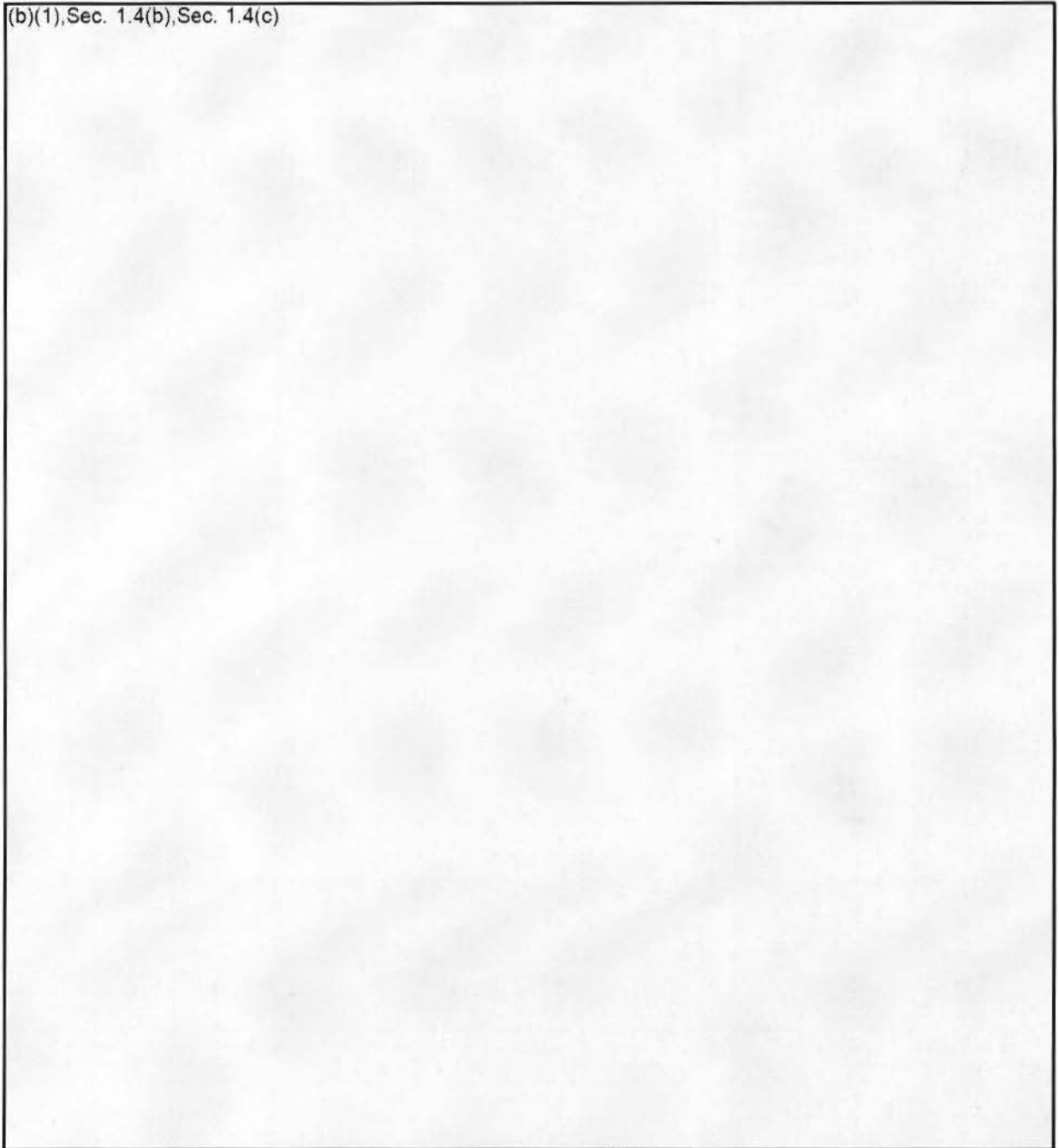
[Redacted content]

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)




- (U) We are unable to report on U.S. citizens participating in the event.
- (U) M/V LINDA has been renamed to M/V RACHEL CORRIE.

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, ISR

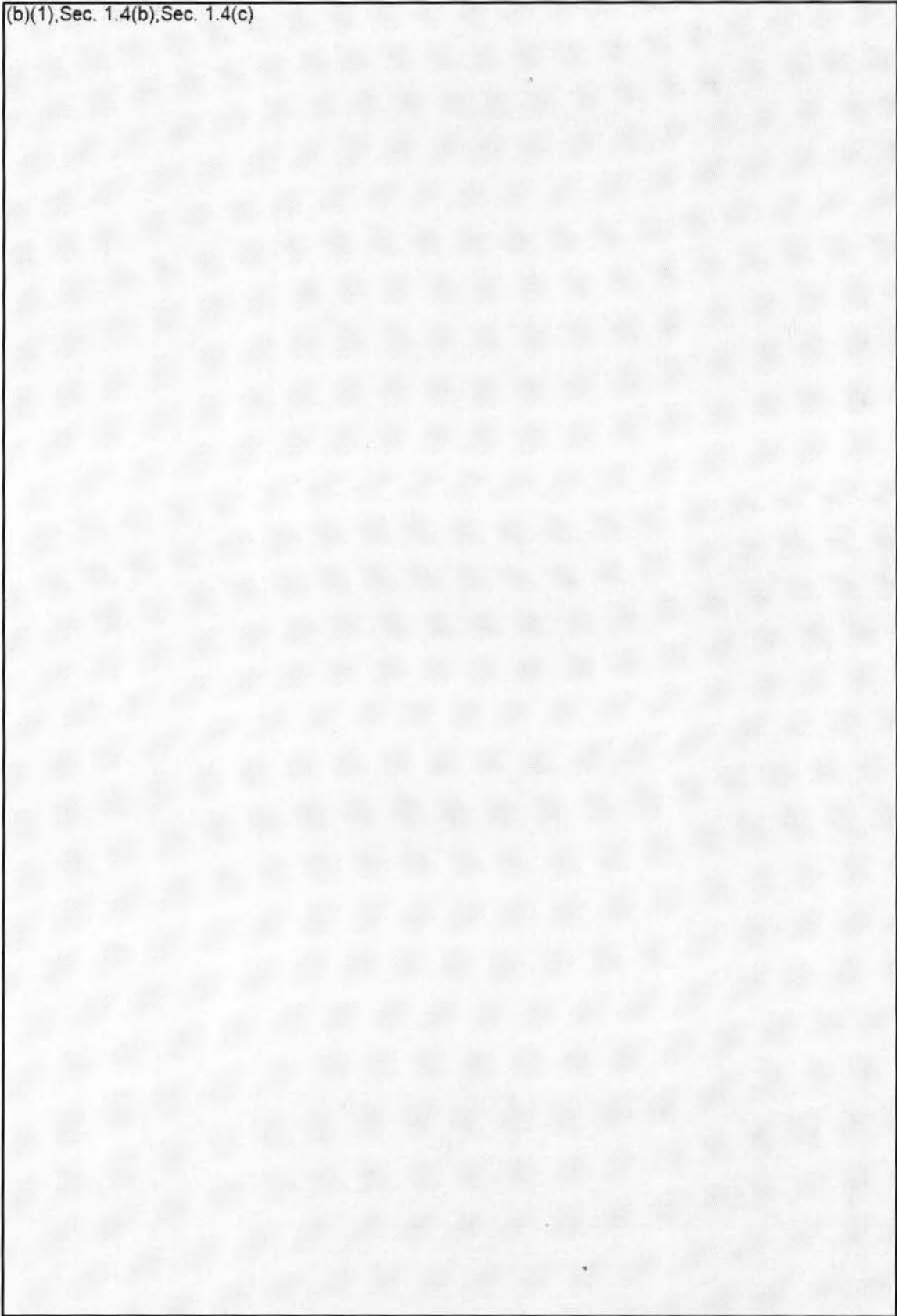
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)




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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000676
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(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)




(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



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CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, ISR

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

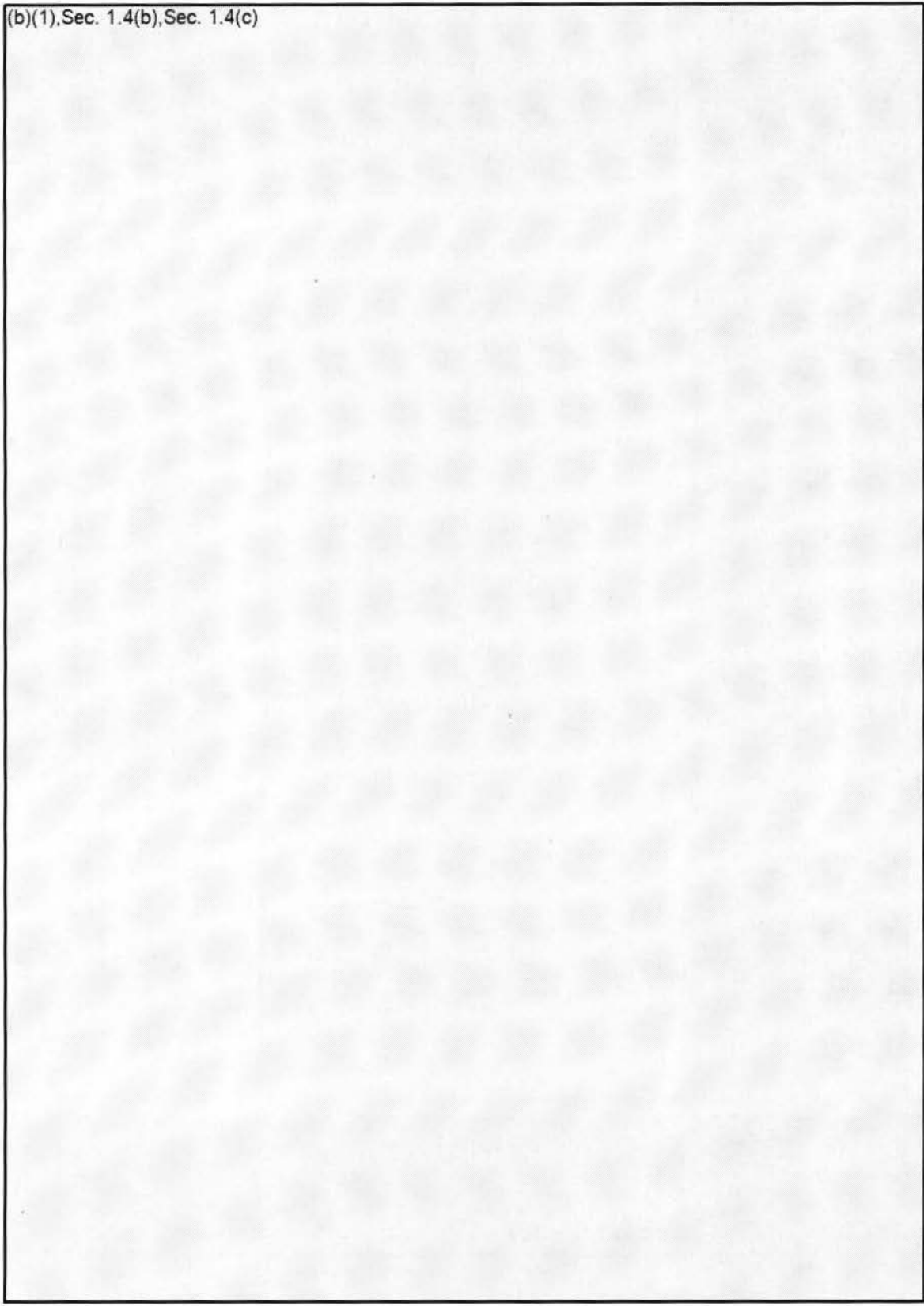


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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000679

CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, ISR

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)




CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, ISR

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000680 *219-10*

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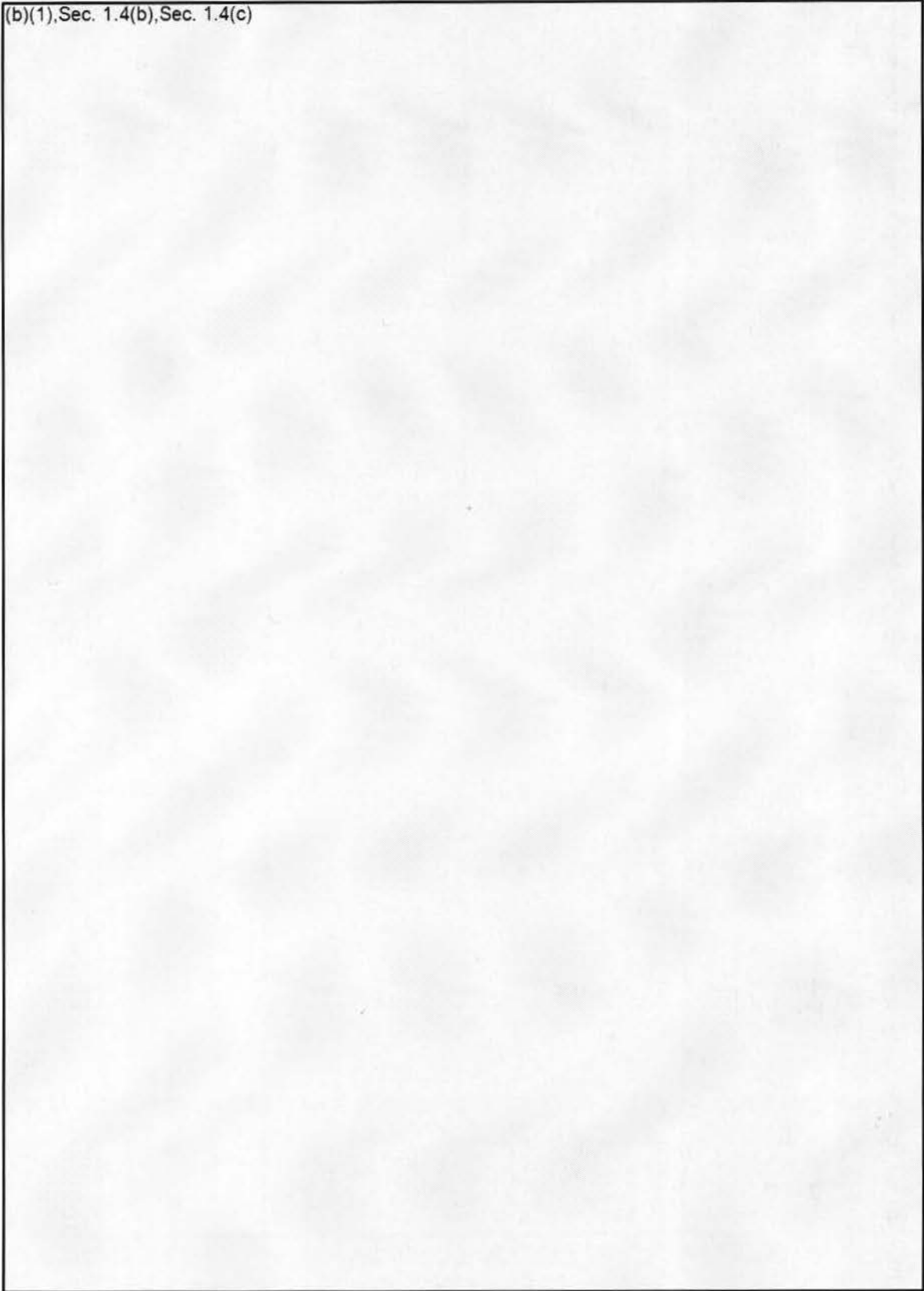
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



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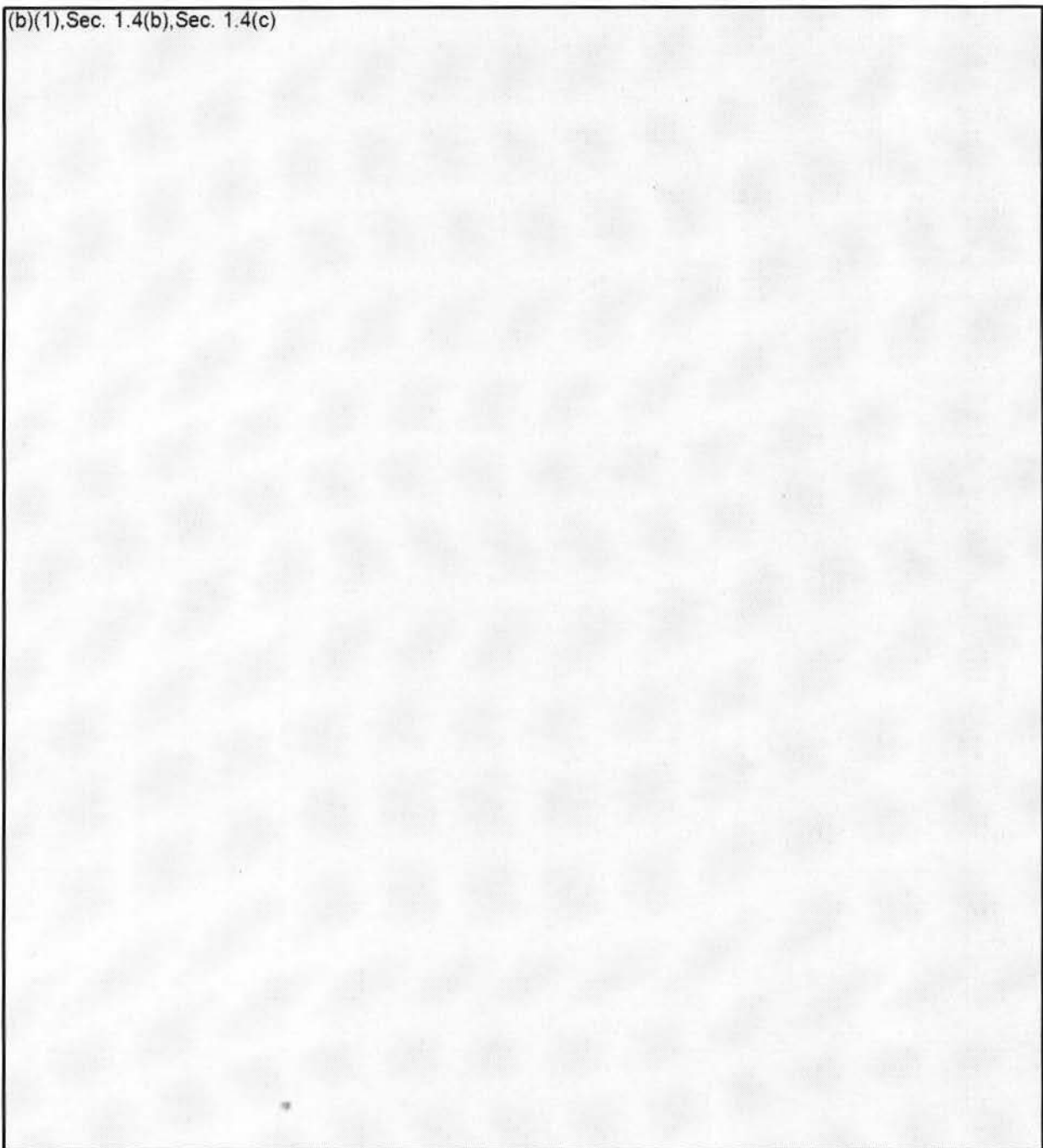
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ON 000681

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, ISR

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)



CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, ISR

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000683

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000684

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

IR Assessment

~~(S)~~ ISRAEL: Assessed Impact of INF Interception of Gaza Freedom Flotilla

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC §424,(b)(3):50 USC §3024 ,Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c),Sec. 1.4(d)

~~(S)~~ (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)
(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

- (U) *M/V MAVI MARMARA Violence*: Addressed in the below interdiction details.

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Maritime Interdiction Operation:

(U) During the early morning hours of 31 May, approximately 70 nautical miles off the Israeli coast, the Israel Naval Forces (INF) intercepted and took control of six vessels headed to the Gaza Strip to "break Israel's blockade" and deliver humanitarian aid. The six vessels, sailing from Turkey and Greece with passengers from over 40 countries, were M/V MAVI MARMARA, M/V GAZZE (previously known as M/V YUNIS SIRIN), M/V SOFIA, M/V DEFNE Y, yacht CHALLENGER I, and SFENDONI (type unknown); open source indicates that they are currently in port Ashdod, Israel.

~~(S)~~ (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c) Open source video depicts an Israeli helicopter deploying commandos on the deck of M/V MAVI MARMARA.¹⁰⁰ According to IMINT, IAF aircraft likely provided surveillance and reconnaissance support.¹⁰¹

~~(S)~~ Although the INF did not report any incidents while boarding five of the six vessels, passengers on board M/V MAVI MARMARA attacked the Israeli boarding teams reportedly with knives and additional items likely found on board the ship, such as metal rods and poles.¹⁰² It is not clear whether passengers also used small arms brought on board the ship, or whether passengers seized INF commandos' weapons.

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Outlook for INF

ONI expects that the INF will continue to publicly justify its actions based on international law and self-defense. VADM Eli Marum stated that the naval commandos "had no choice but to respond in kind" to the violence they faced on M/V MAVI MARMARA. All wounded activists were airlifted to Israeli hospitals. (b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC §424, (b)(3): 50 USC §3024, Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c), Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC §424, (b)(3): 50 USC §3024, Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c), Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC §424, (b)(3): 50 USC §3024, Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c), Sec. 1.4(d)

ⁱ (U) OSC | GMP20081110746008 | 101553Z NOV 08 | 28-29 OCT 2009 | Official: Israel not to give Gaza-Bound Boats Unnecessary Media Platform | U | U | The Jerusalem Post (electronic edition) in English – right-of-center, independent daily

ⁱⁱ (U) OSC | GMP20090703746008 | 031033Z JUL 09 | 20090703 | Israel Concerned About Campaigns to Deter Use of Force Against HAMAS, Hizballah | U | U | The Jerusalem Post Online in English – right-of-center, independent

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

^v (U) - | - | - | 20100531 | - | U | U | Various open source feeds on FreeGaza.org and video footage of INF boarding

^{vi} (U) OSC | GMP 20100531735017 | 311823Z MAY 10 | 20100531 | Six Ships from Gaza Flotilla Dock at Israeli Port, at Least 31 Activists Detained | U | U | Tel Aviv Haaretz.com in English – Website of English-language version of Ha'aretz, left-of-center, independent daily of record

^{vii} (U) OSC | GMP20100531735015 | - | 20100531 | Israel Tows Marmara Ship to Port, Shows Video of Passengers' Attack on IDF Troops | - | U | U | Jerusalem Voice of Israel Network B in Hebrew – State-funded radio, independent in content

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(1)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c)

~~(SBU)~~ AMEMB Tel Aviv | - | 311609Z MAY 10 | 20100531 | GOI Response to Gaza Flotilla Incident | SBU | SBU | Various press conferences with Israel Foreign Ministry and Israel Defense Forces officials

~~(SBU)~~ AMEMB Tel Aviv | - | 311609Z MAY 10 | 20100531 | GOI Response to Gaza Flotilla Incident | SBU | SBU | Various press conferences with Israel Foreign Ministry and Israel Defense Forces officials

(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC §424, (b)(3): 50 USC §3024, Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(c), Sec. 1.4(d)

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(1)

220-3
10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000687

R 231416Z MAY 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER
SERIAL: GMP20100523739006
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN

SUBJ: ISRAEL: UNRWA HEAD IN GAZA SUPPORTS 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' TO BREAK 'SIEGE' (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL NOT TO ALLOW SOLIDARITY FLOTILLA TO ENTER GAZA STRIP COAST 'NEXT WEEK' GMP20100518740011 MA'ARIV
HEBREW 0000 GMT 18 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0631 GMT 23 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "UNRWA HEAD IN GAZA VOICES SUPPORT FOR FLOTILLA" (U)

INTERNET

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AS THREE OF THE EIGHT SHIPS IN THE 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' HEADED FOR GAZA LEFT ISTANBUL, THE HEAD OF
THE UNITED NATION'S RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA) IN THE GAZA STRIP, JOHN GING, VOICED
SUPPORT FOR THE ACTION. "WE RECOMMEND THE WORLD SEND SHIPS TO THE SHORES OF GAZA, AND WE
BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT STOP THESE VESSELS BECAUSE THE SEA IS OPEN," GING SAID. "MANY
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PREVIOUS SIMILAR STEPS, AND PROVED THAT
BREAKING THE SIEGE ON GAZA IS POSSIBLE," HE CONTINUED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER,
INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: [HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL](http://www.jpost.co.il)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

221-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000688

P 281450Z MAY 10
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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20110426738011
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, CYPRUS, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAEL: ARMED COMMANDOS SET TO INTERCEPT AID FLOTILLA HEADING FOR GAZA (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL INVITES GAZA AID FLOTILLA TO UNLOAD CARGO AT ASHDOD PORT GMP20100527738002 ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY ENGLISH 0000 GMT 27 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 28 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS, CONTACT (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

INTERNET

OSC SUMMARY

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THE ISRAELI MEDIA ON 28 MAY CONTINUES TO REPORT ON ISRAEL'S PREPARATIONS FOR BLOCKING THE IHH FLOTILLA THAT SAILED OUT FROM ISTANBUL EN ROUTE TO BREAK THE SIEGE ON THE GAZA STRIP.

ARMED COMMANDOS SET TO INTERCEPT FLOTILLA, CYPRUS WON'T LET SHIPS ANCHOR

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20110426738011001.JPG) HAARETZ MAP SHOWS ROUTE OF AID FLOTILLA HEADING FOR GAZA STRIP

TOVA LAZAROFF REPORTS IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH: "NAVY COMMANDOS WILL BOARD THE NINE INTERNATIONAL AID SHIPS SAILING TOWARD GAZA CITY IF THEY DON'T TURN BACK, AND THE COMMANDOS WILL BE ARMED IN CASE TERRORISTS ARE HIDING ABOARD, DEFENSE OFFICIALS SAID ON THURSDAY. THE SHIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO TRY TO BREAK THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP ON SATURDAY. THEY ARE CARRYING AROUND 750 ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS, AS WELL AS ABOUT 10,000 TONS OF SUPPLIES. TOP IDF OFFICERS SAID ON THURSDAY THAT THE NAVY WILL NOT 'TAKE ANY CHANCES' IF AND WHEN IT BOARDS THE SHIPS, AND WILL IMMEDIATELY INSPECT THEM FOR EXPLOSIVES, INCLUDING USING BOMB-SNIFFING DOGS FROM THE IDF'S OKETZ K9 UNIT. THE NAVY PLANS TO BOARD THE SHIPS IF THEY REFUSE TO TURN AROUND.

"THE SHIPS WILL RECEIVE A NUMBER OF WARNINGS FROM THE NAVY AS THEY BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR APPROACH TO THE GAZA STRIP, STARTING FROM A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 65 KILOMETERS. IF THE SHIPS ARE COMMANDEERED, THEY WILL BE SAILED TO THE ASHDOD PORT, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP TENTS TO HOLD THE ACTIVISTS. THE ACTIVISTS WILL BE TAKEN INTO THE TENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY VOLUNTARILY. IF THEY REFUSE, THEY WILL BE ARRESTED AND TRANSFERRED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE PRISONS SERVICE AND THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WILL BE PRESENT TO HANDLE THE DIPLOMATS WHO ARE ON BOARD THE SHIPS, WHILE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JOURNALISTS."

"IDF SOURCES SAID THE MILITARY WAS PLANNING ON NOT HAVING TO USE ANY FORCE DURING THE OPERATION BUT WAS PREPARED FOR ANY SCENARIO THAT COULD DEVELOP, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SHIPS HAVE BEEN RIGGED WITH EXPLOSIVES BY TERRORISTS. 'UNTIL WE ARE ON BOARD, WE WILL NOT KNOW FOR SURE WHO AND WHAT ARE ON THE SHIPS,' A SENIOR OFFICER SAID. THE OPERATION WILL INVOLVE THOUSANDS OF IDF AND SECURITY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF ELITE UNITS, TRAINED IN NON-LETHAL CROWD DISPERSION TACTICS THAT WILL BE USED, IF NEEDED, WHEN BOARDING THE VESSELS.

"LATE THURSDAY EVENING, CYPRIOT OFFICIALS ASSURED ISRAEL THAT CYPRUS WOULD NOT LET THE FLOTILLA ANCHOR NEAR ITS SHORES, SAIL IN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS OR USE ITS PORTS."

IDF WORRIED ABOUT RIOTING IN HOLDING AREAS AFTER DISEMBARKATION

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20110426738011002.JPG)

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000693

ISRAELI NAVY BOATS INVITE FLOTILLA FOR CAKE AND COFFEE "AT MA'ASIYAHU PRISON" (HAARETZ CARTOON BY ERAN WOLKOWITZ)

ANSHEL PFEFFER AND YUVAL AZULAY REPORT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH: "DEFENSE SOURCES EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT RIOTING IN THE HOLDING AREA, SO THIS SPACE WILL BE OFF LIMITS TO THE MEDIA. THERE ARE ALSO WORRIES THAT THE ACTIVISTS, TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO EXPEL THEM, WILL DESTROY THEIR PASSPORTS AND REFUSE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES."

ISRAELI ADVOCACY GROUP TO GREET FLOTILLA WITH OWN DEMONSTRATION

ZOE FOX REPORTS IN THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE: "THE EUROPEAN 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' MAKING ITS WAY TO GAZA BEARING HUMANITARIAN AID AND ACTIVISTS MAY HAVE A SURPRISE WAITING WHEN IT REACHES ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN WATERS ON FRIDAY. ISRAEL ADVOCACY GROUP STANDWITHUS PLANS TO GREET THE EUROPEAN CONVOY WITH ITS OWN DEMONSTRATION AT SEA. A FLEET OF PRIVATELY OWNED ISRAELI BOATS WILL LEAVE THE ASHDOD AND HERZLIYYA MARINAS IN HOPES OF SURPRISING THE EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS FRIDAY AT 1 P.M.

"THE COUNTER-FLOTILLA SHIPS WILL BE COVERED IN 'FREE GAZA FROM HAMAS' BANNERS AND BOAT OWNERS WILL WEAR BLOODSTAINED T-SHIRTS, REPRESENTING HAMAS'S TERROR RECORD. STANDWITHUS AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS WILL FUND THE DEMONSTRATION. 'WHAT THE OTHER ANTI-ISRAEL FLOTILLA IS DOING IS IGNORING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND FOCUSING ON A FAKE SITUATION,' MICHAEL DICKSON, STANDWITHUS'S ISRAEL DIRECTOR, TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST THURSDAY. DICKSON BELIEVES THE EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS CARE MORE ABOUT HURTING ISRAEL THAN HELPING THE PALESTINIANS IN GAZA."

COMPLEX SYSTEM OF MIDEAST ALLIANCES SEEN EMERGING, TURKISH GROUP INVOLVEMENT NOT COINCIDENTAL

AMOS HAR'EL AND AVI ISSACHAROFF REPORT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH: "THIS WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TIME THE NAVY HAS HAD TO TAKE OVER SUCH SHIPS TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE GAZA STRIP, BUT THIS TIME THE FLOTILLA IS LARGER THAN BEFORE. IN PREVIOUS CASES, THE GOVERNMENT OF EHUD OLMERT ALLOWED SHIPS TO ENTER THE GAZA STRIP. A YEAR AGO, UNDER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, A SHIP WAS STOPPED BY FORCE AND ITS CREW WAS ARRESTED AND DEPORTED. THIS TIME THE CONFRONTATION IS EXPECTED TO BE LARGER, LOUDER AND WILL REQUIRE MORE CAREFUL AND PROFESSIONAL HANDLING UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE TOP MILITARY BRASS.

"IN THE APPROACHING CLASH, THE COMPLEX SYSTEM OF ALLIANCES AND COUNTER-ALLIANCES OF THE MIDDLE EAST IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE COINCIDENTAL THAT THE ISLAMIST GOVERNING PARTY IN TURKEY IS INVOLVED, BEHIND THE SCENES, IN DISPATCHING THE FLOTILLA, IN COORDINATION WITH HAMAS IN THE GAZA STRIP. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT IS COINCIDENTAL THAT THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE HELD THIS WEEK EXERCISES WITH GREECE, THE TRADITIONAL RIVAL OF TURKEY, OF THE SORT THAT TWO YEARS AGO WERE CARRIED OUT MOSTLY IN TURKEY.

"THE FLOTILLA IS NOT EXPECTED TO ALTER IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL WAY THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP. IT IS MOSTLY A BATTLE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS THAT IS MEANT TO STRIKE A BLOW AT ISRAEL. PERHAPS IF ISRAEL WAS LESS EAGER TO CONFRONT THE ACTIVISTS, SOME OF THE MEDIA ATTENTION WOULD HAVE DISSIPATED. HAD THE FLOTILLA BEEN ALLOWED IN, HAMAS WOULD HAVE ITS DAY, AND THE ENTIRE AFFAIR WOULD EVAPORATE QUICKLY.

"HOWEVER, THE BASIC PROBLEM FACED BY ISRAEL GOES FAR BEYOND THIS FLOTILLA. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BLAMES ISRAEL FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS IN THE GAZA STRIP -- MORE OR LESS. IF IN THE WEST BANK THE OCCUPATION IS THE SOURCE OF ALL EVIL, THEN IN THE GAZA STRIP THE ISRAELI SIEGE OF THE TERRITORY IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE CENTRAL PROBLEM."

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100530314001
COUNTRY: ISRAEL

SUBJ: ISRAEL: FLOTILLA APPROACHED BY ISRAELI NAVY; PASSENGERS DON LIFE VESTS (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH 30 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

ORIGINAL HEADLINE: "FLOTILLA PASSENGERS DON LIFE VESTS" BY YAAKOV KATZ AND JPOST.COM STAFF. (U)
INTERNET

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THE GAZA PROTEST FLOTILLA SHIPS WERE ABOUT 150 MILES FROM GAZA LATE ON SUNDAY 30 MAY NIGHT, THEY HAD BEEN SIGHTED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY AND WERE IN CONTACT WITH THEM. FLOTILLA PASSENGERS HAD PUT ON LIFE VESTS AND WERE ON HIGH ALERT, THEY REPORTED VIA THEIR LIVE FEED.

THEY WERE TOLD BY THE NAVY THEY HAD TWO OPTIONS: EITHER BE BOARDED OR FOLLOW THE NAVY IN TO ASHDOD HARBOR TO BE PROCESSED THERE.

AN AL-JAZEERA REPORTER ABOARD THE FLOTILLA SAID THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED TO BE INTERCEPTED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY SO EARLY, WHILE STILL IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, AND THEY WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE WHEN HAILED BY THE NAVY.

ISRAELI NAVY SHIPS SET SAIL EARLIER SUNDAY NIGHT FOR WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE A DRAMATIC SHOWDOWN OUT AT SEA AS THEY TRY TO PREVENT A FLOTILLA OF INTERNATIONAL AID SHIPS FROM BREAKING THE BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP.

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF DELAYS DUE TO DIPLOMATIC AND MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES, SIX SHIPS SET SAIL FOR THE GAZA STRIP ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH THE AIM OF ARRIVING AT THE PALESTINIAN PORT AT 2 PM MONDAY.

MARY HUGHES, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST FROM CYPRUS THAT THE GROUP WAS DETERMINED TO REACH GAZA.

"THEY THE ISRAEL NAVY Y.K. HAS STOPPED US BEFORE IN VARIOUS WAYS AND WE DO NOT INTEND TO BE INTIMATED," HUGHES SAID. "WE HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO TO GAZA SO IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE ISRAELIS DO TO US. AS LONG AS PEOPLE WANT TO GO AND TO SEND BOATS IT WILL CONTINUE."

THE FLOTILLA, WHICH INCLUDES THREE CARGO SHIPS AND THREE PASSENGER SHIPS, IS CARRYING MATERIALS THAT ISRAEL BARS FROM REACHING GAZA ON A REGULAR BASIS, LIKE CEMENT AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS. THE ACTIVISTS SAID THEY ALSO WERE CARRYING HUNDREDS OF ELECTRICAL-POWERED WHEELCHAIRS, PREFABRICATED HOMES AND WATER PURIFIERS.

245-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000740

AFTER THE SHIPS ARE STOPPED, THE NAVY WILL SAIL THEM TO THE ASHDOD PORT WHERE THE CARGO WILL BE UNLOADED, INSPECTED AND THEN TRANSFERRED, VIA LAND CROSSINGS, TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE PASSENGERS WILL BE DEPORTED. THOSE WHO REFUSE TO WILLINGLY LEAVE THE COUNTRY WILL BE ARRESTED.

SOME 700 PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS ARE ON THE BOATS, INCLUDING 1976 NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE, EUROPEAN LEGISLATORS AND AN ELDERLY HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR.

THE MISSION HAS EXPERIENCED REPEATED DELAYS, BOTH DUE TO MECHANICAL PROBLEMS AND A DECISION BY CYPRUS TO BAR ANY BOAT FROM SAILING FROM ITS SHORE TO GAZA. THE BAN FORCED A GROUP OF EUROPEAN LAWMAKERS TO DEPART FROM THE BREAKAWAY TURKISH CYPRIOT NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND LATE SATURDAY.

ISRAEL AND EGYPT IMPOSED THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA AFTER HAMAS MILITANTS VIOLENTLY SEIZED CONTROL OF THE SEASIDE TERRITORY IN JUNE 2007.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANNY AYALON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANNY AYALON RESPONDED TO WHAT HE CALLED "ANTI-SEMITIC CHANTS" THAT CAME FROM THE SHIP'S PASSENGERS AND WERE BROADCAST ON ISRAEL RADIO.

ACCORDING TO A RADIO REPORT, SOME OF THE PASSENGERS ON THE FLOTILLA WERE RECORDED SHOUTING CHANTS TO REMEMBER HAIFA SINCE THE ARMY OF MOHAMMED WILL SOON RETURN.

"ISRAEL CONDEMNS THE ANTI-SEMITIC CHANTS THAT WERE PUBLICIZED THIS MORNING," AYALON SAID. "THE FACT THAT PARTICIPANTS ON THE FLOTILLA WOULD CHANT SUCH THINGS SHOWS THE TRUE NATURE OF SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND ITS REAL MOTIVATION. THIS AMPLY DEMONSTRATES THAT MANY ARE NOT AGAINST A PARTICULAR POLICY OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, BUT HAVE VERY REAL AND DANGEROUS HATRED FOR JEWS AND THE JEWISH STATE."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: [HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL](http://www.jpost.co.il)

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245-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000741

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT
SERIAL: EUP20100528102010
COUNTRY: CYPRUS, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, TURKEY

SUBJ: FLOTILLA AIMING TO BUST GAZA-BLOCKADE DELAYS DEPARTURE (U)

REF: 1. FLOTILLA AIMING TO BUST GAZA-BLOCKADE PLANS TO DEPART FROM CYPRUS SHORTLY EUP20100528102009 AFP
(NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE) ENGLISH 1519 GMT 28 MAY 10 (U)
SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH 1539 GMT 28 MAY 10 (U)
TEXT:

"GAZA AID FLOTILLA DELAYS DEPARTURE UNTIL SATURDAY" – AFP HEADLINE (U)
NEWS AGENCIES
OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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AN AID FLOTILLA DUE TO SAIL FOR GAZA IN DEFIANCE OF AN ISRAELI EMBARGO AND WARNINGS WILL BE
DELAYED BY A DAY UNTIL SATURDAY 29 MAY, ORGANISERS SAID.

"WE'VE CHANGED THE COORDINATES TWICE BECAUSE REPORTEDLY ISRAEL HAS THREATENED TO CAPTURE
THE TURKISH SHIP SO WE DECIDED TO DELAY GETTING ALL THE BOATS TOGETHER," AUDREY BOMSE OF THE
FREE GAZA MOVEMENT THAT ORGANISED THE MULTINATIONAL FLOTILLA GATHERING OFF THE COAST OF
CYPRUS SAID ON FRIDAY.

"THIS HAS DELAYED EVERYTHING BY A DAY BECAUSE CHANGING COORDINATES TAKES TIME ... THERE WERE
ALSO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH ONE OF THE BOATS SO WE HAD TO MOVE PASSENGERS FROM IT ON TO
THE TURKISH ONE," SHE TOLD AFP.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH -- NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH PRESS AGENCY
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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ARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT
RIAL: EUP20100528102009
OUNTRY: CYPRUS, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL

BJJ: FLOTILLA AIMING TO BUST GAZA-BLOCKADE PLANS TO DEPART FROM CYPRUS SHORTLY (U)

SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH 1519 GMT 28 MAY 10 (U)

EXT:

LOTILLA SET FOR FINAL LEG OF GAZA BLOCKADE-BUSTING BID" - AFP HEADLINE (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

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HUNDREDS OF ACTIVISTS BRACED ON FRIDAY 28 MAY FOR THE FINAL LEG OF THEIR ATTEMPT TO BUST THE GAZA STRIP EMBARGO, AS ISRAEL VOWED TO DEFEAT, AS EACH SIDE ACCUSED THE OTHER OF VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAW.

TWO CARGO SHIPS AND FIVE SMALLER BOATS LOADED WITH THOUSANDS OF TONNES OF SUPPLIES AND HUNDREDS OF PASSENGERS STEAMED TOWARDS A RENDEZVOUS OFF CYPRUS WHERE THEY PLANNED TO GROUP BEFORE SETTING OUT FOR THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY.

ORGANISERS SAID AN EIGHTH SHIP, THE RACHEL CORRIE THAT HAD LEFT FROM IRELAND, WAS LAGGING BEHIND AND WOULD TRAVEL TOWARDS GAZA SEPARATELY.

THE SHIPS WILL MEET IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, THEY SAID.

THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT US TO LEAVE FROM CYPRUS. I CAN ONLY ASSUME PRESSURE WAS PUT ON THEM," SAID AUDREY BOMSE, A MEMBER OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT (FGM) THAT ORGANISED THE FLOTILLA.

A CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID OF THE FLOTILLA THAT NICOSIA HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID.

BOMSE TOLD AFP THAT A PLAN TO FERRY ABOUT 25 MULTI-NATIONAL MPS FROM CYPRUS TO ONE OF THE SHIPS ALSO HAD BEEN ABANDONED.

"THIS IS A GROUP OF MPS WAITING TO BE FERRIED TO ANOTHER BOAT. THE GOVERNMENT SAID IF WE KEPT IT QUIET WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT BUT THERE WAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF PRESSURE AND I SUPPOSE THEY GAVE IN TO ISRAEL," SHE CHARGED.

BOMSE ADDED THE PLAN HAD BEEN MODIFIED, AND THE GROUP WOULD NOW TRY TO GET THE MPS ON BOARD FROM THE TURKISH-OCCUPIED NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

"WE WILL NOW HAVE TO GO TO THE NORTH AND LOSE THE CYPRIOT AND GREEK POLITICIANS, BUT WE HAVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM IRELAND, ITALY, SWEDEN, NORWAY AND BULGARIA. WE ARE GOING TO PUT THEM ON A BOAT IN FAMAGUSTA," SHE SAID.

GREECE AND CYPRUS REGARD THE SELF-PROCLAIMED TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS, WHERE FAMAGUSTA IS THE MAIN PORT, AS AN ILLEGAL ENTITY.

CYPRIOT COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ERATO KOZAKOU-MARCOULLIS DENIED THAT HER GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO FORBID THE FLOTILLA TO SAIL FROM CYPRUS WAS DUE TO PRESSURE FROM ISRAEL.

"THIS WAS A DECISION THAT THE CYPRUS REPUBLIC TOOK BY ITSELF, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AND WEIGHING UP ALL THE FACTS, THE DANGERS AND THE THREATS TO ITS NATIONAL INTEREST," SHE SAID.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000743

OMSE SAID THE NEW ARRANGEMENT HAD NOW DELAYED THE FLOTILLA'S DEPARTURE FOR GAZA UNTIL LATER ON FRIDAY.

ISRAEL EARLIER TOLD THE AMBASSADORS OF CYPRUS, TURKEY, GREECE, AND IRELAND -- THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THE SHIPS WOULD SET SAIL -- THAT IT "ISSUED WARRANTS THAT PROHIBIT THE ENTRANCE OF THE VESSELS TO GAZA" AND THAT THE FLOTILLA WOULD BE BREAKING INTERNATIONAL LAW.

ISRAEL MADE IT CLEAR IT INTENDS TO HALT THE VESSELS AND DETAIN THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ABOARD IN THE PORT OF ASHDOD BEFORE DEPORTING THEM.

OMSE SUGGESTED THIS MAY JUST BE "SABRE RATTLING."

"WE ARE PLANNING ON GETTING THERE AND STAYING IN GAZA FOR TWO DAYS," SHE SAID.

BUT ISRAEL HAS STEPPED UP ITS WARNINGS IN RECENT DAYS AND READIED NAVAL FORCES.

ORGANISERS DISMISSED THE CLAIM THAT THEIR BLOCKADE-BUSTING BID IS ILLEGAL.

"MOST DESPICABLY OF ALL, ISRAEL CLAIMS THAT WE ARE VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAW BY SAILING UNARMED SHIPS CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID TO A PEOPLE DESPERATELY IN NEED," THE FGM SAID IN A STATEMENT.

"THESE CLAIMS ONLY DEMONSTRATE HOW DEGENERATE THE POLITICAL DISCOURSE IN ISRAEL HAS BECOME."

ISRAEL IMPOSED A CRIPPLING BLOCKADE ON GAZA IN 2007 AFTER HAMAS -- AN ISLAMIST MOVEMENT COMMITTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL -- SEIZED POWER IN THE IMPOVERISHED, OVERCROWDED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY.

"BECAUSE OF THE BLOCKADE, ONLY LIMITED RECONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE WAKE OF A DEVASTATING 22-DAY OFFENSIVE ISRAEL LAUNCHED ON DECEMBER 27, 2008.

IN NEW YORK, UN CHIEF BAN KI-MOON ON THURSDAY APPEALED TO ALL SIDES TO ACT WITH CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

"WE STRONGLY URGE THAT ALL INVOLVED ACT WITH A SENSE OF CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK FOR A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION," BAN'S SPOKESMAN SAID.

PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS HAVE LANDED IN GAZA FIVE TIMES, WITH ANOTHER THREE ATTEMPTS UNSUCCESSFUL SINCE THEIR FIRST SUCH SEA VOYAGE IN AUGUST 2008.

TO DATE, THE AID HAS BEEN LARGELY SYMBOLIC, BUT ORGANISERS SAY THE FLOTILLA NOW UNDER WAY IS LADEN WITH 10,000 TONNES OF AID, RANGING FROM PRE-FABRICATED HOMES TO PENCILS.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH -- NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH PRESS AGENCY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

247-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000744

PREC: P DTG: 091546Z AUG 10
FROM: OSC RESTON VA
UNCLAS
Q000
CITE OSC RESTON VA 836851

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100809734002

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY

~~★~~ SUBJ: TURKEY: SAPPERS, RADIATION EXPERTS SEARCH GAZA AID SHIPS

(U)

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN TURKISH 09 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"BOMB EXPERTS CONDUCT INSPECTIONS OF SHIPS IN ISKENDERUN PORT" -- AA HEADLINE (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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ISKENDERUN (AA) - IT IS REPORTED THAT TEAMS OF BOMB EXPERTS ARE CONDUCTING INSPECTIONS OF THE THREE TURKISH SHIPS THAT ISRAEL SEIZED IN THE RAID IT CONDUCTED ON 31 MAY AGAINST THE FLEET BRINGING AID TO GAZA AND WHICH WERE LATER BROUGHT TO THE PORT IN THE ISKENDERUN DISTRICT OF HATAY PROVINCE.

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION OBTAINED, AFTER THE TEAMS OF BOMB EXPERTS INSPECT THE SHIPS, KNOWN AS THE MAVI MARMARA, THE DEFNE-Y, AND THE GAZZE, WHICH ENTERED THROUGH THE A GATE OF ISKENDERUN PORT AND ARE IN A SECTION WHERE EXTENSIVE SECURITY MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN, OFFICIALS OF THE TURKISH ATOMIC ENERGY ADMINISTRATION (TAEK) WILL CONDUCT RADIATION MEASUREMENTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS (IHH) HUMANITARIAN AID FOUNDATION ACTING CHAIRMAN HUSEYIN ORUC, ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN AHMET SARIKURT, MAVI MARMARA CAPTAIN MAHMUT TURAL, DEFNE-Y SHIP'S ENGINEER RIFAT LULECI, THE SHIPS' TECHNICAL OFFICER CAN ERTUS, AND ATTORNEY RAMAZAN ARITURK AND OTHER OFFICIALS ARRIVED AT THE PORT ENTRY GATE. THE DELEGATION, WHO MET WITH OFFICIALS, WERE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE PORT AREA.

HUSEYIN ORUC, RESPONDING TO A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION OF "WHY ARE BOMB EXPERTS DOING AN INSPECTION?", SAID: "ANYTHING CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THOSE WHO KILLED NINE PEOPLE. FOR THIS REASON, AN INSPECTION IS BEING DONE AS A PRECAUTION. AFTER THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT, WE WILL GO ONTO THE SHIPS."

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000745

STATING THAT, AFTER PROSECUTORS' INVESTIGATIONS, A STUDY WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE TECHNICAL CONDITION OF THE VESSELS, ORUC ADVISED THAT A DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE MOTORS RUN, AND WHETHER OR NOT THE TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IS IN SHAPE FOR THE VESSELS TO SAIL, AND THAT, IF NEED BE, THEY WILL BE TAKEN INTO DRYDOCK.

STATING THAT THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE REVEALED AS A RESULT OF REPORTS BY EXPERTS, ORUC SAID: "IN THE END, WE ARE GOING TO BRING THESE VESSELS BACK INTO ACTIVE SERVICE."

ORUC, POINTING OUT THAT CASES ARE UNDERWAY BOTH IN TURKISH AND IN INTERNATIONAL COURTS, SAID: "THE INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSIONS WILL ASSESS ALL OF THESE REPORTS. WE ARE GOING TO CONDUCT EFFORTS IN EVERY SPHERE ON THIS ISSUE, AND ARE GOING TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN TURKISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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248.2

PREC: P DTG: 071133Z AUG 10
FROM: OSC RESTON VA
UNCLAS
QQQQ
CITE OSC RESTON VA 827039

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100807744004

COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK

SUBJ: TURKEY: ANOTHER GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA SHIP ARRIVES IN ISKENDERUN (U)

REF: 1. TURKISH GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA'S MAVI MARMARA SHIP ARRIVES
IN ISKENDERUN GMP20100807744003 ANATOLIA ENGLISH 0726 GMT 07
AUG 10 (U)

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 0957 GMT 07 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"ISRAELI-RAIDED AID SHIP ARRIVES IN TURKISH PORT " -- AA HEADLINE
(U)

NEWS AGENCIES

OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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ISKENDERUN (A.A) - "GAZZE", ONE OF THE ISRAELI-SEIZED TURKISH AID SHIP, HAS ARRIVED IN TURKEY'S SOUTHERN ISKENDERUN PORT ON SATURDAY.

"GAZZE", TOGETHER WITH "MAVI MARMARA" AND "DEFNE-Y" SHIPS, HAD BEEN SEIZED BY ISRAELI FORCES ON MAY 31 AFTER A BLOODY RAID. THE THREE TURKISH SHIPS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO GAZA TO CARRY HUMANITARIAN AID.

"DEFNE-Y" SHIP ARRIVED IN ISKENDERUN PORT LAST NIGHT, AND "MAVI MARMARA" DOCKED AT THE PORT EARLY ON SATURDAY.

OFFICIALS SAID THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES AND PROSECUTORS AS WELL AS A UN DELEGATION WOULD EXAMINE THE SHIPS.

MEANWHILE, ISKENDERUN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR MUSTAFA OZCAN ARRIVED IN THE PORT AND EXAMINED "GAZZE".

ISRAEL DECIDED ON JULY 23 TO GIVE BACK THE THREE AID SHIPS IT SEIZED AFTER ITS ATTACK ON THE CONVOY ON MAY 31.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000747

NINE PEOPLE, INCLUDING EIGHT TURKS AND A U.S. CITIZEN OF TURKISH DESCENT, WERE KILLED WHEN ISRAELI FORCES RAIDED MAVI MARMARA. AROUND 30 PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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249-2

PREC: P DTG: 070832Z AUG 10
FROM: OSC RESTON VA
UNCLAS
QQQQ
CITE OSC RESTON VA 826404

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100807744003

COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK

SUBJ: TURKISH GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA'S MAVI MARMARA SHIP ARRIVES IN ISKENDERUN (U)

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 0726 GMT 07 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"RAIDED GAZA VESSEL DOCKS AT TURKISH PORT" -- AA HEADLINE (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

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ISKENDERUN (A.A) - MAVI MARMARA, THE LEAD VESSEL IN A GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA WHICH CAME UNDER A DEADLY ISRAELI ATTACK, REACHED TURKEY'S SOUTHERN PORT OF ISKENDERUN ON SATURDAY.

ISRAEL DECIDED ON JULY 23 TO GIVE BACK THE THREE AID SHIPS IT SEIZED AFTER ITS ATTACK ON THE CONVOY ON MAY 31.

NINE PEOPLE, INCLUDING EIGHT TURKS AND A U.S. CITIZEN OF TURKISH DESCENT, WERE KILLED WHEN ISRAELI FORCES RAIDED MAVI MARMARA. AROUND 30 PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

ANOTHER VESSEL WITH THE CONVOY, DEFNE-Y, DOCKED AT THE ISKENDERUN PORT ON FRIDAY AND A THIRD ONE, GAZZE, IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE LATER TODAY.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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250 -1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000749

FM: OSC

★ **Flotilla Aiming to Bust Gaza-Blockade Plans to Depart From Cyprus Shortly (U)**

EUP20100528102009 Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 1519 GMT 28 May 10 (U)

["Flotilla Set for Final Leg of Gaza Blockade-Busting Bid" -- AFP headline (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

Hundreds of activists braced on Friday [28 May] for the final leg of their attempt to bust the Gaza Strip embargo, a bid Israel vowed to defeat, as each side accused the other of violating international law.

Two cargo ships and five smaller boats loaded with thousands of tonnes of supplies and hundreds of passengers steamed towards a rendezvous off Cyprus where they planned to group before setting out for the Palestinian territory.

Organisers said an eighth ship, the Rachel Corrie that had left from Ireland, was lagging behind and would travel towards Gaza separately.

The ships will meet in international waters, they said.

"The Cypriot government does not want us to leave from Cyprus. I can only assume pressure was put on them," said Audrey Bomse, a member of the Free Gaza Movement (FGM) that organised the flotilla.

A Cypriot government official said of the flotilla that Nicosia had not received any formal request from the Palestinian Authority for humanitarian aid.

Bomse told AFP that a plan to ferry about 25 multi-national MPs from Cyprus to one of the ships also had been abandoned.

"This is a group of MPs waiting to be ferried to another boat. The government said if we kept it quiet we would be able to do it but there was a huge amount of pressure and I suppose they gave in to Israel," she charged.

Bomse added the plan had been modified, and the group would now try to get the MPs on board from the Turkish-occupied northern part of the island.

"We will now have to go to the north and lose the Cypriot and Greek politicians, but we have members of parliament from Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Norway and Bulgaria. We are going to put them on a boat in Famagusta," she said.

Greece and Cyprus regard the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, where Famagusta is the main port, as an illegal entity.

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Cypriot Communications Minister Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis denied that her government's decision to forbid the flotilla to sail from Cyprus was due to pressure from Israel.

"This was a decision that the Cyprus Republic took by itself, taking into account and weighing up all the facts, the dangers and the threats to its national interest," she said.

Bomse said the new arrangement had now delayed the flotilla's departure for Gaza until later on Friday.

Israel earlier told the ambassadors of Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, and Ireland -- the countries from which the ships set sail -- that it "issued warrants that prohibit the entrance of the vessels to Gaza" and that the flotilla would be breaking international law.

Israel made it clear it intends to halt the vessels and detain the hundreds of people aboard in the port of Ashdod before deporting them.

Bomse suggested this may just be "sabre rattling."

"We are planning on getting there and staying in Gaza for two days," she said.

But Israel has stepped up its warnings in recent days and readied naval forces.

Organisers dismissed the claim that their blockade-busting bid is illegal.

"Most despicably of all, Israel claims that we are violating international law by sailing unarmed ships carrying humanitarian aid to a people desperately in need," the FGM said in a statement.

"These claims only demonstrate how degenerate the political discourse in Israel has become."

Israel imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza in 2007 after Hamas -- an Islamist movement committed to the destruction of Israel -- seized power in the impoverished, overcrowded Palestinian territory.

Because of the blockade, only limited reconstruction has been possible in the wake of a devastating 22-day offensive Israel launched on December 27, 2008.

In New York, UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appealed to all sides to act with care and responsibility.

"We strongly urge that all involved act with a sense of care and responsibility and work for a satisfactory resolution," Ban's spokesman said.

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Pro-Palestinian activists have landed in Gaza five times, with another three attempts unsuccessful since their first such sea voyage in August 2008.

To date, the aid has been largely symbolic, but organisers say the flotilla now under way is laden with 10,000 tonnes of aid, ranging from pre-fabricated homes to pencils.

[Description of Source: Paris AFP in English – North European Service of independent French press agency Agence France-Presse]

250-4

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000752

261741Z MAY 10
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SITE OSC RESTON VA 391204

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: CPP20100526968286

COUNTRY: ALGERIA, GAZA STRIP, GREECE, ISRAEL, KUWAIT, SWEDEN, TURKEY

SUBJ: XINHUA 'ROUNDUP': HAMAS INTENSIFIES PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE 'FREEDOM FLEET' (U)

SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 1726 GMT 26 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

XINHUA "ROUNDUP": "HAMAS INTENSIFIES PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE 'FREEDOM FLEET'" (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

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BY EMAD DRIMLY, SAUD ABU RAMADAN

GAZA, MAY 26 (XINHUA) -- GAZA ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS ON WEDNESDAY INTENSIFIED THEIR WORK TO PREPARE GAZA FISHERMEN ANCHORAGE TO RECEIVE THE FREEDOM FLEET, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT GAZA SHORES ON FRIDAY TO DEFY THE THREE-YEAR BLOCKADE IMPOSED BY ISRAEL ON THE GAZA STRIP.

WORKERS AND ENGINEERS BELONGING TO WORK MINISTRY OF THE DEPOSED HAMAS GOVERNMENT WORK 12 HOURS A DAY TO PREPARE THE HARBOR, WHICH HAS BEEN A TARGET OF ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES AND SHELLS, FOR RECEIVING THE THREE COMMERCIAL SHIPS AND SIX VESSELS ON FRIDAY.

DESPITE ISRAELI THREATS OF BANNING THE FREEDOM FLEET FROM REACHING GAZA WATERS, WORKERS HAVE NEVER STOPPED WORKING AT THE HARBOR. MOST OF THE DEPOSED GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRIES ARE JOINING THE RENOVATION OF THE HARBOR.

MASSER AL-SHANTI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORK IN GAZA TOLD XINHUA THAT "THE MAJOR GOAL OF THIS KIND OF WORK IS TO PROMOTE THE CAPABILITY OF THE HARBOR, WHICH IS DEVOTED ONLY FOR FISHING BOATS, TO RECEIVE HUGE SHIPS."

THE FREEDOM FLEET WILL CARRY MORE THAN 10,000 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID, 100 HOUSING CARAVANS AND AROUND 750 PEOPLE COMING FROM 40 COUNTIES.

THE FLEET CONSISTS OF NINE SHIPS: ONE OF THE THREE COMMERCIAL SHIPS IS A HUGE KUWAITI ONE CARRYING THE FLAGS OF TURKEY AND KUWAIT; THE SECOND ONE IS FUNDED BY ALGERIA; AND THE THIRD ONE IS FUNDED BY SWEDEN AND GREECE. THE OTHER SIX VESSELS WILL CARRY 750 PEOPLE COMING FROM 40 COUNTRIES.

ONE OF THE VESSELS IS CALLED "8,000 VESSEL," REFERRING TO THE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN AND ARAB PRISONERS IMPRISONED IN ISRAELI PRISONS. AMONG THOSE ON BOARD, THERE ARE 44 OFFICIALS, PARLIAMENTARIANS AND POLITICIANS COMING FROM EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES.

THE THREE COMMERCIAL SHIPS ARE CARRYING 10,000 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID, INCLUDING MEDICINES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, FOODS AND 100 HOUSING CARAVANS AIMED TO SUPPORT DOZENS OF HOMELESS GAZANS WHO LOST THEIR HOMES DURING LAST YEAR'S ISRAELI WAR ON THE GAZA STRIP.

THE FLEET WILL ALSO CARRY 500 WHEEL CHAIRS FOR THE DISABLED PALESTINIANS, WHO WERE VICTIMS OF THE ISRAELI WAR. THE THREE-YEAR ISRAELI WAR HAD LEFT AROUND 600 PEOPLE DISABLED IN THE ENCLAVE.

TECHNICAL TEAMS ARE WORKING TO PAD THE HARBOR AND MOVE SAND FROM THE DOCK TO DEEPEN IT TO 5 METERS. WORKERS PAVED A 1,000-METER ROAD, AND ERECTED POLES TO LIGHT THE HARBOR.

DESPITE THE HARD WORK AT THE HARBOR TO ENLARGE IT TO RECEIVE THE THREE SHIPS AND SIX VESSELS, THE SMALL SHALLOW HARBOR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE HUGE COMMERCIAL SHIPS, EVEN IF IT WAS DEEPENED TO THE NORMAL LEVEL OF OTHER HARBORS.

MASSER EL-AGHA, DIRECTOR OF HARBOR AUTHORITIES IN GAZA TOLD XINHUA THAT THE SHIPS WILL BE ASKED TO ANCHOR AWAY FROM THE HARBOR, ADDING "THE PALESTINIAN TEAMS WILL SAIL AND EMPTY THE LOADS THEN."

HE REVEALED THAT ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, WORKERS HAVE PRACTICED HOW TO BRING THE LOADS TO GAZA. THE TRAINING WAS CARRIED OUT AROUND THE HARBOR, ALTHOUGH ISRAEL HAD REPEATEDLY THREATENED THAT ITS NAVAL FORCES WILL PREVENT THE FLEET FROM REACHING THE SHORES OF THE GAZA STRIP.

HAMAS INTERIOR MINISTER FATHI HAMMAD, WHO ATTENDED THE PRACTICE, SAID THE ISRAELI THREAT TO BAN THE FLEET FROM REACHING GAZA SHORES "WOULD NEVER STOP THE PREPARATIONS (HAMAS) GOVERNMENT IS CARRYING OUT UNTIL FRIDAY."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH -- CHINA'S OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AUDIENCES (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY)

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CABLETYPE: FBSEMS ACP 1.0.

10-L-1242/CR-Gallagher/ONI/000753

251-1

FM OSC

✓ **KUNA: Huge Naval Fleet of Humanitarian Aid Preparing To Go To Gaza (U)**

GMP20100410966064[0] Kuwait KUNA Online in English 1234 GMT 10 Apr 10 (U)

["Huge Naval Fleet of Humanitarian Aid Preparing To Go To Gaza" -- KUNA Headline (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

[Computer selected and disseminated without OSC editorial intervention]

GENEVA, April 10 (KUNA) -- The European Campaign to end the Siege on Gaza decided on Saturday to send naval fleets to Gaza strip in order to support its trapped population for more than 1,000 days.

Arafat Mady, president of the Campaign, said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), "the fleet which will set a precedent in the history of breaking the siege, will house three ships loaded with different types of relief and aid materials. Seven other ships will be full of solidarity activists with the besieged residents of Gaza." He said after a meeting of the organisation community of the trip in its office in Geneva, "The new in this campaign is that the convoy, which will move next month, will have five alliances of European powers with different experiences in facing critical humanitarian situations resulting from the embargo." "The ships will sail under the Turkish and Greek flags", indicates Arafat Mady, "it will follow the international waters leading to Palestinian territorial waters adjacent to the Gaza Strip, and thus there will not be any pretext for the Israeli authorities to intercept the fleet.", he added.

The ships will carry ready made houses for the displaced people, medical equipment, essential drugs, food, equipments for disabled and equipment for purifying drinking water and the essential requirements of daily life that lacks residents.

"A group of European politicians, parliamentarians, intellectuals, human rights activists and volunteers in the field of humanitarian relief from European and Arab countries and around the world will join the fleet to Gaza", he added.

In his interview with (KUNA), Arafat Mady indicated that the keenness of a large number of personalities from a wide political spectrum participating in the campaign and the financial support reflects how the European public opinion convinced the magnitude of the suffering of people in Gaza through the embargo, who left strong effects on the all aspects of the life there.

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He pointed out that supporting the campaign reflects the conviction insistence on the injustices suffered by Palestinians under siege, despite the major powers behind it.

He described the Coming fleet's journey as a "popular movement of an international collation in the face of a human made disaster, made million and a half million people suffering since one thousand days."

[Description of Source: Kuwait KUNA Online in English -- Official news agency of the Kuwaiti Government; URL: <http://www.kuna.net.kw>]

250-2

P 031531Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 441612

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100603738022
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: ISRAEL'S MAG: FLOTILLA INTERCEPTION 'LEGAL' UNDER INT'L LAW; US NAVY HANDBOOK CITED (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH 0829 GMT 03 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY ELANA KIEFFER: "INTERCEPTION OF GAZA FLOTILLA IS LEGAL UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW" (U)
INTERNET

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THE IDF MILITARY ADVOCATE GENERAL (MAG), WHICH IS THE BODY THAT ENSURES THAT THE RULE OF LAW IS UPHELD WITHIN THE IDF, HAS PUBLICIZED A REPORT ABOUT THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE INTERCEPTION OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA. WHILE COVERING TOPICS SUCH AS THE HISTORY OF THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA, THE LEGALITY OF THE BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON THE GAZA STRIP, THE ATTEMPT TO BREACH A NAVAL BLOCKADE AND THE TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL ON BOARD A VESSEL CAPTURED IN BREACH OF A BLOCKADE, THE MAG REPORT EXPLAINS WHY THE INTERCEPTION OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA IS SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE REPORT BEGINS WITH THE HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE GAZA STRIP, DETAILING HOW SINCE 2007 WHEN HAMAS TOOK CONTROL OVER THE AREA, THE CONFLICT HAS INTENSIFIED. [CLICK HERE TO READ FULL REPORT](#)

AS A RESULT, ISRAEL ENACTED A BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP AND THE REPORT EXPLAINS THAT "ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ARMED CONFLICT, A STATE PARTY TO AN ARMED CONFLICT HAS THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A NAVAL BLOCKADE ON ITS ENEMY'S COAST FOR SECURITY REASONS. A NAVAL BLOCKADE MEANS PREVENTING THE PASSAGE (ENTRY OR EXIT) OF ALL VESSELS TO OR FROM THE PORTS AND COASTAL AREAS OF THE ENEMY, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE KIND OF CARGO CARRIED BY THESE VESSELS." IN FACT, ARTICLE 42 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY MENTIONS NAVAL BLOCKADE AS AN ACCEPTABLE MEASURE TO BE TAKEN FOR THE MAINTAINING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. THE REPORT QUOTES THE US NAVY'S "COMMANDER'S HANDBOOK ON THE LAW OF NAVAL OPERATIONS", WHERE ARTICLE 7.7.1 STATES THAT SIMILAR TO THE RIGHT OF "VISIT AND SEARCH" WHEREBY NATIONS ARE ENTITLED TO SEARCH CONTENTS ENTERING OR EXITING, AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO BLOCKADE "INTENDED TO PREVENT VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT, REGARDLESS OF THEIR CARGO."

253-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000756

AFTER ESTABLISHING THE LEGITIMACY OF A NAVAL BLOCKADE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE MAG DETAILS THE REASONS WHY THIS SPECIFIC MARITIME BLOCKADE AROUND THE GAZA STRIP WAS ESTABLISHED: "FOR A CLEAR MILITARY NECESSITY -- TO PREVENT THE MILITARY STRENGTHENING OF HAMAS BY STOPPING THE ENTRY OF TERRORIST ELEMENTS AND THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS INTO THE GAZA STRIP, AN AIM SUPPORTED ALSO BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1860."

NAVAL BLOCKADES ARE CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW IF THEY MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ENUMERATED IN THE SAN REMO MANUAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE TO ARMED CONFLICT AT SEA: PUBLIC DECLARATION, EFFECTIVENESS, IMPARTIALITY, ACCESS TO NEUTRAL STATES, AND PASSAGE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. THE MAG REPORT SHOWS HOW THE MARITIME BLOCKADE OF THE GAZA STRIP IS THUS LEGAL BY EXPLAINING HOW ISRAEL MET EACH OF THESE REQUIREMENTS. A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF A NAVAL BLOCKADE 20 MILES FROM THE COAST WAS MADE ON 03.01.2009, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDINARY INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS, DETAILING THE COORDINATES OF THE BLOCKADED REGION. THE REPORT SHARES THAT "BEFORE THE CURRENT FLOTILLA HAD BEGUN, THE STATE OF ISRAEL APPROACHED THE STATES INVOLVED, BY DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AND THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA WERE WELL AWARE OF THE BLOCKADE." FOR EFFECTIVENESS, "THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED BY THE STATE OF ISRAEL SINCE ITS COMMENCEMENT." FOR IMPARTIALITY, "THE NAVAL BLOCKADE HAS BEEN ENFORCED ON THE VESSELS OF ALL STATES, WITH NO DISCRIMINATION." FOR ACCESS TO NEUTRAL STATES, "THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON GAZA HAS NOT AFFECTED, IN ANY MANNER, THE ACCESS OF VESSELS TO THE PORTS OR COASTS OF NEUTRAL STATES." AND LAST, FOR THE PASSAGE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, THE REPORT SHARES THAT ISRAEL ALLOWED PASSAGE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE INTO THE GAZA STRIP, THROUGH CROSSING POINTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND GAZA SUBJECT TO SECURITY CHECKS AS COORDINATED BY ISRAEL AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GAZA, AND FURTHER THAT "THE STATE OF ISRAEL OPENLY DECLARED THAT IT WILL ALLOW THE ENTRY OF THE HUMANITARIAN GOODS CARRIED BY THE CURRENT FLOTILLA INTO GAZA, AFTER IT IS UNLOADED IN ISRAEL, IN THE PORT OF ASHDOD."

LEGALITY OF STOPPING A VESSEL IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

AFTER ESTABLISHING THE LEGALITY OF THIS NAVAL BLOCKADE, THE MAG ADDRESSES THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO INTERCEPT THE FLOTILLA, SAYING THAT THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT AT SEA ALLOWS FOR THE CAPTURE OF A VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO BREACH A NAVAL BLOCKADE AND IN FACT, "IF IT RESISTS CAPTURE AND REFUSES TO STOP, AFTER PRIOR WARNING, IT MAY BE ATTACKED."

FURTHER, A STATE WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED A NAVAL BLOCKADE MAY CAPTURE A VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO BREACH A BLOCKADE BEFORE IT HAS ACTUALLY BREACHED. AS LONG AS THERE ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE A VESSEL HAS THE INTENTION OF BREACHING A BLOCKADE, "CAPTURE OF A VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO BREACH A NAVAL BLOCKADE CAN BE

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DONE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE BLOCKADED AREA." ARTICLE 7.7.4 OF THE US NAVY'S "COMMANDER'S HANDBOOK ON THE LAW OF NAVAL OPERATIONS" CLEARLY STATES: "ATTEMPTED BREACH OF BLOCKADE OCCURS FROM THE TIME A VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT LEAVES A PORT OR AIRFIELD WITH THE INTENTION OF EVADING THE BLOCKADE...IT IS IMMATERIAL THAT THE VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT IS AT THE TIME OF INTERCEPTION BOUND FOR NEUTRAL TERRITORY, IF ITS ULTIMATE DESTINATION IS THE BLOCKADED AREA."

ALL OF THE VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN THE GAZA FLOTILLA WERE WARNED BY THE IDF THAT THEY WERE APPROACHING AN AREA UNDER A NAVAL BLOCKADE, AND WERE OFFERED TO DOCK IN THE ASHDOD PORT TO DELIVER THEIR CARGO INTO GAZA. THE VESSELS EXPLICITLY DECLARED THEIR INTENT TO BREACH THE BLOCKADE. ISRAEL THEREFORE HAD THE RIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO CAPTURE THESE VESSELS FROM THE MOMENT THEY LEFT THEIR NEUTRAL STATE WATERS. "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I.E. THE VESSEL'S REFUSAL TO STOP OR OBEY WARNINGS TO REFRAIN FROM BREACHING THE BLOCKADE, USE OF FORCE WAS PERMISSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENABLE CAPTURE." HOWEVER, THE IDF TOOK NECESSARY STEPS TO CAPTURE THE VESSELS WITH PROPORTIONALITY, WITHOUT INTENT TO HARM THE PASSENGERS, AND THE SOLDIERS DID NOT ATTACK THE VESSELS WITH CANNONS OR ROCKETS. INTERCEPTION OF FIVE OF THE SIX SHIPS THAT ARRIVED PARTICIPATING IN THE FLOTILLA TOOK PLACE WITHOUT ANY INCIDENTS, AND THE PASSENGERS WERE BROUGHT SAFELY TO THE ASHDOD PORT. "IDF SOLDIERS TAKING PART IN THE CAPTURE MADE SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS TO REFRAIN FROM USING FORCE AND DID SO ONLY WHEN FACING CLEAR AND IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LIFE."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH
-- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE; URL:
[HTTP://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH](http://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: MEDIA, MILITARY, TELECOM
SERIAL: GMP20100706738014
COUNTRY: ISRAEL

SUBJECT: IDF STARTS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, ISSUES EDITION ON FLOTILLA, ACTIVE IN NEW MEDIA (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV THEMARKER ONLINE IN HEBREW 06 JUL 10 (U)

EXT:

REPORT BY ADI DOVRAT-MAZARITZ AND AYALA TZOREF: "IDF NEWSLETTER ENLISTED IN BATTLE FOR IMAGE." FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS, CONTACT OSC AT 1-800-205-8615 OR OSCINFO(-AT-)RCCB.OSIS.GOV. (U)

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DISC TRANSLATED TEXT

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ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100706738014001.JPG



IN RECENT MONTHS, THE IDF SPOKESMAN HAS STARTED DISTRIBUTING A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO LEADERS OF ISRAELI AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION IN HEBREW AND ENGLISH. IN THE LAST ONE, THE IDF CHOSE TO TALK ABOUT THE ISRAELI OFEK 9 SATELLITE, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED INTO SPACE SUCCESSFULLY, AND THE NUMBER OF HITS BY IDF FORCES AGAINST TERRORIST CELLS.

AMONG THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO WHOM THE NEWSLETTER WAS SENT IN ISRAEL ARE MKS AND RETIRED SENIOR IDF OFFICIALS, INCLUDING NEHEMYA DAGAN, ELI'EZER SHQEDI, YIFTAH RON-TAL, AND HERZL BODINGER, FORMER ISRAEL AIR FORCE COMMANDER.

THE NEWSLETTER WAS ALSO SENT TO THE HEAD OF THE ISRAEL BAR ASSOCIATION, CHAMBER OF AUDITORS, MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL COUNCILS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THOSE IN THE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY MINISTRY.

THOSE ABROAD TO WHOM THE NEWSLETTER WAS SENT INCLUDED THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (AIPAC), SYNAGOGUES, CHABAD INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES, JEWISH SCHOOLS, AND THE ORGANIZATION OF RETIRED US ARMY GENERALS.

THE IDF SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE HOPE IS THAT THE THOUSANDS OF ADDRESSEES WILL FORWARD THE NEWSLETTER AND THE INFORMATION IN IT. "WE RECKON THAT THE NEWSLETTER NOW REACHES HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, AND THE GOAL IS TO REACH MILLIONS," IT SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE IDF HAS RECENTLY PUT OUT A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER ON THE FLOTILLA AID TO GAZA ISSUE, WHICH NOTED THAT THIS "SPECIAL EDITION FOLLOWS THE PROVOCATIVE INCIDENT OF THE MARMARA PEOPLE ON THE HIGH SEAS." RECIPIENTS OF THE NEWSLETTER WERE ASKED TO HELP THE IDF DISTRIBUTE IT TO ACQUAINTANCES. THE NEWSLETTER CONTAINED A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE ATTACK ON THE FLOTILLA 13 COMMANDOS AND A VIDEO CLIP SHOWING THE WEAPONS THAT WERE FOUND ON THE SHIP.

THE IDF SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ACTIVE IN THE INTERNET ARENA FOR ABOUT A YEAR, AND SOLDIERS IN THE UNIT ARE RUNNING THE NEW MEDIA ACTIVITIES FOR THE ARMY: A PROFILE ON TWITTER, A PAGE ON FACEBOOK, AND A YOUTUBE CHANNEL. THE ACTIVITY HAS SERVED THE ARMY DURING THE RESCUE OPERATION IN HAITI AND IN ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH ONLINE CRITICISM OF THE IDF TAKEOVER OF THE FLOTILLA TO GAZA.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV THEMARKER ONLINE IN HEBREW -- WEBSITE OF INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DAILY PUBLISHED BY THE CHOCKEN GROUP; URL: HTTP://WWW.THEMARKER.COM

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MEDIA, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100526739005
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAELI OFFICER: FLOTILLA 'UNNECESSARY' PROVOCATION; MINISTRY DETAILS AID TO GAZA (U)

REF: 1. ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY: GAZA FLOTILLA PEOPLE MERELY PROMOTING 'RADICAL AGENDA' GMP20100525739010 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ENGLISH 0000 GMT 24 MAY 10 (U)
SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 26 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

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OSC SUMMARY

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DEF: FLOTILLA SAIL UNNECESSARY PROVOCATION

HANAN GREENBERG REPORTS AT 0803 GMT IN TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH, A CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT
MEDIA GROUP: "AS EIGHT SHIPS ARE MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN TOWARD THE GAZA STRIP IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF A EUROPEAN AID MISSION, COLONEL MOSHE LEVI, COMMANDER OF THE GAZA DISTRICT COORDINATION OFFICE,
TOLD REPORTERS WEDNESDAY THAT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF FOOD OR EQUIPMENT IN THE HAMAS-RULED TERRITORY.

"THE SAIL IS A PROVOCATIVE ACT THAT IS UNNECESSARY IN LIGHT OF THE FIGURES, WHICH INDICATE THAT THE HUMANITARIAN
SITUATION IN GAZA IS GOOD AND STABLE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT ISRAEL ALLOWS THE TRANSFER OF MANY PRODUCTS TO THE
STRIP, APART FROM THOSE WHICH MAY BE USED BY HAMAS FOR TERROR-RELATED ACTIVITIES. "WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH ANY
SHORTAGES IN ANY FIELD, AND WE ARE PERMITTING THE ENTRANCE OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF EQUIPMENT INTO GAZA, AS WELL AS
THE EXPORTING OF PRODUCE FROM GAZA," LEVI SAID. "OF COURSE, ANYTHING THAT MAY BE USED BY HAMAS TO BOOST ITS
MILITARY CAPABILITIES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN," HE ADDED.

"THE MISSION WAS ORGANIZED BY THE TURKISH GROUP IHH AS WELL AS OTHER LEFTIST EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS. THE
ACTIVISTS TAKING PART IN THE SAILING OPERATION ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR FEAR THAT THE IDF WILL PREVENT THEM FROM
ARRIVING AT THEIR DESTINATION."

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTS ISRAELI HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA

A FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE AT 0534 GMT HEADLINED "BEHIND THE HEADLINES: THE ISRAELI HUMANITARIAN LIFELINE TO
GAZA," NOTES IN ITS INTRODUCTORY PASSAGE: "DESPITE ATTACKS BY HAMAS, ISRAEL MAINTAINS AN ONGOING HUMANITARIAN
CORRIDOR FOR THE TRANSFER OF FOOD AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES TO GAZA, USED BY INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE RED CROSS." [CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL DOCUMENT.](#)

GPO RECOMMENDS GAZA CLUB/RESTAURANT TO FOREIGN REPORTERS

A 0638 GMT GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE PRESS RELEASE SAYS: "IN ANTICIPATION OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TRAVELING TO
GAZA TO COVER REPORTS OF ALLEGED HUMANITARIAN DIFFICULTIES IN THE HAMAS-RUN TERRITORY, AND AS PART OF EFFORTS TO
FACILITATE THE WORK OF JOURNALISTS IN THE REGION, THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE IS PLEASED TO BRING TO YOUR
ATTENTION THE ATTACHED MENU AND INFORMATION FOR THE ROOTS CLUB AND RESTAURANT IN GAZA.

"WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THE BEEF STROGANOFF AND CREAM OF SPINACH SOUP ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. YOU MAY WISH TO
ENQUIRE OF A POSSIBLE DISCOUNT UPON PRESENTATION OF A VALID PRESS CARD. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN
ENJOYABLE EVENING ON THE GREENS TERRACE GARDEN CAFE, WHICH SERVES "ECLECTIC FOOD AND FRESH COCKTAILS".

A VIDEO OF THE CLUB'S LUXURIOUS FACILITIES MAY BE VIEWED [HERE](#).

"BOOKING IN ADVANCE IS ADVISABLE, AND AS THE WEBSITE STATES, THE ROOTS CLUB IS FULLY EQUIPPED FOR HOSPITALITY AND
CORPORATE EVENTS. CORRESPONDENTS MAY ALSO WISH TO ENJOY A SWIM AT THE NEW OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL AS
REPORTED IN THE PALESTINIAN MEDIA TO HAVE BEEN OPENED LAST WEEK."

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100608739001
COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, WEST BANK, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMY CHIEF ORDERS EXTERNAL PROBE INTO FLOTILLA OP; GOV'T AWAITS US CONSENT (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 07 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

INTERNET

OSC SUMMARY

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IDF CHIEF ORDERS PROBE INTO FLOTILLA RAID

HANAN GREENBERG REPORTS IN TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH, A CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, AT 1940 GMT ON 7 JUNE: "IDF CHIEF OF STAFF LT.-GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI ON MONDAY ORDERED A FORMAL, EXTERNAL INQUIRY INTO OPERATION SKY WINDS -- THE NAVAL RAID OF THE GAZA AID FLOTILLA. THE PROBE, MEANT TO DERIVE OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DEADLY EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE ABOARD THE MARMARA -- THE SAIL'S LEAD VESSEL -- WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A PANEL OF EXPERTS HEADED BY MAJ-GEN (RET.) GIORA EILAND. THE MOVE IS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL, SINCE THE IDF IS USUALLY SATISFIED WITH INTERNAL INQUESTS CONDUCTED BY THE UNITS HEADING VARIOUS OPERATIONS. SIMILAR EXTERNAL INQUIRES WERE CONDUCTED AFTER GILAD SHALIT'S ABDUCTION AND THE SECOND LEBANON WAR.

"EILAND AND HIS TEAM WILL REVIEW POST-OP DEBRIEFINGS AND THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS, AS WELL AS THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL BODIES CONNECTED TO THE OPERATION. THE IDF SAID THE DECISION TO CREATE THE PANEL STEMMED FROM THE MILITARY'S WISH TO INVESTIGATE EVERY ASPECT OF THE DEADLY RAID IN FULL. JOINING EILAND WILL BE BRIGADIER-GENERAL AVIV KOHAVI, WHO ONCE HEADED THE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE, FORMER CHIEF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER BRIG.-GEN. (RES.) YUVAL HALAMISH AND COLONEL (RES.) BEN ZION DA'ABUL, WHO HELD SENIOR POSTS IN THE NAVY AND THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. THE PANEL IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS BY JULY.

"MILITARY SOURCES SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE PANEL'S WORK IT TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE CONCLUSIONS BY PROFESSIONAL WHO WERE NOT A PART OF THE OPERATION AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE AFFECTED BY THE RESULTS. THIS OBJECTIVITY, ADDED THE SOURCES, WOULD ALLOW THE PANEL TO DRAW A WIDER RANGE OF CONCLUSIONS, WHICH MAY SHED A DIFFERENT LIGHT ON THE EVENTS."

A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN HEBREW, OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE, AT 1849 GMT ON 7 JUNE NOTES THAT THE "TEAM WILL SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF BY SUNDAY, 4 JULY 2010." THE PRESS RELEASE ADDS THAT THE TEAM INCLUDES "A SENIOR AUDITOR FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S COMPTROLLER BUREAU.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000761

CABINET TO OK LEGAL PANEL 'ONLY AFTER' US BACKING PLEDGED

ANSHEL PFEFFER AND BARAQ RAVID REPORT AT 2253 GMT ON 7 JUNE IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH THAT "THE GOVERNMENT IS AWAITING A 'GREEN LIGHT' FROM THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER SOURCES ON A SEPARATE PROPOSAL FOR HOW TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S SEVEN SENIOR MINISTERS AGREED YESTERDAY TO ESTABLISH A PANEL OF JURISTS TO PROBE THE RAID, WHOSE WORK WOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE IDF PROBE. BUT A SENIOR GOVERNMENT SOURCE NOTED THAT IF THE TYPE OF PANEL PROPOSED, AND ITS MANDATE, IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON AND DOES NOT ENJOY THE BACKING OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, 'THERE IS NO POINT IN ESTABLISHING IT.' THE PROPOSED PANEL MUST ULTIMATELY BE APPROVED BY THE FULL CABINET, BUT A VOTE WILL BE HELD ONLY AFTER THE U.S. PROMISES TO BACK IT.

"DISCUSSIONS OVER THE NATURE OF THE COMMITTEE WERE CONDUCTED ALL DAY YESTERDAY BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S BUREAU AND THE WHITE HOUSE, CONTINUING WELL INTO THE NIGHT. DAN SHAPIRO, WHO HOLDS THE MIDDLE EAST PORTFOLIO AT THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WAS IN ISRAEL TO DISCUSS AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RAID WITH NETANYAHU'S ADVISERS.

"A SENIOR SOURCE IN JERUSALEM SAID THE PANEL WOULD BE COMPRISED OF TOP JURISTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AND MARINE LAW. TWO INTERNATIONAL JURISTS - AT LEAST ONE OF THEM AMERICAN - WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS, THE SOURCE ADDED.

"IN ADDITION TO INVESTIGATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE NAVY'S SEIZURE OF THE TURKISH-FLAGGED MAVI MARMARA, THE COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO BE CHARGED WITH EXAMINING THE LEGALITY OF ISRAEL'S NAVAL AND LAND BLOCKADE OF THE GAZA STRIP.

"THE PANEL WOULD ALSO EXAMINE WHETHER THE NAVY USED PROPORTIONATE OR DISPROPORTIONATE FORCE DURING ITS TAKEOVER OF THE SHIP. ISRAEL SAYS THE DEATHS OCCURRED AFTER THE NAVAL COMMANDOS WERE VICIOUS LY ATTACKED BY THE PASSENGERS AND WERE FORCED TO OPEN FIRE IN SELF-DEFENSE. HOWEVER, THE FORUM OF SEVEN MINISTERS DECIDED, THE PANEL WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERROGATE SOLDIERS OR OFFICERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE COMMANDO RAID. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER IT WILL BE ALLOWED TO INTERROGATE SENIOR IDF OFFICERS SUCH AS ASHKENAZI AND ISRAEL NAVY COMMANDER ADM. ELIEZER MAROM.

"AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PANEL'S PROPOSED COMPOSITION IS AWAITING APPROVAL FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO MUST FIRST ENSURE THAT NONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. 'WE WANT TO ANNOUNCE THE MAKEUP OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS MANDATE ONLY AFTER WE RECEIVE LEGAL AUTHORIZATION, AND ALSO A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE U.S.,' A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN JERUSALEM SAID YESTERDAY."

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100708736007
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: IDF PROBE REPORTEDLY SHARPLY CRITICIZES IDF PLANNING OF RAID AGAINST FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH 1534 GMT 08 JUL 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY RON BEN-YISHAY: "ARMY INQUIRY SLAMS FLOTILLA RAID'S PLANNING" (U)

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THE ILL-FATED FLOTILLA RAID THAT LEFT NINE PASSENGERS DEAD STEMMED FROM A COMPLACENT IDF CONCEPTION THAT WAS NOT THOROUGHLY EXAMINED, ACCORDING TO THE DRAFT REPORT PRODUCED BY THE IDF'S COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE INCIDENT.

THE INVESTIGATIVE TEAM, HEADED BY IDF MAJOR-GENERAL (RES.) GIORA EILAND DID NOT SINGLE OUT ANY MILITARY OFFICIALS IN ITS REPORT AND DID NOT INCLUDE PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AGAINST COMMANDERS OR COMBAT SOLDIERS, YNET LEARNED.

THE REPORT CREATES THE IMPRESSION THAT MILITARY PLANNERS CLUNG TO A CONCEPTION WHEREBY TROOPS SENT TO TAKE OVER THE MAVI MARMARA WOULD ENCOUNTER THE KIND OF LOW-LEVEL VIOLENCE SEEN ON PREVIOUS SHIPS, IN THE FORM OF SHOVING, PUNCHES, SPITING, AND CURSING.

WHILE NAVY COMMANDOES WERE EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS FOR SELF-DEFENSE PURPOSES, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WOULD NEED TO USE THEM WAS DEEMED UNLIKELY; HENCE, THE ARMY DID NOT PREPARE AN ALTERNATIVE TAKEOVER PLAN IN CASE OF MAJOR VIOLENCE ON BOARD THE TURKISH VESSEL.

MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE TEAM CONCLUDED THAT THE FAILURES LEADING UP TO THE RAID COULD BE CLASSIFIED INTO THREE GENERAL CATEGORIES:

MISHAPS IN THE VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND EXECUTING THE RAID, AND A FAILURE TO INTEGRATE NAVY INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, RESEARCH, AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE SOURCES.

PLANNING THAT DID NOT MAKE USE OF ALL RESOURCES THAT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THE ARMY TO REFRAIN FROM EMPLOYING FIREARMS, AND THE FAILURE TO PREPARE ALTERNATE MODES OF ACTION IN CASE OF UNEXPECTED COMPLICATIONS.

LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FORCES INVOLVED IN THE RAID.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000763

THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO IDF OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE EFFORTS TO HALT THE FLOTILLA. THEY WERE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESPONSES FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE REPORT.

GOVERNMENT FAILURE

THE FINAL REPORT WILL LIKELY NOT INCLUDE ONE IMPORTANT CONCLUSION REACHED BY EILAND. THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT HAD OFFICIALS TAKEN THE FLOTILLA AND ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES MORE SERIOUSLY, THE RAID'S COMPLICATIONS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

HOWEVER, THIS CONCLUSION WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE REPORT BECAUSE EILAND'S MANDATE INCLUDES ONLY THE IDF'S CONDUCT.

THE MAJOR-GENERAL BELIEVES THAT HAD THE GOVERNMENT TAKEN PREVENTATIVE POLITICAL MEASURES WHILE THE FLOTILLA WAS STILL BEING ORGANIZED, ITS DEPARTURE MAY HAVE BEEN PREVENTED OR, BARRING THIS THE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL DAMAGE IT CAUSED COULD HAVE BEEN MINIMIZED.

THE SECURITY CABINET COULD HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO EASE RESTRICTIONS ON GOODS ENTERING GAZA, THUS PRE-EMPTING THE FLOTILLA'S AIMS, EILAND CONCLUDED. IN EXCHANGE, THE GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE ASKED FOR EUROPEAN SUPPORT IN PREVENTING THE SAIL.

BUT IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT SUCH A SOLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED WITH SECURITY OFFICIALS MONTHS IN ADVANCE, THE MAJOR-GENERAL SAID.

EILAND MADE REMARKS TO THE SAME EFFECT TWO WEEKS AGO, DURING A SPEECH AT THE INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES.

"WHEN WE WAIT FOR AN INCIDENT TO HAPPEN, THE NUMBER OF RESPONSES IS LIMITED. HOWEVER, IF WE PREPARE SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE, THE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES AT OUR DISPOSAL BECOMES WIDER," HE SAID.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH – CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ISRAEL'S LARGEST MEDIA GROUP; URL: [HTTP://WWW.YNETNEWS.COM](http://www.ynetnews.com)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

257-2

P 061103Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 453700

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100606738010
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: IDF VIDEO: FLOTILLA TELLS ISRAELI NAVY 'GO BACK TO AUSCHWITZ,' 'DON'T FORGET 9/11' (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH 1509 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

PRESS RELEASE: "CLARIFICATION/CORRECTION REGARDING AUDIO TRANSMISSION BETWEEN ISRAELI NAVY AND FLOTILLA ON 31 MAY 2010." FOR A COPY OF THE VIDEO, CONTACT GSG(-UNDERSCORE-)GVP(-UNDERSCORE-)VIDEOOPS(-AT-)RCCB.OSIS.GOV OR THE OSC CUSTOMER CENTER AT (800) 205-8615. SELECTED VIDEO ALSO AVAILABLE AT OPENSOURCE.GOV. (U)

INTERNET

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ON 4 JUNE 2010, THE IDF RELEASED AN AUDIO RECORDING OF A RADIO TRANSMISSION BETWEEN THE ISRAELI NAVY VESSEL AND THE FLOTILLA SHIPS WHEREIN UNIDENTIFIED FLOTILLA PASSENGERS TELL THE ISRAELI NAVY VESSEL TO "SHUT UP, GO BACK TO AUSCHWITZ" AND "WE'RE HELPING ARABS GO AGAINST THE US, DON'T FORGET 9/11." THERE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONS REGARDING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE RECORDING, AS WELL AS ITS ATTRIBUTION TO A COMMUNICATION WITH THE MAVI MARMARA.

SO TO CLARIFY: THE AUDIO WAS EDITED DOWN TO CUT OUT PERIODS OF SILENCE OVER THE RADIO AS WELL AS INCOMPREHENSIBLE COMMENTS SO AS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO THE EXCHANGE. WE HAVE NOW UPLOADED THE ENTIRE SEGMENT OF 5 MINUTES AND 58 SECONDS IN WHICH THE EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AND THE COMMENTS WERE MADE.

THIS TRANSMISSION HAD ORIGINALLY CITED THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP AS BEING THE SOURCE OF THESE REMARKS. HOWEVER, DUE TO AN OPEN CHANNEL, THE SPECIFIC SHIP OR SHIPS IN THE "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" RESPONDING TO THE ISRAELI NAVY COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED. DURING RADIO TRANSMISSIONS BETWEEN ISRAELI NAVY AND THE SHIPS OF THE "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA ON 31 MAY 2010, THE ISRAELI NAVY SHIP ATTEMPTS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE 'DEFNE Y' ON CHANNEL 1-6. OTHER SHIPS FROM THE FLOTILLA RESPOND ON THE CHANNEL, WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES. AT SOME POINT DURING THE RADIO EXCHANGE, THE ISRAELI NAVY IS TOLD BY ONE OF THE SHIPS TO "SHUT UP, GO BACK TO AUSCHWITZ" (2:05) AND "DON'T FORGET 9/11" (5:42). BELOW IS BOTH THE EDITED AND UNEDITED VERSION OF THE EXCHANGE:

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100606738010001.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 00:27-MINUTE EDITED VERSION OF THE VIDEO

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100606738010002.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 02:39-MINUTE UNEDITED VERSION OF THE VIDEO

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE; URL: HTTP://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

258-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000765

P 311848Z MAY 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/54715 NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
RQOQ
SITE OSC RESTON VA 417366

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100531735018
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ANOTHER ISRAELI VIDEO SHOWS TROOPS BEING 'SEVERELY BEATEN' BY FLOTILLA PROTESTORS (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL TOWS MARMARA SHIP TO PORT, SHOWS VIDEO OF PASSENGERS' ATTACK ON IDF TROOPS GMP20100531735015 VOICE OF ISRAEL
NETWORK B HEBREW 1500 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)
SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH 1742 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:
POOL REPORT: "'MARMARA' SHIP DOCKS IN ASHDOD; VIDEO SHOWS ATTACK ON TROOPS." FOR A COPY OF THE VIDEO, CONTACT GSG(-UNDERSCORE-
GVP(-UNDERSCORE-)VIDEOOPS(-AT-)RCCB.OSIS.GOV OR THE OSC CUSTOMER CENTER AT (800) 205-8615. SELECTED VIDEO ALSO AVAILABLE AT
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ONLY. ANY REPRODUCTION, DISSEMINATION, OR USE IS SUBJECT TO THE OSC USAGE POLICY AND THE ORIGINAL COPYRIGHT. (U)
ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100531735018002.JPG) MAVI MARMARA ARRIVING AT ASHDOD PORT (PHOTO: AVI ROKACH, 31 MAY)

HOURS AFTER THE BLOODY CLASHES DURING THE IDF'S TAKEOVER, TURKEY'S "MAVI MARMARA" SHIP ARRIVED AT THE ASHDOD
PORT AND WAS TIED TO THE MILITARY PIER.

SOME 500 PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, WHO WERE NOT INJURED DURING THE IDF RAID, ARE ABOARD
THE SHIP. AFTER THE VESSEL SAFELY DOCKS IN THE PORT THE ACTIVISTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SHIP. SOME WILL LEAVE
ISRAEL AND THOSE WHO REFUSE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE BEERSHEBA DETENTION CENTER.

MEANWHILE, THE IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT RELEASED FOOTAGE (BELOW) FROM THE RAID, IN WHICH SOLDIERS ARE SEEN
BOARDING THE BOAT BY ROPE FROM HELICOPTERS AND THEN BEING SEVERELY BEATEN WITH METAL RODS BY THE PASSENGERS.

ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100531735018001.WMV) CLICK TO SEE SUBTITLED 1:02 MINUTE IDF VIDEO SHOWING ATTACK ON SOLDIERS
BOARDING 'MAVI MARMARA'

THE SHIP'S CAPTAINS DECIDED TO INDEPENDENTLY STEER IT TO ONE OF THE CIVILIAN PIERS BUT WERE ORDERED BY SOLDIERS TO
WITHDRAW AND PARK THE VESSEL WITH A NAVY ESCORT. DOZENS OF IDF SOLDIERS ARE ONBOARD THE SHIP'S BRIDGE DECK WHILE
MOST OF THE PASSENGERS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE VESSEL'S REAR.

SOUTHERN COMMAND CHIEF YOAV GALANT AND NAVY COMMANDER ELIEZER MAROM WAITED FOR THE SHIP AT THE PORT. ALSO
PRESENT ARE ARMY AND POLICE FORCES, INCLUDING THE POLICE'S SPECIAL UNIT AS WELL AS PRISON SERVICE VEHICLES.

ACCORDING TO SOURCES AT THE SITE THERE WILL BE A DELAY IN THE PASSENGERS' REMOVAL FROM THE SHIP AS THEY WILL ONLY
BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE ONE AT A TIME, AND THEN ESCORTED BY SEVERAL OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS INTO A BORDER CONTROL
STATION.

AFTER THE PASSENGERS ARE IDENTIFIED AND SORTED ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY THEY WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO A TENT AREA
SET UP AT THE SITE, WHICH CONTAINS 20 TENTS ACCORDING TO THE VARIOUS NATIONALITIES.

THERE THEY WILL BE QUESTIONED BY SECURITY FORCES BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE ELA PRISON IN BEERSHEBA.

SEVERAL FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES TRIED TO ENTER THE SITE BUT WERE DENIED ACCESS BY SECURITY FORCES. MEANWHILE,
PASSENGERS OF THE OTHER FLOTILLA SHIPS WHO PREVIOUSLY SURRENDERED WITHOUT RESISTANCE ARE MAKING THEIR WAY TO
THE BEERSHEBA PRISON ON BUSES.

IT WAS CLEARED FOR PUBLICATION TUESDAY THAT 50 COMBATANTS OF THE BORDER GUARD'S RIOT CONTROL UNIT ASSISTED THE
NAVY FIGHTERS IN SEIZING THE SHIP.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH - CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ISRAEL'S LARGEST MEDIA
GROUP; URL: HTTP://WWW.YNETNEWS.COM

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TABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000766

P 021726Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZDADA/AFIAA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 433446

WARNING: TOPIC: TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100602738006
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY

SUBJ: IDF RELEASES NEW FOOTAGE SHOWING FLOTILLA VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAELI COMMANDOS (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH 01 JUN 10 02 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

FOR A COPY OF THE VIDEO, CONTACT GSG_GVP_VIDEOOPS@RCCB.OSIS.GOV OR THE OSC CUSTOMER CENTER AT (800) 205-8615. SELECTED VIDEO ALSO AVAILABLE AT OPENSOURCE.GOV. FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS, CONTACT THE OSC CUSTOMER CENTER AT (800) 205-8615 OR OSCINFO@RCCB.OSIS.GOV. (U)

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THE IDF SPOKESPERSON'S OFFICE ON 1 AND 2 JUNE RELEASED NEW FOOTAGE OF GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS ATTACKING THE ISRAELI NAVAL COMMANDOS, AS WELL AS PICTURES OF THE EQUIPMENT FOUND ON BOARD.

A PRESS RELEASE ON AT 1808 GMT ON 1 JUNE SAYS: "DURING THE OPERATION TO REDIRECT THE GAZA FLOTILLA ON MONDAY, MAY 31, IDF COMMANDOS BOARDED THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP. ON THE OTHER FIVE SHIPS WHICH WERE PART OF THE FLOTILLA, THE INTERCEPTION TOOK PLACE WITH NO VIOLENCE. WHEN THE SOLDIERS ATTEMPTED TO BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA, ACTIVISTS ON BOARD ATTACKED THE SOLDIERS AND STOLE TWO PISTOLS IN A PREPARED ATTACK. IN THIS FOOTAGE YOU CAN HEAR THE RADIO EXCHANGE BETWEEN SOLDIERS ON THEIR WAY TO THE BRIDGE AND THE IDF SHIP. THE SOLDIERS REPORT ENCOUNTERING LIVE FIRE AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE." (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100602738006001.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW 00:55-MINUTE VIDEO ENTITLED "FLOTILLA PASSENGERS FIRE LIVE AMMUNITION AT IDF."

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100602738006002.JPG) "SOME OF THE NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES DISCOVERED ON BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP" (CAPTION (-PLUS-) PHOTO: IDF SPOKESPERSON)

"ON TUESDAY, CAPTAIN R., A NAVAL SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDER OF ONE OF THE SQUADRONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERCEPTION OF THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH IDF RADIO: 'THERE WERE TERRORISTS WHO WANTED TO KILL US. I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT ANY OTHER WAY. WE USED EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE IN ORDER THAT THOSE WHO SHOULDN'T GET HURT -- WOULD NOT GET HURT.' CAPTAIN R. WAS STABBED IN THE STOMACH AND WAS WOUNDED IN HIS ARM. 'AFTER I DESCENDED FROM THE HELICOPTER, I WAS IN FRONT OF SEVERAL TERRORISTS AND I

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000767

COCKED MY WEAPON WHEN I SAW ONE OF THEM COME TOWARDS ME WITH A KNIFE. I FIRED ONE SHOT, AND AT THAT POINT, ANOTHER 20 PEOPLE STARTED COMING AT ME FROM EVERY DIRECTION. THEY JUMPED AT ME AND HURLED ME TO THE LOWER DECK. AT THE SAME TIME, I FELT INTENSE PAIN IN MY STOMACH. I SAW A KNIFE STABBED INTO MY STOMACH AND I PULLED IT OUT. I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET TO THE LOWER LEVEL, WHERE THERE WAS ANOTHER MOB OF PEOPLE. I, ALONG WITH OTHER TEAM MEMBERS, JUMPED INTO THE WATER. THE THIRD COMMANDO THAT WAS WITH US WAS HIT IN THE HEAD AND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS,' HE SAID.

"ANOTHER NAVAL SOLDIER, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERCEPTION OF THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP AND SUSTAINED A BROKEN ARM WHILE UNDER ATTACK BY THE SHIP'S PASSENGERS, DESCRIBED HOW THE SOLDIERS WERE SHOT AT FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE SHIP'S CORRIDOR. 'I SAW TWO FROM MY GROUP LYING FLAT ON THE GROUND. FROM THE OPENING OF THE CORRIDOR THEY WERE SHOOTING AT THEM THE ENTIRE TIME WITH LIVE FIRE, BULLETS. WE IDENTIFIED A GUN BARREL, AND ONE OF US SHOT AT THE GUY HOLDING IT. AFTERWARDS WE ENTERED AND HE WASN'T THERE. ABOUT 30 MEN, THEY SIMPLY CAME FOR WAR. WE CAME TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT, TO SPEAK TO THOSE WHO WENT DOWNSTAIRS, BUT EACH OF US WHO DESCENDED WAS SIMPLY ATTACKED.' 'THERE WERE SOME FROM MY GROUP WHO WERE THROWN TO THE LOWER FLOOR, AND THE PASSENGERS TOOK THEIR EQUIPMENT. THEY JUMPED TO THE WATER AS A LAST RESORT. WE WERE TOLD THAT IF THEY DIDN'T LISTEN, WE SHOULD SHOOT AT THEIR LEGS WITH OUR PAINTBALL GUNS. THE PISTOL WAS TO BE USED ONLY IF WE REALLY FELT OUR LIVES IN DANGER, WHICH WASN'T EXPECTED TO HAPPEN. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY ABNORMAL. BUT IN THE END, THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED.' 'WE CAME WITH THE INTENTION OF STOPPING THE SHIP AND TAKING IT TO ASHDOD, AND WE DID NOT COME WITH THE WEAPONS WE USUALLY HAVE; WE CAME FOR SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.'"

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100602738006003.JPG)

"A NUMBER OF THE BULLET PROOF VESTS DISCOVERED ON BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA, SUGGESTING PASSENGERS WERE PREPARED FOR A GUNFIGHT"
(CAPTION (-PLUS-) PHOTO: IDF SPOKESPERSON)

JONATAN URICH REPORTS AT 0747 GMT ON 2 JUNE: "ON BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP THAT ARRIVED AS PART OF THE FLOTILLA TO GAZA WAS A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 40 PEOPLE WITH NO IDENTIFICATION PAPERS, WHO ARE MERCENARIES BELONGING TO THE AL-QA'IDA TERROR ORGANIZATION. THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE ISRAELI SECURITY CABINET, WHICH GATHERED ON TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 1 FOR A SPECIAL MEETING. ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE DISCLOSED DURING THAT MEETING, THE TERRORISTS WORE BULLET-PROOF VESTS, AND CARRIED WITH THEM NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES, WEAPONS, AND LARGE SUMS OF CASH. EACH PERSON IN THIS GROUP HAD THE EXACT SAME AMOUNT OF CASH IN HIS POCKETS. WHILE THE CIVILIAN PROTESTORS WERE SENT TO THE LOWER DECK DURING THE SHAYETET NAVAL SPECIAL FORCE'S INTERCEPTION OF THE SHIP, THE GROUP DIVIDED INTO CELLS AND REMAINED ON THE UPPER DECK IN ORDER TO ATTACK THE SOLDIERS.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000768

"AN ANNOUNCEMENT DELIVERED AT THE COMPLETION OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING STATED THAT BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE OF THESE SHIPS INTO GAZA IS AN ACT OF SELF DEFENSE. THE CABINET PLACES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT ON THOSE WHO STARTED THE VIOLENCE WHICH CLEARLY ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF THE IDF SOLDIERS, AND COMMENDS THE IDF FOR THE WAY IT RESPONDED. THE MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT WILL CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 2.

"PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU SAID DURING THE MEETING THAT HE REGRETS ALL LOSS OF LIFE, BUT GIVES FULL SUPPORT TO THE IDF. 'THIS WAS NOT A FLOTILLA FOR PEACE, BUT INSTEAD WAS A VIOLENT AND ORGANIZED FORCE. WE HAVE FILMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH SHOW WHAT OUR SOLDIERS FACED, BUT THE LAST THING THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS SHIP IS THAT IT WAS A FLOTILLA OF PEACE,' HE SAID. 'WE KNOW FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OPERATION CAST LEAD, AND BEFOREHAND, THAT WEAPONS ENTERING THE GAZA STRIP ARE USED AGAINST OUR CIVILIANS. WITHIN GAZA THERE IS A TERROR STATE AIDED BY IRAN, AND THEREFORE WE ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE ENTERING OF WEAPONS TO GAZA BY LAND, AIR AND SEA. ON THE FRANCOPIA SHIP ALONE WE CAUGHT APPROXIMATELY 200 TONS OF WEAPONS WHICH WERE SMUGGLED BY IRAN TO HIZBALLAH,' HE ADDED. THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT 'OPENING A MARITIME CHANNEL TO GAZA WILL PRESENT A GRAVE DANGER TO THE SECURITY OF OUR CIVILIANS. THEREFORE, WE ARE UPHOLDING THE POLICIES OF THE MARITIME BLOCKADE, AND CHECK THE SHIPS. THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH THESE POLICIES WITHOUT CHECKING THE CONTENTS OF THE SHIPS. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON AND CRITICISM OF THIS POLICY, BUT WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL AND HER RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE.'"

ELANA KIEFFER REPORTS AT 1153 GMT ON 2 JUNE: "VIDEO FOOTAGE SHOWS SHAYETET NAVAL SPECIAL FORCES ATTEMPTING TO INTERCEPT THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP, WHICH IS PART OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA. PASSENGERS ON BOARD ARE SEEN THROWING CHAINS, METAL PIPES AND A STUN GRENADE AT THE SOLDIERS WHILE ATTACKING THEM WITH WATER HOSES. THE PASSENGERS LATER USE THE SAME METAL PIPES TO BEAT THE SOLDIERS WHO BOARDED THE MARMARA. THE SOLDIERS CAN BE SEEN ARMED WITH PAINTBALL GUNS, TO BE USED AS A MEANS OF RIOT DISPERSAL. FIVE OTHER SHIPS ARRIVED TO THE AREA WITH THE FLOTILLA. HOWEVER, IDF INTERCEPTION TOOK PLACE WITH NO INCIDENT. THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD THESE OTHER SHIPS COOPERATED NONVIOLENTLY WITH IDF SOLDIERS AND THERE WERE NO INJURIES." (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100602738006004.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW 01:13-MINUTE VIDEO ENTITLED "MAVI MARMARA PASSENGERS ATTACK IDF BEFORE SOLDIERS BOARD."

"THE ISRAELI SECURITY CABINET GATHERED FOR A SPECIAL MEETING ON TUESDAY (JUNE 1), AND INTELLIGENCE SHARED IN THAT MEETING DISCLOSED THAT A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 40 PEOPLE WITH NO IDENTIFICATION WEARING BULLET PROOF VESTS AND USING WEAPONS ARE MERCENARIES OF THE AL-QA'IDA TERROR ORGANIZATION. THE CABINET PLACES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT ON THOSE WHO STARTED THE VIOLENCE, WHICH CLEARLY PLACED THE SOLDIERS' LIVES IN DANGER."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE; URL: [HTTP://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH](http://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000769

311602Z MAY 10
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SITE OSC RESTON VA 416718

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100531735015
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL TOWS MARMARA SHIP TO PORT, SHOWS VIDEO OF PASSENGERS' ATTACK ON IDF TROOPS (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL BRINGS 100 FLOTILLA PASSENGERS TO ASHDOD PORT, TURKISH ENVOY VISITS WOUNDED GMP20100531735013 VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK
B HEBREW 1400 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 1500 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

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THE HUGE SHIP, MARMARA, WHICH THIS MORNING WAS THE SCENE OF THE VIOLENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN IDF TROOPS AND
THE GAZA FLOTILLA PARTICIPANTS, IS NOW ENTERING ASHDOD PORT WITH OVER 500 FOREIGN NATIONALS ON BOARD. EARLIER,
THREE SHIPS WERE TOWED TO THE PORT WITH APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE ON BOARD. ABOUT 80 OF THEM WERE ARRESTED AND
WILL BE TAKEN TO BEERSHEBA PRISON. FOURTEEN WILL BE DEPORTED FROM ISRAEL VIA BEN-GURION AIRPORT.

OUR CORRESPONDENT ASAD POZAYLOV REPORTS THAT THE PASSENGERS IN QUESTION ARE CITIZENS OF JORDAN, LEBANON,
MOROCCO, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES, AND AUSTRALIA.

ANOTHER SOLDIER WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THIS MORNING'S CLASH AT SEA HAS BEEN TAKEN TO HAIFA'S RAMBAM HOSPITAL. HE IS
IN LIGHT CONDITION. THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS TO SIX. ONE OF THE SOLDIERS IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION,
TWO WERE MODERATELY INJURED, ONE SUSTAINED LIGHT TO MODERATE WOUNDS, AND THE REMAINING TWO WERE LIGHTLY
HURT. THIRTY-FOUR FOREIGN NATIONALS WERE ALSO HURT IN THE INCIDENT. THEY ARE ALL IN MODERATE TO SERIOUS
CONDITION. THE INJURED ARE MAINLY SUFFERING FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS, WHILE THE IDF SOLDIERS ALSO SUSTAINED BLOWS
FROM BLUNT INSTRUMENTS AND STAB WOUNDS. THIS WAS REPORTED BY OUR CORRESPONDENTS DORON SHEFER AND KARMIT
RE'UVEN.

A TURKISH DIPLOMAT TOLD NETWORK B THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT RELAYED ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE
KILLED IN THE FLOTILLA CLASH. THE SOURCE TOLD OUR CORRESPONDENT ERAN SIQOREL THAT TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
TURKISH EMBASSY IN ISRAEL WERE VISITING THE HOSPITALS AND ASHDOD PORT. PASSAGE OMITTED COVERED IN PREVIOUSLY-
FILED MATERIAL

ISRAEL IS DISTRIBUTING VIDEO CLIPS DOCUMENTING THE HARSH VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST THE NAVAL COMMANDOS. THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BRIEFED THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND EXPLAINED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE IDF OPERATION.
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANI AYALON TOLD CORRESPONDENTS IN THE KNESSET THAT IT CANNOT BE SAID WITH CERTAINTY
THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS NOT CONVINCED BY ISRAEL'S POSITION. AYALON STRESSED THAT THERE WERE ARMED
EXTREMISTS ON BOARD THE SHIP WHO DID NOT HESITATE TO USE THEIR WEAPONS.

ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100531735015001.WMV) CLICK FOR 1:00 MIN IDF SPOKESMAN VIDEO SHOWING PROTESTORS ATTACKING IDF
SOLDIERS ON SHIP.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW -- STATE-FUNDED RADIO, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000770

P 060814Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZDADA/AFIAA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 453150

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100605739001
COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, IRELAND, ISRAEL, MALAYSIA, WEST BANK

SUBJ: IDF VIDEO SHOWS 5 JUN SHIP TAKEOVER; NETANYAHU NOTES DIFFERENCE WITH 31 MAY EVENTS (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL: NO WEAPONS FOUND ON AID VESSEL, IRISH GOV'T'S 'MODERATE' STAND PRAISED GMP20100605736006 VOICE
OF ISRAEL NETWORK B HEBREW 1000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

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IDF: USE OF FORCE 'UNNECESSARY' IN RACHEL CORRIE TAKEOVER

TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH, OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF
THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE, CARRIES A PRESS RELEASE AT 1014 GMT,
REPORTING: "ON SATURDAY (JUNE 5), IDF NAVAL COMMANDOS BOARDED THE
SEVENTH FLOTILLA SHIP ATTEMPTING TO BREAK THE MARITIME CLOSURE OF
THE GAZA STRIP WITH THE FULL COMPLIANCE OF THE SHIP'S CREW
MEMBERS. NO VIOLENCE OR INJURIES AMONGST THE SOLDIERS OR THE
SHIP'S CREW WERE REPORTED, AS THE USE OF FORCE WAS UNNECESSARY
AND NO SHOTS WERE FIRED. THE SHIP AND ITS CREW ARE CURRENTLY
BEING LED TO THE ASHDOD PORT AND WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE
CUSTODY OF THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. AFTER A SECURITY
INSPECTION, ITS HUMANITARIAN AID CARGO WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE
GAZA STRIP FOR THE USE BY THE GAZAN CIVILIAN POPULATION.

"DURING THE MORNING HOURS NAVAL FORCES HAD IDENTIFIED THE SHIP
AND ISSUED NUMEROUS CALLS FOR IT TO DOCK IN THE ASHDOD PORT AND
TRANSFER THE GOODS VIA THE FORMAL LAND CROSSINGS TO THE GAZA
STRIP. THE CALLS WERE IGNORED AND IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE BOAT
INTENDED TO REACH GAZA'S SHORES. THE ISRAELI NAVY CONTACTED THE
BOAT AND CLARIFIED AGAIN THAT THE GAZA STRIP WAS UNDER MARITIME
CLOSURE AND DUE TO SECURITY RISKS IN THE AREA, IT WOULD NOT BE
PERMITTED TO ENTER." A SOUNDLESS VIDEO CLIP POSTED IN THE IDF
REPORT SHOWS "AERIAL FOOTAGE OF IDF SOLDIERS BOARDING THE 7TH
FLOTILLA BOAT." (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED:
GMP20100605739001001.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 47-SECOND VIDEO IN WMV FORMAT.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000771

NETANYAHU: CASUALTIES CAUSED ONLY ON SHIP CARRYING 'VIOLENT RADICALS'

STATE-FUNDED, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW ADDS AT 1200 GMT: "A MILITARY SOURCE TOLD OUR ARMY AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT KARMELA MENASHE THAT THE SHIP TAKEOVER HAD BEEN CALM BECAUSE THIS SHIP CARRIED GENUINE PEACE ACTIVISTS. OUR CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT THE PASSENGERS -- MOSTLY IRISH AND MALAYSIAN -- WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO BEN-GURION AIRPORT AND SENT BACK TO THEIR COUNTRIES. THE CARGO IN THE HULL WILL BE INSPECTED IN THE ASHDOD PORT, AND THE HUMANITARIAN EQUIPMENT WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE SHIP WAS CARRYING NO WEAPONS, BUT 500 TONNES OF CEMENT WERE FOUND. ITS TRANSFER TO THE STRIP IS PROHIBITED BECAUSE IT MAY BE USED FOR HAMAS'S MILITARY NEEDS. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WILL LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING THE CEMENT TO GAZA UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BODY. OUR CORRESPONDENT WAS TOLD THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT THE CEMENT TO REACH HAMAS AND BE USED TO BUILD BUNKERS, BUT RATHER THAT IT SHOULD BE USED FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS ONLY."

"PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU SAYS THAT, TODAY WE SAW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SAIL OF PEACE ACTIVISTS AND ONE OF HATRED. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THESE PEACE ACTIVISTS, BUT WE RESPECT THEIR RIGHT TO EXPRESS VIEWS DIFFERENT FROM OURS. CONVERSELY, THE HATRED SAIL WAS ORGANIZED BY TERROR-SUPPORTING, VIOLENT RADICALS. NETANYAHU STRESSED THAT ISRAEL APPLIED THE SAME PROCEDURE TO BOTH SAILS: IT ENFORCED THE NAVAL BLOCKADE TO PREVENT THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS FOR HAMAS BUT TRANSFERRED INSPECTED GOODS TO GAZA. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES ON THE BOAT THAT WAS STOPPED TODAY AND ON FIVE OF THE SIX PREVIOUS ONES. THE ONLY CASUALTIES WERE INCURRED ON A SHIP THAT CARRIED TERROR-SUPPORTING ISLAMIC ACTIVISTS, WHO WAITED FOR SOLDIERS WITH AXES AND KNIVES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. NETANYAHU NOTED THAT ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE AND WILL NOT ALLOW GAZA TO BECOME AN IRANIAN PORT."

ATTACHMENTS: (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100605739001002.WMV) NAVY5JUN10(-UNDERSCORE-)1.WMV

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

261-3

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000772

I 061104Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/54715 NELLIS AFB NV
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SITE OSC RESTON VA 453707

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100606738011
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAEL: IDF, POLITICIANS TRADE ACCUSATIONS OVER BOTCHED GAZA FLOTILLA RAID (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 06 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY AMOS HAR'EL: "MILITARY, POLITICIANS BLAME EACH OTHER OVER FLOTILLA BUNGLE" (U)

INTERNET

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TENSIONS ARE MOUNTING BETWEEN MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS OVER THE RAID ON THE TURKISH AID SHIP MAVI MARMARA. EACH SIDE SUSPECTS THE OTHER OF TRYING TO BLAME IT FOR THE BUNGLED OPERATION AND CONSEQUENT CRISIS. THE KIND OF INQUIRY PANEL INTO THE AFFAIR HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED, BUT THE DEBATES ABOUT IT ARE UPping TENSIONS AMONG THE TOP DEFENSE AND POLITICAL ECHELONS. APPARENTLY, THE FAVORED IDEA IS TO SET UP A CIVILIAN, RATHER THAN A MILITARY, INQUIRY -- WITH THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF A FOREIGN OBSERVER. THE POLITICIANS LOOK AT THE BUNGLED RAID AND SEE THE CAUSE IN THE OPERATION'S PLANNING -- IN THE NAVY AND FAULTY INTELLIGENCE -- SO THE NAVAL COMMANDO LACKED A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE KIND OF CONFRONTATION AWAITING THE SOLDIERS ON DECK.

THE GENERAL STAFF, HOWEVER, SAYS IT WAS PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU AND DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAQ WHO WERE COMPLACENT ABOUT THE FLOTILLA AND ASSESSED THAT THE RAID WOULD NOT RAISE SUCH WORLD REACTIONS. IT APPEARS THAT THE DEBATE IN THE SEPTET FORUM WAS RELATIVELY SUPERFICIAL AND DID NOT GO INTO THE OPERATION'S DETAILS. NETANYAHU WAS IN CANADA DURING THE RAID AND CUT HIS VISIT SHORT FOLLOWING THE INTERNATIONAL FLAYING BROUGHT ON BY THE INCIDENT.

IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS THAT COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS GROUPS PREPARING FOR THE FLOTILLA'S ARRIVAL WAS DEFICIENT. THE ISRAEL NAVY AND GENERAL STAFF HELD DOZENS OF ADVANCE MEETINGS OVER WEEKS, BUT VIRTUALLY NONE INVOLVED OTHER RELEVANT OFFICES LIKE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERTS. DUE TO THE RESTRICTED INVOLVEMENT, THE IDF LED THE PREPARATIONS NOT ONLY FOR THE OPERATION ITSELF BUT FOR ALL ASPECTS. ISRAEL NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL EL'EZER MAROM AND THE NAVY DRAFTED THE OPERATION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI AND HIS DEPUTY, MAJOR GENERAL BENNY GANTZ.

THE INSUFFICIENT INTELLIGENCE FOR THE OPERATION IS RENEWING THE GRUMBLES BETWEEN THE IDF LEADERSHIP AND THE MOSAD. THE IDF SAYS THE ESPIONAGE AGENCY DID NOT PROPERLY USE ITS RESOURCES IN GATHERING INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE FLOTILLA. THE GENERAL STAFF'S INTELLIGENCE SECTION WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY THAT INTELLIGENCE THAT COULD HAVE IMPROVED THE NAVY'S PREPARATION FOR TAKING OVER THE SHIPS WAS "STUCK IN THE PIPES" AND DID NOT REACH THE NAVY IN TIME. THE ISRAEL NAVY IS DEFENDING THE RAID'S OPERATIVE PLAN AND CLAIMS IT PROVIDED ADEQUATE SOLUTIONS EVEN TO THE UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES ON BOARD. HOWEVER, CRITICISM OF THE OPERATION IN THE IDF IS INCREASING.

SENIOR OFFICERS SAID OVER THE WEEKEND IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE COMBATANTS' BRAVERY AND THEIR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE DURING THE TAKEOVER AND THE INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN. OFFICERS HAVE SLAMMED THE ABSENCE OF THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE AND THE DECISION TO RAID SIX SHIPS SIMULTANEOUSLY, WHICH PREVENTED CONCENTRATING A LARGER FORCE ON THE MAVI MARMARA. BY WAY OF COMPARISON, THE NAVY ON SATURDAY TOOK OVER THE GAZA-BOUND IRISH SHIP RACHEL CORRIE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. COMMANDOS BOARDED THE SHIP, ENCOUNTERING NO RESISTANCE, AND TOWED IT TO ASHDOD PORT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000773

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SITE OSC RESTON VA 326081

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, HUMAN RIGHTS
SERIAL: GMP20101014788002
COUNTRY: TURKEY, ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: TURKEY: IHH RELEASES VIDEO OF GAZA FLOTILLA 'DIARY' (U)

SOURCE: ISTANBUL IHH IN.ENGLISH, TURKISH 07 OCT 10 (U)

TEXT:
FOR A COPY OF THE VIDEO, CONTACT GSG_GVP_VIDEOS@RCCB.OSIS.GOV OR THE OSC CUSTOMER CENTER AT (800) 205-8615. SELECTED VIDEO ALSO
AVAILABLE AT

OPENSOURCE.GOV. (U)
INTERNET

OSC SUMMARY
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ON 7 OCTOBER 2010, THE FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, IHH, POSTS A 16-MINUTE VIDEO ENTITLED "THE DIARY OF MAVI MARMARA," ON THE "MAVI MARMARA" WALL IN FACEBOOK. THE VIDEO DEPICTS THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FLOTILLA'S JOURNEY TO GAZA, THE JOURNEY ITSELF, THE ISRAELI ARMY RAID, AND ITS AFTERMATH.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 16-MINUTE VIDEO.](#)

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATED TEXT OF THE VIDEO:

THE MAVI MARMARA SWAYED IN THE WATERS OF THE BOSPORUS JUST LIKE WHITE PEACE DOVES SWAYED IN THE AIR. THE RAIN DURING THE DEPARTURE CEREMONY WAS VIEWED AS GRACE, NOBODY TRIED TO GET AWAY TO AVOID GETTING WET. THE AREA GOT MORE AND MORE CROWDED, HANDS AND HEARTS WERE UNITED. THEY BECAME ONE; THEY BECAME THE ONLY AND SHOUTED: "DAMN ISRAEL, LONG LIVE OUR PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE."

INAUDIBLE SLOGANS ARE HEARD DURING THE SAILING OF THE SHIP EVERYBODY KNEW THAT WHEN THE AID CONVOY WAS FIRST DISCUSSED, THE WINNER OF THIS DIFFICULT JOURNEY WAS QUITE CLEAR. IN EVERY STATE AND CONDITION, THE WINNERS WOULD BE MUSLIMS AND THE AGGRIEVED PEOPLE OF GAZA; WHILE THE LOSER WOULD BE THE CRUEL, TERRORIST STATE OF ISRAEL.

BEFORE THE FIRST CONVOY DEPARTED FROM TURKEY, THE UPCOMING JOURNEY OF THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA WAS ANNOUNCED. EFFORTS HAD STARTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2010. MEETINGS, CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS WERE ORGANIZED EVERYWHERE. EVERYBODY JOINED IN ON THE EFFORTS FOR THE SHIPS TO SAY "VIRA BISMILLAH" MEANING "HEAVE UP THE ANCHOR IN THE NAME OF GOD".

WRITERS, ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS, AND VOLUNTEERS TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS TO DELIVER THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE OF GAZA TO THE PEOPLE OF ANATOLIA.

FIRST A CARGO SHIP WAS PURCHASED. IT WAS IMMEDIATELY NAMED GAZZE. AFTERWARDS THE MAVI MARMARA AND LASTLY, DEFNE Y. GAZZE DEPARTED FOR ISKENDERUN TO LOAD ITS SHIPMENT. MAVI MARMARA PICKED UP ITS FIRST 42 PASSENGERS FROM SARAYBURNU. AND ON 22 MAY THE CAPTAIN OF THE MAVI MARMARA SAID "VIRA BISMILLAH." THE FIRST STOP WAS ANTALYA.

EVERYBODY WAS TRYING TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THEIR DUTIES AND THEIR POSITIONS. BECAUSE SOME OF THESE FIRST PASSENGERS WERE GOING TO MANAGE THE BUFFETS, SOME WERE IN CHARGE OF THE TRASH COLLECTION, SOME WOULD CLEAN AND SOME WOULD BECOME STEWARDS. WHILE THIS WAS TAKING PLACE, JUST TWO DAYS LATER, THE NEXT GROUP OF PASSENGERS STARTED ARRIVING AT ANTALYA. THE PEOPLE OF ANTALYA WERE HOUSING ALL PASSENGERS AT THE KEPEZ SPORTS CENTER. EVEN THOSE ARRIVING FROM THE FARTHEST POINT, THE IRISH, THE AMERICANS WERE NOT AWAY, BUT INSTEAD IN THEIR HOME FIELDS. AND THE SPORTS CENTER WITNESSED PROBABLY ITS MOST CROWDED DAYS.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000784

APPROXIMATELY 600 PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND TURKEY TOOK THEIR PLACES IN THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP AFTER EACH COMPLETED THEIR PASSPORT PROCESS. THEY SET SAIL FROM ANTALYA ON THE NIGHT THAT TIED 27 MAY TO 28 MAY. THE COURAGEOUS PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN SAID "VIRA BISMILLAH" TO BRING LIGHT TO THE DARKNESS IN GAZA.

HOW WOULD THEY HAVE KNOWN THAT TWO DAYS LATER THE RAVING, TERRORIST ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD ATTACK THE SHIP BEFORE THE SUN ROSE? NOBODY WAS EVER EXPECTING SUCH A VIOLENT ATTACK.

THE JOURNEY ON BOARD WAS FILLED WITH AMAZING WEALTH. EVERYBODY WAS MEETING EACH OTHER; DEEP CONVERSATIONS STARTED ONE AFTER THE OTHER. MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA CONTINUED THEIR LIVE COVERAGE THAT THEY STARTED AS THEY DEPARTED FROM ANTALYA, PROVIDING AN UNINTERRUPTED CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FLOTILLA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. IN ONE OF THESE REPORTS, BULENT YILDIRIM, PRESIDENT OF THE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION, OR IHH, SAID THE FOLLOWING REGARDING ISRAEL'S PREPARATIONS AND THREATS: "HOW ARE THEY GOING TO STOP THIS SHIP IN THE BIG OCEAN IF WE DON'T STOP? THEY ARE GOING TO APPROACH THE SIDES WITH STORM BOATS; THEY WILL TRY TO SLOW US DOWN IN THE FRONT. THIS SHIP WON'T STOP, IT WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE. WE WON'T ADMIT THOSE WHO WANT TO COME ONBOARD. WE WILL SHOW RESISTANCE. IN THE END, WE WILL SHOW THIS TO THE WHOLE WORLD THROUGH LIVE BROADCASTS, AND THE WORLD WILL HAVE SEEN THAT ISRAELI WAR SHIPS, MAYBE TENS OR HUNDREDS OF WAR SHIPS, WERE NOT ABLE TO HANDLE TWO AID SHIPS. "PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, FROM INFANTS IN THEIR MOTHERS' LAPS TO A BISHOP OVER 80 YEARS OF AGE, WERE ON BOARD. THERE WERE WOMEN WHO JOINED THE FLOTILLA WITH THEIR 16-YEAR-OLD SONS. THERE WAS EVEN A BRITISH MAN, WHO CONVERTED TO ISLAM DURING THIS JOURNEY AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO MOHAMMED FATIH. WHILE ISRAEL WAS PLANNING ITS MALICIOUS ATTACK HE WAS LEARNING HOW TO READ THE KORAN FROM MR. SERIF FROM GAZIANTEP. HE LEARNED HOW TO RE AD THE KORAN IN EXACTLY TWO AND A HALF HOURS.

THE TRIP WAS EXTREMELY EVENTFUL FOR TWO DAYS. SOME SAT AT THE CORNER AND READ THE KORAN, SOME ENJOYED DEEP CONVERSATIONS AND SOME SANG RELIGIOUS CHANTS AND FOLK SONGS.

NATURAL SOUND BREAK OF CROWD SINGING RELIGIOUS CHANT ISRAEL'S FIRST HARASSMENT CAME ON 30 MAY AROUND 10 PM AND TRIED TO LIMIT OUR COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES. FROM THAT MOMENT ON, ISRAELI SHIPS, UNMANNED PLANES, SUBMARINES AND NAVY DID NOT STOP SURROUNDING US. AUDIO OF LIVE COVERAGE BY A FEMALE REPORTER IS HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND AFTER THE ELECTRONIC OBSCURATION ATTEMPTS, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA CONTINUOUSLY REPORTED THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH LIVE TELEVISION BROADCASTS, INFORMING THE WORLD ON WHAT IS TAKING PLACE. AS A RESULT OF THE DYNAMICS, SOME OF THE PASSENGERS WORE THEIR LIFE VESTS TO TRY TO PREPARE FOR ANYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN. HOWEVER, NO OTHER ACTS OF HARASSMENT TOOK PLACE UNTIL THE MORNING.

IN THE MORNING, DURING THE CALL FOR PRAYER, PASSENGERS GOT UP IN SILENCE AND STARTED TO PREPARE. WHILE SOME WERE PERFORMING ABLUTION, OTHERS WHO SPENT THE NIGHT READING THE KORAN AND PRAYING THE NIGHT PRAYER, STARTED PRAYING THE SUNNAH OF THE MORNING PRAYER.

THE MALICIOUS ATTACK STARTED WHEN THE FARD OF THE MORNING PRAYER WAS BEING PRAYED ALTOGETHER. THE DARKEST TIME OF THE NIGHT AND THE CALL FOR PRAYER WAS SPECIFICALLY AWAITED, TO TRY TO CATCH PEOPLE IN THEIR MOST UNPREPARED STATE DURING PRAYER. ISRAELI SOLDIERS APPROACHING THE SHIP ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT ON ZODIAC BOATS ALSO SILENCED EVERYTHING INCLUDING THE SHIPS GPS DEVICES, ELECTRONIC CONTROL SYSTEMS, SATELLITE PHONES, RADAR, AND LIVE-BROADCAST SYSTEMS THROUGH ELECTRONIC OBSTRUCTION AND CUT THE FLOTILLA'S COMMUNICATION WITH THE WORLD. THEY DID NOT WANT ANYBODY TO SEE OR KNOW WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO. HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF OUR BACK-UP FREQUENCY AND SYSTEM. WHILE THEY THOUGHT THEY CARRIED OUT THEIR MASSACRES IN THE DARK, THE INCIDENT WAS OPENLY BEING AIRED LIVE ON WORLD TELEVISIONS. THE FIRST ISRAELI SOLDIERS HAD LANDED ONBOARD FROM THE HELICOPTERS THAT APPROACHED THE SHIP AND A LIFE AND DEATH SITUATION WAS TAKING PLACE ON THE ROOF OF THE SHIP, BECAUSE THE SOLDIERS RANDOMLY OPENED FIRE. FROM THE FIRST MOMENT ON RIFLES FIRING BOTH REAL BULLETS AND RUBBER BULLETS, BOMBING RIFLES, GUNS; FOG, GAS AND LIGHT BOMBS WERE ALTOGETHER USED. SO MUCH SO THAT CETIN TOPCUOGLU, WHO BECAME A MARTYR DURING THE ATTACK, DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT UPSTAIRS IN SHOCK AS: NATURAL SOUND BREAK OF A MAN BEING PULLED AND ANOTHER MAN SAYING "HOLD IT, HOLD IT, HOLD IT" IN TURKISH "THIRTY PEOPLE UPSTAIRS, THEY SHOT THEM ALL BROTHER, ALL OF THEM BECAME MARTYRS."

NATURAL SOUND BREAK OF TOPCUOGLU SPEAKING IN TURKISH SAYING: "ALL OF OUR MEN ARE SHOT, THEY SHOT ALL OF THEM. THE ONES UPSTAIRS CAME DOWNSTAIRS. THERE WERE 30 MEN." SOMEBODY TELLS TOPCUOGLU TO "GO DOWN" BEFORE THE NATURAL SOUND BREAK ENDS. BROTHER CETIN, WHO DESCRIBED THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE UPSTAIRS AS SUCH, WOULD BECOME A MARTYR HIMSELF, JUST MINUTES AFTER THIS CONVERSATION. VIDEO SHOWS WOUNDED MEN BEING TREATED, MEDICAL PERSONNEL GIVING DIRECTIONS, CLOSE-UP OF A WOUNDED MAN WHILE THESE WERE HAPPENING INSIDE, OUR BROTHER CEVDET, WHO WAS ACTUALLY ON DUTY IN THE PRESS CENTER, HAD HIS CAMERA IN HAND, TRYING TO DOCUMENT WHAT WAS

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APPENING BY TAKING AS MANY PICTURES AS HE COULD. LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT ISRAELIS WOULD CONFISCATE ALL VIDEO RECORDERS, CAMERAS, AND EVEN CELL PHONES AFTER THE RAID, BREAK MOST OF THEM, AND REMOVE THE MEMORY CARDS FROM THOSE THAT COULDN'T BE BROKEN, DELETE THE CONTENTS AND TRY TO LEAVE EVERYBODY IN THE DARK ABOUT THE INCIDENT. HE REMAINED CALM AS HE WENT UP THE STAIRS TO THE BRIDGE, WHERE THE INTENSE ATTACK TOOK PLACE. WHEREAS HE LASER TARGET BEAMS OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS' RIFLES WERE DANCING ON THE FLOOR. AT THE SAME TIME HE CONTINUED TO WARN THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM: "THERE ARE SOLDIERS ON THE ROOF, BE CAREFUL."

NATURAL SOUND BREAK OF CEVDET SAYING "THERE ARE SOLDIERS ON THE ROOF" IN TURKISH ISRAELI COMMANDOES, WHO CLAIM THAT THEY COULD CAPTURE A NY SHIP THEY WANT IN FOUR MINUTES, SUPPOSEDLY WORLD'S BEST TRAINED COMMANDOES, TRUGGLED MORE THAN AN HOUR TO REACH ABOVE THE BRIDGE. DUE TO THE VAST NUMBER OF WOUNDED PEOPLE AS WELL AS MARTYRS, THE RESISTANCE WAS FOREGONE AND WHITE FLAGS WERE WAVED TO END THE SHOOTINGS. EVEN AFTER THAT, ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE UNABLE TO CONTROL THEIR ANGER AND KICKED THE WOUNDED PEOPLE ON THE FLOOR AND CONTINUED TO OPEN FIRE OVER AND OVER AGAIN. EXACTLY AN HOUR AND A HALF LATER, THEY WERE ABLE TO ENTER THE LOUNGES, AFTER SENDING SEVERAL REINFORCEMENT UNITS.

NATURAL SOUND BREAK OF REPORTER SPEAKING ARABIC THEY WERE ABLE TO REACH THE ASHDOD HARBOR AFTER AN ABRASIVE AND UNNERVING JOURNEY THAT LASTED UNTIL THE EVENING. WE STILL DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY HOW MANY WERE WOUNDED AND BECAME MARTYRS. ONLY WHEN THE SHIP DOCKED DID THE ISRAELI DEPUTY ANNOUNCE FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT 16 WERE DEAD AND APPROXIMATELY 50 WERE WOUNDED. OUR MARTYRS AND WOUNDED WERE PICKED UP BY HELICOPTERS WHILE THE SHIP WAS EN ROUTE. THE REST IS HISTORY. DAYS SPENT WITH AS MUCH TORTURE AND BREAKDOWNS ... AND ISRAEL RELEASING US TO GET OUT OF THE DIFFICULT POSITION IT FELL IN AS THE WORLD ROSE UP... ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE FULL OF HATRED EVEN AS THEY KEPT US IN PRISONS AND LATER DROPPED US OFF AT THE AIRPORT TO BE DEPORTED. THEY DID NOT WANT TO RELEASE CERTAIN PEOPLE. THAT IS WHEN WE REALIZED WHAT THE DEATH LISTS WE SAW LATER WERE FOR AND WHY THEY GAVE A HIGHER DEATH TOLL. THEY DID NOT WANT SOME OF US TO GET OUT OF ISRAEL ALIVE.

NATURAL SOUND BREAK SHOWING WOUNDED MEN IN THE END WE RETURNED TO TURKEY WITH OUR NINE MARTYRS, TENS OF WOUNDED AND THE ENTIRE WORLD. IT WAS CLEAR WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE AFTER THIS. FIRST, WE SAID GOODBYE TO OUR MARTYRS, WITH HOPES TO MEET THEM AGAIN IN HEAVEN. THEN WE RETURNED TO OUR STRUGGLE. NOW WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE. EVEN IF THE RAFAH BORDER CROSSING REOPENED AFTER THE INCIDENT, EVEN IF ISRAEL IMPLEMENTED PIOUS CHANGES ON EMBARGO, THE GAZA EMBARGO SHOULD COMPLETELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY BE LIFTED WITH IMMEDIATE ORDERS.

NATURAL SOUND BREAK SHOWING A RECAP OF THE FAREWELL CEREMONY OF THE SHIPS, PASSENGERS ON BOARD, MEN PRAYING OR READING THE KORAN, LIVE COVERAGE OF JOURNALISTS, ATTACKS OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS, WOUNDED MEN, BLOODSHED AND BLOOD-STAINED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, ENDING WITH PICTURES OF EACH OF THE MARTYRS. A SLATE APPEARS AT THE END WHICH READS "UNTIL PALESTINE IS SET FREE..."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ISTANBUL IHH IN TURKISH -- WEBSITE OF THE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION, A PRO-ISLAMIC TURKISH AID ORGANIZATION; URL: [HTTP://WWW.IHH.ORG.TR/](http://www.ihh.org.tr/)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000786

FM OSC

Profiles of Indonesian Volunteer Groups Working for Palestinians in Gaza (U)

SEP20100815168003[0] Jakarta Sabili in Indonesian 23 Jun 10 pp 100-104 (U)

[100810094208 Report by Adhes Satria: "Indonesian Volunteers for Palestine: Mission of Liberation Will Continue"; for assistance with multimedia elements, contact OSC at (800) 205-8615 or OSCinfo@rccb.osis.gov. (U)]

[OSC Translated Text]

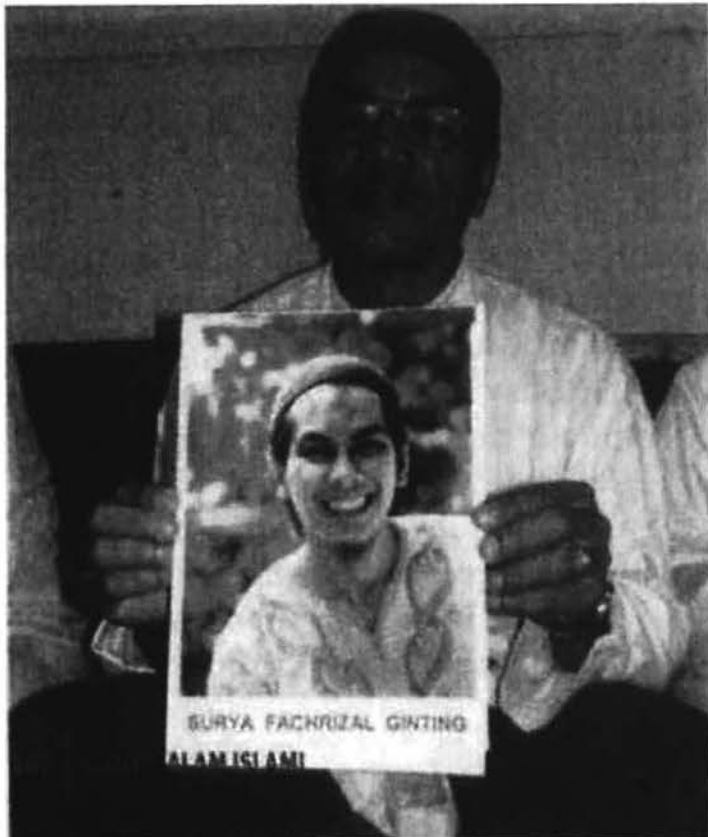
There were twelve Indonesian volunteers who took part in the humanitarian mission of the Freedom Flotilla. They represented three NGOs: the Friends of al-Aqsa (Sahabat al-Aqsa), the Indonesian Committee of Palestinian Solidarity (KISPA), and the Medical Emergency Rescue Committee (Mer-C). Want to know more about the role of these NGOs? Read the report below.

Around 700 people from more than fifty countries were on the six ships of the Freedom Flotilla. Among them were 1976 Nobel Peace Prize-winner Mairead Corrigan Maguire from northern Ireland, various European parliamentarians and a Holocaust survivor, Hedy Epstein, 85 years old.

The Freedom Flotilla convoy represented the biggest armada that has yet been mobilized to Gaza, initiated by the pro-Palestinian Free Gaza Movement. This is the ninth time that the Free Gaza Movement has tried to send humanitarian aid to Gaza by sea since August 2008. Insani Yardim Fakvi (IHH) is a Turkish humanitarian organization that coordinated the sending of aid teams to Gaza.

Of the twelve [Indonesian] volunteers, two were wounded by shots fired by the Israeli Army that attacked the Mavi Marmara. They are Surya Fachrizal and Okvianto Baharuddin. However, by the time this report was being prepared, Fachrizal and Baharuddin have been reported to have recovered and have already been evacuated to Amman, Jordan, while the team from the Indonesian Committee for Palestinian Solidarity (KISPA) has returned to Indonesia. Below are the Indonesian NGOs that have been defending and raising concern for the Palestinian people.

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[Unidentified man holding picture of Surya Fachrizal Ginting, one of two Indonesian volunteers injured in Mavi Marmara attack. -- Caption supplied OSC]

Mer-C

The Medical Emergency Rescue Committee (Mer-C) is a social humanitarian organization working in the field of medical emergencies, whose members are unpaid volunteers. This NGO aims to provide medical treatment to victims of war, violence caused by conflict, riots, extraordinary events and natural disasters both within and outside Indonesia. The organization was formed by a group of University of Indonesia students who took the initiative to carry out medical relief for victims of conflict in Maluku, eastern Indonesian in August 1999.

Mer-C has several times sent humanitarian missions to Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, southern Lebanon, Kashmir, Sudan, southern Philippines, southern Thailand and other countries. They have also been involved in guarding the health of clerics Abu Bakar Ba'asyir and Abu Jibril, the wife of the late Free Aceh Movement leader Ishak Daud, people imprisoned for being "terrorists" (such as the late Imam Samudera, Amrozi, Ali Gufroon and others) or for being involved in drug cases, and the Police General Susno Duaji.

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One of the programs that Mer-C has been fighting for is a plan to build a permanent hospital [in Gaza]. The chairman of Mer-C's presidium, Sarbini Abdul Murad, reports that his group is ready with a plan to build an Indonesian hospital in Gaza. The hospital will be a trauma and rehabilitation center in an octagonal shape to be located in Bayt Lahiya, north Gaza, on a 1.4 hectare plot of land that was donated by the Palestinian government in Gaza. "From the point of view of construction and architectural planning, the building is ready to go and we have gathered money from the public and the Islamic community in the amount of 20 billion rupiah [\$2.2 million]. The Indonesian Government has committed to provide another 10 billion rupiah [\$1.1 million]," said Murad, a doctor who entered the Gaza Strip in 2008.

According to Murad, in the last two months Mer-C Indonesia has been actively traveling to meet with various parties in order to refresh the effort to realize the building of the Indonesian hospital in Gaza. It would represent a joint effort between the government and people of Indonesia as a continuation of humanitarian missions that were carried out in Gaza in 2009.

Friends of al-Aqsa

Friends of al-Aqsa (*Sahabat al-Aqsa*) is not a community organization, but only the name of place where people meet who want to aid the struggle to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine from Israeli Zionist control. In carrying out their campaign and fund-raising, the Friends of al-Aqsa works with various community organizations, NGOs, bloggers' networks or individuals who share common goals.

The main activities of Friends of al-Aqsa include a campaign to spread information about what is actually happening in Palestine and to urge as many people as possible to support the struggle of Palestinian Muslims to gain their independence, especially through holy struggle on the path of God using funds (*jihad harta*).

For its short-term program, Friends of al-Aqsa has spontaneously gathered funds that are immediately sent to Palestine to help with emergency needs, such as food, water, medicines and the need for self-defense against various forms of Israeli Zionist oppression. Meanwhile, its long-term program is continuous fund-raising through a program called in English "Help Palestine! Dinar for Palestine: One Family, One Dinar for One Month." Through this program, the Friends of al-Aqsa are inviting Indonesian Muslim families to support the daily needs of families in Palestine.

Friends of al-Aqsa has friends in the countries neighboring Palestine as well as in Palestine itself who are ready to channel the " *jihad harta*" funds from Indonesia to brethren in Palestine. There are several projects that will be realized in Palestine from the money gathered by Friends of al-Aqsa. These include a routine donations scheme for orphans, school supplies for students and teachers, the building of drinking water wells and the building of biogas electricity generators.

According to Amirul, an activist of Friends of al-Aqsa, \$50 a month is needed to sustain a Palestinian orphan, whether within or outside Palestine. As is known, in the

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Palestinian territory there are five million Palestinians and another seven million Palestinians living outside the country, including in refugee camps in various Arab countries such as Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt. About 1.5 million people among them have been blockaded for the last four years by the Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

The Friends of al-Aqsa is now appealing to the community to help 400 orphans whose care is being managed by the Al-Sarraa Foundation, a humanitarian foundation that is run by Palestinian freedom fighters based in Lebanon and Syria. The foundation is assisting Palestinian orphans in the Gaza Strip and in refugee camps in and near the city of Damascus. Every donor who commits \$50 per month for a child receives a photo and personal information about the child and receives follow-up reports on the child's well-being. Two hundred dollars a month is needed to cover the food needs of one family in Palestine.

It should be recalled that more than 25,000 buildings were destroyed in Gaza as result of the Israeli military attacks in 2009. To fulfill the educational needs of children in Gaza through kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools and religious schools for teaching of the Koran, Friends of al-Aqsa is providing a bridge between donors and those in need.

It seems that Israel not only destroyed buildings but also deliberately poisoned water sources that flow from the area it controls into Gaza. Given this condition, Friends of al-Aqsa has amassed funds for the construction of as many wells for drinking water in the Gaza Strip as possible. One well of 150-200 meters' depth complete with pump requires \$20,000. An equally important project is to provide biogas electricity generators, that is, electric generators that use household garbage to supply power.

Indonesian Committee for Palestinian Solidarity (KISPA)

KISPA was founded on 14 May 2002 at the office of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) at the Istiqlal Mosque, on Taman Wijaya Kusuma Street, Central Jakarta, 10710. There are several community organizations united in KISPA. This NGO has been consistently raising the Indonesian public's awareness and concern for the struggle of the Palestinian people to gain their independence, especially in guarding the sacred site of the al-Aqsa Mosque. Cleric Ferry Nur, the Secretary General of KISPA, is known as a righteous figure helping the struggle of the Palestinian people to free themselves from Israeli Zionist oppression, in moral as well as material ways. At every study group meeting, Ferry Nur and other KISPA activists plant and nurture the Indonesian Muslim community's concern for their brethren in Palestine. This includes helping to spread information about the condition of the Palestinian people and of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and carrying out advocacy on issues relating to the Palestinian cause.

When the Israeli Army interrogated the volunteers from Indonesia and other countries, they warned them not to return to Gaza. Were the volunteers afraid? No, they firmly replied that their mission of liberation would continue, whatever the risks they faced, even the risk of their lives.

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[Description of Source: Jakarta Sabili in Indonesian -- Biweekly magazine supportive of pro-Shari'ah Islamic groups and sharply critical of the United States. Also carries articles on alleged fear of Islam in the West, and activities of Christian missionaries in Indonesia. Circulation unknown.]
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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000791

Indonesia: SBY Welcomes Returned Gaza Flotilla Volunteers at Presidential Palace (U)

OSB20100609382237[0] Jakarta Jakarta Globe in English 09 Jun 10 (U)

[Article by Camelia Pasandaran and Nurfika Osman: 'Flotilla Members Declared Honorary Palestinians' (U)]

Article Summary: Five of the 12 Indonesians who took part in the Freedom Flotilla to the Gaza Strip last week met with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on 8 June 2010, after returning to Indonesia on 7 June. The volunteers who met with the President were Ferry Nur, Muhendri Muchtar, Hardjito Warno, Okvianto Baharudin and TV reporter M Yasin.



President Yudhoyono (right) welcomes Gaza flotilla volunteers (L to R) Muhendri Muchtar, Muhammad Yasin, Hardjito Warno, Okvianto Baharudin and Ferry Nur at the Presidential Palace (Jakarta Post: 8 Jun 10)

Yudhoyono said he was grateful for the safe return of the volunteers.

"Welcome home, humanitarian fighters who have been through long days with deep memories," the President said.

"Please believe that what has been done in this humanitarian mission is noble."

Presidential Adviser for Foreign Affairs Dino Patti Djalal said Yudhoyono was committed

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000792

to Indonesia's calls for an independent Palestine.

[OSC Comment: According to an 8 June 2010 Republika article entitled 'SBY Puji Raja Yordania atas Penanganan Relawan Gaza', Yudhoyono telephoned King Abdullah II of Jordan to express his thanks and appreciation for Jordan's assistance to the 12 Indonesians on the flotilla. Yudhoyono emphasised that the Indonesian Government would continue diplomatic efforts in support of the creation of a free and sovereign Palestinian nation.]

As the volunteers met with the President, Palestinian envoy Fariz Mehdawi announced that they had been granted honorary citizenship of the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, the Medical Emergency Rescue Committee (MER-C) said four of its volunteers still in the Middle East would head to Iran to work with the Iranian Navy in support of the Palestinian cause.

"I'll be going to Tehran in two days with Mujtajid Hasyim from the Voice of Palestine," MER-C Presidium Chair Joserizal Jurnalis said, adding that the contingent would be led by Nur Fitri Moeslim Taher and include Abdillah Onim and Nur Ikhwan Abadi ? all engineers and architects.

Source Descriptor: Internet version of the newspaper aimed at middle-class Indonesians and expatriates. Owned by business tycoon James Riyadi's Lippo Group; URL: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/>

*This report was produced by the Open Source Centre.
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Indonesian Volunteers Publish Book on Israeli Attack on Gaza-Bound Mavi Marmara (U)

SEP20100804031001[0] Jakarta Hidayatullah.com in Indonesian 02 Aug 10 (U)

[Unattributed report: "'Mavi Marmara 'Alumni' Publish Book" (U)]

[OSC Translated Text]

Not yet one month, a book is already disappearing from the market, the message given to those waiting in line is to wait for the next publishing. The profit is to help Gaza.

Hidayatullah.com -- The attack against 700 humanitarian volunteers of the Freedom Flotilla on the Mavi Marmara ship has been put into a book. The book, which was written and edited by a team consisting of three journalists (who were also volunteers) Dzikrullah W. Pramudya, Santi Soekanto, and Surya Fachrizal, was launched in Bandung, West Java at the end of July.

The book titled *"Bloody Voyage to Gaza: Testimony of Indonesian Volunteers and Journalists aboard the Mavi Marmara Ship"* narrates the massacre and piracy by the Israeli military against the Freedom Flotilla heading for Gaza on the Mavi Marmara ship.

Although the book was written by three journalists, living witnesses of Israel's cruelty, the book also represents nine other volunteers and journalists from Indonesia who were also on the ship. There is a narrative by Okvianto Emil Baharuddin who was shot in his right hand, when he was holding the fire hose in order to drive off the Israeli military who were fully armed, who were trying to board the ship from a speedboat.

There is also the story of Dr. Arief Rachman who took care of several victims, including the journalist and volunteer from Turkey whose forehead had a small black hole in it. It turned out that the hole was caused by a bullet that entered and tore apart his brain when he became a martyr.

M. Fauzil Adhim, a bestselling author, stated: "This book is good, the cover design is also good."

One hundred percent of the profits from the book will be given to our brothers in Gaza through the Friends of al-Aqsa, the network of Muslim families and educational organizations who support the freedom of al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine.

The general manager of Optima, which published the book, claimed that all the newly printed copies had been ordered. "This first printing is already sold out. Almost 1,000 copies were ordered by Gramedia," Ali Atwa told *Hidayatullah.com*.

Ali claimed that his team will immediately print more books. "Allah willing, we will reprint the book immediately," he added.

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Whoever is interested in owning this book, please contact:

Ali at +62-888-4819883, Dadang +62-816-4215647, uncle Sobah, +62-81-330770531
or you can see the book at <http://sahabatalaqsha.com/nws/>

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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MEDIA, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100527738002
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAEL INVITES GAZA AID FLOTILLA TO UNLOAD CARGO AT ASHDOD PORT (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 27 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

UPDATED VERSION: ADDING URGENT TAG. FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS, CONTACT (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507

INTERNET

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THE ISRAELI MEDIA ON 26 AND 27 MAY CONTINUES TO CARRY NUMEROUS REPORTS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" THAT IS MAKING ITS WAY TO THE GAZA STRIP IN A BID TO BREAK THROUGH ISRAEL'S SIEGE.

NETANYAHU: ISRAEL WON'T PERMIT DELIVERY OF ROCKETS/BUILDING MATERIALS

VOICE OF ISRAEL REPORTS AT 1400 GMT: "PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU ASSURED FRENCH PRIME MINISTER SARKOZY IN THEIR MEETING IN PARIS THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT OBJECT TO HUMANITARIAN GESTURES TOWARD THE PALESTINIANS IN THE GAZA STRIP. HOWEVER, HE SAID, ISRAEL WILL NOT ALLOW THE DELIVERY OF ROCKETS OR BUILDING MATERIALS THAT CAN BE USED TO CONSTRUCT FORTIFICATIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT PERMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO COMPLETE THE RESTORATION OF A HOSPITAL IN GAZA AND TO SHIP MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO IT." STATE-FUNDED BUT INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW

FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS AGREE TO DELIVER PACKAGE TO SHALIT

VOICE OF ISRAEL UPDATES AT 1500 GMT: "THE ORGANIZERS OF THE AID FLOTILLA TO GAZA HAVE RETRACTED THEIR REFUSAL TO DELIVER A PACKAGE TO CAPTIVE IDF SOLDIER GIL'AD SHALIT. OUR CORRESPONDENT ERAN SIKOREL ASKED THE ORGANIZERS TO EXPLAIN THEIR REFUSAL, AND AFTER DISCUSSIONS THEY AGREED TO TRY TO DELIVER THE PACKAGE. ISRAELI RADIO PUT THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS IN CONTACT WITH THE SHALIT FAMILY."

NAVY DRILLS SEIZURE OF FLOTILLA, SOLDIERS URGED NOT TO BE DRAGGED INTO PROVOCATIONS

AN ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES PRESS RELEASE AT 0839 GMT ASSERTS: "ISRAELI NAVY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. MAROM REQUIRED SOLDIERS NOT TO BE DRAGGED INTO PROVOCATIONS WHILE FULFILLING THEIR MISSION. MOREOVER, THE FLOTILLA WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STOP ITS JOURNEY TO GAZA'S SHORES AT SEVERAL STAGES; OTHERWISE THE PASSENGERS WILL BE ESCORTED INTO ISRAEL'S SHORES AND DEPORTED TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. THE AID BROUGHT BY THE FLOTILLA WILL BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE GAZA STRIP AFTER A SECURITY CHECK. ACCORDING TO THE DECISION MADE BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, THE IDF AND THE ISRAELI NAVY ARE GETTING PREPARED TO PREVENT THE FLOTILLA FROM REACHING THE SHORES OF GAZA. THE FLOTILLA'S PASSENGERS WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN BACK AT ANY STAGE OF THEIR TRIP OR TO GIVE UP THE CONTROL OF THEIR SHIPS. FROM THE MOMENT OF THEIR DEPARTURE, THE SHIPS WILL RECEIVE FORMAL WARNINGS AT VARIOUS STAGES OF THEIR JOURNEY, REQUESTING THEM TO STOP THEIR TRIP TO GAZA'S SHORES. SHOULD THE PASSENGERS DECIDE TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY AND NOT TAKE THE ISRAELI NAVY'S WARNING INTO CONSIDERATION, THEY WILL BE ARRESTED, BROUGHT TO ISRAEL'S SHORES AND TRANSFERRED TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES SO THEY CAN BE SENT BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. THE SECURITY FORCES WILL GRAB HOLD OF THE AID EXPECTED TO BE BROUGHT TO GAZA BY THE FLOTILLA, AND AFTER A SECURITY CHECK OF THE GOODS, THEY WILL BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE GAZA STRIP.

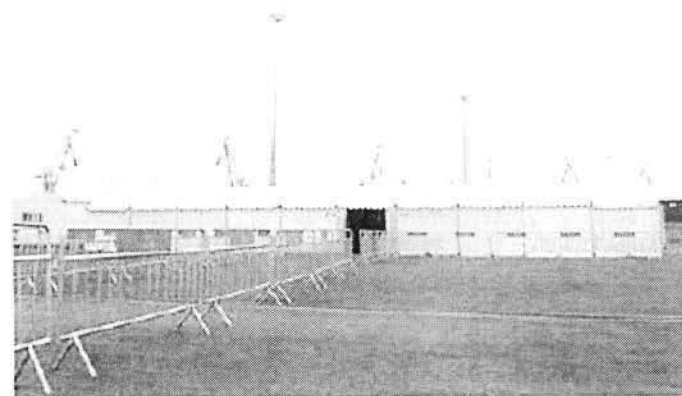
"DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE COMMANDER OF THE NAVY, MAJ. GEN. ELI'EZER MAROM ORGANIZED A SERIES OF EXERCISES, CONSISTING IN STOPPING THE FLOTILLA, GAINING CONTROL OVER THE SHIPS AND BRINGING THEM TO ISRAEL'S SHORES. HE STRESSED THAT DURING THE OPERATIONS, ISRAELI FORCES WILL TAKE ALL THE REQUIRED STEPS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SOLDIERS' LIVES, AND MAKE SURE THAT NO TERRORIST AGENTS HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED INTO THE SHIPS. MAJ. GEN. MAROM

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INSTRUCTED HIS FORCES NOT TO BE DRAGGED INTO PROVOCATIONS AND ACT WITH FAIR JUDGMENT; OTHERWISE IT COULD BE HARMFUL TO THE MISSION'S ACCOMPLISHMENT. HE ALSO SAID TO HIS MEN THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CAUSE ANY HARM AMONG THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ON THESE SHIPS, HOWEVER A CLEAR MISSION HAS BE ASSIGNED TO THE ISRAELI NAVY AND IT HAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED." TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE

ISRAEL PROPOSES TO FLY ACTIVISTS HOME AT ITS EXPENSE

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100527738002001.JPG) TENT SET UP AT ASHDOD PORT TO RECEIVE FLOTILLA PARTICIPANTS (YNETNEWS PHOTO)



HANAN GREENBERG REPORTS IN YNETNEWS AT 1349 GMT: "THE ISRAELI NAVY ON THURSDAY PREPARED FOR THE EXPECTED ENCOUNTER WITH THE GAZA AID FLOTILLA MAKING ITS WAY TO THE GAZA STRIP WITH SOME 800 PEOPLE ABOARD. IDF SOURCES SAID THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT TERRORISTS MAY TRY TO USE THE 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' TO ENTER THE STRIP OR SMUGGLE IN WEAPONS. IN ASHDOD PORT, A LARGE TENT HAS BEEN SET UP, COMPLETE WITH AIR-CONDITIONING, INTENDED TO RECEIVE FLOTILLA PARTICIPANTS. AFTER THE NAVY LEADS THE VESSELS TO THE PORT, THE ACTIVISTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN INTO THE TENT WHERE THEY WILL UNDERGO A PROCEDURE SIMILAR TO THAT

UNDERGONE BY SAILORS ENTERING ANY PORT. THE PROCESS WILL INCLUDE SECURITY CHECKS, AFTER WHICH EACH PARTICIPANT WILL SPEAK WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY WHO WILL PROPOSE THAT THE ACTIVIST SIGN AN UNDERTAKING TO KEEP AWAY FROM ISRAEL. IF THE PARTICIPANT AGREES, HE OR SHE WILL BE FLOWN BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AT ISRAEL'S EXPENSE. IF THEY REFUSE THE OFFER, THEY WILL BE ARRESTED. THEY WILL THEN UNDERGO MEDICAL CHECKS AND A MAGEN DAVID ADOM AMBULANCE TEAM WILL BE ON HAND IN CASE ANY REQUIRE HOSPITAL TREATMENT. THEN THEY WILL UNDERGO FURTHER MEDICAL CHECKS BY THE ISRAEL PRISON SERVICE. FROM HERE THEY WILL BE TAKEN TO A DETENTION CENTER IN BEERSHEBA.



(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100527738002002.JPG) INTERIOR OF TENT SET UP WITH COMPUTERS (YNETNEWS PHOTO)

"THOUSANDS OF IDF AND GOVERNMENT MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES WILL TAKE PART IN THE OPERATION. CERTAIN DISTINCT GROUPS, SUCH AS DIPLOMATS, WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE SUPPLIED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS. AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO PREPARING FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR, WHICH WILL BE HANDLED BY PRISON SERVICE STAFF. THE PROCESS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE JUST A FEW HOURS, BEFORE MISSION MEMBERS ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE AIRPORT OR DETENTION CENTER. AN IDF SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE

ARMY IS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN PREVENTING THE 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' FROM REACHING THE GAZA STRIP. HE SAID THE FLOTILLA WAS A PROVOCATION IN THE GUISE OF A HUMANITARIAN ACT, THAT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF FOOD IN GAZA, AND THAT THE BORDER WAS OPEN TO ANY ORGANIZATION OR STATE TO TRANSFER GOODS. HE ADDED THAT TROOPS INSTRUCTED TO TAKE OVER THE FLOTILLA HAD BEEN TOLD TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION WITH SENSITIVITY AND MINIMUM USE OF FORCE. 'I HOPE NO FORCE IS USED AGAINST OUR TROOPS,' HE SAID, 'BUT IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW VESSELS LIKE THESE, WHEN WE DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT IS ON THEM, TO REACH THE SHORES OF GAZA, AND THEREFORE WE WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY.'" TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH -- CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ISRAEL'S LARGEST MEDIA GROUP

RADICAL ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS LINKED TO FLOTILLA

INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER REPORTS THAT THE CEREMONY HELD AT THE PORT OF ISTANBUL BEFORE THE FLOTILLA SET SAIL WAS ATTENDED "BY RADICAL ISLAMIC FIGURES AFFILIATED WITH THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PREVIOUS AID CONVOYS. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE MUHAMMAD KAZEM SAWALHA AND ZAHER KHALED HASSAN AL-BIRAWI, BOTH FORMER HAMAS ACTIVISTS WHO TODAY RESIDE AND ARE ACTIVE IN BRITAIN, AND HAMAM SAYID,

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MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER IN JORDAN," AS WELL AS SHEIKH RA'ED SALAH, CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTHERN FACTION OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL. (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100527738002003.PDF) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 7-PAGE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE REPORT IN PDF FORMAT. RAMAT HASHARON INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF THINK TANK SET UP BY VETERANS OF ISRAEL'S INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY "TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONTRIBUTION OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE TO THE STATE'S SECURITY," FOCUSES ON ANTI-ISRAELI INCITEMENT IN PA AND ARAB WORLD AND ON ISLAMIC TERRORISM

ISRAEL INVITES FLOTILLA TO UNLOAD CARGO AT ASHDOD PORT

A PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATES: "MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR-GENERAL YOSI GAL SEPARATELY SUMMONED TODAY THE AMBASSADORS OF TURKEY, GREECE, CYPRUS, SWEDEN AND IRELAND -- THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THE SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN THE FLOTILLA SET SAIL. AT ALL THE MEETINGS, D-G GAL EXPRESSLY CLARIFIED THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S OFFICIAL POSITION, WHICH DECLARES THE FLOTILLA AN ABSOLUTE PROVOCATION: THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA, AS FOOD PRODUCTS, FUEL AND SUPPLIES ARE CONSTANTLY TRANSFERRED INTO THE GAZA STRIP BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THEREFORE, THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS ARE INVITED TO DOCK AT ASHDOD PORT, TO UNLOAD THEIR CARGO AND TRANSFER IT TO GAZA, AFTER A SECURITY CHECK, EITHER VIA THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES OR VIA THE HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS. D-G GAL EMPHASIZED THAT GAZA IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, WHICH DOES NOT PRIORITIZE THE WELLBEING OF THE CITIZENS OF GAZA. THIS ORGANIZATION, UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF IRAN, CONTINUES TO ARM ITSELF WITH AMMUNITION AND ROCKETS, AND TO PERPETUATE A SITUATION OF ARMED CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL, AFTER YEARS OF TARGETING ISRAELI CIVILIANS. ISRAEL HAS THE INHERENT NATURAL RIGHT, THEREFORE, TO PREVENT THE UNSUPERVISED TRANSFER OF SUPPLIES TO GAZA. THE DEPUTY GENERAL ADDED THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT ALLOW THE FLOTILLA TO REACH GAZA. D-G GAL STRESSED THAT GIL'AD SHALIT HAS BEEN LANGUISHING IN GAZA FOR FOUR YEARS, WHILE THE HAMAS BLATANTLY BREACHES HIS ELEMENTARY RIGHTS, AND DOES NOT EVEN ALLOW THE RED CROSS TO VISIT HIM.

"THIS IS THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE AMBASSADORS, AND IS IN ADDITION TO PARALLEL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY ISRAELI AMBASSADORS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES WARNING THE GOVERNMENTS THAT THE FLOTILLA IS ABOUT TO BREAK INTERNATIONAL LAW. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ISSUED WARRANTS THAT PROHIBIT THE ENTRANCE OF THE VESSELS TO GAZA. ISRAEL HAS ADVISED THE RELEVANT COUNTRIES OF THIS AN, AND REQUESTED THEY PREVENT THE DEPARTURE OF THE VESSELS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS ARRANGED WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO ASSIST THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES IN THEIR HANDLING OF THE PASSENGERS ON THE FLOTILLA IN ORDER TO ASSIST THEM IN LEAVING THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE CONSULAR SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS CONTACTED THE FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN ISRAEL AND EXPLAINED THE MEASURES EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED AGAINST THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FLOTILLA. THE MFA'S SITUATION ROOM WILL ALSO BE REINFORCED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENTS." JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ENGLISH – OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

GPO PROVIDES BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON TURKEY'S IHH

A PRESS RELEASE BY GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE SAYS: "TURKEY'S HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION (IHH) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1995 AND REGISTERED IN ISTANBUL. THE ORGANIZATION WAS OUTLAWED IN ISRAEL IN MAY 2008 BECAUSE OF ITS AFFILIATION WITH THE 'CHARITY COALITION' AND THE FACT THAT IT HAD BECOME A MAJOR COMPONENT IN THE GLOBAL FUND RAISING MACHINE FOR THE HAMAS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. THE FOUNDATION'S DECLARED GOAL IS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ISLAMIC GROUPS IN VARIOUS PLACES AROUND THE WORLD, MAINLY IN ASIA. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED TREND IN THE ORGANIZATION TO BROADEN ITS OPERATIONS TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AS WELL, SOMETIMES BY ESTABLISHING BRANCHES THAT BEAR ITS NAME, EVEN THOUGH THEY DENY ANY CONNECTION TO THE IHH. THE IHH HAS A RADICAL ISLAMIC ORIENTATION AND IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE EXTREMIST ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD. AS PART OF THIS OUTLOOK, THE IHH SUPPORTS THE HAMAS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND DOES NOT BOTHER TO HIDE ITS AFFILIATION WITH HAMAS. IN RECENT YEARS, PRIMARILY SINCE HAMAS SEIZED CONTROL OF THE GAZA STRIP, THE IHH HAS ORGANIZED PUBLIC CONFERENCES IN TURKEY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT FOR HAMAS, AND SENIOR HAMAS OFFICIALS HAVE OPENLY PARTICIPATED IN THESE PUBLIC DISPLAYS. AT THESE CONFERENCE S, THE HEADS OF THE IHH HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR UNCOMPROMISING SUPPORT FOR HAMAS AND ITS TACTICS, INCLUDING ITS ARMED WARFARE ON CIVILIANS AND ITS DEFIANCE OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY HEADED BY ABU MAZIN AND SALAM FAYYAD.

"AS PART OF THE 'CHARITY COALITION,' THE IHH IS AFFILIATED WITH HAMAS FUND RAISING ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MONEY FOR JOINT PROJECTS TO SUPPORT THE HAMAS REGIME AND ITS INSTITUTIONS IN THE GAZA STRIP AND ON THE WEST BANK. THESE ARE 'CHARITY' ORGANIZATIONS THAT BELONG TO THE HAMAS TERRORIST MOVEMENT AND ARE CONTROLLED BY SENIOR HAMAS ACTIVISTS. THEY INCLUDE THE ISLAMIC CHARITY ORGANIZATION IN HEBRON, WHICH IS CONSIDERED THE LARGEST HAMAS ORGANIZATION ON THE WEST BANK, AND THE AL-TADAMUN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IN NABULUS, ANOTHER ONE OF THE MAJOR HAMAS 'CHARITY' ORGANIZATIONS - BOTH OF WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLAWED IN ISRAEL

FOR THE SAME REASON. THE IHH CONDUCTS MANY ACTIVITIES IN GAZA AND EVEN ESTABLISHED A BRANCH IN GAZA CITY TO PROMOTE ITS OPERATIONS THERE. IN JANUARY 2008, AN IHH DELEGATION MET WITH AHMAD BAHAR, A SENIOR HAMAS ACTIVIST WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE HAMAS REGIME IN GAZA. DURING THE MEETING, THE DELEGATION DESCRIBED THE SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE THAT THE IHH HAD PROVIDED TO THE GAZA STRIP DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND SAID THAT IN FUTURE IT WOULD DOUBLE THAT AMOUNT.

"TO PROMOTE ITS ACTIVITIES, IN NOVEMBER 2009 THE IHH SENT ONE OF ITS ACTIVISTS, AZAT SHAHIN, TO OPEN ANOTHER BRANCH ON THE WEST BANK. SHAHIN BEGAN WORK ON ESTABLISHING THE NEW BRANCH AND EVEN TRANSFERRED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FROM THE IHH TO THE HAMAS ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. HOWEVER, THESE ACTIVITIES WERE HALTED BY HIS ARREST FOR QUESTIONING IN APRIL 2010 ON SUSPICION OF FINANCING TERRORISM AND SUPPORTING THE HAMAS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. AT THE REQUEST OF TURKISH OFFICIALS, HE WAS DEPORTED FROM ISRAEL AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION IN ISRAEL. IN SUMMARY, THE TURKISH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION (THE IHH), WHICH HAS BEEN OUTLAWED IN ISRAEL, IS NOW CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT PLAYER IN THE HAMAS GLOBAL FUND RAISING MACHINE. IT IS A RADICAL ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD, AND DOES NOT CONCEAL ITS SUPPORT OF HAMAS AND ITS IDEOLOGY OF TERRORISM. THE IHH MAINTAINS DIRECT CONTACTS WITH SENIOR HAMAS OFFICIALS AND EVEN ORGANIZES AND PARTICIPATES IN VARIOUS CONFERENCES THAT ARE IDENTIFIED WITH THE ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD AND HAMAS." JERUSALEM GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

266-4

P 040544Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 444166

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100604736003
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAEL NAVY: FLOTILLA FATALITIES WERE TERRORISTS, TRIED TAKING SOLDIERS HOSTAGE (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 2300 GMT 03 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY AMOS HAR'EL: "ISRAEL NAVY: ACTIVISTS TRIED TAKING 3 TROOPS HOSTAGE DURING GAZA FLOTILLA RAID" (U)
INTERNET

OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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DURING ISRAEL'S TAKEOVER OF A TURKISH SHIP IN THE GAZA-BOUND AID FLOTILLA THIS WEEK, SOME PASSENGERS TRIED TO TAKE CAPTIVE THREE COMMANDOS WHO LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIVISTS' BLOWS, ACCORDING TO EARLY FINDINGS OF A NAVY INVESTIGATION. THE THREE WERE DRAGGED INTO ONE OF THE PASSENGER HALLS BELOW DECK AND WERE HELD THERE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES.

AFTER DOZENS OF OTHER COMMANDOS BEGAN SEARCHING THE SHIP, THE MAVI MARMARA, THE THREE SOLDIERS REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND MANAGED TO JOIN THEIR COMRADES.

CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR NAVY OFFICERS IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND DURING THE OPERATION PRESENT A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE EVENTS ON MONDAY. IN ISRAEL, THE RAID HAS BEEN PERCEIVED AS A FAILURE, WHILE ABROAD IT HAS BEEN DERIDED AS PIRACY OR WORSE.

THE NAVY REJECTS THE CLAIMS THAT IT WAS POORLY PREPARED. OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN COMMENDING THE COMMANDOS' PERFORMANCE IN A SITUATION IN WHICH THEY WERE CONFRONTED BY DOZENS OF ACTIVISTS WHO ATTACKED THEM AS THEY RAPPELLED FROM HELICOPTERS. "THEY WERE TERRORISTS - HIRED KILLERS WHO CAME TO MURDER SOLDIERS, NOT TO ASSIST THE RESIDENTS OF THE GAZA STRIP," SAID A NAVY OFFICER.

STATE-FUNDED BUT INDEPENDENT VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW AT 0500 GMT REPORTS: "A MILITARY SOURCE SAYS THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE PASSENGERS ON THE MARMARA THREW WEAPONS INTO THE SEA AND THAT A RIFLE VIEWFINDER AND A CARTRIDGE CASE THAT DO NOT MATCH IDF WEAPONS WERE FOUND ON THE BOAT. CODE MESSAGES INCLUDING SCENARIOS OF THE KIDNAPPING OF A SOLDIER AND A DEAD SOLDIER WERE ALSO FOUND ON THE VESSEL. COMMANDO FIGHTERS REAFFIRM THAT DURING THE TAKEOVER OF THE VESSEL SEVERAL OF THE PASSENGERS DRAGGED WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND HELD THEM FOR SOME TIME. OUR ARMY AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT KARMELA MENASHE REPORTS THAT ON THE VESSEL THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO HAD PREPARED VIDEO INTERVIEWS DECLARING THAT THEY INTEND TO BE MARTYRS. TWO EVEN LEFT FILMED SUICIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS AS IS THE CUSTOM AMONG SUICIDE TERRORISTS. THE NAVAL INVESTIGATION WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE COMING WEEKS AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE IDF CHIEF OF STAFF AND LATER TO THE INNER CABINET. THE NAVY STRESSES THAT PEACE ACTIVISTS WERE NOT KILLED IN THE OPERATION AND THAT ALL THE FATALITIES WERE TERRORISTS. THIS WAS

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000800

A GROUP OF MERCINARIES WHO ATTACKED TO KILL AND THE FIGHTERS DID WHAT THEY HAD TO DO, THE SENIOR OFFICER SAID.

THE OPERATION ON THE MAVI MARMARA BEGAN AT ABOUT 4:30 A.M. ON MONDAY. BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF HARD-CORE ACTIVISTS INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE IHH, THE TURKISH GROUP ORGANIZING THE AID CONVOY, MOST ATTENTION WENT TO THAT SHIP. NAVY CHIEF ELIEZER MEROM AND THE HEAD OF THE NAVAL COMMANDOS, LT. COL. A., WERE ON VESSELS NEXT TO THE SHIP. LT. COL. A. CLIMBED ON THE MAVI MARMARA DURING THE TAKEOVER.

AS SEEN ON A VIDEO DOCUMENTING THE TAKEOVER, THE FIRST FOUR COMMANDOS TO RAPPEL ONTO THE DECK WERE ATTACKED BY ACTIVISTS WITH BARS, AXES AND KNIVES. THE FOURTH COMMANDO, K., SAW HIS TEAM LEADER ON THE DECK, WITH A TURKISH ACTIVIST HOLDING THE PISTOL HE HAD GRABBED FROM HIM AND POINTING IT TO HIS HEAD. K. JUMPED FROM THE ROPE AND MANAGED TO SHOOT THE ACTIVIST HOLDING THE GUN. THIS HAPPENED 20 SECONDS AFTER THE FIRST SOLDIER LANDED ON THE DECK.

THE COMMANDERS OF THE FIRST UNIT WERE HIT BY THE MOB AS THEY LANDED. ONE OF THE SOLDIERS MANAGED TO FIX ANOTHER ROPE, AFTER THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH THE ORIGINAL ONE, FOR 10 MORE SOLDIERS TO LAND. THE COMMANDOS CARED FOR THE WOUNDED AND TOOK OVER PART OF THE UPPER DECK OF THE SHIP.

AT THIS STAGE, SIX MINUTES INTO THE OPERATION, ANOTHER FORCE LANDED FROM A SECOND HELICOPTER, LED BY A MAJOR. AT THAT POINT THEY REALIZED THAT THREE COMMANDOS WERE MISSING AND THEY BEGAN LOOKING FOR THEM. A SHORT WHILE LATER THE NAVAL COMMANDO CHIEF LANDED ALONG WITH DOZENS MORE SOLDIERS, SOME OF WHOM CLIMBED FROM BOATS. OTHERS LANDED FROM A THIRD HELICOPTER.

THE SEARCH INVOLVED LIMITED SHOOTING, IN THE BRIDGE AND ON THE LOWER DECK, UNTIL THE THREE MEN WERE RECOVERED. THE HEAD OF THE NAVAL COMMANDOS GAVE ORDERS BY RADIO TO USE LIVE FIRE, TWO MINUTES AFTER THE INCIDENT HAD BEGUN.

SHOTS HAD BEEN FIRED EARLIER, BUT LT. COL. A. LATER EXPLAINED THAT IN HIS ORDERS HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE TROOPS REALIZED THAT "THE MOOD OF THE INCIDENT HAD CHANGED."

THE SOLDIERS REPORTED THAT THE ACTIVISTS HAD FIRED ON THEM DURING THE CONFRONTATION AND THAT AT LEAST TWO COMMANDOS SUFFERED GUNSHOT WOUNDS. AFTER THE INCIDENT, 9MM BULLET CASINGS WERE FOUND - A KIND NOT USED BY THE NAVAL COMMANDOS.

THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES SAYS THAT DURING THE OPERATION A NUMBER OF PISTOLS AND AN M-4 RIFLE WERE TAKEN FROM SOLDIERS, BUT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH ACTIVISTS HAD OTHER WEAPONS. THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP TOLD THE NAVAL COMMANDO CHIEF THAT THE GUNS WERE THROWN OVERBOARD BEFORE THE SHIP WAS COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER.

THE WOUNDED ACTIVISTS WERE AIRLIFTED TO ISRAEL FOR TREATMENT, SOME SERIOUSLY HURT WHOSE LIVES WERE SAVED BY THE EVACUATION.

THE IDF DID NOT QUESTION THE ACTIVISTS EXTENSIVELY BECAUSE OF THE DECISION TO RELEASE THEM. IN CONVERSATIONS AFTER THE TAKEOVER, ACTIVISTS SAID THEY WERE SURPRISED BY THE USE OF HELICOPTERS, EVEN THOUGH THE NAVY HAD USED THIS METHOD BEFORE. HOWEVER, NOTHING ELSE APPEARS TO HAVE SURPRISED THEM BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL LAW REQUIRES SUFFICIENT WARNINGS BEFORE SHIPS ARE BOARDED.

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POST-OPERATION ASSESSMENTS HAVE THE NUMBER OF HARD-CORE ACTIVISTS INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING AT BETWEEN 60 AND 100. IT APPEARS THAT THEY WERE WELL TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE ARSENAL FOUND AND CODE BOOKS USED TO PASS ON ORDERS FROM GROUP LEADERS. AMONG THE RIOTERS, IN ADDITION TO TURKS, WERE YEMENIS, AFGHANS AND ONE PERSON FROM ERITREA. ALL WERE APPARENTLY EXPERIENCED IN HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING. SOME OF THEM DID NOT RETREAT WHEN SHOTS WERE FIRED.

THE OPERATION INVOLVED A MONTH OF TRAINING, WITH DUMMY TAKEOVERS OF A SHIP AT SEA WITH 50 SOLDIERS PERFORMING THE ROLE OF ACTIVISTS. THE NAVY ADMITS THAT IT TRAINED MOSTLY FOR "A BIL'IN TYPE OF OPPOSITION, BUT THERE WAS NO FEELING THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A WALK IN THE PARK." HE WAS REFERRING TO A VILLAGE AT THE SEPARATION FENCE WHERE DEMONSTRATIONS TAKE PLACE.

THE NAVY SAYS IT NEEDS TO LOOK INTO WHETHER THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATIONS OF THE FORCE WERE SUFFICIENT, AND WHETHER IT HAD EMPHASIZED AN EASIER SCENARIO THAT DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

THE NAVY SAYS IT WENT OVER "INCIDENTS AND RESPONSES" IN PREPARATION; THESE INCLUDED OPENING FIRE AT CHARGING ACTIVISTS WITH MELEE WEAPONS. IN CASE OF A THREAT TO THEIR LIVES, THE COMMANDOS WERE ORDERED TO SHOOT TO KILL EVEN AS THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY ONTO THE DECK.

"THE MAIN GAP BETWEEN PREPARATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE WAS THAT WE DID NOT KNOW WE WOULD FACE DOZENS OF RIOTERS," A SENIOR OFFICER INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION SAID. "THIS WAS NOT A DISTURBANCE THAT WENT AWRY. IT WAS A PLANNED AMBUSH."

ANOTHER OFFICER ADDED THAT "I STILL WAKE UP AT 3 A.M. AND WONDER HOW THE HELL WE DID NOT KNOW MORE."

ANOTHER OFFICER SAID SAID THAT "WE BECAME A LITTLE SPOILED, AS A SOCIETY, EXPECTING PERFECT PERFORMANCES."

ACCORDING TO A SENIOR OFFICER, "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND I DO NOT LIKE THE RESULT, I THINK WE DID THE BEST WE COULD. WE TOOK CARE OF FIVE SHIPS WITHOUT INJURIES. ON THE SIXTH SHIP, WE FACED A HARSH ATTACK AND KILLED NINE SABOTEURS.

"NO REAL PEACE ACTIVIST WAS INJURED. NO SOLDIER WAS KILLED, EVEN THOUGH IT CAME PRETTY CLOSE. IN THE END THE SHIPS ARE DOCKED AT ASHDOD. IT WAS VERY COMPLICATED AND THE RESULT IS NEAR PERFECT."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH - WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

267-3

R 150942Z OCT 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/54715 NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 329537

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20101015746003
COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL NAVY EXAMINES WAYS TO AVOID REPEATING GAZA FLOTILLA MISTAKES (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 15 OCT 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY AMOS HAR'EL: "ISRAEL NAVY EXAMINES WAYS TO AVOID REPEATING GAZA FLOTILLA MISTAKES" (U)

INTERNET

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WHILE THE TURKEL COMMITTEE CONTINUES ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA AFFAIR, ISRAEL'S NAVY HAS ALREADY DRAWN OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ALTERCATION AT SEA LAST MAY AND IS MULLING HOW TO AVOID THE SAME PITFALLS. ONE CHANGE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE NAVY IS TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT THAT WILL HELP IT BOARD VESSELS WHILE MINIMIZING HARM TO SOLDIERS.

THE NAVY'S DELIBERATIONS STEM PARTLY FROM AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION IT CONDUCTED AFTER THE FLOTILLA AFFAIR, IN WHICH NINE TURKISH ACTIVISTS WERE KILLED AFTER THE NAVY BOARDED A VESSEL TRYING TO RUN THE GAZA BLOCKADE.

THE INQUIRY FOUND THAT THE MAIN FLAW OF THE COMMANDO RAID WAS THE BOTTLENECK CREATED AS THE COMMANDOS CLIMBED DOWN A ROPE FROM A HELICOPTER, TO BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA.

THE RAID'S INITIAL STAGE, IN WHICH A FEW COMMANDOS FOUND THEMSELVES ALONE, FACING A RELATIVELY LARGE AND VIOLENT GROUP OF ACTIVISTS, INVOLVED A MORTAL THREAT TO THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS. THIS CAUSED THE COMMANDOS TO OPEN FIRE, LEADING TO THE NINE DEATHS.

THE MAIN OPERATIONAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE NAVY MUST FIND A WAY TO ASSEMBLE A CRITICAL MASS OF SOLDIERS ON THE DECK OF THE BOAT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. DURING THE BOARDING OF THE MAVI MARMARA, SEVERAL COMMANDOS WHO TRIED TO BOARD THE LARGE VESSEL FROM SMALL NAVY BOATS WERE PUSHED AWAY.

HAARETZ HAS LEARNED THAT THE NAVY IS NOW CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF LARGER BOATS FOR ITS COMMANDO UNIT, TO BE USED FOR BOARDING VESSELS. NAVY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TESTING A NUMBER OF TYPES OF BOATS. THE PREFERRED BOATS ARE LARGER THAN THE ONES USED IN THE MAY RAID AND COME EQUIPPED WITH RAMPS THAT WILL ALLOW COMMANDOS TO RUSH ONTO THE OTHER VESSEL.

THE NAVY IS ALSO CONTEMPLATING THE PURCHASE OF NON-LETHAL CROWD DISPERSAL EQUIPMENT. FOLLOWING THE FLOTILLA RAID, THE NAVY WAS CRITICIZED FOR EQUIPPING ITS COMMANDOS EXCLUSIVELY WITH PISTOLS AND RIFLES. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, THE NAVY MIGHT ADOPT VARIOUS WATER HOSE DEVICES WHICH THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES AND ISRAELI POLICE CURRENTLY USE FOR CROWD DISPERSAL ON LAND.

THE YNET NEWS PORTAL REPORTED THIS WEEK THAT THE MILITARY IS ALSO CONSIDERING THE USE OF DOGS AGAINST VIOLENT RESISTANCE IN MARITIME INCIDENTS.

FOLLOWING THE MARMARA AFFAIR, THE NAVY SUGGESTED THAT A NATIONAL PANEL BE ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH SEA-BORNE ATTEMPTS TO RUN BLOCKADES -- THE WORKING ASSUMPTION IS THAT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL GROUPS WOULD PERSIST WITH ATTEMPTS TO REACH GAZA OR PROVOKE ISRAELI FORCES.

268-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000803

THE PROPOSAL WAS RELAYED TO IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI, BUT NO SUCH NEW PUBLIC BODY HAS BEEN FORMED TO DEAL WITH CHALLENGES FROM FUTURE FLOTILLAS. MILITARY COORDINATION AGAINST NEW GAZA-BOUND SHIPS REMAINS WITH NAVY CHIEF ADMIRAL ELIEZER MAROM.

IN RECENT MONTHS, FOREIGN NEWS OUTLETS HAVE REPORTED THE ORGANIZATION OF NEW FLOTILLAS IN ARAB STATES, BUT THESE HAVE YET TO SET SAIL FOR GAZA. A LEBANESE FLOTILLA RECEIVED MUCH PUBLICITY, BUT NEVER SET SAIL; AS A RESULT OF CONSIDERABLE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN PRESSURE, A LIBYAN SHIP THAT WAS HEADED FOR GAZA CHANGED COURSE, AND LANDED AT AN EGYPTIAN PORT INSTEAD.

IDF OFFICERS STRESS THAT THE FATE OF ANY FUTURE FLOTILLAS WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR PASSENGERS. LAST MONTH, THE NAVY MANAGED TO BOARD THE "JEWISH FLOTILLA," A SMALL SHIP WITH A NUMBER OF LEFTIST JEWISH ACTIVISTS, WITHOUT INCIDENT.

TESTIFYING TO THE TURKEL COMMITTEE IN AUGUST, ASHKENAZI SAID THE IDF SHOULD CONSIDER USING SHARPSHOOTERS TO FIRE AT ASSAILANTS AND CLEAR THE DECK.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

268-2

UNCLAS

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 797145

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, TERRORISM

SERIAL: GMP20100802739005

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

* SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMY TO FOCUS ON HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT TRAINING AFTER GAZA FLOTILLA PROBE (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV MA'ARIV IN HEBREW 02 AUG 10 P 13(U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY AMIR BUHUT: "LEARNING LESSONS: NAVAL COMMANDO TROOPS LEARN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT." THIS PRODUCT IS PROVIDED BY THE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT ISRAEL NEWS TODAY, JERUSALEM, AND HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER US GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS. OSC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDITORIAL STANDARDS OF THIS TRANSLATION. (U)

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WHILE THE IMAGES OF THE NAVAL COMMANDO TROOPS BEING ATTACKED WITH CLUBS AND BLEEDING ON THE DECK OF THE MARMARA MAY HAVE HELPED ISRAELI PUBLIC RELATIONS TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE WORLD THAT VIOLENT TERRORISTS WERE ON THE SHIP'S DECK, AT THE SAME TIME THEY REVEALED A PROFESSIONAL PROBLEM IN THE SPHERE OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT. AFTER DISCUSSIONS IN ORDER TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INCIDENT, A DECISION WAS MADE TO INTENSIFY TRAINING AT THE GSS COMPOUNDS IN ORDER TO TEACH SOLDIERS HOW TO DEAL WITH SIMILAR BATTLES IN THE FUTURE.

DESPITE THE PRAISES THAT WERE HEAPED ON THE NAVAL COMMANDO TROOPS BY, AMONG OTHERS, MAJ. GEN. (RES.) GIORA EILAND, WHO SAID, "THE BEHAVIOR OF THE NAVAL COMMANDO TROOPS IS WORTHY OF APPRECIATION AND, IN SOME CASES, ADMIRATION," OTHER INQUIRIES THAT WERE CARRIED OUT REVEALED PROFESSIONAL GAPS IN THE FIELD OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

THE RESULT: OVER THE PAST MONTH, MORE AND MORE NAVAL COMMANDO TROOPS HAVE BEEN SEEN IN THE GSS COMPOUNDS IN CENTRAL ISRAEL, WHERE THEY GO IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR FIGHTING SKILLS. THESE ARE ALSO COMBAT SOLDIERS IN TRAINING, AND ALSO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE COMBAT TRACK. THE GSS TRAINERS ARE CONSIDERED WORLD-RENOWNED FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND QUALITY IN TRAINING THE BEST UNITS IN THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT.

269-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000805

"THE NAVAL COMMANDO TROOPS WENT THROUGH THE GSS COMPOUNDS IN THE PAST AND GAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR ABILITIES, BUT RECENTLY A DECISION WAS MADE TO INTENSIFY THE LEVEL AND FREQUENCY OF THEIR TRAINING IN ORDER TO PREPARE THEM FOR ACTIVITY IN A CIVILIAN ENVIRONMENT," A NAVY OFFICER SAID. "A GAP WAS DEFINITELY DISCOVERED HERE, AND IT MUST BE REDUCED GRADUALLY," A SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT OFFICIAL SAID, ADDING, "THE PURPOSE OF THE NAVAL COMMANDO TROOPS IS NOT TO FIGHT CIVILIANS ON SHIP DECKS, BUT SINCE THE FLOTILLAS TO GAZA ARE A CLEAR THREAT, NEW THINKING WAS REQUIRED HERE. WE WANTED TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT CAPABILITY, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO NEUTRALIZE ATTACKERS WITHIN SECONDS WITHOUT USING LIVE WEAPONS, AS WAS REQUIRED ON THE MARMARA."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV MA'ARIV IN HEBREW -- INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST, THIRD-LARGEST CIRCULATION HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 478074

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100609966160
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, KUWAIT

SUBJ: KUNA: ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE FAILURE LED TO (U)

SOURCE: KUWAIT KUNA ONLINE IN ENGLISH 1604 GMT 09 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

"ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE FAILURE LED TO" -- KUNA HEADLINE (U)

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COMPUTER SELECTED AND DISSEMINATED WITHOUT OSC EDITORIAL INTERVENTION

(KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY) - GAZA, JUNE 9 (KUNA) -- ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE HAS DECIDED TO STEP UP ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE TURKISH IHH ORGANIZATION WHICH ORGANIZED THE GAZA-BOUND FREEDOM FLOTILLA WHICH ISRAEL ATTACKED LAST WEEK AND KILLED 9 TURKS ON BOARD.

THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER YEDIOTH AHRONOT SAID SECURITY AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THERE WAS AN INTELLIGENCE FAILURE THAT LED TO THE ISRAELI COMMANDOS STORMING OF THE TURKISH MARAMAR AID SHIP AND TO THE FATALITIES. THERE WASN'T SUFFICIENT INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON THE SHIP AND THE COMMANDOS WERE SHORT OF REQUIRED MILITARY GEAR TO CARRY OUT THE OPERATION, THE REOPRT SAID. MORE INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS ARE NEEDED TO FOLLOW UP THE ACTIVITIES OF IHH, THE NEWSPAPER ADDED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: KUWAIT KUNA ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY OF THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT; URL: [HTTP://WWW.KUNA.NET.KW](http://www.kuna.net.kw)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000807

P 021614Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZDADA/AFIAA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 432655

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100528738011
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, CYPRUS, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAEL: ARMED COMMANDOS SET TO INTERCEPT AID FLOTILLA HEADING FOR GAZA (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL INVITES GAZA AID FLOTILLA TO UNLOAD CARGO AT ASHDOD PORT GMP20100527738002 ISRAEL -- OSC
SUMMARY ENGLISH 0000 GMT 27 MAY 10 (U)
SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 28 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

CORRECTING RELEASE DATE AND PRODUCTID (ORIGINAL ID WAS GMP20110426738011) FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MULTIMEDIA
ELEMENTS, CONTACT (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

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THE ISRAELI MEDIA ON 28 MAY CONTINUES TO REPORT ON ISRAEL'S PREPARATIONS FOR BLOCKING THE IHH
FLOTILLA THAT SAILED OUT FROM ISTANBUL EN ROUTE TO BREAK THE SIEGE ON THE GAZA STRIP.

ARMED COMMANDOS SET TO INTERCEPT FLOTILLA, CYPRUS WON'T LET SHIPS ANCHOR

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100528738011001.JPG) HAARETZ MAP SHOWS ROUTE OF AID
FLOTILLA HEADING FOR GAZA STRIP

TOVA LAZAROFF REPORTS IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM
THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH: "NAVY COMMANDOS WILL BOARD
THE NINE INTERNATIONAL AID SHIPS SAILING TOWARD GAZA CITY IF THEY
DON'T TURN BACK, AND THE COMMANDOS WILL BE ARMED IN CASE
TERRORISTS ARE HIDING ABOARD, DEFENSE OFFICIALS SAID ON THURSDAY
THE SHIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO TRY TO BREAK THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE ON
THE GAZA STRIP ON SATURDAY. THEY ARE CARRYING AROUND 750
ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS, AS WELL AS ABOUT
10,000 TONS OF SUPPLIES. TOP IDF OFFICERS SAID ON THURSDAY THAT
THE NAVY WILL NOT 'TAKE ANY CHANCES' IF AND WHEN IT BOARDS THE
SHIPS, AND WILL IMMEDIATELY INSPECT THEM FOR EXPLOSIVES,
INCLUDING USING BOMB-SNIFFING DOGS FROM THE IDF'S OKETZ K9 UNIT.
THE NAVY PLANS TO BOARD THE SHIPS IF THEY REFUSE TO TURN AROUND.

"THE SHIPS WILL RECEIVE A NUMBER OF WARNINGS FROM THE NAVY AS THEY
BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR APPROACH TO THE GAZA STRIP, STARTING FROM A
DISTANCE OF ABOUT 65 KILOMETERS. IF THE SHIPS ARE COMMANDEERED,
THEY WILL BE SAILED TO THE ASHDOD PORT, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAS
SET UP TENTS TO HOLD THE ACTIVISTS. THE ACTIVISTS WILL BE TAKEN

INTO THE TENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY VOLUNTARILY. IF THEY REFUSE, THEY WILL BE ARRESTED AND TRANSFERRED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE PRISONS SERVICE AND THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WILL BE PRESENT TO HANDLE THE DIPLOMATS WHO ARE ON BOARD THE SHIPS, WHILE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JOURNALISTS."

"IDF SOURCES SAID THE MILITARY WAS PLANNING ON NOT HAVING TO USE ANY FORCE DURING THE OPERATION BUT WAS PREPARED FOR ANY SCENARIO THAT COULD DEVELOP, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SHIPS HAVE BEEN RIGGED WITH EXPLOSIVES BY TERRORISTS. 'UNTIL WE ARE ON BOARD, WE WILL NOT KNOW FOR SURE WHO AND WHAT ARE ON THE SHIPS,' A SENIOR OFFICER SAID. THE OPERATION WILL INVOLVE THOUSANDS OF IDF AND SECURITY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF ELITE UNITS, TRAINED IN NON-LETHAL CROWD DISPERSION TACTICS THAT WILL BE USED, IF NEEDED, WHEN BOARDING THE VESSELS.

"LATE THURSDAY EVENING, CYPRIOT OFFICIALS ASSURED ISRAEL THAT CYPRUS WOULD NOT LET THE FLOTILLA ANCHOR NEAR ITS SHORES, SAIL IN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS OR USE ITS PORTS."

IDF WORRIED ABOUT RIOTING IN HOLDING AREAS AFTER DISEMBARKATION

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100528738011002.JPG)

ISRAELI NAVY BOATS INVITE FLOTILLA FOR CAKE AND COFFEE "AT MA'ASIYAHU PRISON" (HAARETZ CARTOON BY ERAN WOLKOWITZ)

ANSHEL PFEFFER AND YUVAL AZULAY REPORT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH: "DEFENSE SOURCES EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT RIOTING IN THE HOLDING AREA, SO THIS SPACE WILL BE OFF LIMITS TO THE MEDIA. THERE ARE ALSO WORRIES THAT THE ACTIVISTS, TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO EXPEL THEM, WILL DESTROY THEIR PASSPORTS AND REFUSE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES."

ISRAELI ADVOCACY GROUP TO GREET FLOTILLA WITH OWN DEMONSTRATION

ZOE FOX REPORTS IN THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE: "THE EUROPEAN 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' MAKING ITS WAY TO GAZA BEARING HUMANITARIAN AID AND ACTIVISTS MAY HAVE A SURPRISE WAITING WHEN IT REACHES ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN WATERS ON FRIDAY. ISRAEL ADVOCACY GROUP STANDWITHUS PLANS TO GREET THE EUROPEAN CONVOY WITH ITS OWN DEMONSTRATION AT SEA. A FLEET OF PRIVATELY OWNED ISRAELI BOATS WILL LEAVE THE ASHDOD AND HERZLIYYA MARINAS IN HOPES OF SURPRISING THE EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS FRIDAY AT 1 P.M.

"THE COUNTER-FLOTILLA SHIPS WILL BE COVERED IN 'FREE GAZA FROM HAMAS' BANNERS AND BOAT OWNERS WILL WEAR BLOODSTAINED T-SHIRTS, REPRESENTING HAMAS'S TERROR RECORD. STANDWITHUS AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS WILL FUND THE DEMONSTRATION. 'WHAT THE OTHER ANTI-ISRAEL FLOTILLA IS DOING IS IGNORING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND FOCUSING ON A FAKE SITUATION,' MICHAEL DICKSON, STANDWITHUS'S ISRAEL DIRECTOR, TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST THURSDAY. DICKSON BELIEVES THE EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS CARE MORE ABOUT HURTING ISRAEL THAN HELPING THE PALESTINIANS IN GAZA."

COMPLEX SYSTEM OF MIDEAST ALLIANCES SEEN EMERGING, TURKISH GROUP INVOLVEMENT NOT COINCIDENTAL

AMOS HAR'EL AND AVI ISSACHAROFF REPORT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH: "THIS WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TIME THE NAVY HAS HAD TO TAKE OVER SUCH SHIPS TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE GAZA STRIP, BUT THIS TIME THE FLOTILLA IS LARGER THAN BEFORE. IN PREVIOUS CASES, THE GOVERNMENT OF EHUD OLMERT ALLOWED SHIPS TO ENTER THE GAZA STRIP. A YEAR AGO, UNDER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, A SHIP WAS STOPPED BY FORCE AND ITS CREW WAS ARRESTED AND DEPORTED. THIS TIME THE CONFRONTATION IS EXPECTED TO BE LARGER, LOUDER AND WILL REQUIRE MORE CAREFUL AND PROFESSIONAL HANDLING UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE TOP MILITARY BRASS.

"IN THE APPROACHING CLASH, THE COMPLEX SYSTEM OF ALLIANCES AND COUNTER-ALLIANCES OF THE MIDDLE EAST IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE COINCIDENTAL THAT THE ISLAMIST GOVERNING PARTY IN TURKEY IS INVOLVED, BEHIND THE SCENES, IN DISPATCHING THE FLOTILLA, IN COORDINATION WITH HAMAS IN THE GAZA STRIP. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT IS COINCIDENTAL THAT THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE HELD THIS WEEK EXERCISES WITH GREECE, THE TRADITIONAL RIVAL OF TURKEY, OF THE SORT THAT TWO YEARS AGO WERE CARRIED OUT MOSTLY IN TURKEY.

"THE FLOTILLA IS NOT EXPECTED TO ALTER IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL WAY THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP. IT IS MOSTLY A BATTLE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS THAT IS MEANT TO STRIKE A BLOW AT ISRAEL. PERHAPS IF ISRAEL WAS LESS EAGER TO CONFRONT THE ACTIVISTS, SOME OF THE MEDIA ATTENTION WOULD HAVE DISSIPATED. HAD THE FLOTILLA BEEN ALLOWED IN, HAMAS WOULD HAVE ITS DAY, AND THE ENTIRE AFFAIR WOULD EVAPORATE QUICKLY.

"HOWEVER, THE BASIC PROBLEM FACED BY ISRAEL GOES FAR BEYOND THIS FLOTILLA. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BLAMES ISRAEL FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS IN THE GAZA STRIP -- MORE OR LESS. IF IN THE WEST BANK THE OCCUPATION IS THE SOURCE OF ALL EVIL, THEN IN THE GAZA STRIP THE ISRAELI SIEGE OF THE TERRITORY IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE CENTRAL PROBLEM."

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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100620735006
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAELI NAVY PROBE FINDS 'SERIOUS DEFECTS' IN COMMANDO RAID ON TURKISH SHIP (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL SAYS RESERVES RIGHT TO USE ALL MEANS TO STOP GAZA BLOCKADE BREAKERS GMP20100619739001 YNETNEWS ENGLISH 2026 GMT 18 JUN 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 0842 GMT 20 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "ISRAEL NAVY'S GAZA FLOTILLA PROBE 'FINDS PLANNING, INTEL FLAWS'" (U)

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ISRAEL'S MAY 31ST RAID ON THE GAZA-BOUND AID SHIP MAVI MARMARA SUFFERED FROM SERIOUS DEFECTS, A NEW INVESTIGATION INTO THE RAID LED BY ISRAEL'S NAVAL COMMANDO UNIT CONCLUDED, ISRAEL RADIO REPORTED ON SUNDAY.

THE INTERNAL ISRAEL NAVY PROBE CONCLUDED THAT THE COMMANDO UNIT WAS INADEQUATELY PREPARED, LACKED SUFFICIENT INTELLIGENCE, AND WAS ILL-USED IN ITS APPROACH TO THE TURKISH-FLAGGED SHIP.

THE PROBE CONCLUDED THAT DUE TO THE FACT THAT A MASS OFFENSIVE AGAINST ISRAEL'S COMMANDO OFFICERS WAS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, THE OFFICERS ACTED ACCORDINGLY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

"THE SOLDIERS WANTED TO WEAR THEIR CEREMONIAL UNIFORM, THEY EXPECTED TO ENGAGE WITH THE PASSENGERS IN CONVERSATION, AND THAT WAS A DEFECT," A MILITARY OFFICIAL TOLD ISRAEL RADIO. "IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION THAT DEVELOPED THEY ACTED ACCORDINGLY."

THE SOLDIERS INQUIRED DURING THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE REASON THEY LACKED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION OF THE FACT THAT THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD THE TURKISH-FLAGGED AID SHIP WERE PREPARING AN ATTACK.

THE INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED THAT THE RAID ON THE SHIP SHOULD HAVE ONLY BEEN CONDUCTED AFTER HOSING THE ATTACKERS DOWN WITH WATER HOSES AND SMOKE GRENADE.

"OPERATION SKY WINDS 7," THE NAVY COMMANDOS OPERATION TO TAKEOVER THE SHIP, WAS CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED DURING A 'MOCK EXERCISE' WITH MORE THAN 50 SOLDIERS.

THE NAVY ADMITTED THAT THEY WERE PREPARED FOR "RESISTANCE LIKE WE ENCOUNTER IN BIL'IN, BUT THERE WASN'T A SENSE THAT IT WOULD BE A WALK IN THE PARK," AN OFFICER SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL CONSENSUS OF A NEED FOR GREATER MENTAL PREPARATION OF THE FORCE BEFORE THE OPERATION'S EXECUTION AS NOT ENOUGH EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON PREPARING FOR EVERY POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY.

"THE MAJOR DEFECT IN THE PREPARATIONS AND GATHERING OF INTELLIGENCE WAS THAT WE DID NOT KNOW THAT WE WOULD BE COPING WITH TENS OF RIOTERS," THE TOP MILITARY COMMANDER INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK TOLD HAARETZ.

"THIS WAS NOT DISORDERLY CONDUCT THAT DETERIORATED," HE SAID, "THIS WAS A PLANNED TERRORIST ATTACK."

ANOTHER COMMANDER INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK SAID THAT "I STILL AWAKE AT THREE A.M. EVERY MORNING AND ASK MYSELF: DAMN IT, HOW DID WE NOT KNOW MORE?"

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100606735003
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAELI NAVY RESERVISTS DEMAND 'EXTERNAL PROBE' OF 'TRAGIC' GAZA FLOTILLA RAID (U)

REF: 1. NETANYAHU TELLS UN'S BAN ISRAEL 'EXPLORING OTHER OPTIONS' TO 'INT'L COMMISSION' GMP20100606735002
HAARETZ.COM ENGLISH 1255 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 1704 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY ANSHEL PFEFFER: "ISRAEL NAVY RESERVES OFFICERS: ALLOW EXTERNAL GAZA FLOTILLA PROBE" (U)

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A GROUP OF TOP ISRAEL NAVY RESERVES OFFICERS ON SUNDAY PUBLICLY CALLED ON ISRAEL TO ALLOW AN EXTERNAL PROBE INTO ITS COMMANDO RAID OF A GAZA-BOUND HUMANITARIAN AID FLOTILLA LAST WEEK, WHICH LEFT NINE PEOPLE DEAD AND SEVERAL MORE WOUNDED.

IN A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU AND ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI, THE NAVY OFFICERS DENOUNCED THE COMMANDO RAID AS HAVING "ENDED IN TRAGEDY BOTH AT THE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC LEVELS."

"WE DISAGREE WITH THE WIDESPREAD CLAIMS THAT THIS WAS THE RESULT OF AN INTELLIGENCE RIFT," SAID THE OFFICERS. "IN ADDITION, WE DO NOT ACCEPT CLAIMS THAT THIS WAS A 'PUBLIC RELATIONS FAILURE' AND WE THINK THAT THE PLAN WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE BEGINNING."

"FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE PROTEST THE FACT THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TRAGIC RESULTS WAS IMMEDIATELY THRUST ONTO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA," WROTE THE OFFICERS. "THIS DEMONSTRATES CONTEMPT FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT BELONGS PRINCIPALLY TO THE HIERARCHY OF COMMANDERS AND THOSE WHO APPROVED THE MISSION. THIS SHOWS CONTEMPT FOR THE VALUES OF PROFESSIONALISM, THE PURITY OF WEAPONS AND FOR HUMAN LIVES."

THE NAVY OFFICERS' LETTER CAME AS PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU WAS CONVENING HIS TOP MINISTERS TO DELIBERATE A UNITED NATIONS PROPOSAL TO CREATE A JOINT INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ALONGSIDE TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES TO INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEADLY RAID. PASSAGE OMITTED

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100805062013
COUNTRY: TURKEY, ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: TURKISH AID SHIPS DEPART FROM ISRAELI PORT (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL ALLOWS FLOTILLA SHIPS TO RETURN TO TURKEY, EXPECTS GAZA BLOCKADE RESPECTED
GMP20100805739005 MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ENGLISH 0250 GMT 05 AUG 10 (U)
SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 1534 GMT 05 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"TURKISH SHIPS LEAVE ISRAEL TO RETURN HOME" -- AA HEADLINE (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

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TEL AVIV (A.A) - TWO OF TURKEY'S GAZA-BOUND AID SHIPS SEIZED BY ISRAEL AFTER THE MAY 31 ISRAELI RAID HAVE LEFT AN ISRAELI PORT ON THURSDAY TO RETURN TO TURKEY.

THREE SHIPS HAVE BEEN KEPT AT ISRAELI PORTS SINCE MAY 31, AND ON JULY 23, ISRAEL DECIDED TO GIVE BACK AID SHIPS.

MAVI MARMARA, ON WHICH ISRAELI COMMANDOS KILLED EIGHT TURKS AND AN AMERICAN OF TURKISH ORIGIN, AND DEFNE-Y HAVE SET SAIL FROM HAIFA PORT TOGETHER WITH TURKISH TUGBOATS THAT ARRIVED IN ISRAEL EARLIER IN THE DAY TO BRING THEM BACK.

ANOTHER SHIP, GAZZE, WAS KEPT AT ASHDOD PORT AND IT WILL BEGIN ITS JOURNEY TO TURKEY LATER IN THE DAY, OFFICIALS SAID.

JOURNEY OF SHIPS COULD LAST FOR TWO DAYS DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER CONDITIONS, A TURKISH OFFICIAL SAID EARLIER, "IN CASE EVERYTHING GOES NORMAL, THE SHIPS WILL BE IN TURKISH PORT OF ISKENDERUN ON AUGUST 8."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100601739009
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMY RULED OUT SABOTAGING MARMARA DUE TO SIZE; OFFICIAL PROMISES PROBE (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL'S VILNA'I IMPLIES SOME SHIPS 'SABOTAGED;' ARMY VIDEO SHOWS SEIZED WEAPONS GMP20100601739005 ISRAEL – OSC SUMMARY
ENGLISH 0000 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 01 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

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OSC SUMMARY

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ARMY RULED OUT SABOTAGING MARMARA DUE TO SIZE

JONATHAN LIS REPORTS IN LEFT-OF-CENTER TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH AT 1000 GMT: "A SENIOR ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES OFFICER SAID TUESDAY THAT THE ARMY HAD DECIDED AGAINST SABOTAGING A SHIP IN THE GAZA FLOTILLA AT THE CENTER OF MONDAY'S DEADLY CLASHES, OUT OF FEAR THAT THE VESSEL WOULD BE STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN AND RISK OF A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS." "DURING HIS BRIEFING ON THE OPERATION TO THE KNESSET'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE, COLONEL ITZIK TURGEMAN HINTED THAT THE IDF HAD SABOTAGED THE ENGINES OF THE OTHER FIVE SHIPS, SAYING THAT 'THEY TOOK CARE OF THEM.' HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOLDIERS FOUND PISTOLS IN THE HANDS OF TWO OF THE ACTIVISTS WHO WERE KILLED, ALONG WITH EMPTY CASINGS.

"TURGEMAN SAID THAT AT 4:20 A.M. LOCAL TIME MONDAY, IDF TROOPS HAD OBSERVED THE MAVI MARMARA AND AS THE DECK SEEMED QUIET, ASSESSED THAT THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD WERE SLEEPING. IN REALITY, THE ACTIVISTS WERE WAITING FOR THE SOLDIERS ARMED WITH CLUBS AND OTHER WEAPONS.

"THE COMMITTEE ALSO HEARD FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE NAVAL OPERATION, INCLUDING THAT THE OFFICER IN CHARGE HAD PHOTOGRAPHED THE HEAD OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL, SHEIKH RAED SALAH, AND SENT THE PHOTO TO ISRAEL IN ORDER TO REFUTE RUMORS THAT HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED OR KILLED DURING THE CLASHES. TURGEMAN ALSO SAID THAT ISRAELI ARAB MK HANIN ZOABI HAD TENDED THE WOUNDED ON THE SHIP."

MKS, MINISTERS COMMENT ON OPERATION

A RELATED REPORT BY RONEN MEDZINI IN TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH, CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ADDS AT 0939 GMT: "FOLLOWING UN CALLS FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE OPERATION AGAINST THE FLOTILLA, QUESTIONS ARE ALREADY BEING ASKED IN THE KNESSET. CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE TZACHI HANEGBI SAID TUESDAY, 'THERE ARE MANY INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS. WE WILL INSIST ON GETTING ANSWERS, ON INVESTIGATING AND LEARNING LESSONS.' MOSSAD CHIEF MEIR DAGAN WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

"HANEGBI JUSTIFIED THE GOVERNMENT AND IDF DECISION TO ACT AGAINST THE VESSELS, WHICH WERE MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE GAZA STRIP TO PROTEST ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE. 'AFTER OPERATION CAST LEAD, THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO IMPOSE A SEA BLOCKADE ON GAZA, AND ALL GOODS ENTERING THE STRIP VIA THE SEA WOULD HAVE TO BE CHECKED IN ASHDOD FIRST,' HE SAID. 'THE OPPOSITION OF THAT TIME SUPPORTED THE DECISION AND THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CONTINUED THIS POLICY, AND IN THIS SPIRIT IT WAS DECIDED TO PREVENT THE INCITING AND VIOLENT FLOTILLA.' HANEGBI ADDED THAT OPPOSITION PARTY KADIMA HAD ALSO SUPPORTED THE OPERATION. 'WE ARE NOT USED TO A CONSENSUS ON MANY ISSUES, BUT THE FEELING OF INJUSTICE WE ALL FEEL NOW, IN LIGHT OF THE HYPOCRISY AND CYNICISM OF ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL ON THIS ISSUE STRENGTHENS THE CLEAR MORAL AND SECURITY LOGIC TO PREVENT THE OPENING OF FREE SEA ROUTES INTO THE GAZA STRIP.'

"THE KNESSET MEMBER ALSO EXPLAINED WHY ISRAEL ACTED. 'WE GOT OUT OF GAZA A FEW YEARS AGO, AND SINCE THEN WE HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, AN ISRAELI SOLDIER HAS BEEN IN SOME HIDDEN BASEMENT FOR FOUR YEARS, AND THUS WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A

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RIGHT TO ACT AS WE ACTED,' HE SAID. HE ADDED HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO DECISION-MAKERS INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR, INCLUDING THE ARMY, THE NAVY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

"MK ARIEH ELDAD (NATIONAL UNION) SAID TO YNET, 'MAYBE AFTER THIS OPERATION, WITH ITS MURDEROUS CHARACTER, ISRAEL WILL RESPOND IN A DIFFERENT MANNER TO BIL'IN AND NIL'IN, TO ALL THE ANARCHIST GROUPS FOR PEACE, AND THE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE NAME OF ARAB ISRAELIS. ISRAEL NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THAT MOST OF THESE GROUPS ARE THE FORERUNNERS OF TERROR GROUPS, PROMOTING INTERESTS AGAINST ISRAEL. WE NEED TO TREAT THEM AS ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE COME TO KILL IDF SOLDIERS.'

"DURING A SEPARATE EVENT, FINANCE MINISTER YUVAL STEINITZ SAID, 'WE CANNOT EXPECT 100% SUCCESS IN THIS KIND OF OPERATION.'" IN A FINANCE MINISTRY CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM, STEINITZ SAID THAT ISRAEL IS AN EXPERT IN EXAGGERATED AND DANGEROUS SELF-FLAGELLATION. HE SAID THAT THE LIFTING OF THE SEA BLOCKADE WOULD CAUSE FURTHER MISSILES AND TERROR ACTIVITIES. "ISRAEL HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND ITSELF,' HE DECLARED. 'THE NAVY DID ALL IT WAS TOLD, WHILE ENDANGERING ITS SOLDIERS.'"

STATE-FUNDED, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW ADDS AT 1000 GMT: "MINISTER YOSI PELED CALLS FOR AN END TO SELF-FLAGELLATION AND STRESSES THAT THE MISSION TO PREVENT THE FLOTILLA FROM REACHING GAZA WAS ACCOMPLISHED. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE WAY IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED SHOULD BE PROBED. INTERVIEWED BY ANAT DAVIDOV ON OUR MIDDAY NEWSREEL, MINISTER PELED SAID ISRAEL HAD NOT EXPECTED THE INTENSE RESISTANCE SOME TERRORISTS, TO QUOTE THE MINISTER, DISPLAYED, AND THE LYNCHING OF IDF SOLDIERS. HE WARNED THAT THE NEXT FLOTILLA IS EXPECTED SOON, AND SHOULD WE ALLOW IT TO REACH GAZA, WE WILL PAY TENFOLD FOR IT.

"MINISTER PELED POINTED OUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTER BARAQ AND CHIEF OF STAFF ASHKENAZI DID NOT AFFECT THE ISRAELI ACTION IN ANY WAY. HE ADDED THAT MINISTER BARAQ'S RESIGNATION WOULD SOLVE NOTHING.

GIL'AD PROMISES THOROUGH PROBE

"AMOS GIL'AD, HEAD OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S POLITICAL-SECURITY DEPARTMENT, SAYS THE IDF WILL INVESTIGATE YESTERDAY'S OPERATION THOROUGHLY, TRANSPARENTLY, AND SINCERELY, AND WILL LEARN ITS LESSONS. REFERRING TO AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY COMMISSION, GIL'AD SAID IT IS UP THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE ON ONE.

"HE FURTHER SAID THAT THE SEA BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP IS WEAKENING HAMAS AND IS IRREPLACEABLE, DESPITE THE EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF SMUGGLING. AMOS GIL'AD MADE THESE REMARKS IN A TALK WITH YARON DEQEL ON THE IT'S ALL TALK PROGRAM."

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100805739005
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL ALLOWS FLOTILLA SHIPS TO RETURN TO TURKEY, EXPECTS GAZA BLOCKADE RESPECTED (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN ENGLISH 0250 GMT 05 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

PRESS RELEASE: "RETURN OF TURKISH VESSELS THAT TRIED TO ENTER THE GAZA STRIP" (U)

INTERNET

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IN THE WAKE OF A DECISION BY THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND PURSUANT TO A REQUEST BY THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WILL TODAY (THURSDAY), 5.8.10, HAND OVER, TO TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES, THE TURKISH VESSELS THAT TRIED TO VIOLATE THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON THE HAMAS REGIME IN THE GAZA STRIP, AND WHICH ARE NOW ANCHORED IN ISRAEL.

THREE TURKISH TOWING SHIPS WILL ARRIVE IN ISRAEL TODAY. THEIR CREWS WILL RECEIVE THREE VESSELS ANCHORED IN ISRAEL ALONG WITH THE PERSONAL EQUIPMENT THAT WAS ABOARD THEM.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES IN WHICH IT EXPRESSES ISRAEL'S EXPECTATION THAT TURKEY WILL PREVENT OTHER TURKISH VESSELS FROM VIOLATING THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP. THE MESSAGE EMPHASIZES THAT ISRAEL TRANSFERS EQUIPMENT AND GOODS TO GAZA ON AN ONGOING BASIS VIA THE LAND CROSSINGS IN A MANNER THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND WHICH IS ANCHORED IN RECOGNIZED AGREEMENTS.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSE MINISTRY; URL: WWW.MOD.GOV.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000816

P 011819Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/54715 NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 426254

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000817

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100601736010
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: NETANYAHU: INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION WON'T STOP NAVAL BLOCKADE OF GAZA STRIP (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 1653 GMT 01 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:
REPORT BY BARAQ RAVID: "NETANYAHU: WORLD CRITICISM WON'T STOP ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE OF GAZA" (U)
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PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU TOLD HIS POLITICAL-SECURITY CABINET ON TUESDAY THAT INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION WOULD NOT STOP ISRAEL'S NAVAL BLOCKADE OF THE GAZA STRIP.

THE ISRAEL NAVY'S DEADLY RAID OF A GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID AWAKENED A STORM OF CRITICISM AMONG ISRAEL'S FRIENDS AND FOES ALIKE, LEADING MANY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CALL ON ISRAEL TO LIFT ITS YEARS-LONG SIEGE OF THE HAMAS-RULED COASTAL TERRITORY.

BUT NETANYAHU TOLD MINISTERS AT A SPECIAL MEETING CONVENED IN THE WAKE OF THE RAID THAT THE BLOCKADE WAS STILL NECESSARY TO PREVENT WEAPONS FROM BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE GAZA STRIP.

"WE KNOW FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OPERATION CAST LEAD THAT THE WEAPONS ENTERING GAZA ARE BEING TURNED AGAINST OUR CIVILIANS," NETANYAHU SAID, REFERRING TO ISRAEL'S THREE-WEEK OFFENSIVE ON THE GAZA STRIP THAT ENDED IN JANUARY 2009.

"GAZA IS A TERROR STATE FUNDED BY THE IRANIANS, AND THEREFORE WE MUST TRY TO PREVENT ANY WEAPONS FROM BEING BROUGHT INTO GAZA BY AIR, SEA AND LAND," HE SAID.

NETANYAHU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MILITANTS WERE STILL CAPABLE OF SMUGGLING WEAPONS IN VIA TUNNELS FROM EGYPT, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE LARGE AMOUNTS OF WEAPONS THAT COULD BE BROUGHT BY SEA MADE THE THREAT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AFFAIR.

"ON THE FRANCOPIA SHIP ALONE WE CONFISCATED SOME 200 TONS OF WEAPONS BEING SMUGGLED TO HEZBOLLAH," THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, IN REFERENCE TO THE ANTIGUAN-FLAGGED SHIP ISRAEL INTERCEPTED OFF THE COAST OF CYPRUS IN NOVEMBER 2009.

"OPENING A NAVAL ROUTE TO GAZA WILL PRESENT AN ENORMOUS DANGEROUS TO THE SECURITY OF OUR CITIZENS," SAID NETANYAHU. "THEREFORE, WE WILL STAND FIRM ON OUR POLICY OF A NAVAL BLOCKADE AND OF INSPECTING INCOMING SHIPS."

"IT'S TRUE THAT THERE IS INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AND CRITICISM OF THIS POLICY, BUT THE WORLD MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS CRUCIAL TO PRESERVING ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND THE RIGHT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S TO DEFEND ITSELF."

NETANYAHU ADDED THAT ISRAEL REGRETTED THAT NINE LIVES WERE LOST IN THE OPERATION ON MONDAY, BUT DEFENDED THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES SOLDIERS AS HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED IN THE ACTIONS OF THEIR MISSION.

"THIS WAS NOT A PEACE FLOTILLA, BUT A VIOLENT FORCE," HE SAID.

THE SPECIAL CABINET MEETING ON TUESDAY WAS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A DEMAND TO ESTABLISH A PANEL OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE HOW AND WHY THE DECISION WAS MADE TO CARRY OUT THE COMMANDO RAID ON THE FLOTILLA.

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SENIOR MINISTERS HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE FACT THAT THE DECISION TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE FLOTILLA TO GAZA WAS MADE AFTER TWO MEETINGS OF THE FORUM OF SEVEN SENIOR MINISTERS BUT WITHOUT OFFICIAL DELIBERATION BY THE INNER CABINET, THE BODY THAT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE MILITARY ACTIONS OF THIS SCALE.

NETANYAHU RETURNED TO ISRAEL ON TUESDAY MORNING FROM THE UNITED STATES, AFTER CANCELING HIS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA IN WASHINGTON. HE CONVENED THE INNER CABINET FOR 4 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF MONDAY'S MILITARY OPERATION.

SENIOR MINISTERS HAVE NOTED THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE HANDLING OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE PAST, THE INNER CABINET DID NOT DISCUSS ISSUES RELATED TO THE FLOTILLA, RECEIVE OPERATIONAL BRIEFINGS OR APPROVE THE OPERATION. THE FORUM OF SEVEN, WHICH DID CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PLAN, IS A CONSULTATIVE BODY ONLY AND DOES NOT HAVE THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PASS RESOLUTIONS.

THE FORUM - NETANYAHU, DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK, FOREIGN MINISTER AVIGDOR LIEBERMAN, INTELLIGENCE AND ATOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER DAN MERIDOR, STRATEGIC AFFAIRS MINISTER MOSHE YA'ALON, INTERIOR MINISTER ELI YISHAI AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO BENNY BEGIN - HELD JUST TWO MEETINGS ON THE FLOTILLA, THE LATEST ON WEDNESDAY. THEY APPROVED THE OPERATION AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE ISRAELI POLICY OF BARRING SHIPS FROM DOCKING IN GAZA.

MUCH OF THE SESSION WAS DEVOTED NOT TO THE MILITARY OPERATION BUT RATHER TO MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ISSUES SURROUNDING THE ISSUE. "THE MINISTERS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING DIDN'T GET THE IMPRESSION FROM THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT THAT A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION OF THIS SCOPE WAS LIKELY," ONE SENIOR JERUSALEM OFFICIAL SAID. "THE SENSE DURING THE DISCUSSION WAS THAT THE NAVY WOULD COME AND THE ORGANIZERS WOULD TAKE FRIGHT, DO AN ABOUT-FACE AND FLEE," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED THE SESSION, A FEW MINISTERS EXPRESSED DIFFERING VIEWS BUT IN THE END A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED AND THERE WAS NOT EVEN A VOTE. ONE OF THE MOST VOCAL PARTICIPANTS IN WEDNESDAY'S SESSION WAS CABINET SECRETARY ZVI HAUSER.

HE WAS AGAINST THE RAID AND SAID THE SHIPS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DOCK IN GAZA IN ORDER TO AVOID A DIPLOMATIC AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CRISIS AS WELL AS THE EMBARRASSMENT TO ISRAEL THAT A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH DEMONSTRATORS ON THE SHIPS COULD CAUSE. AFTER SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR OPPOSITION TO HAUSER'S VIEWS, HIS POSITION WAS REJECTED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH - WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000818

PREC: R DTG: 221532Z JUN 10
FROM: OSC RESTON VA
UNCLAS
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 554899

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL

SERIAL: IAP20100622950097

COUNTRY: IRAN, ISRAEL

*SUBJ: IRIB TO MAKE ANIMATION ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA FREEDOM FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: TEHRAN MEHR NEWS AGENCY IN ENGLISH 1510 GMT 22 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

NEWS AGENCIES

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TEHRAN, JUNE 22 (MNA) -- ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT IN HAMEDAN CITY WILL BE MAKING AN ANIMATION ON THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE GAZA FREEDOM FLOTILLA.

THE 25-MINUTE ANIMATION IS ON THE RECENT ATTACK BY THE ISRAELI NAVY AND AIR FORCE ON THE GAZA-BOUND FREEDOM FLOTILLA IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, KILLING 19 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISTS AND WOUNDING DOZENS OF OTHERS.

"WITH THE AID OF ANIMATION, WE CAN CONVEY CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INFORMATION TO THE AUDIENCE," THE HEAD OF IRIB OFFICE IN HAMEDAN HOJJATOLISLAM HOSSEIN TAQIPUR MENTIONED IN A CONFERENCE ON MONDAY.

THE ANIMATION TELLS THE STORY OF ZIONIST CRIMES IN EASILY UNDERSTANDABLE LANGUAGE TO INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO THE CALAMITIES INFLICTED UPON THE PEOPLE OF GAZA, HE ADDED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEHRAN MEHR NEWS AGENCY IN ENGLISH -- CONSERVATIVE NEWS AGENCY; RUN BY THE ISLAMIC PROPAGATION OFFICE, WHICH IS AFFILIATED WITH THE CONSERVATIVE QOM SEMINARY; WWW.MEHRNEWS.COM

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000819

R 011504Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZDADA/AFIAA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 425444

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, TERRORISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100601736001
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, EGYPT, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: ISRAELI COMMENTARIES VIEW STRATEGIC, DIPLOMATIC IMPACT OF FLOTILLA 'FIASCO' (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 01 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

INTERNET

OSC SUMMARY

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(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED:
GMP20100601736001001.GIF) HAMAS'S
ISMA'IL HANIYAH GLOATING OVER IDF
FIASCO (YEDI'OT AHARONOT CARTOON
BY YOTAM FISHBEIN)

ISRAELI PRESS ON 1 JUNE CARRY NUMEROUS REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES ON THE 31 MAY IDF OPERATION TO STOP THE INTERNATIONAL FLOTILLA HEADING TOWARD THE GAZA STRIP WHICH ENDED WITH THE DEATH OF NINE FOREIGN ACTIVISTS WHEN IDF NAVAL COMMANDOS CLASHED WITH PROTESTORS ON ONE OF THE SHIPS. VIRTUALLY ALL THE COMMENTATORS ARE AGREED THAT THE IDF OPERATION WAS A TACTICAL "FIASCO" IN WHICH THEY FELL INTO A TRAP SET BY THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS. THEY SAID THE MILITARY MISJUDGMENT HAS LED TO A GRAVE STRATEGIC AND DIPLOMATIC DEBACLE FOR ISRAEL. SOME SAID THE "RABID" ANTI-ISRAEL HATRED UNLEASHED BY THE DOOMED OPERATION WILL EMBOLDEN FURTHER SUCH INCIDENTS. ONE COMMENTATOR SAID IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WILL TRY TO PRESSURE NETANYAHU INTO MAKING CONCESSIONS TO THE PALESTINIANS, WHILE ANOTHER SAID PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU'S BEST MOVE WOULD BE TO INITIATE A PLAN TOGETHER WITH TURKEY AND EGYPT TO END THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA. YET ANOTHER PUNDIT CALLS ON DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAQ TO TAKE

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAILURE AND IMMEDIATELY RESIGN TO DISPROVE CLAIMS IT WAS COLD-BLOODED MURDER. ANOTHER CALLS ON NETANYAHU TO BRING THE OPPOSITION QADIMA PARTY INTO A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT BUT DOUBTS THE PRIME MINISTER HAS THE COURAGE OR ABILITY TO DO SO.

MILITARY MISJUDGEMENT TO HAVE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON DETERRENT CAPABILITY

THE JERUSALEM POST EDITOR DAVID HOROWITZ WRITING UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE FLOTILLA FIASCO" SAYS: "OBVIOUSLY, MANY OF THOSE IN THE 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' WERE NOT ENGAGED IN A HUMANITARIAN MISSION. HAD THAT BEEN THEIR PRIME MOTIVATION, THEY WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED ISRAEL'S OFFER TO ESCORT THEM TO ASHDOD PORT AND ARRANGE FOR THE DELIVERY OF THEIR SUPPLIES TO GAZA, AFTER SECURITY CHECKS, OVER LAND. THEY ALSO WOULD HAVE AGREED WITHOUT HESITATION TO CONVEY A PACKAGE FROM THE FAMILY OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIER HELD HOSTAGE BY HAMAS FOR ALMOST FOUR YEARS IN GAZA, GIL'AD SHALIT.

"OBVIOUSLY, TOO, MANY OF THOSE WHO SAILED TOWARD GAZA WERE NOT 'PEACE ACTIVISTS.' WHILE THOSE ABOARD FIVE OF THE VESSELS IN THE FLOTILLA DID NOT VIOLENTLY OPPOSE THE IDF SOLDIERS WHO CAME TO INTERCEPT THEM, THE VIDEO FOOTAGE RELEASED BY THE IDF IN THE COURSE OF MONDAY CONFIRMED EARLIER OFFICIAL DESCRIPTIONS BY ISRAEL OF SOLDIERS BEING PREMEDITATEDLY AND RUTHLESSLY ATTACKED AS THEY TRIED TO BOARD THE LARGEST OF THE VESSELS, THE MAVI MARMARA.

"INEXPLICABLY, ONLY A SMALL CONTINGENT OF NAVAL COMMANDOS WAS DISPATCHED TO TAKE CONTROL OF A SHIP CARRYING HUNDREDS OF ACTIVISTS. AND THE COMMANDOS CAME ON BOARD CARRYING PAINTBALL GUNS, APPARENTLY UNDER THE MISCONCEPTION THAT THE TAKEOVER OF THE MAVI MARMARA WOULD BE, IF NOT A GAME, THEN CERTAINLY NOT A CONFRONTATION WITH AN ENEMY.

"THE IDF'S INTELLIGENCE WAS CLEARLY DEEPLY FLAWED. AS THE FOOTAGE SHOWED, THE OUTNUMBERED, UNDER-EQUIPPED AND INCORRECTLY PREPARED COMMANDOS FOUND THEMSELVES NOT GRAPPLING WITH UNRULY PEACE ACTIVISTS OR DEMONSTRATORS, TO WHOM THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED TO SHOW 'RESTRAINT,' BUT BEING VICIOUSLY ATTACKED BEFORE THEY HAD BARELY SET FOOT ON DECK. THE CLIPS SHOWED CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE SWARMING AROUND EACH OF THE COMMANDOS, AND BEATING THEM OVER AND OVER WITH CLUBS AND BARS IN SCENES SICKENINGLY REMINISCENT OF THE LYNCHING OF IDF RESERVISTS IN THE RAMALLAH POLICE STATION 10 YEARS AGO.

"THERE WAS FOOTAGE OF ONE OF THE 'ACTIVISTS' STABBING A SOLDIER, OF A PETROL BOMB BEING THROWN AT THE TROOPS, A STUN GRENADE. AND THE TROOPS THEMSELVES REPORTED BEING SPRAYED WITH TEAR GAS, ATTACKED WITH IRON BARS, KNIVES AND STICKS, AND OF EFFORTS, REPORTEDLY SUCCESSFUL IN AT LEAST ONE CASE, TO GRAB THE PISTOLS SOME WERE ALSO CARRYING. THERE WERE REPORTS OF GUNFIRE DIRECTED AT THE TROOPS, AND OF SOLDIERS JUMPING INTO THE SEA TO ESCAPE ATTACK.

"SOLDIERS WERE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES, SAID THE IDF SPOKESMAN,

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AVI BENAYAHU (IN HEBREW). 'IT WAS A LYNCH. IT WAS AN AMBUSH.' THE NAVY CHIEF, ELIEZER MAROM, TOLD AN EARLY AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE RESULTING TOLL OF THE DEAD AND INJURED COULD HAVE BEEN 'MUCH WORSE,' THAT THE CONFRONTATION COULD HAVE ENDED EVEN MORE UNHAPPILY.

"BUT IT ALSO COULD HAVE ENDED A GREAT DEAL BETTER. AT THIS WRITING, ISRAEL IS FACING A BATTLE TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE FLOTILLA-SPONSORING TURKS, CONDEMNATION FROM MUCH OF THE ARAB WORLD, Milder EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND CRITICISM FROM WESTERN NATIONS, A CONCERTED DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST IT AT THE UN, AND EXACERBATED FEARS OF INTERNAL AND REGIONAL VIOLENCE.

"DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK NOTED THAT THE MAVI MARMARA WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE TURKISH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION (THE IHH), WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS 'A VIOLENT, EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS TERRORISM.' BOTH HE AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANNY AYALON STATED WITH GOOD REASON THAT THE ENTIRE 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' HAD BEEN A DELIBERATE 'PROVOCATION.'

"IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, FACING SUCH HOSTILITY, IT IS HARD TO FATHOM WHY THE IDF SO UNDERESTIMATED THE CHALLENGE ITS SOLDIERS WOULD FACE, AND THUS ERRED SO STRIKINGLY OVER BOTH ITS CHOICE OF HOW TO THWART THE FLOTILLA, AND OVER THE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS, AND THE EQUIPMENT, IT SENT INTO THE BATTLE AT SEA.

"THAT ISRAEL WOULD LOSE THE 'MEDIA WAR' -- AGAINST WHAT WERE LARGELY DEPICTED INTERNATIONALLY AS WELL-INTENTIONED HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TRYING TO DEFY THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE BY BRINGING SUPPLIES TO GAZA -- WAS A GIVEN. SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS REFUSE TO TAKE THE 'SECOND BATTLEFIELD' SERIOUSLY -- CRIMINALLY IGNORING THE IMPERATIVE TO ALLOCATE THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES SO THAT ISRAEL IS EQUIPPED TO EFFECTIVELY ARTICULATE ITS VARIOUS CHALLENGES AHEAD OF TIME, AND IN REAL TIME, IN INTERNATIONAL, DIPLOMATIC AND LEGAL FORUMS.

"ISRAEL IS BEING FURTHER OVERWHELMED DAY BY DAY IN THE NEWER WORLD OF SOCIAL MEDIA: THOSE ABOARD THE FLOTILLA, AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WORLDWIDE, ARE PROVING TO BE EXPERT EXPONENTS OF TWITTER AND OTHER INSTANTANEOUS SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS (AS MY COLLEAGUE AMIR MIZROCH DETAILS IN AN OP-ED ELSEWHERE IN THESE PAGES). OFFICIAL ISRAEL, BY CONTRAST, COULD BARELY MANAGE TO DEPART FROM HEBREW LONG ENOUGH TO MANAGE A STATEMENT AND AN ANSWER IN ENGLISH AT ITS MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCES DURING MONDAY.

"ISRAEL WAS ALSO FURTHER HAMPERED BY THE ABSENCE OF ITS PRIME MINISTER OVERSEAS. WHEN PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU WAS FINALLY HEARD LATER MONDAY, SPEAKING TO THE PRESS WITH CANADA'S PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER ALONGSIDE HIM, HIS POWERFUL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE WAY IDF SOLDIERS WERE CONFRONTED ON THE MAVI MARMARA -- 'THEY WERE MOBBED, CLUBBED, BEATEN AND STABBED,' HE SAID -- SHOWED HOW EFFECTIVE A CAREFULLY ARTICULATED NARRATIVE CAN BE.

"BUT SO MUCH FOR THE ARENAS IN WHICH ISRAEL IS ROUTINELY INEPT. WHAT WAS SO WORRYING ABOUT MONDAY'S PERFORMANCE WAS THE MILITARY MISJUDGMENT AND MISASSESSMENT -- AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON

ISRAEL'S DETERRENT CAPABILITY OF THE FAILURE TO EFFICIENTLY
OVERWHELM THE FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST IT ON WHAT AMOUNTED TO AN ENEMY VESSEL.

"ISRAEL IS CONCERNED WITH EMINENTLY GOOD REASON ABOUT THE
SMUGGLING OF WEAPONRY INTO HAMAS-CONTROLLED GAZA. IT MAY HAVE
FELT IT HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO INTERCEPT A FLOTILLA CARRYING IT
KNEW NOT WHAT TO THE HAMAS TERROR STATE. WHY DID IT NOT
ANTICIPATE THAT THE ACTIVISTS AND SUPPORTERS OF 'A VIOLENT,
EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS TERRORISM' WOULD ACT
PRECISELY ACCORDING TO TYPE?" JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST
ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: [HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL](http://www.jpost.co.il)

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RUSHES TO JUDGMENT

A JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE RUSH TO
JUDGMENT" SAYS: "ALTHOUGH SO MUCH REMAINED TO BE CLARIFIED, THERE
COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT THE INJURY AND LOSS OF LIFE WERE A
PREMEDITATED ACT NOT BY ISRAELI ARMED FORCES, WHO HAD BEEN
REPEATEDLY TOLD TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT, BUT BY THOSE ON THE MAVI
MARMARA. NONETHELESS, UNSURPRISINGLY, MUCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY RUSHED TO PASS JUDGMENT, AND FOUND ISRAEL GUILTY. IT WAS
AS IF A PENT-UP TORRENT OF RABID ANTI-ISRAEL HATRED HAD FINALLY
FOUND ITS RELEASE. AND THE CRITICISM, OF COURSE, WILL BE
UNDERSTOOD AS LEGITIMATION FOR THE MOST VIOLENT OF THE ACTIVISTS,
EMBOLDENING FURTHER SUCH INCIDENTS.

"WHAT HAPPENED ON THE MAVI MARMARA WAS TRAGIC. BUT IT DID NOT
JUSTIFY THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE. ISRAEL LEFT GAZA IN 2005,
REMOVING EVERY CIVILIAN AND EVERY MILITARY REMNANT. IT WOULD HAVE
NO QUARREL WITH GAZA IF IT HAD NOT FACED RELENTLESS MISSILE
ATTACKS FROM THE STRIP, AND IF THE HAMAS GOVERNMENT THERE WERE
NOT ARMING ITSELF AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN PURSUIT OF ITS DECLARED GOAL OF ISRAEL'S ELIMINATION.

"ISRAEL'S RESTRICTIONS ON THE FLOW OF PEOPLE AND MATERIAL INTO
GAZA STEM SOLELY FROM THE NEED TO PREVENT THE ARMING OF HAMAS AND
ITS TERRORIST ALLIES. THAT WAS WHY THE 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' WAS
INTERCEPTED, AND THAT WAS WHY ISRAEL HAD OFFERED TO TRANSPORT THE
SUPPLIES ABOARD THE SIX VESSELS OVER LAND ONCE THEY HAD BEEN CHECKED.

"THE PREMEDITATED REFUSAL OF THOSE ABOARD ONE OF THE SHIPS TO ACT
PEACEFULLY WHEN CONFRONTED BY IDF TROOPS WAS THE TRIGGER FOR THE
VIOLENCE AT SEA. CONFRONTED WITH SUCH VIOLENCE WHEN THEY HAD BEEN
EXPECTING NON-VIOLENT PROTESTS, OR AT WORST, LOW-LEVEL CLASHES,
IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE SOLDIERS OF ANY OF THE NATIONS THAT
RUSHED TO CRITICIZE ISRAEL WOULD HAVE ACTED ANY DIFFERENTLY.
INDEED, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY WORSE."

ISRAEL SHOULD INITIATE ACTION PLAN WITH TURKEY, EGYPT TO END GAZA BLOCKADE

TZVI BAR'EL WRITES IN A HAARETZ COMMENTARY UNDER THE HEADLINE
"TURKEY'S CHANCE:" "TURKEY COULD NOT HAVE FORESEEN THE TRAGIC
CONSEQUENCES OF THE FLOTILLA TO WHICH IT LENT ITS AEGIS, AND MAY

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EVEN HAVE HELPED FUND. BUT THE INCIDENT HAS GIVEN IT DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE THAT IT IS NOW DEBATING HOW TO USE. ITS INITIAL DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE - THE RECALL OF ITS AMBASSADOR - WAS INEVITABLE. AND ITS DEMAND TO CONVENE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, ON WHICH IT CURRENTLY SITS, ISRAEL CAN ALSO LIVE WITH. BUT WHEN TURKISH PRIME MINISTER RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN RETURNS TO ANKARA, HE WILL HAVE TO MAKE A STRATEGIC DECISION: DOES HE UNOFFICIALLY SEVER TIES WITH ISRAEL BY PERMANENTLY LOWERING THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION, CANCELING AGREEMENTS IN THE PIPELINE AND DEMANDING AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION, THEREBY EFFECTIVELY JOINING THOSE MUSLIM STATES THAT MAINTAIN NO TIES WITH ISRAEL? OR DOES HE USE THE INCIDENT TO LEVERAGE TURKEY INTO A POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO STEER REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS? FOR INSTANCE, HE COULD SET CONDITIONS FOR RESUMING NORMAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING A TIMETABLE FOR ENDING THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA, PERMANENT TURKISH PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND THE RESUMPTION OF INDIRECT TALKS WITH SYRIA VIA TURKISH MEDIATORS. THESE CONDITIONS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR ISRAEL TO SWALLOW, BUT THEY WOULD NOT MEET SERIOUS OPPOSITION FROM WASHINGTON, WHICH NEEDS ANKARA'S SUPPORT FOR ITS POLICIES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. HE COULD ALSO USE THE INCIDENT TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HAMAS AND FATAH.

"EFFECTIVELY, ERDOGAN COULD PUT ISRAEL IN THE POSITION OF BEING UNABLE TO REFUSE HIS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO WIN EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN BACKING. SHOULD TURKEY PURSUE SUCH A STRATEGY, IT COULD REAP ADDITIONAL DIPLOMATIC CAPITAL, ON TOP OF THE SUCCESS IT HAD IN BROKERING A URANIUM SWAP DEAL WITH IRAN - A DEAL THAT, AFTER YESTERDAY'S DISASTER, ISRAEL WILL HAVE TROUBLE OPPOSING. A TURKISH ACHIEVEMENT WOULD NOT COME ONLY AT ISRAEL'S EXPENSE: FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT, EGYPT, TOO, IS LIKELY TO COME UNDER RENEWED ARAB PRESSURE TO END THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA. SO FAR, EGYPT HAS MADE DO WITH DENOUNCING THE INCIDENT; IT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHAT ELSE TO DO. FOR ALL ITS REVULSION AT HAMAS, IT MUST ACT AGAINST ISRAEL, THOUGH IT MAY DO NO MORE THAN RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR FOR CONSULTATIONS AND OPEN THE RAFAH BORDER CROSSING WITH GAZA FOR A FEW DAYS. BUT WHATEVER IT DOES, IT HAS LOST SOLE CONTROL OF THE GAZA ISSUE. FROM NOW ON, TURKEY WILL PLAY A LEAD ROLE.

"ISRAEL CAN IGNORE NEITHER THE PRESSURE ON EGYPT, ITS PARTNER IN THE BLOCKADE, NOR TURKEY'S NEW ROLE. ITS BEST MOVE WOULD THEREFORE BE TO INITIATE A JOINT ACTION PLAN WITH TURKEY, EGYPT AND THE PALESTINIANS TO END THE GAZA BLOCKADE. OTHERWISE, ISRAEL CAN EXPECT MORE AND MORE FLOTILLAS THAT WILL FORCE IT TO BATTLE CIVILIANS." TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

ISRAEL'S ACTION REFLECTS 'CONFUSED, PANICKED AND DEVOID OF SELF CONFIDENCE' STATE

A COMMENTARY BY AUTHOR DAVID GROSSMAN IN THE SAME PAPER UNDER THE HEADLINE "LIKE A PUPPET ON A STRING" ASSERTS: "NO EXPLANATION CAN JUSTIFY OR WHITWASH THE CRIME COMMITTED HERE, NOR IS THERE ANY EXCUSE FOR THE STUPIDITY WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMY

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ACTED. ISRAEL DID NOT SEND ITS SOLDIERS TO MURDER CIVILIANS IN COLD BLOOD; THAT IS THE LAST THING IT WANTED. YET A SMALL TURKISH ORGANIZATION, IMBUED WITH RELIGIOUS FANATICISM AND HOSTILITY TOWARD ISRAEL, RECRUITED SEVERAL HUNDRED SEEKERS OF PEACE AND JUSTICE AND DRAGGED ISRAEL INTO A TRAP, PRECISELY BECAUSE IT KNEW EXACTLY HOW ISRAEL WOULD RESPOND - LIKE A PUPPET ON A STRING.

"HOW CONFUSED, PANICKED AND DEVOID OF SELF-CONFIDENCE A STATE MUST BE TO ACT AS ISRAEL DID! THROUGH A COMBINATION OF ENORMOUS MILITARY FORCE AND A FATAL ERROR IN PREDICTING THE LEVEL OF RESISTANCE, IT KILLED AND WOUNDED CIVILIANS. MOREOVER, IT DID SO OUTSIDE ITS OWN TERRITORIAL WATERS, AS IF THEY WERE PIRATES. CLEARLY, THIS IS NOT TO CONDONE THE MALICE OF SOME OF THE FLOTILLA'S PARTICIPANTS. NOT ALL OF THEM WERE MEN OF PEACE AND LOVERS OF HUMANITY; THE STATEMENTS SOME MADE ABOUT DESTROYING ISRAEL WERE EVIL. BUT THESE FACTS ARE IRRELEVANT: AS FAR AS WE KNOW, SUCH OPINIONS DO NOT CARRY A DEATH SENTENCE.

"ISRAEL'S ACTION YESTERDAY WAS A NATURAL OUTGROWTH OF ITS SHAMEFUL AND PROLONGED BLOCKADE ON GAZA, WHICH IN TURN WAS A NATURAL OUTGROWTH OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AGGRESSIVE, ARROGANT APPROACH: IT IS WILLING TO EMBITTER THE LIVES OF 1.5 MILLION INNOCENT GAZANS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF A SINGLE SOLDIER, HOWEVER BELOVED. AND THE BLOCKADE IS ALSO A NATURAL OUTGROWTH OF AN OSSIFIED POLICY THAT, TIME AFTER TIME, MAKES EXCESSIVE FORCE ITS DEFAULT OPTION, WHEN WHAT IS NEEDED IS SOBRIETY, SENSITIVITY AND CREATIVE THINKING.

"AND SOMEHOW, ALL THESE EVILS, INCLUDING YESTERDAY'S FATAL INCIDENT, SEEM TO BE PART OF A GENERAL PROCESS OF CORRUPTION THAT HAS OVERTAKEN ISRAEL: A FEELING OF BLOATED, POLLUTED GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS. PERHAPS THESE AROSE OUT OF FEAR OF THE WITCH'S BREW ISRAEL HAS CONCOCTED BY ITS OWN ACTIONS AND OMISSIONS OVER DOZENS OF YEARS, OR OUT OF DESPAIR OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EVER UNTANGLING THE COIL IN WHICH IT FINDS ITSELF.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS HARDENED IN THE FACE OF THE CHALLENGES POSED BY A COMPLEX AND DEMANDING REALITY, LOSING THE QUALITIES THAT THEY, AND ISRAEL AS A WHOLE, ONCE HAD, OF FRESHNESS AND ORIGINALITY. THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA HAS FAILED. IT HAS BEEN FAILING FOR FOUR YEARS ALREADY. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS NOT ONLY IMMORAL, IT IS ALSO IMPRACTICAL. INDEED, IT IS MAKING THE WHOLE SITUATION EVEN WORSE, AS WE CAN SEE AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AND DOING MORTAL DAMAGE TO ISRAEL AS WELL.

"HAMAS' LEADERS, WHO HAVE BEEN HOLDING GIL'AD SHALIT FOR FOUR YEARS NOW WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A SINGLE RED CROSS VISIT, AND WHO FIRED THOUSANDS OF MISSILES FROM GAZA AT ISRAELI TOWNS, MUST BE DEALT WITH. BUT THE STATE HAS MANY LEGAL METHODS AVAILABLE FOR DOING SO; IMPOSING A PROLONGED BLOCKADE ON A CIVILIAN POPULATION IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

"IF ONLY ONE COULD BELIEVE THAT THE SHOCK OF YESTERDAY'S ATROCITY WOULD LEAD TO A REEXAMINATION OF THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE BLOCKADE, AND FINALLY FREE THE PALESTINIANS FROM THEIR SUFFERING AND ISRAEL FROM THE MORAL STAIN! BUT OUR EXPERIENCE OF LIFE IN THIS DISASTER

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ZONE TEACHES US THAT THE OPPOSITE WILL OCCUR: THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, HATRED AND REVENGE WILL MERELY BEGET ANOTHER ROUND.

"ABOVE ALL, THIS MAD OPERATION ATTESTS TO THE NADIR ISRAEL HAS REACHED. THERE IS NO NEED TO WASTE WORDS ON THIS; ANYONE CAN SEE IT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IN ANOTHER FEW HOURS, SOME WILL HASTEN TO TURN THE (NATURAL AND JUSTIFIED) GUILT THAT MANY ISRAELIS ARE FEELING INTO A VOCAL INDICTMENT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. BUT THE SHAME WILL BE HARDER TO DEAL WITH."

FAILURE TO DEAL WITH ISLAMISTS, RADICAL LEFTISTS TURNS INTO STRATEGIC ISSUE

AMOS HAR'EL SAYS IN A HAARETZ.COM COMMENTARY UNDER A HEADLINE "STRAIGHT INTO THE TRAP:" "THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES HAD LITTLE TROUBLE EXPLAINING THE NAVAL COMMANDO RAID YESTERDAY TO THE ISRAELI PUBLIC. THE TROOPS SLID FROM HELICOPTERS INTO A VIOLENT CROWD, WHICH ATTACKED THEM WITH STICKS. IT'S NO WONDER THE TROOPS OPENED FIRE IN SELF-DEFENSE.

"THE SITUATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, THOUGH, IS THE DIAMETRIC OPPOSITE. NO MATTER HOW MUCH EFFORT IT INVESTS, ISRAEL WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO THE WORLD HOW NINE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, WITHOUT A SINGLE DEATH ON OUR SIDE - AND THE DEAD ARE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTRY THAT WAS UNTIL RECENTLY OUR BEST FRIEND IN THE REGION. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS INCIDENT WILL NECESSITATE A FAR-REACHING INVESTIGATION OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND THE EXECUTION.

"ISRAELI SPOKESMEN REPEATEDLY STRESSED YESTERDAY THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS WENT INTO A VIOLENT FRENZY THAT ENDANGERED THE SOLDIERS' LIVES. THIS ARGUMENT, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT DETRACT ATTENTION FROM THE QUESTION OF WHY THESE THINGS HAPPENED, AND WHETHER AN ALTERNATIVE HAD BEEN POSSIBLE. ULTIMATELY, ISRAEL WALKED STRAIGHT INTO THE TRAP THAT THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS SET, AND HAS FOUND ITSELF IN A MASSIVE DIPLOMATIC MESS. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHAT ISRAEL SHOULD DO ABOUT THE NEXT AID SHIP, WHICH IS DUE TO SET SAIL FOR GAZA TODAY OR TOMORROW.

"ONE OF THE MOST TELLING IMAGES OF THE DAY, ALONG WITH FOOTAGE FROM THE SHIPS, WAS THE EXPRESSION OF NAVY COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL MAROM AT THE NOON PRESS CONFERENCE. THE MANY WEEKS THE NAVY SPENT PREPARING TO MEET THE FLOTILLA, THE ADVANCE PRAISE IT RECEIVED FOR ITS PROFESSIONAL PREPARATIONS, ALL CULMINATED IN A RESOUNDING FAILURE. WE SHOULD BE CLEAR: IF ISRAEL'S GOAL WAS TO 'CONTAIN' THE FLOTILLA AND PREVENT IT FROM TRIGGERING A MAJOR CRISIS, WE FAILED UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY, AND IN NO WAY IS THIS THE SOLDIERS' FAULT.

"BEFORE WE ADDRESS THE ARMY'S PART IN THE FIASCO, WE WOULD NEED TO METICULOUSLY INVESTIGATE THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP'S CONDUCT. ISRAEL'S SIEGE ON GAZA BEGAN SOON AFTER HAMAS' 2006 ELECTION VICTORY, AND INTENSIFIED AFTER GIL'AD SHALIT WAS ABDUCTED AND HAMAS OUSTED FATAH FROM POWER A YEAR LATER. THE SIEGE HAS HAD LIMITED SUCCESS AT BEST. HAMAS MAY BE FAIRLY ISOLATED, BUT THE WEAPON SMUGGLING HAS CONTINUED, AND THE BLOCKADE HAS DONE NOTHING TO ADVANCE SHALIT'S CAUSE.

"ANOTHER QUESTION CONCERNS THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE BLOCKADE. THE

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OLMERT GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOWED AID SHIPS TO ASSIST THE GAZANS. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT BLOCKED AN AID SHIP A YEAR AGO, EFFECTIVELY AND WITHOUT CASUALTIES. THE DECISION ON THIS MORNING'S OPERATION WAS MADE UNANIMOUSLY BY THE SEVEN-MEMBER SECURITY CABINET. ISRAEL LEFT ITSELF HAVING TO DECIDE, AT THE LATEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, BETWEEN TWO UNENVIABLE ALTERNATIVES: TAKING OVER THE SHIPS, OR ALLOWING THE FLOTILLA TO PASS, UNIMPEDED AND UNEXPECTED, INTO GAZA. THE CRITICAL JUNCTURE MAY ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN EARLIER: CHANGING THE FRUITLESS SIEGE POLICY, OR TAKING LESS BLATANT STEPS AGAINST THE FLOTILLA, SUCH AS DAMAGING THEIR ENGINES OR PHYSICALLY BLOCKING THEIR PATH, WITHOUT SENDING COMBAT SOLDIERS TO BOARD THEM.

"AS FOR THE OPERATION ITSELF, THE COMMANDOS DID NOTHING WRONG. THEY WERE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED, AND APPARENTLY PREPARED ONLY FOR A DISTURBANCE, WITH LIMITED USE OF COLD WEAPONS. WHEN THEY DESCENDED FROM THEIR ROPES ONTO THE DECKS, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES AMID A VIOLENT MOB. SLIDING DOWN A CABLE IS DONE WEARING ASBESTOS GLOVES, WHICH MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO OPERATE A WEAPON. SOME SOLDIERS WERE ARMED ONLY WITH PAINTBALL RIFLES.

"WHILE THEY WRESTLED WITH THE PROTESTERS, AT LEAST TWO PISTOLS WERE SNATCHED FROM THEM. THE OUTNUMBERED COMMANDOS WERE AT RISK OF HAVING THEIR COMRADES LYNCHED, AND OPENED FIRE. A TURKISH POLICEMAN OR SOLDIER WOULD NOT HAVE SHOWN ANY MORE RESTRAINT. THE RESULT, AT ANY RATE, WAS HORRIFIC: CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, AND THE PROTESTERS THREW A COMMANDO FROM THE UPPER DECK TO LOWER DECK. IT'S NOT JUST APPALLING FOOTAGE, IT'S A NATIONAL HUMILIATION AND A BLOW TO ISRAELI DETERRENCE. THE QUESTION IS WHY THE SOLDIERS WERE PUT INTO THIS SITUATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.

"THE IDF HAD ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO PREPARE FOR THE FLOTILLA. THE ENTIRE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAD ALL THE TIME IT NEEDED TO FOLLOW THE PROTESTERS' PLANS AND PREPARATION. DRONES PROVIDED CONSTANT STREAMING VIDEOS OF THE SHIPS, AND IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME OTHER MEANS OF TRACING AND SABOTAGE WERE USED: SIGNAL JAMMING, SIGNAL TAPPING, POSSIBLY EVEN LIVE AGENTS. AND STILL, BASED ON THE COMMANDOS' TESTIMONIES YESTERDAY, IT'S CLEAR THEY WERE NOT PREPARED FOR WHAT AWAITED THEM ON THE DECK. THE IDF UNDERESTIMATED THE RESISTANCE THE PROTESTERS WOULD SHOW, AND POSSIBLY THEIR NUMBERS AS WELL.

"BUT NEITHER SHOULD THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SHOULDER ALL OF THE BLAME. EVERYONE IN THE TOP BRASS, FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTER TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND DOWN, CONFIRMED THE PLAN. 'WE WERE ARROGANT AND COMPLACENT,' ONE OFFICER TOLD HAARETZ. 'WE DIDN'T ANTICIPATE THE SCALE OF THE RESISTANCE AND DIDN'T CONDUCT OURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.'

"MOREOVER, THE FORCE LACKED THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, AS PROTESTERS KNEW AN ASSAULT WAS IMMINENT. WE ALSO KNOW BY THIS STAGE THAT A CRITICAL MASS OF SOLDIERS DID NOT BOARD THE MARMARA EARLY ENOUGH, AND IT MAY BE THAT NOT ENOUGH TROOPS WERE ALLOCATED TO BEGIN WITH. THE END RESULT REMAINS THE SAME: THE COMMANDOS WERE NOT PREPARED TO CONFRONT SUCH A LARGE, VIOLENT CROWD.

"THE CHOICE OF UNIT FOR THE OPERATION WAS CRITICIZED YESTERDAY, AS SMALL-SCALE EGO WRESTLING BEGAN BETWEEN ELITE UNITS AND THEIR

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COMMANDERS; THE SHAYETET'S SPECIALTY IS NOT CROWDS, BUT ENEMY COMBATANTS. BUT IT SEEMS THE ELITE NAVAL COMMANDO UNIT WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF THE CHALLENGE THE IDF FACED - TAKING CONTROL OF A MOVING VESSEL, A FEAT CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT APPEARS TO BE ON TV. WHATEVER WAY ONE LOOKS AT IT, THE END RESULT IS BAD, ESPECIALLY FOR ISRAEL. THE REPERCUSSIONS GO FAR BEYOND THE QUESTION OF WHICH UNIT WAS SENT ON THE MISSION.

"ANKARA WITHDREW ITS AMBASSADOR FROM TEL AVIV, AND IT MAY WELL COME TO AN END TO RELATIONS; PROSPECTS OF TOURISM AND MILITARY COOPERATION DON'T APPEAR PARTICULARLY SOLID ANYMORE. THE ERDOGAN GOVERNMENT IS FAR FROM INNOCENT, OF COURSE - IT SUPPORTED THE FLOTILLA, AND HAS BEEN INFLAMING THE PUBLIC AGAINST ISRAEL IN TURKEY FOR A WHILE.

"CLOSER TO HOME, PERSISTENT BUT UNFOUNDED RUMORS THAT SHEIKH RA'AD SALAH HAD BEEN KILLED ON ONE OF THE SHIPS COULD HAVE STARTED PUBLIC UNREST MUCH LIKE THE INFAMOUS OCTOBER 2000 RIOTS. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A CONFLAGRATION ARISING IN THE TERRITORIES, AS PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK REMAIN CRITICAL OF ISRAEL BUT DON'T RUSH TO CONFRONTATION. HAMAS IS BOUND TO USE THE ENTIRE AFFAIR FOR ITS NEEDS, AND TO TRY AND EASE THE SIEGE.

"EUROPE HAS BEEN RIPE FOR SUCH A MOVE FOR A WHILE, AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WILL TRY TO PRESSURE NETANYAHU. EITHER WAY, THE ISRAELI FAILURE TO ADDRESS A PROVOCATION BY ISLAMIST ACTIVISTS AND RADICAL LEFTISTS IS NOW A STRATEGIC ONE."

STATE INQUIRY INTO 'FLAWED POLICY' ON 'WAR' AGAINST CIVILIAN VESSELS URGED

AN HAARETZ EDITORIAL SAYS UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE PRICE OF FLAWED POLICY:" "THE PRICE OF FLAWED POLICY WHEN A REGULAR, WELL-ARMED, WELL-TRAINED ARMY GOES TO WAR AGAINST A 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' OF CIVILIAN VESSELS LADEN WITH CIVILIANS, FOOD AND MEDICATION, THE OUTCOME IS FORETOLD - AND IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THE CONFRONTATION ACHIEVED ITS GOAL AND PREVENTED THE FLOTILLA FROM REACHING GAZA. THE VIOLENT CONFRONTATION, WHETHER CAUSED BY POOR MILITARY PLANNING OR POOR EXECUTION, RESULTED FROM FLAWED POLICY, WARS OF PRESTIGE, AND FROM A PROFOUND MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE CONFRONTATION'S MEANINGS AND REPERCUSSIONS.

"THE GRAVE POLITICAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CONFRONTATION IS ALL TOO CLEAR. RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WILL PROBABLY DETERIORATE FURTHER, AND THERE MAY EVEN BE SERIOUS DAMAGE ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL. THE PROXIMITY TALKS WITH THE PALESTINIANS, WHICH STARTED LAMELY AND WITH LOW EXPECTATIONS, WILL HAVE TROUBLE PROCEEDING, NOW THAT ISRAEL HAS ATTACKED A SHIP INTENDED TO AID GAZANS LANGUISHING UNDER A FOUR-YEAR SIEGE.

"HAMAS CLAIMED AN OUTSTANDING VICTORY WITHOUT FIRING A SINGLE ROCKET, EGYPT IS UNDER REDOUBLED PRESSURE TO UNDERMINE THE SIEGE BY OPENING THE RAFAH CROSSING, AND IT'S REASONABLE TO ASSUME EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LET ISRAEL GET AWAY WITH A MERE REPRIMAND.

"ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE LITTLE SURPRISE TO ANYONE, AND SHOULDN'T HAVE SURPRISED THE POLICY MAKERS IN JERUSALEM.

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NEVERTHELESS, IT SEEMED NO ONE COULD RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO SHOW THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES' STRENGTH IN A PLACE THE IDF SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE FIRST PLACE. BECAUSE THE QUESTION WAS NOT WHO WOULD WIN THE CONFRONTATION, BUT WHO WOULD WIN MORE PUBLIC OPINION POINTS. IN THIS TEST, BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S GOVERNMENT FAILED COMPLETELY. ISRAEL LET ITS POLICY OF MAINTAINING THE SIEGE ON GAZA BECOME AN EXISTENTIAL MATTER. THIS POLICY BOOMERANGED AND COST ISRAEL ITS INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY.

"THE DECISION MAKERS' NEGLIGENCE IS THREATENING THE SECURITY OF ISRAELIS, AND ISRAEL'S GLOBAL STATUS. SOMEONE MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DISGRACEFUL FAILURE. THERE IS NO WAY TO CONVINCING ISRAEL'S CITIZENS AND ITS FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD THAT ISRAEL REGRETS THE CONFRONTATION AND ITS RESULTS, AND IS LEARNING FROM ITS ERRORS, OTHER THAN SETTING UP A STATE INQUIRY COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, AND TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD PAY FOR THIS DANGEROUS POLICY."

ISRAEL TARGET OF MASSIVE INFORMATION WAR, MUST COUNTER LIES WITH TRUTH

A COMMENTARY BY CAROLINE B. GLICK IN THE JERUSALEM POST ENTITLED "ENDING ISRAEL'S LOSING STREAK" SAYS: "IT IS CLEAR THAT ISRAEL'S INFORMATION STRATEGY FOR CONTENDING WITH THE FLOTILLA WAS ILL-CONCEIVED. RATHER THAN ATTACK TURKEY FOR ITS FACILITATION OF TERRORISM, AND OPENLY PREPARE CHARGE SHEETS AGAINST THE FLOTILLA'S ORGANIZERS, CREW AND PASSENGERS FOR THEIR FACILITATION OF TERRORISM IN BREACH OF BOTH ISRAELI DOMESTIC LAW AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, ISRAEL'S INFORMATION EFFORTS WERE LARGELY CONCENTRATED ON IRRELEVANCIES. ISRAELI OFFICIALS DETAILED ALL THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ISRAEL HAS PROVIDED HAMAS-CONTROLLED GAZA. THEY SPOKE OF THE NAVY'S COMMITMENT TO USE NON-LETHAL FORCE TO TAKE OVER THE SHIPS.

"AND NOW, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LETHAL TAKEOVER OF THE FLOTILLA, ISRAEL'S LEADERS STAMMER. RATHER THAN DEMAND AN APOLOGY FROM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS SUPPORT FOR THESE TERRORISTS, DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK CALLED HIS TURKISH COUNTERPART TO TALK OVER WHAT HAPPENED. RATHER THAN DEMAND RESTITUTION FOR THE TERRORIST ASSAULT AGAINST ISRAELI TROOPS, ISRAEL HAS DEFENDED ITS TROOPS' MORAL TRAINING IN NON-VIOLENT CROWD CONTROL.

"THESE EFFORTS ARE WORSE THAN WORTHLESS. THEY MAKE ISRAEL APPEAR WHINY RATHER THAN INDIGNANT. AND MORE DEPRESSINGLY, THEY EXPOSE A DANGEROUS LACK OF BASIC COMPREHENSION ABOUT WHAT HAS JUST OCCURRED AND A CONCOMITANT INABILITY TO PREPARE FOR WHAT WILL MOST CERTAINLY FOLLOW. ISRAEL IS THE TARGET OF A MASSIVE INFORMATION WAR. FOR ISRAEL TO WIN THIS WAR IT NEEDS TO COUNTER ITS ENEMIES' LIES WITH THE TRUTH."

NO CHOICE BUT TO SCREEN MOVEMENT INTO GAZA

YO'AZ HENDEL WRITES IN YNETNEWS UNDER THE HEADLINE "ISRAEL, STOP APOLOGIZING:" "ISRAELIS ARE NOT THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING FOR WHAT HAPPENED HERE MONDAY. WE ACTED JUST LIKE ANY PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY IS SUPPOSED TO ACT WHEN ITS SOVEREIGNTY IS BEING UNDERMINED. WE TRIED TO DO IT IN DIPLOMATIC MEANS, WE ATTEMPTED

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TO APPEAL TO LOGIC, YET WHEN HUNDREDS OF 'PEACE ACTIVISTS' ARMED WITH BATS AND KNIVES ARE DETERMINED TO FIGHT THE 'ZIONISTS,' THE RESULT IS PREDICTABLE.

NOBODY IN THIS COUNTRY WANTED TO SEE BLOOD BEING SPILLED; NEITHER THAT OF SOLDIERS NOR THAT OF THE 'LIBERAL' LYNCH MOB. YET THIS IS WAR; THERE ARE CASUALTIES.

"MANY QUESTIONS CAN BE RAISED REGARDING THE MILITARY TACTIC, AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, AND THE OPERATIONAL ALTERNATIVES (THOSE WHO ARE WAITING AROUND THE CORNER, YOUR TIME SHALL COME WITH ALL THE INQUIRIES AND COMMITTEES.) YET OUR MAIN MISTAKE AS A NATION IS THE CONCEPTION: THE SWISS TERMINOLOGY THAT SOMEHOW TOOK HOLD IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"WHILE GROUPS OF HOOLIGANS WERE GETTING ORGANIZED IN TURKEY, HERE IN ISRAEL WE REFERRED TO IT AS A 'PEACEFUL MISSION.' WHILE THEY WERE PLANNING HOW TO BEAT UP SOLDIERS WITH BATS, WE DEALT WITH THE ESSENCE OF THE HUMANITARIAN AID. IT WASN'T HARD TO REALIZE THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER BETWEEN PERSISTENT PROVOCATEUR RAED SALAH AND CONCERN FOR GAZA'S RESIDENTS.

"IT WAS HARD TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT THOSE SUPPOSEDLY WISHING TO QUICKLY PROVIDE AID TO THE BESIEGED GAZANS WERE DELAYED IN CYPRUS IN ORDER TO GRANT MEDIA INTERVIEWS. THE MEMBERS OF THESE 'CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS' COULD HAVE TRANSFERRED THEIR GOODS IN NUMEROUS WAYS (SOME OF THEM VIA THE IDF, DIRECTLY) YET THEY PREFERRED TO HARM ISRAEL'S IMAGE. WHO CARES ABOUT FOOD FOR THE BESIEGED WHEN ONE CAN PRODUCE A SOLID PROVOCATION? SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NEXT TIME? TRY THE EXACT SAME THING? DETAIN THEM AGGRESSIVELY, WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELID?

"THE NAVAL BLOCKADE AROUND GAZA WAS IMPOSED BECAUSE HAMAS ESTABLISHED A THREATENING IRANIAN OUTPOST RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSE. AS LONG AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON THE EFFORT TO CURB THE MILITARY BUILDUP IN GAZA, AS LONG AS WE DID NOT GIVE UP ON THE RIGHT OF SOUTHERN RESIDENTS TO LIVE PEACEFULLY, AND AS LONG AS WE HAVE AN INTEREST IN AVOIDING ROCKETS AIMED AT TEL AVIV, THERE IS NO CHOICE BUT TO SCREEN WHATEVER COMES INTO THE STRIP.

"IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD AND THE IMAGES IT PRODUCES AREN'T PRETTY, YET THE LIVES OF ISRAELI CITIZENS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY SCATHING DIPLOMATIC PROTEST. AND YES, INSISTING ON LIFE HERE HAS ITS PRICE. I SIMPLY PREFER THAT THE OTHER SIDE PAY IT." TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH -- CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ISRAEL'S LARGEST MEDIA GROUP; URL: [HTTP://WWW.YNETNEWS.COM](http://www.ynetnews.com)

DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK MUST RESIGN IMMEDIATELY

SEVER PLOCKER SAYS ON PAGE 1 OF YEDI'OT AHARONOT UNDER THE HEADLINE "BARAQ, RESIGN:" "ISRAEL'S ENEMIES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTING--A SUGGESTION THAT HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY A HOSTILE WORLD AND BEEN ACCEPTED WITHOUT FURTHER EXAMINATION--THAT THE BLOODY EVENTS ON THE FLOTILLA ARE AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S DELIBERATE POLICY. NOT AN OPERATIONAL MISHAP BUT COLD-BLOODED MURDER. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO DISPROVE THAT

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LIE AND TO NIP IT IN THE BUD: THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF EHUD BARAK AS DEFENSE MINISTER.

"BARAQ'S RESIGNATION IS NECESSARY FOR REASONS OF PROPER GOVERNANCE, MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY, LEADERSHIP AND--YES, THIS TOO--FOR REASONS THAT PERTAIN TO ISRAEL'S FATE. IT REALLY DOES NOT MATTER HOW THE DECISION WAS MADE TO WALK INTO THE PROVOCATIVE TRAP THAT WAS LAID BY HAMAS. IT REALLY DOES NOT MATTER WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE PRESENTED TO THE GROUP OF MINISTERS KNOWN AS THE 'FORUM OF SEVEN' AND WHAT THEIR POSITIONS WERE. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE TEST OF THE RESULT, AN EXPRESSION THAT EHUD BARAK IS SO VERY FOND OF. AND IN THE TEST OF THE RESULT THE DEFENSE MINISTER FAILED MISERABLY. THERE ISN'T A BROOM BROAD ENOUGH TO SWEEP THIS FAILURE UNDER THE RUG.

"A SWIFT RESIGNATION BY BARAK WILL FACILITATE LOWERING THE HEIGHT OF THE FLAMES AGAINST ISRAEL AND WILL PURGE, TO SOME DEGREE, THE TOXIC ANTI-ISRAEL ATMOSPHERE. NOT AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO WISH ISRAEL ILL, BUT AMONG THOSE PEOPLE OF GOODWILL, WHO ARE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO PERSUASIVE EXPLANATIONS. AND THE MOST PERSUASIVE EXPLANATION WILL BE THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S ADMISSION: I FAILED IN THIS OPERATION. I FAILED AS THE MINISTER AND I FAILED AS THE HEAD OF THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED TO FORM A STATE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY; THE RESPONSIBILITY RESIDES WITH ME. THE CONCLUSIONS APPLY TO ME.

"IF EHUD BARAK DOES NOT RESIGN, ISRAEL WILL BE PERCEIVED IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AS A COUNTRY IN WHICH NOT ONLY DOES NO ONE EVER RESIGN FROM HIS MINISTERIAL POST, BUT ALSO AS A COUNTRY THAT OUGHT TO BE PUNISHED AS A COUNTRY; A COUNTRY THAT OUGHT TO BE GIVEN COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT AS A SOVEREIGN ENTITY. IT OUGHT TO BE HIT, IF NOT OVER THE HEAD, THEN AT THE VERY LEAST IN ITS POCKET BY MEANS OF AN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL BOYCOTT. THAT IS A CLEAR AND IMMEDIATE DANGER. REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE ISRAELI ECONOMY ARE LIABLE TO BE LOST.

"THE WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS IS NOT OVER. IT IS STILL FULLY UNDER WAY. EHUD BARAK, THE FORMER IDF INTELLIGENCE BRANCH DIRECTOR, THE FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, THE FORMER BUSINESSMAN, A POLITICIAN WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL IQ, THIS WEEK LOST HIS AUTHORITY TO LEAD ISRAEL TO VICTORY. HIS PENTHOUSE IN THE AKIROV TOWERS AWAITS HIM." TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW -- INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST, LARGEST CIRCULATION HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER

ISRAEL IN THE 'RIGHT, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH

BEN KASPIT WRITES ON PAGE 1 OF MA'ARIV UNDER THE HEADLINE "IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO BE RIGHT:" "FIRST OF ALL, LET'S BE CLEAR: WE ARE IN THE RIGHT IN THIS STORY. THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON GAZA WAS NOT IMPOSED AS A WHIM OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT BUT, RATHER, BECAUSE THOUSANDS OF ROCKETS WERE FIRED FROM THE TERROR STRIP AT PEACEFUL ISRAELI CITIZENS OVER THE COURSE OF SEVEN YEARS, EVEN AFTER ISRAEL LEFT THE AREA AND CLEARED IT TO THE LAST INCH.

"A BLOODTHIRSTY, PRIMITIVE TERROR ORGANIZATION CONTROLS GAZA, WHICH DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, ITS RIGHT TO EXIST, THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH IT, IT IS NOT WILLING TO STOP ITS TERROR

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ACTIVITY AND HAS BEEN HOLDING AN ISRAELI CAPTIVE FOR OVER FOUR YEARS IN A DAMP CELLAR WITH NO VISITS, CONDITIONS OR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WHO CAN GET CLOSE TO HIM AND DEMONSTRATE FOR HIM. THE HAMAS REGIME SHOULD HAVE BEEN TOPPLED IN OPERATION CAST LEAD, AND ONLY THE COWARDICE AND DEFEATISM OF PEOPLE LIKE EHUD BARAK PREVENTED THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL, WHICH WAS POSSIBLE. 'GAZA WAS VACILLATING,' CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI LATER RECALLED THE DAYS OF THE OPERATION, 'WE WERE VERY CLOSE TO BRINGING DOWN HAMAS.' AND SO, MR. ASHKENAZI, IT IS TOO BAD THAT YOU DIDN'T.

"MOREOVER: THE TURKISH FLOTILLA IS AS MUCH A 'PEACE FLOTILLA' AS MAHMUD AHMADINEJAD IS MOTHER TERESA. THE SAVAGES ON THE MARMARA WERE AS MUCH 'PEACE ACTIVISTS' AS SHEIKH RAED SALAH IS A BUDDHIST MONK. THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IN THIS FLOTILLA OF HATRED IS SALIENT AND SHOULD TROUBLE NOT ONLY US, BUT ALL THE SANE GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD.

"IF I WERE BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, I WOULD NOT APOLOGIZE TO TURKEY AND I WOULDN'T BLINK. JUST THE OPPOSITE. THEY ARE RECALLING THEIR AMBASSADOR? LET'S RECALL OURS TOO. I WOULD ALSO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUSPENDING MILITARY RELATIONS, I WOULD EXAMINE PROVIDING SECRET AID TO THE KURDISH REBELS WHO YESTERDAY KILLED TURKISH SOLDIERS IN ISKANDARON (I WONDER IF ERDOGAN WILL TREAT THE KURDS WITH THE SAME RESTRAINT THAT HE EXPECTS US TO USE AGAINST TERROR THAT DECLARES ITS WISH TO WIPE US FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH), I WOULD CALL ON THE MASSES OF ISRAELI TOURISTS TO AVOID THE 'ALL INCLUSIVE' CLUBS IN ANTALYA (IT WAS LEARNED YESTERDAY THAT THERE IS ALSO 'ALL INCLUSIVE' ON TURKISH SHIPS) AND ACT AGAINST TURKEY IN EVERY GLOBAL FORUM, INCLUDING A BELATED (BUT BETTER THAN NEVER) RECOGNITION OF THE ARMENIAN HOLOCAUST. THE TURKS ARE THE LAST WHO CAN PREACH MORALS TO US. IF, UNTIL NOT LONG AGO, IT MADE SENSE TO EMPLOY RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH THEM IN ORDER TO TRY AND PREVENT THEM FROM JOINING THE AXIS OF EVIL, NOW THEY ARE DEEP INSIDE. THEY WANT WAR? BE MY GUEST.

"THAT IS IN TERMS OF HOW RIGHT WE ARE. BUT THERE IS ALSO A FLIP SIDE TO THIS COIN. AT SEA, IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE RIGHT, YOU ALSO HAVE TO BE SMART. THE NAVAL OPERATION, AS OF MONDAY MORNING, OPPOSITE THE GAZA SHORE, WAS COMPLETE STUPIDITY. A MIXTURE OF FAILURES THAT LED TO A DISGRACEFUL FIASCO.

"ASTRONOMIC DAMAGE WILL BE CAUSED TO ISRAEL BECAUSE OF THIS, IN INNUMERABLE SPHERES. IT BEGINS WITH THE STINGING INTELLIGENCE FAILURE, CONTINUES WITH THE OPERATIONAL FAILURE, BUT THE HIGHLIGHT IS THE POLITICAL FAILURE. TOPPING THIS PYRAMID OF FAILURES ARE THOSE WHO GAVE THE INCREDIBLY DUMB ORDER TO LAND DOZENS OF INTREPID FIGHTERS INTO A FLOATING HORNETS' NEST, WITH HUNDREDS OF VIOLENT, HATE-DRIVEN ISLAMIC RADICALS.

"THE QUESTION IS HOW, AFTER ALL THESE ENDLESS MEETINGS, THE WORST POSSIBLE DECISION IMAGINABLE WAS ULTIMATELY MADE. AND HOW IS IT, AFTER EVERYTHING WAS BURNING, OUR PRIME MINISTER CONTINUED TO DELIBERATE AND TO WONDER FOUR TIMES WHETHER TO RETURN TO ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY, OR TO CONTINUE THE TRIP AS USUAL, OR TO SHORTEN IT, OR SOMETHING. FOUR TIMES CONFLICTING STATEMENTS WERE ISSUED, UNTIL IT WAS LEARNED THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING. THE TRUTH IS THAT NETANYAHU VERY MUCH WANTED TO SNATCH A MEETING WITH OBAMA, BUT THE AMERICANS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT. AS THEY SEE IT, NETANYAHU'S VISIT HAD BECOME A VERY HEAVY BURDEN. THERE IS NOTHING THAT OBAMA NEEDS LESS RIGHT NOW THAN A PICTURE WITH NETANYAHU.

"THE IDF IS ALSO NOT CLEAN. THE NAVAL COMMANDO COMBATANTS WERE

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NOT TRAINED FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM ON THE MARMARA. WE SHOULD NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THEM. JUST THE OPPOSITE. THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE PERSON WHO SENT THEM. IN ITS DEFENSE, THE POLITICAL ECHELON SAYS THAT THE ARMY ASSESSED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CASUALTIES IN THIS OPERATION. AND INDEED, THIS ASSESSMENT WAS CUT OFF FROM REALITY. THE IDF EVEN DRILLED THIS TAKEOVER, AND EVEN PREPARED A MODEL. AND INDEED, THIS DRILL WAS ALSO DIVORCED FROM REALITY AND THE MODEL WAS NOT SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL. BUT ABOVE THE IDF THERE IS A POLITICAL ECHELON. IT IS THE ONE THAT HAS TO MAKE THE DECISION. TO BE CAUTIOUS. TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UNEXPECTED ENTANGLEMENTS AND SCENARIOS. THIS ECHELON FAILED ABYSMALLY YESTERDAY.

"IF THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF A TAKEOVER ATTEMPT OF AN UNARMED SHIP A QUARTER OF AN HOUR FROM ASHDOD, WHAT SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT A CLASH WITH IRAN? AND WHAT SHOULD THE IRANIANS THINK ABOUT THIS NOW? THE NAVAL COMMANDO, THE MOST LAUDED UNIT THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAVE TO OFFER, WAS HUMILIATED YESTERDAY. AN ENTIRE WORLD WATCHED A BUNCH OF PUNKS MURDEROUSLY BEATING THE COMBATANTS WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO A PLACE WHERE THEY HAD NOTHING TO LOOK FOR. ISRAELI DETERRENCE TOOK A BAD BLOW. THE ISRAELI IMAGE TOOK A MORTAL BLOW. AND ALL THIS HAPPENED DEEP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND TURNED ISRAEL IN A PIRATE STATE. WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN THE NEXT FLOTILLA COMES, WHICH WILL HAVE MORE SHIPS WITH MORE PEOPLE AND PERHAPS ALSO SOME TURKISH WAR SHIPS? HOW DID BARAK PUT IT, 'WE WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO.' JUST AS HE KNEW AFTER THE KIDNAPPING OF THE THREE SOLDIERS ON MT. DOV, AND THE WAY HE KNEW THIS TIME." TEL AVIV MA'ARIV IN HEBREW – INDEPENDENT, SECOND-LARGEST CIRCULATION

THE FAILURE WILL TRICKLE DOWN INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA

SHALOM YERUSHALMI WRITES ON PAGE 1 OF MA'ARIV UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE FAILURE WILL TRICKLE DOWN INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA:" "FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER AMIR PERETZ ALONG WITH MK DANIEL BEN SIMON WANTED YESTERDAY TO ISSUE A HARSH STATEMENT AGAINST THE LEADER OF THEIR OWN PARTY, DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK, AND TO DEMAND THAT HE RESIGN. THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY PERETZ AND BEN SIMON, AS WELL AS OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE LABOR PARTY, WERE THAT BARAK HAD ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY AND WITH INJUDICIOUS FORCE, WHILE PLACING IN MORTAL DANGER THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE SENT SHINNYING DOWN ROPES ONTO A BOAT RIFE WITH TERRORISTS DISGUISED AS PEACE ACTIVISTS. AND THAT ALL THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE PREPARATIONS FOR THE OPERATION, NO CREATIVITY AND ZERO INTELLIGENCE.

"PERETZ AND BEN SIMON DECIDED TO PUT OFF ISSUING THEIR STATEMENT AND TO WAIT AND SEE A BIT. YESTERDAY WAS A DAY IN WHICH PEOPLE CLOSED RANKS WITH ONE ANOTHER. IN THE COMING NUMBER OF DAYS, A POLITICAL WAR IS GOING TO ERUPT OVER THE TERRIBLE FIASCO AT SEA, WHICH MADE ISRAEL INTO EVEN MORE OF A PARIAS STATE AND SERVED THE PALESTINIANS WITH A NEW LEGEND OF HEROISM THAT WILL LAST THEM FOR A CENTURY TO COME. THE GREATER ISRAEL'S ISOLATION IN THE WORLD BECOMES AND ONCE THE TALKS WITH THE PALESTINIANS ARE CUT OFF, AS WILL MOST LIKELY HAPPEN, THE DOMESTIC CRITICISM WILL INCREASE. 'THESE ARE SABRA AND SHATILLA DAYS,' SAID PEOPLE IN THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

"ISRAEL MUST FORM A STATE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FAILURE ON THE MARMARA. MINISTERS WHO WERE PARTY TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS SAID YESTERDAY THAT THEY NEVER IMAGINED THAT THERE WOULD BE FATALITIES. APPARENTLY, THEY THOUGHT THAT THE MUSLIMS WHO BROADCAST HATE FOR ISRAEL AND THE JEWS FOR DAYS ON END ON THE TURKISH WEBSITE LIVESTREAM.COM WERE GOING TO

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WELCOME THE DESCENDING SOLDIERS WITH COFFEE AND BAKLAWA. IF WE DON'T INVESTIGATE OURSELVES, WE WILL HAVE A REPLAY OF THE FAMILIAR AND UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE OF THE GOLDSTONE REPORT, WHICH CAUSED ENORMOUS DAMAGE TO ISRAEL.

"THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF SUCH A FORMATIVE INCIDENT ARE CLEAR. PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU, WHO WAS THE OBJECT OF SOME VERY SEVERE INTERNAL CRITICISM YESTERDAY TOO, CURRENTLY ENJOYS A VERY STABLE COALITION. BUT THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS WILL TRICKLE INWARDS. NOW THE QUESTIONS ARE GOING TO BEGIN TO BE ASKED, AND INVESTIGATIONS ARE GOING TO BE BEGUN, AND EVERYONE IS GOING TO WANT TO KNOW WHY AND HOW WE REACHED THIS AWFUL SITUATION. THERE IS NO AVOIDING IT. EHUD OLMERT PAID THE PRICE OF THE SECOND LEBANON WAR THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE TERM IN OFFICE.

"YESTERDAY ONE OF THE MINISTERS SAID THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF LIEBERMAN AS FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NO LESS GRAVE THAN THE APPOINTMENT OF PERETZ AS DEFENSE MINISTER, ONE OF THE CENTRAL POINTS OF THE WINOGRAD COMMITTEE REPORT. NETANYAHU, PERSONALLY, NEVER TRULY RECOVERED IN HIS FIRST TERM AS PRIME MINISTER FROM THE WESTERN WALL TUNNEL RIOTS, WHICH ERUPTED THREE MONTHS AFTER HE WAS ELECTED PRIME MINISTER IN JUNE 1996, AND HE REFUSED TO FORM A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. YESTERDAY FORMER MINISTER YA'AQOV EDRI (QADIMA), A REGULAR VISITOR AT NETANYAHU'S HOME, SAID THAT HE WOULD SPEAK WITH HIM THIS SATURDAY ABOUT FORMING A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO TIME BETTER SUITED FOR THAT THAN THE PRESENT. NETANYAHU WILL LISTEN AND MIGHT EVEN AGREE WITH EDRI, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT HE LACKS EITHER THE COURAGE OR THE ABILITY TO REMOVE EITHER LIEBERMAN OR YUVAL STEINITZ FROM THEIR POSTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF TZIPI LIVNI AND SHA'UL MOFAZ."

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

281-15

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000834

P 091504Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
QQQQ
CITE OSC RESTON VA 477142

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100609738002
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAEL ALLOWS BANNED FOOD PRODUCTS INTO GAZA, DENIES POLICY CHANGED POST-FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 1400 GMT 09 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

RADIO

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT SOURCES HAVE CLARIFIED THAT THE POLICY GOVERNING THE ENTRY OF FOOD PRODUCTS INTO THE GAZA STRIP HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED IN THE WAKE OF THE FLOTILLA EVENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. A SENIOR DEFENSE SOURCE SAID THAT ALREADY SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE COORDINATOR OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES BEGAN TO EXPAND THE LIST OF FOOD PRODUCTS ALLOWED INTO THE GAZA STRIP AND TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND WATER PROJECTS IN COOPERATION WITH THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE SOURCE WENT ON TO SAY THAT EVEN BEFORE THE FLOTILLA EVENTS IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF UN OFFICIALS TO EXPAND THE LIST OF ALLOWABLE FOOD PRODUCTS. DEFENSE SOURCES TOLD OUR ARMY AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT KARMELA MENASHE THAT THIS POLICY WILL CONTINUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EVALUATIONS OF THE SITUATION IN A CALCULATED AND CONTROLLED PROCESS.

EARLIER, AT 1110 GMT, ALI WAQID, AHIYA RAVED, AND RO'I NAHMIAS REPORTED IN TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH, A CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP: "ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS SAID WEDNESDAY THAT ISRAEL HAS ALLOWED SOME FORMERLY BANNED FOOD ITEMS INTO THE GAZA STRIP AFTER WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF ITS THREE-YEAR-OLD BLOCKADE. PALESTINIAN LIAISON OFFICIAL RA'ID FATTUH SAID ISRAEL HAD LIFTED THE BAN ON SODA, JUICE, JAM, SPICES, SHAVING CREAM, CHIPS, COOKIES AND SWEETS. HE SAID WEDNESDAY SOME PRODUCTS HAVE ALREADY ENTERED GAZA."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW -- STATE-FUNDED RADIO, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

282-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000835

P 010917Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
QQQQ
CITE OSC RESTON VA 421465

WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100601739008
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAEL'S NETANYAHU: FLOTILLA OPERATION 'CLEAR CASE OF SELF-DEFENSE' BY TROOPS (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ENGLISH 0415 GMT 01 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

CORRECTED VERSION: ADDING URGENT TAG; PRESS RELEASE: "GAZA FLOTILLA: STATEMENT BY PM NETANYAHU -- MAY 31, 2010(-ILLEGAL-CHARACTER-)"
(U)

INTERNET

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LAST NIGHT A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT OCCURRED, DURING WHICH PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND OTHERS WERE INJURED. IDF SOLDIERS WHO WERE COMPELLED TO DEFEND THEIR LIVES WERE ALSO INJURED. THIS INCIDENT WAS THE RESULT OF AN INTENTIONAL PROVOCATION OF FORCES WHICH SUPPORT IRAN AND ITS TERRORIST ENCLAVE, HAMAS, IN THE GAZA STRIP. THIS ENCLAVE, HAMAS, HAS FIRED THOUSANDS OF MISSILES AT THE STATE OF ISRAEL, AND IT IS AMASSING THOUSANDS MORE.

THIS IS A CLEAR CASE OF SELF-DEFENSE. ISRAEL CANNOT ALLOW THE FREE FLOW OF WEAPONS, OF AND ROCKETS AND MISSILES TO THE TERRORIST BASE OF HAMAS IN GAZA. IT'S A TERRORIST BASE SUPPORTED BY IRAN; IT'S ALREADY FIRED THOUSANDS OF ROCKETS AT ISRAELI CITIES; IT SEEKS TO SMUGGLE IN THOUSANDS OF MORE, AND THIS IS WHY ISRAEL MUST INSPECT THE GOODS THAT COME INTO GAZA. IT'S ALSO A CLEAR CUT OF SELF-DEFENSE BECAUSE AS OUR SOLDIERS WERE INSPECTING THESE SHIPS, THEY WERE ATTACKED - THEY WERE ALMOST LYNCHED. THEY WERE ATTACKED WITH CLUBS, WITH KNIVES, PERHAPS WITH LIVE GUNFIRE, AND THEY HAD TO DEFEND THEMSELVES - THEY WERE GOING TO BE KILLED. ISRAEL WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS SOLDIERS TO BE LYNCHED AND NEITHER WOULD ANY OTHER SELF-RESPECTING COUNTRY.

OUR POLICY IS SIMPLE. WE SAY: ANY GOODS, ANY HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA, CAN ENTER. WHAT WE WANT TO PREVENT IS THEIR ABILITY TO BRING IN WAR MATERIEL - MISSILES, ROCKETS, THE MEANS FOR CONSTRUCTING CASING FOR MISSILES AND ROCKETS. THIS HAS BEEN OUR POLICY AND YESTERDAY WE TOLD THE FLOTILLA - WHICH WAS NOT A SIMPLE, INNOCENT FLOTILLA - TO BRING THEIR GOODS INTO ASHDOD. WE TOLD THEM THAT WE WOULD EXAMINE THEIR CARGO AND ALLOW THOSE GOODS THAT COULD NOT BE USED AS WEAPONS OR SHIELDING MATERIALS FOR HAMAS INTO GAZA.

FIVE OF THE SIX SHIPS ACCEPTED THESE TERMS WITHOUT VIOLENCE. APPARENTLY, THE SIXTH SHIP, THE LARGEST, WHICH HAD ON BOARD HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, HAD A PREMEDITATED PLAN TO HARM IDF SOLDIERS. WHEN THE FIRST SOLDIERS DROPPED DOWN ONTO THE DECK OF THE SHIP, THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A VIOLENT MOB AND WERE COMPELLED TO DEFEND THEIR LIVES. THAT IS WHEN THE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS TOOK PLACE.

WE HAVE A SIMPLE POLICY, WHICH WILL CONTINUE. THAT POLICY IS: WE HAVE NO ARGUMENT OR FIGHT WITH THE POPULATION OF GAZA. WE ARE INTERESTED IN ALLOWING THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR REGULAR ROUTINES. WE WANT TO PREVENT ANY HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA, BUT WE ARE FIGHTING THE HAMAS ORGANIZATION, WHICH THREATENS THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL AND FIRES MISSILES AT ISRAELI CITIES. IT IS OUR DUTY TO DEFEND THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL, PROTECT ISRAEL'S CITIES AND ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL - AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTRY; URL: WWW.MFA.GOV.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

283-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000836

P 010946Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
QQQQ
CITE OSC RESTON VA 421614

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100601739003
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAELI FORMINISTRY: 'VIOLENT' RESULT OF FLOTILLA EVENT DUE TO 'VIOLENT AMBUSH' (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ENGLISH 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

CORRECTED VERSION: ADDING URGENT TAG; PRESS RELEASE: "BEHIND THE HEADLINES: THE SEIZURE OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA" (U)
INTERNET

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OVERNIGHT (30-31 MAY), ISRAELI NAVAL PERSONNEL BOARDED A FLOTILLA OF SIX VESSELS ATTEMPTING TO VIOLATE THE MARITIME BLOCKAGE ON GAZA. MILITANTS ONBOARD THE MAVI MARMARA ATTACKED ISRAELI NAVAL PERSONNEL WITH LIVE FIRE AND LIGHT WEAPONRY INCLUDING GUNS, KNIVES AND CLUBS. NUMEROUS ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE EXTREMELY VIOLENT AMBUSH, TWO OF THEM SERIOUSLY WHILE THREE ARE IN MODERATE CONDITION. THE FINAL NUMBER OF MILITANT FATALITIES HAS YET TO BE RELEASED, BUT INITIAL REPORTS PLACE IT AT NINE. THOSE VESSELS THAT REACTED PEACEFULLY TO THE OPERATION WERE ESCORTED UNHARMED TO ISRAEL, AS HAD HAPPENED WITH PREVIOUS VESSELS THAT TRIED TO VIOLATE THE MARITIME BLOCKADE.

ALTHOUGH THIS IS STILL AN ONGOING EVENT, SEVERAL FACTS ARE ALREADY CLEAR:

THE INTENT OF THE MILITANTS WAS VIOLENT, THE METHODS THEY EMPLOYED WERE VIOLENT, AND UNFORTUNATELY, THE RESULT WAS VIOLENT.

THE ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WAS PREMEDITATED. THE WEAPONS USED HAD BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE. HUWAIDA ARRAF, A FLOTILLA ORGANIZER, FORESHADOWED THE VIOLENCE WITH HER STATEMENT THAT: "THEY THE ISRAELIS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FORCEFULLY STOP US." BULENT YILDIRIM, THE LEADER OF THE IHH, ONE OF THE PRIMARY ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA, ANNOUNCED JUST PRIOR TO BOARDING: "WE ARE GOING TO RESIST AND RESISTANCE WILL WIN." THE MILITANTS WHIPPED UP THE BOARDING CROWD BY CHANTING "INTIFADA, INTIFADA, INTIFADA!"

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE TURKISH ORGANIZING GROUP, IHH, HAS A RADICAL ANTI-WESTERN ORIENTATION. ALONGSIDE ITS LEGITIMATE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES, IT SUPPORTS RADICAL ISLAMIC NETWORKS SUCH AS HAMAS, AND AT LEAST IN THE PAST HAS SUPPORTED GLOBAL JIHAD ELEMENTS, SUCH AS AL-QAEDA.

ISRAEL WAS JUSTIFIED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ACTING AGAINST THE FLOTILLA. A STATE OF ARMED CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE HAMAS REGIME THAT CONTROLS GAZA. HAMAS HAS LAUNCHED 10,000 ROCKETS AGAINST ISRAELI CIVILIANS. AT PRESENT, IT IS ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING ARMS AND MILITARY SUPPLIES INTO GAZA, BY LAND AND SEA, IN ORDER TO FORTIFY ITS POSITIONS AND CONTINUE ITS ATTACKS.

UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF ITS CIVILIANS FROM HAMAS ATTACKS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT HAS UNDERTAKEN MEASURES TO DEFEND ITSELF, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF A MARITIME BLOCKADE TO CURB HAMAS REARMAMENT. ISRAEL CANNOT ALLOW A SEA-CORRIDOR TO OPEN TO GAZA, A CORRIDOR WHICH WOULD ALLOW WEAPONS AND TERRORISTS TO FREELY ENTER THE STRIP.

THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR PRIMARY GOAL WAS TO TARGET THE MARITIME BLOCKAGE. GRETA BERLIN, A FLOTILLA SPOKESPERSON, TOLD AFT NEWS-AGENCY ON 27 MAY THAT "THIS MISSION IS NOT ABOUT DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES, IT'S ABOUT BREAKING ISRAEL'S SIEGE." THIS FACT IS DEMONSTRATED NOT ONLY BY THEIR WORDS, BUT BY THEIR ACTIONS. FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS TURNED DOWN REPEATED ISRAELI OFFERS TO LAND THE VESSELS IN THE ISRAELI PORT OF ASHDOD, AND TO TRANSFER THEIR AID THROUGH THE EXISTING LAND CROSSINGS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.

10-L-1242/CCR ²⁸⁴⁻¹Gallagher/ONI/000837

MOREOVER, WHILE THE ORGANIZERS CLAIM TO HAVE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GAZA THEY DID NOT HAVE SIMILAR CONCERNS FOR THE FATE OF THE ABDUCTED ISRAELI SOLDIER GILAD SHALIT, AND WHEN ASKED, REFUSED TO MAKE A PUBLIC CALL TO ALLOW HIM TO BE VISITED IN GAZA BY THE RED CROSS.

THE ORGANIZERS WERE AWARE THAT THEIR ACTIONS WERE ILLEGAL. UNDER INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, WHEN A MARITIME BLOCKADE IS IN EFFECT, NO VESSELS - EITHER CIVILIAN OR ENEMY - CAN ENTER THE BLOCKADED AREA. IN LINE WITH ISRAEL'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTEST FLOTILLA WERE WARNED TIME AND AGAIN THAT A MARITIME BLOCKADE IS IN EFFECT OFF THE COAST OF GAZA.

WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE PROTEST FLOTILLA INTENDED TO VIOLATE THE BLOCKADE DESPITE THE REPEATED WARNINGS, ISRAELI NAVAL PERSONNEL BOARDED THE VESSELS OF THE FLOTILLA, AND REDIRECTED THEM TO ASHDOD. DUE TO THE DESIRE TO AVOID CASUALTIES AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS, INCLUDING THE LARGE NUMBER OF VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN THE FLOTILLA, IT WAS NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE MEASURES TO ENFORCE THE BLOCKADE A CERTAIN DISTANCE FROM THE AREA OF THE BLOCKADE.

THE SOLDIERS WHO BOARDED THE VESSELS DID NOT CARRY ARMS OPENLY, BUT WERE MET WITH A VIOLENT AMBUSH. TWO SOLDIERS WERE SHOT, ONE WAS STABBED AND OTHERS WERE INJURED AS THEY WERE SET UPON WITH CLUBS, KNIVES, AXES AND HEAVY OBJECTS. THEY WERE IN MORTAL DANGER AND HAD TO ACT ACCORDINGLY IN SELF-DEFENSE.

IN ASHDOD, THE FLOTILLA'S CARGO WILL BE OFF-LOADED AND THE HUMANITARIAN ITEMS WILL BE TRANSFERRED OVERLAND TO GAZA IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES. THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE FLOTILLA WHO NEED ASSISTANCE ARE BEING TREATED IN ISRAELI MEDICAL FACILITIES. THE REST WILL BE SUBJECTED TO IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES APPLICABLE IN CASES OF ATTEMPTED ILLEGAL ENTRY.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTRY; URL: WWW.MFA.GOV.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

284-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000838

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TO RUZFNEL/54715 NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 335297

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100518740011
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, GREECE, IRELAND, SWEDEN

SUBJ: ISRAEL NOT TO ALLOW SOLIDARITY FLOTILLA TO ENTER GAZA STRIP COAST 'NEXT WEEK' (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL RELEASES, BUT TO DEPORT TURKISH NATIONAL LINKED TO GAZA AID BOAT GMP20100517736004 HAARETZ.COM
ENGLISH 1622 GMT 17 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV MA'ARIV IN HEBREW 18 MAY 10 P 4(U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY AMIT KOHEN AND ELI BARDENSTEIN: "WE WILL STOP THE FLOTILLA TO GAZA." THIS PRODUCT IS PROVIDED BY THE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT ISRAEL NEWS TODAY, JERUSALEM, AND HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER US GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS. OSC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDITORIAL STANDARDS OF THIS TRANSLATION. (U)
PUBLICATIONS

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY GAVE AN UNEQUIVOCAL MESSAGE TO THE AMBASSADORS OF SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LAST NIGHT THAT JERUSALEM WOULD NOT ALLOW THE FLOTILLA THAT IS INTENDED, ACCORDING TO ITS ORGANIZERS' STATEMENT, "TO BREAK THROUGH THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA" TO ENTER THE WATER OFF GAZA'S COAST NEXT WEEK.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR WESTERN EUROPE, NAOR GILON, HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF TURKEY, GREECE, IRELAND AND SWEDEN, WHOSE CITIZENS ARE CONNECTED WITH THE ORGANIZATION. GILON SAID THAT THIS WAS A PROVOCATION AND A BLATANT VIOLATION OF ISRAELI LAW. "ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING THE FLOTILLA TO ENTER GAZA," HE SAID. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THAT ANYONE WHO WISHES TO EXTEND HUMANITARIAN AID OR TRANSFER GOODS TO GAZA MAY DO SO LEGALLY, THROUGH THE COORDINATOR OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES. ... **THE INTERNATIONAL FLOTILLA TO GAZA IS INTENDED TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH ITS RESIDENTS AND WITH THE HAMAS REGIME. THE FLOTILLA IS EXPECTED TO SET OUT FROM THE LARNACA PORT IN CYPRUS ON MAY 25 AND REACH GAZA IN TWO DAYS. BEHIND THE INITIATIVE IS A SERIES OF ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING FREE GAZA, WHICH HAS ORGANIZED SEVERAL FLOTILLAS TO GAZA IN THE PAST, AND THE TURKISH ORGANIZATION IHH. TEN VESSELS, WITH MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE ABOARD, ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LARGEST SOLIDARITY FLOTILLA INTENDED TO REACH GAZA. THEY INCLUDE TWO SHIPS FROM IRELAND, THREE FROM TURKEY AND FIVE FROM GREECE. ONE OF THE SHIPS IS NAMED AFTER RACHEL CORRIE, A LEFT-WING ACTIVIST, WHO WAS KILLED IN GAZA. ...**

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV MA'ARIV IN HEBREW -- INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST, THIRD-LARGEST CIRCULATION HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

285-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000839

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 477690

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, LEADER, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100609738004
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: NETANYAHU: ISRAELI LEADERS TO REVEAL 'UNADORNED' FACTS IN FLOTILLA PROBE (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL'S YA'ALON: NO STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE PREPARED FOR NAVY'S RAID GMP20100608746011 YNETNEWS ENGLISH 1613 GMT 08 JUN 10 (U)
2. ISRAEL: 'SEVERE CRISIS' REPORTED BETWEEN NETANYAHU, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ARAD GMP20100608746008 MA'ARIV HEBREW 0000 GMT 08 JUN 10 (U)
SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 1405 GMT 09 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:
REPORT BY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT SHMU'EL TAL (U)
RADIO

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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ISRAEL IS STILL AWAITING THE RESPONSE OF THE US ADMINISTRATION TO ITS PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUDICIAL PROBING PANEL TO LOOK INTO THE FLOTILLA EVENTS. IT'S NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE US ADMINISTRATION WILL EVER ENDORSE ISRAEL'S STANCE, NOT EVEN TACITLY. THE ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE AMERICANS WILL ALWAYS PUT FORTH MORE DEMANDS, BUT I'M TOLD THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO GO A LONG WAY TOWARD REACHING UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE AMERICANS -- INCLUDING AGREEING TO THE INCLUSION OF FOREIGN JURISTS, AMERICANS OR OTHERS, IN THE PANEL -- IN ORDER TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS WHO MIGHT DEMAND AN INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE.

IN PARALLEL, EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO EASE THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE PALESTINIANS, TO DEFUSE THE PRESSURE, AND TO ENABLE TRANSPARENCY IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OVER THE SO-CALLED HUMANITARIAN DISTRESS IN THE GAZA STRIP, WHICH ISRAEL SAYS IS NONEXISTENT. IN THIS CONTEXT, PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU STATED A SHORT TIME AGO IN A CONFERENCE IN TEL AVIV ORGANIZED BY THE NEWSPAPER THEMARKER: WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTS AND HAVE BEEN CONSULTING THEM WITH REGARD TO AN APPROPRIATE PROBING PROCESS THAT WILL ELUCIDATE THE FACTS EXACTLY AS THEY WERE.

BEGIN NETANYAHU RECORDING WE KNOW THE TRUTH, THE PEOPLE IN ISRAEL KNOW THE TRUTH. I, THE DEFENSE MINISTER, THE CABINET MINISTERS, AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF WILL BE READY TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS PANEL AND REVEAL ALL THE FACTS, UNADORNED. HOWEVER, I INSIST THAT THE BODY THAT WILL CONTINUE TO DEBRIEF OUR COMBATANTS IS THE IDF. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE ARMIES OF OUR FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD DO, AND THAT'S WHAT WE WILL DO, TOO.

BUT, I WANT THE WHOLE TRUTH TO COME TO LIGHT. THAT'S WHY THE PROBE MUST INCLUDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WHICH SOME IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ARE CHOOSING TO IGNORE: WHO WAS BEHIND THE RADICAL GROUP ABOARD THE SHIP? WHO FINANCED ITS MEMBERS? HOW DID AXES, METAL BARS, KNIVES, AND OTHER COLD STEEL WEAPONS FOUND THEIR WAY ON BOARD THE SHIP? WHAT WERE LARGE, VERY LARGE, SUMS OF MONEY DOING IN THE POCKETS OF THE PEOPLE ON DECK AND WHO WAS THIS MONEY INTENDED FOR? THE WORLD MUST KNOW THE FULL PICTURE, AND WE WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE FULL PICTURE COMES TO LIGHT. END RECORDING

RONI SOFER REPORTS AT 0756 GMT IN TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH, A CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP: "ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S MISHANDLING OF THE FLOTILLA AFFAIR ARE BEING REVEALED. IDF RADIO REPORTED WEDNESDAY THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY REFUSED TO ALLOW IDF REPRESENTATIVES TO TAKE PART IN A MEETING HELD BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN PREPARATION FOR LAST WEEK'S DEADLY COMMANDO RAID ON A GAZA-BOUND SHIP, WHICH LEFT NINE PEOPLE DEAD. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE SAID MEETING WAS HELD THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE NAVAL RAID AND FOCUSED ON ITS POSSIBLE OUTCOMES. THE DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF IDF INTELLIGENCE, THE NAVY OR THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S UNIT. IN RESPONSE, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SENT DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAQ A SCATHING LETTER SAYING ITS AUTHORITY HAD BEEN UNDERMINED. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY CONFIRMED THAT IDF OFFICIALS WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING. BARRAGE'S MEDIA ADVISER SAID THE MEETING WAS JUST ONE OF MANY, ADDING THAT ARMY OFFICIALS WERE ABSENT DUE TO 'PROCEDURAL' REASONS."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW -- STATE-FUNDED RADIO, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MEDIA, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100531735022
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: FYI -- ISRAELI MEDIA BEHAVIOR FOLLOWING ARMY'S INTERCEPTION OF GAZA AID FLOTILLA (U)

REF: 1. FYI -- ISRAELI TV SAYS AID FLOTILLA TAKEOVER COMPLETED; 'OVER 10 PROTESTORS' DEAD GMP20100531738001 ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY ENGLISH 0410 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

TELEVISION

OSC SUMMARY

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THROUGHOUT 31 APRIL, ALL MONITORED ISRAELI TELEVISION STATIONS -- STATE-FUNDED BUT INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM ISRAEL TELEVISION CHANNEL 1 TELEVISION IN HEBREW, TEL AVIV CHANNEL 10 TELEVISION IN HEBREW, A COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATION THAT IS INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT; AS WELL AS JERUSALEM CHANNEL 2 TELEVISION IN HEBREW, A COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATION THAT IS INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT--INTERRUPTED THEIR NORMAL PROGRAMMING TO OFFER EXTENSIVE COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE DAY ON THE ISRAELI MILITARY'S INTERCEPTION OF THE GAZA AID FLOTILLA REPEATEDLY SHOWING FOOTAGE OF PROTESTERS ATTACKING ISRAELI TROOPS AS THEY WERE BOARDING ONE OF THE SHIPS. IN BETWEEN LIVE FOOTAGE, THERE WERE INTERVIEWS WITH EXPERTS, POLITICIANS, AND COLUMNISTS ON THE INCIDENT. MONITORED ISRAELI RADIO STATIONS SUCH AS STATE-FUNDED BUT INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B AND IDF RADIO IN HEBREW ALSO SUSPENDED THEIR REGULAR BROADCASTS AND REPORTED ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY ON THE INCIDENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT PROTESTS THROUGHOUT ISRAEL AND THE WORLD. BOTH REGULARLY-MONITORED TELEVISION STATIONS AS WELL AS BOTH MONITORED RADIO STATIONS WERE PLACED ON OPEN-SPEAKER WATCH THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE MEDIA ALSO CARRIED ISRAELI LEADERS' REACTION TO THE INCIDENT WITH PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU, DEFENSE MINISTER BARAQ, FOREIGN MINISTER LIEBERMAN, AND IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI ALL EXPLAINING THAT THE ISRAELI TROOPS WERE VIOLENTLY ATTACKED BY ARMED PROTESTERS AND HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, GOING ON TO STATE THAT ISRAEL HAD ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WOULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH INFRINGEMENTS ON ITS SOVEREIGNTY BY VIOLENT GROUPS THAT SUPPORT TERRORISM. THE MEDIA ALSO REPORTED COMMENTS BY OPPOSITION FIGURES AND LESS SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE AFFAIR.

TA'S HEBREW SECTION IS ALSO FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE NUMEROUS WEBSITES IT HAS UNDER COVERAGE, PARTICULARLY THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEFT-OF-CENTER HAARETZ, CENTRIST YNETNEWS, AND RIGHT-OF-CENTER JERUSALEM POST.

AFTER THE RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS COMPLETED THEIR EXTENDED EVENING NEWSREELS BETWEEN 1800 AND 1900 GMT, THEY REVERTED TO NORMAL BROADCASTING.

FURTHER AS WARRANTED.

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

287-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000841

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WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
SERIAL: GMP20100614739008
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: EU, QUARTET

SUBJ: NETANYAHU SAID INCLINED TO OK SIEGE EASING, MULLS GAZA CROSSINGS' COMPLETE CLOSURE (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL: NETANYAHU TELLS LIKUD MINISTERS GAZA BLOCKADE TO REMAIN GMP20100613746002 HAARETZ.COM
ENGLISH 1410 GMT 13 JUN 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 14 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY BARAQ RAVID AND AVI ISSACHAROFF: "PM FAVORS LETTING MORE GOODS INTO GAZA, BUT WON'T END NAVAL
BLOCKADE" (U)

INTERNET

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PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE FAVORS EASING THE LAND BLOCKADE
ON GAZA TO ALLOW MORE CIVILIAN PRODUCTS IN, BUT WILL NOT AGREE TO ENDING THE NAVAL BLOCKADE.
TODAY, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S 27 MEMBER STATES WILL MEET IN
LUXEMBOURG TO DISCUSS WAYS TO END THE BLOCKADE. ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL AMR MOUSSA
VISITED THE GAZA STRIP YESTERDAY AND URGED THAT THE BLOCKADE BE LIFTED. IN REFUSING TO END THE
NAVAL BLOCKADE, NETANYAHU IS ESSENTIALLY REFUSING A PROPOSAL DRAFTED BY THE FRENCH, SPANISH
AND ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, UNDER WHICH GAZA-BOUND SHIPS WOULD BE CHECKED FOR WEAPONS
IN CYPRUS BY EU INSPECTORS.

HOWEVER, NETANYAHU IS LEANING TOWARD ACCEPTING TONY BLAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR EASING THE
BLOCKADE, UNDER WHICH "THE SITUATION WOULD CHANGE FROM A LIST OF WHAT IS ALLOWED INTO GAZA
TO A LIST OF WHAT IS BANNED," NETANYAHU TOLD MINISTERS FROM HIS LIKUD PARTY YESTERDAY. BLAIR
SERVES AS SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE MIDDLE EAST ON BEHALF OF THE QUARTET, MADE UP OF THE UNITED
STATES, THE EUROPEAN UNION, RUSSIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS. NETANYAHU ALSO SAID THE CABINET
WOULD MEET WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS EASING THE BLOCKADE.

HE ALSO GAVE TRANSPORTATION MINISTER YISRAEL KATZ PERMISSION TO DRAFT AN ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSAL FOR A COMPLETE ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT FROM GAZA, UNDER WHICH ISRAEL'S LAND
CROSSINGS TO THE STRIP WOULD BE CLOSED ENTIRELY, LEAVING GAZA DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS FROM
EGYPT. CAIRO VEHEMENTLY OPPOSES THIS IDEA. PASSAGE OMITTED COVERED IN GMP20100613746002

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH - WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ,
LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000842

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, MEDIA
SERIAL: GMP20100609739006
COUNTRY: ISRAEL

SUBJ: ISRAELI THINK TANK PUNDIT BLAMES PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FIASCO ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES IN ENGLISH 09 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

ARTICLE BY HIRSH GOODMAN: "THE SOURCE OF FAILURE: ISRAEL'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY" (U)

INTERNET

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IT TOOK BETWEEN 12 AND 14 HOURS FOR RELEASE OF THE TAPES SHOWING ISRAELI SOLDIERS BEING BEATEN IN A COORDINATED AND PLANNED ATTACK ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA. THAT FOOTAGE, IF RELEASED EARLIER, MIGHT WELL HAVE DRASTICALLY CHANGED THE INTERNATIONAL PERCEPTION OF WHAT HAPPENED ABOARD THE SHIP. THE PICTURE COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT HAD IT BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE MEDIA IN ADVANCE WHO WAS ABOARD THAT SHIP, AS WELL AS THE TRUTH REGARDING THE NATURE AND AFFILIATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS BEHIND THE MISSION AND THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE ON BOARD -- INTELLIGENCE THAT ISRAEL PRESUMABLY HAD, HAVING CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE CASE OF THE FLOTILLA FOR SIX MONTHS.

ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE USED THIS INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY EVEN BEFORE THE FLOTILLA LEFT PORT, PERHAPS TAKING THE RHETORICAL AND THEATRICAL WIND OUT ITS SAILS. BUT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. THE IMAGE THE WORLD ULTIMATELY RECEIVED WAS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF THE TRUTH, I.E. THE PICTURE THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS WOULD HAVE THE WORLD BELIEVE. AS A RESULT, ISRAEL IS FACED WITH YET ANOTHER PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FAILURE WITH MAJOR STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES: JEOPARDIZED RELATIONS WITH AN IMPORTANT NEIGHBOR, TURKEY, AND NEWLY-STRAINED RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, THE ARAB WORLD, AND EVEN THE US.

AT THE HEART OF THIS INCIDENT, AS WELL AS THE DOWNFALL OF ISRAELI PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE AFTERMATH OF OPERATION CAST LEAD IN GAZA (DECEMBER 2008-JANUARY 2009), IS THE GAP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE MATERIALS TO MAKE ISRAEL'S CASE, THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AND THOSE WHO HAVE TO MAKE IT, THE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY COMMUNITY. OBVIOUSLY NOT ALL INTELLIGENCE MATERIALS CAN BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC IF IT IMPLIES PUTTING SOURCES OR A MISSION AT RISK. BUT IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF THE FLOTILLA, IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR THAT THE MATERIALS SHOWING THE BRUTAL ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI COMMANDOS WERE WITHHELD FOR THESE REASONS. IT SEEMS THAT A MAJOR REASON FOR WITHHOLDING THE PICTURES MAY HAVE BEEN THE CONCERN IN THE MILITARY THAT THEIR DISCLOSURE WOULD LEAD TO DEMORALIZATION IN THE ARMY, NOT TO SPEAK OF PUBLIC CRITICISM. IN CONSEQUENCE, THE MILITARY, WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, WITHHELD THE VIDEOS, A CORRECT DECISION PERHAPS FROM THE ARMY'S PERSPECTIVE, BUT A BAD ONE FOR THE COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

290-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000845

THE ARMY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUNTRY'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY -- THE GOVERNMENT IS. IT KNEW ABOUT THE MATERIALS, BUT ACCEPTED THE REASONING OF THE MILITARY, WHICH HAS A DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO AWARE OF WHO WAS ON THE SHIP AND THE NATURE AND HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION BEHIND IT, THE IHH. IT KNEW ABOUT THE COMPLIANCE OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IN THE INCIDENT, THE SENIOR HAMAS OFFICIALS ABOARD (THE HEAD OF HAMAS IN EUROPE, FOR EXAMPLE), AND TERRORISTS WITH KNOWN EXTREME ISLAMIC AFFILIATIONS ALLEGEDLY BEING SMUGGLED INTO GAZA TO TRAIN HAMAS IN THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND BOMB MAKING. DAYS LATER, NOW THAT THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN RELEASED, WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IS BEGINNING TO SWAY TOWARD ISRAEL'S ADVANTAGE, BUT THE DAMAGE WAS IMMENSE.

EXPOSING THE NATURE OF THE PEOPLE DETAINED, THE HISTORY AND GOALS OF THE ISLAMIC ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, THE CRUDENESS ("GO BACK TO AUSCHWITZ") OF THE SHIP'S RADIO RESPONSES TO ISRAELI CALLS WARNING IT NOT TO PROCEED TO GAZA, THE TURKISH ROLE, AND THE ORGANIZED AND LIFE-THREATENING VIOLENCE THAT MET THE DESCENDING TROOPS COULD HAVE PUT AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THE NARRATIVE THAT WENT OUT TO THE WORLD HAD THAT INFORMATION BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISRAEL'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY. UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS NOT, MAKING MONTHS OF PLANNING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ON HOW THE FLOTILLA CHALLENGE WOULD BE MET VIRTUALLY USELESS.

THE CORE AND SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM IS TO BE FOUND, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, NOT THROUGH ANY ILL-WILL BUT BY VIRTUE OF THE NATURE OF THAT COMMUNITY: SECRECY, DISCRETION AND THE SINGLE-MINDED PURPOSE OF HELPING THE ARMED FORCES ACHIEVE THEIR MISSION. IT IS NOT THAT THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE BLIND TO ISRAEL'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY NEEDS; IT IS SIMPLY NOT ON HIGH ENOUGH ON THEIR AGENDA. HENCE THE RETICENCE ABOUT THE "ACTIVISTS" ON THE SHIP AND THEIR ULTIMATE PURPOSE IN EMBARKING TO GAZA.

THIS HAS TO CHANGE. IN THIS DAY AND AGE AND THE REALITY OF INTRUSIVE, 24-HOUR, MULTI-CHANNEL NEWS OUTLETS, WHERE SPEED AND BEATING THE COMPETITION IS EVERYTHING -- RUMOR, SPIN, AND MANIPULATION RULE, AS WAS SO DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT. BOTH IN OPERATION CAST LEAD IN GAZA, WHICH LED TO THE GOLDSTONE COMMISSION, AND IN THIS INCIDENT, THE NEED FOR MATERIALS THAT WILL HELP ISRAEL MAKE ITS CASE ARE CRUCIAL. THIS IS NO LONGER A QUESTION OF IMAGE, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-GOLDSTONE REALITIES AND THE CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO BESMIRCH ISRAEL AND DE-LEGITIMIZE THE COUNTRY, IT IS PROBABLY AS IMPORTANT, IF NOT MORE SO, THAN THE CONVENTIONAL BATTLES ISRAEL FACES. AS A RESULT OF THIS CAMPAIGN, ISRAEL FACES ECONOMIC, ARTISTIC, AND ACADEMIC EMBARGOES, CONTINUOUS ATTACKS IN THE UN, AND OTHER WORLD FORUMS. IT UNDERMINES OUR ALLIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE ARAB WORLD, WHERE ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT IS AT A PEAK, AND EMBARRASSES OUR FRIENDS

IT IS TIME FOR THOSE IN THE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMUNITIES TO SWITCH GEAR WHEN IT COMES TO INFORMATION SHARING. THERE IS A GROWING AWARENESS THAT THIS IS NEEDED, BUT CONCRETE ACTION IN THIS REGARD STILL NEEDS TO BE TAKEN. ISRAEL HAS IN PLACE THE NECESSARY PUBLIC DIPLOMACY STRUCTURES TO MAKE ISRAEL'S CASE EFFECTIVELY. BUT WITHOUT AMMUNITION THEY ARE POWERLESS.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RESEARCH CENTER AFFILIATED WITH TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY, FORMERLY KNOWN AS JAFFEE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES; URL: WWW.INSS.ORG.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000846

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 304546

WARNING: TOPIC: TERRORISM, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20101011739012
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, ALGERIA, JORDAN

SUBJ: ISRAELI INTEL CENTER PUBLISHES 'FULL VERSION' OF REPORT ON FLOTILLA PASSENGERS (U)

REF: 1. ISRAELI INTEL CENTER NOTES TURKISH GOV'T'S 'EXTENSIVE INVOLVEMENT' IN FLOTILLA GMP20100927739004 MEIR AMIT INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER ENGLISH 0000 GMT 26 SEP 10 (U)

SOURCE: RAMAT HASHARON MEIR AMIT INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER IN ENGLISH 07 OCT 10 (U)

TEXT:

INTERNET

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THE 145-PAGE REPORT IS THE FULL VERSION OF ITIC'S 26 SEPTEMBER REPORT ON THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF TURKISH AND ARAB ISLAMIC "EXTREMISTS LED BY IHH." THE FULL VERSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

"THIS REPORT CONTAINS TWO SECTIONS AND THREE APPENDICES:

A. SECTION I - CROSS SECTION OF THE PASSENGERS:

- 1) PASSENGER DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY AND RELIGION.
- 2) PASSENGER DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION.

B. SECTION II - THE MOST PROMINENT ACTIVISTS AND ORGANIZATION ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA (DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO COUNTRY):

- 1) TURKEY AND OTHER (NON-ARABIC) MUSLIM COUNTRIES
- 2) WESTERN COUNTRIES

C. APPENDICES:

- 1) APPENDIX I - A LIST FOUND ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA OF PASSENGERS, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY.
- 2) APPENDIX II - AN ANALYSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS ON MAY 16, 2010.
- 3) APPENDIX III - A LIST OF THE TURKISH PASSENGERS ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA AND OTHER SHIPS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATIONS.

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20101011739012001.PDF) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL 145-PAGE REPORT IN PDF FORMAT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: RAMAT HASHARON MEIR AMIT INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF THINK TANK SET UP BY VETERANS OF ISRAEL'S INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY "TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONTRIBUTION OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE TO THE STATE'S SECURITY," FOCUSES ON ANTI-ISRAELI INCITEMENT IN PA AND ARAB WORLD AND ON ISLAMIC TERRORISM; URL: WWW.INTELLIGENCE.ORG.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000847

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, TERRORISM, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100623739007
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAELI INTEL CENTER: MARMARA CASUALTIES MEMBERS OF TURKISH ISLAMIST ORGANIZATIONS (U)

SOURCE: RAMAT HASHARON INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER IN ENGLISH 20 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:
INTERNET
OSC SUMMARY

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THE ITIC WEBSITE CARRIES A PAPER ON 20 JUNE SAYING: "ALMOST ALL OF THE CASUALTIES ON BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA WERE FULLY IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF TURKISH ISLAMIST ORGANIZATIONS, MOST OF THEM OF A RADICAL AND ANTI-WESTERN NATURE. ABOUT HALF OF THOSE KILLED HAD DECLARED THEIR WISH TO DIE AS MARTYRS (SHAHEEDS)."

THE ARTICLE'S INTRODUCTION SAYS:

"1. SINCE THE VIOLENT CONFRONTATION ABOARD THE SHIP MAVI MARMARA, A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION ACCUMULATED MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE NINE TURKISH NATIONALS KILLED IN THE CONFRONTATION, AS WELL AS TO ANALYZE THEIR AFFILIATION AND POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL VIEWS, THE ANALYSIS LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ALMOST ALL OF THOSE KILLED (8 OUT OF 9) BELONGED TO THE IHH OR THOSE AFFILIATED WITH IT (MAINLY THE FELICITY PARTY, SAADET PARTISI). ABOUT HALF OF THOSE KILLED HAD TOLD THEIR RELATIVES OF THEIR WISH TO DIE AS MARTYRS (SHAHEEDS).

"2. ON THE OTHER HAND, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES OR THE ARAB/MUSLIM WORLD WERE NOT AMONG THOSE KILLED. THAT IS TO SAY, THOSE WHO JOINED THE FLOTILLA TO DELIVER HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PALESTINIANS FOUND THEMSELVES IN A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION INITIATED BY THE IHH. ONE OF THOSE KILLED, A YOUNGSTER WHO WAS A CITIZEN OF BOTH TURKEY AND THE US, IS NOT KNOWN TO US AS AFFILIATED WITH ANY ISLAMIST ORGANIZATION, AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE EVENTS IS STILL UNCLEAR.

"3. THOSE CONCLUSIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION COLLECTED SINCE THE IDF'S TAKEOVER OF THE MAVI MARMARA. IT TURNED OUT THAT HARD CORE RADICAL ISLAMIST OPERATIVES PREPARED THEMSELVES WELL IN ADVANCE FOR HARD VIOLENCE AGAINST IDF SOLDIERS. THAT VIOLENCE WAS PRECEDED BY SPEECHES OF INCITEMENT AND INDOCTRINATION DURING THE SHIP'S THE INFORMATION INCLUDES STATEMENTS TAKEN FROM PASSENGERS QUESTIONED IN ISRAEL, SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE AND FOOTAGE SHOT BY JOURNALISTS ON THE MAVI MARMARA, DOCUMENTS SEIZED ABOARD THE SHIP, VOYAGE AND STATEMENTS MADE ON THE MEDIA (INCLUDING TURKISH MEDIA) BEFORE AND AFTER THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT."

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100623739007001.PDF) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 6-PAGE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPER IN PDF FORMAT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: RAMAT HASHARON INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF THINK TANK SET UP BY VETERANS OF ISRAEL'S INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY "TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONTRIBUTION OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE TO THE STATE'S SECURITY," FOCUSES ON ANTI-ISRAELI INCITEMENT IN PA AND ARAB WORLD AND ON ISLAMIC TERRORISM; URL: WWW.INTELLIGENCE.ORG.IL

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000848

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WARNING: TOPIC: TERRORISM, MILITARY, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100416739009
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, GREECE, IRELAND, LEBANON

SUBJ: ISRAELI INTEL CENTER REPORTS PRO-PALESTINIAN GROUPS' PLANNED SEA TRIP TO GAZA (U)

SOURCE: RAMAT HASHARON INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER IN ENGLISH 07 APR 10 16 APR 10 (U)

TEXT:

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THE INTRODUCTION TO ITIC'S UNTITLED PRESS RELEASE STATES: "THE HAMAS ADMINISTRATION IN THE GAZA STRIP AND PRO-PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE ARE PLANNING A FLOTILLA OF AID TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE COORDINATORS OF THE 'SHIP INTIFADA' WANT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH THE EGYPTIANS BUT ARE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CONFRONTATION WITH THE ISRAELI NAVY BACKED BY MEDIA AND DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGNS." THE PAPER ALSO ADDRESSES THE "TURKISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE FLOTILLA."

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100416739009001.PDF) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 11-PAGE PAPER IN PDF FORMAT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: RAMAT HASHARON INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF THINK TANK SET UP BY VETERANS OF ISRAEL'S INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY "TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONTRIBUTION OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE TO THE STATE'S SECURITY," FOCUSES ON ANTI-ISRAELI INCITEMENT IN PA AND ARAB WORLD AND ON ISLAMIC TERRORISM; URL: WWW.INTELLIGENCE.ORG.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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P 091223Z DEC 10
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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20101209735002
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL TO PAY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN COMPENSATION OVER TURKISH FLOTILLA DEATHS (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL WANTS TURKEY TO ADMIT IDF RAID ON GAZA FLOTILLA 'HAD NO MALICIOUS INTENT' GMP20101207735003
HAARETZ.COM ENGLISH 1736 GMT 07 DEC 10 (U)
SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 1009 GMT 09 DEC 10 (U)

TEXT:
REPORT BY BARAQ RAVID: "ISRAEL TO OFFER HEAVY 'HUMANITARIAN' COMPENSATION OVER TURKEY FLOTILLA DEATHS" (U)
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ISRAEL IS EXPECTED TO OFFER HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE NINE
TURKISH ACTIVISTS WHO WERE KILLED IN A DEADLY RAID ON A HUMANITARIAN AID CONVOY BOUND FOR
THE GAZA STRIP LAST MAY.

TURKEY AND ISRAEL ARE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT OVER THE WORDING OF AN APOLOGY ANKARA HAS
DEMANDED AS THE TWO SIDES MOVE TOWARD REBUILDING TIES.

TURKISH PRIME MINISTER RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN DISCUSSED WITH SENIOR ADVISERS ON WEDNESDAY THE
CONTENT OF A MEMO AIMED AT ENDING THE CRISIS WITH ANKARA'S ONCE-CLOSE ALLY.

MOST OF THE REMAINING POINTS OF CONTENTION CONCERN THE EXACT PHRASING OF ISRAEL'S APOLOGIES
RELATED TO ITS RAID ON THE FLOTILLA. ERDOGAN DEMANDS THAT ISRAEL SAY IT "APOLOGIZES," WHILE
ISRAEL PREFERS TO USE THE WORD "REGRETS."

DURING THE CONSULTATIONS HELD IN ERDOGAN'S OFFICE, THE PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY OF THE
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY, FERIDUN SINIRLIOGLU, UPDATED THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE TALKS HE'D
HELD WITH ISRAELI UN ENVOY YOSEF CIECHANOVER IN GENEVA EARLIER THIS WEEK.

THE TURKISH DAILY HURIYET REPORTED THAT NAMIK TAN, THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED
STATES WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, AND HIS ISRAELI COUNTERPART IN
WASHINGTON, MICHAEL OREN, ARE ALSO HOLDING TALKS TO BRING THE CRISIS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES TO AN END.

IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER ERDOGAN HAS GIVEN A GREEN LIGHT FOR THE TALKS TO CONTINUE, BUT
SOURCES SPOKE OF MORE MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN THE COMING DAYS TO TRY AND FLESH OUT AN
APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION OVER THE ISSUE OF ISRAEL'S APOLOGY.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000857

ISRAEL IS REFUSING TO USE THE WORD "APOLOGY," AS IT CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE ACTIONS THE NAVY TOOK ON THE FLOTILLA WERE LEGITIMATE. ISRAEL HAS, HOWEVER, AGREED TO EXPRESS SORROW AND REGRET OVER THE KILLING OF THE TURKISH ACTIVISTS ON BOARD.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT IN HURİYET, ISRAEL WANTS THE EXPRESSION OF SORROW AND REGRET TO BE "HUMANITARIAN" AND ADDRESSED TOWARD THE VICTIMS, RATHER THAN AN OFFICIAL APOLOGY TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. ERDOGAN, FOR HIS PART, IS DEMANDING THAT ISRAEL APOLOGIZE "TO THE TURKISH REPUBLIC."

THE FINANCIAL COMPENSATIONS, BY CONTRAST, DO NOT APPEAR TO BE MUCH OF AN ISSUE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, WITH ISRAEL EXPECTED TO PAY SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE ACTIVISTS KILLED AND SMALLER AMOUNTS TO THOSE WHO WERE INJURED. THE COMPENSATION IS ALSO MEANT TO BE A "HUMANITARIAN" GESTURE, RATHER THAN AN ISRAELI ADMISSION OF LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT.

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU AND HIS ADVISERS CONTINUED WEDNESDAY TO AVOID MAKING ANY COMMENTS ON FOREIGN MINISTER AVIGDOR LIEBERMAN'S OPPOSITION TO THE DEAL WITH TURKEY. LIEBERMAN WAS JOINED YESTERDAY BY VICE PRIME MINISTER SILVAN SHALOM, WHO SAID ISRAEL SHOULD NOT APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE TAKEOVER OF THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP.

MEANWHILE, THE SECURITY CABINET DECIDED WEDNESDAY TO EASE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE GAZA BLOCKADE. THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE SAID PALESTINIANS WILL NOW BE ABLE TO EXPORT FURNITURE, TEXTILES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS; SHIPMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOON.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, HUMAN RIGHTS, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100615739002
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, EGYPT, IRAN, LEBANON, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: EU

SUBJ: ISRAEL TO VIEW FUTURE FLOTILLAS AS CARRYING 'PROVOCATEURS,' URGES EU TO STOP SHIPS (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 14 JUN 10 15 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

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POLITICAL SOURCES: ANY GAZA-BOUND SHIP TO BE STOPPED

STATE-FUNDED, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW REPORTS AT 0500 GMT: "POLITICAL SOURCES SAID THAT EGYPT-ASSISTED EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY TO PREVENT THE IRANIAN SHIPS FROM ENTERING THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE SOURCES TOLD OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT SHMU'EL TAL THAT DESPITE THE DISCUSSIONS ON EASING THE GAZA BLOCKADE, THE BLOCKADE POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED. ACCORDING TO THEM, ANY GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA WOULD BE STOPPED, AND SHIPS -- INCLUDING IRANIAN ONES -- WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO APPROACH THE GAZA STRIP."

REAR-ADMIRAL: NAVY TO OPERATE UNDER ASSUMPTION SHIPS CARRYING 'PROVOCATEURS'

YA'AQOV KATZ REPORTS IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH: "THE NAVY WILL OPERATE UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT GROUPS OF PROVOCATEURS ARE ABOARD ANY FUTURE SHIPS THAT TRY TO BREAK THE ISRAEL-IMPOSED SEA BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE NAVY REAR-ADMIRAL RANI BEN-YEHUDA TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST ON MONDAY."

"BEN-YEHUDA SAID THAT WHILE ISRAEL DID NOT HAVE INTELLIGENCE INDICATING THAT THE IRANIAN SHIPS WERE CARRYING WEAPONRY, HE SAID THAT THE NAVY'S ASSUMPTION WOULD BE THAT PROVOCATEURS ARE ONBOARD. 'I RECOMMEND THAT HUMANITARIAN ACTIVISTS WHO ARE PLANNING ON PARTICIPATING IN THESE NEW FLOTILLAS THINK VERY HARD BECAUSE THEY CANNOT KNOW WHO IS ON THESE SHIPS,' HE SAID. 'WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE GROUPS THAT WILL TRY TO CAUSE PROVOCATIONS AND REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED ON THE MARMARA.'"

ISRAEL TO EU: STOP CITIZENS FROM JOINING FLOTILLAS

RONI SOFER REPORTS IN TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH, CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, AT 0532 GMT: "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT, HAMAS IS TALKING ABOUT NO LESS THAN 10 FLOTILLAS BY OCTOBER 2010, THE END OF RAMADAN. ALL THE FLOTILLAS AIM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ISRAEL'S DIPLOMATIC STRAITS FOLLOWING THE LETHAL RAID ON THE LAST FLOTILLA ON MAY 31 IN WHICH NINE ACTIVISTS WERE KILLED ON THE LEAD VESSEL. THE NEW INITIATIVES ARE BASED IN LEBANON, SUDAN AND IRAN AS WELL AS BRITAIN, NORWAY, TURKEY AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES."

"ON MONDAY, ISRAEL TOLD THE EU THAT IT SHOULD ACT TO PREVENT THE ORGANIZATION OF FLOTILLAS ON ITS SOIL AND STOP ITS CITIZENS FROM WORKING AGAINST ISRAELI INTERESTS. THE MESSAGE WAS PART OF

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ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE EU LED BY TONY BLAIR, THE QUARTET'S ENVOY TO THE MIDDLE EAST WHO IS ALSO REPRESENTING THE EU, IN AN EFFORT TO EASE THE BLOCKADE. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES, THE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED WELL BY EU LEADERS WHO WANT TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS -- AS LONG AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO EASE THE BLOCKADE BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS. HOWEVER, AT THIS STAGE NO PRACTICAL STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO STOP THE ORGANIZATION OF FLOTILLAS."

IDF: BOARDING ONLY WAY TO STOP SHIPS

COMMERCIAL, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM CHANNEL 10 TV ONLINE IN HEBREW CARRIES ALON BEN-DAVID'S REPORT AT 1607 GMT ON 14 JUNE, SAYING THAT, IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL IN THE REGION OF IRANIAN AND LEBANESE FLOTILLAS, "THE NAVY AND THE NAVAL COMMANDO UNITS ARE SET TO CARRY OUT AN OPERATION SIMILAR TO THE ONES WE WITNESSED IN THE PREVIOUS FLOTILLAS. ACCORDING TO SENIOR IDF SOURCES, 'THERE IS CURRENTLY NO WAY TO STOP A SHIP OTHER THAN BOARDING IT. AS FOR THE LEBANESE SHIPS, WE WILL NATURALLY COME READY WITH A LOT MORE FORCES."

WARNING MESSAGES SENT TO LEBANON, CONTACTS HELD WITH EGYPT

A POOL REPORT PUBLISHED ON PAGE 6 OF TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW, AN INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST, LARGEST-CIRCULATION DAILY, SAYS: "ISRAEL HAS RELAYED MESSAGES TO LEBANON VIA SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, WARNING THAT IT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE HIZBALLAH FLOTILLA TO REACH THE GAZA STRIP. IN ADDITION, ISRAEL HAS BEEN HOLDING CONTACTS WITH EGYPT, HOPING IT WOULD BE THE ONE TO STOP THE IRANIAN FLOTILLA AS IT ENTERS THE SUEZ CANAL."

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, MILITARY, TERRORISM, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100523966006
COUNTRY: EGYPT, IRAN, ISRAEL, JORDAN, QATAR, RUSSIA, SYRIA
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: EU, UN

SUBJ: AMMUN NEWS: ISRAEL REJECTS 'NORMALIZATION' WITH QATAR IN RETURN FOR GAZA REBUILDING (U)

SOURCE: AMMAN AMMUN NEWS IN ENGLISH 0105 GMT 23 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"ISRAEL REJECTS 'NORMALIZATION' WITH QATAR IN RETURN FOR GAZA REBUILDING" -- AMMUN NEWS (U)

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AMMONNEWS - ISRAEL HAS TURNED DOWN AN OFFER FROM QATAR FOR A REOPENING OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN RETURN FOR THE GULF STATE BEING ALLOWED TO IMPORT SUPPLIES TO GAZA TO CARRY OUT A SERIES OF BADLY NEEDED RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. QATAR HAD PROPOSED A MAJOR THAWING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN WHICH ISRAEL WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO REOPEN ITS OFFICIAL INTERESTS OFFICE, SHUT DOWN ON THE ORDERS OF THE EMIRATE DURING THE MILITARY ONSLAUGHT ON GAZA IN JANUARY 2009. BUT IN RETURN IT WANTED AN EASING OF THE THREE-YEAR BLOCKADE OF GAZA TO ALLOW A MAJOR INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF CEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO START REBUILDING WAR-RAVAGED SECTORS OF THE BESIEGED TERRITORY. ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU WAS INITIALLY ATTRACTED BY THE PROPOSAL IN WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST STEP SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE TOWARDS "NORMALISATION" IN RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND AN ARAB STATE THAT DOES NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNISE IT. BUT SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT HE AND OTHER KEY MINISTERS WERE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS SET BY QATAR'S ROYAL FAMILY ON THE GROUNDS THAT SOME OF THE MATERIALS MIGHT HAVE FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF HAMAS, AND USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THE DECISION TO REJECT THE OFFER BY QATAR - WHICH ALTHOUGH STILL A US ALLY IS SEEN BY SOME ARAB STATES, INCLUDING EGYPT, AS HAVING DEEPEDED ITS LINKS WITH IRAN - WAS SHARPLY CRITICISED IN AN EDITORIAL THIS WEEK IN THE LIBERAL DAILY HAARETZ. THE PAPER QUESTIONED WHETHER THE DECISION WAS NOT "DERANGED SOMEWHAT" AND POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL HAD BEEN SEEKING "NORMALISATION" WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. ISRAEL CONTINUED TO ALLOW HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES IN TO GAZA AND HAS RECENTLY ADMITTED SOME SEVERELY LIMITED SHIPMENTS OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUCH AS A SEWAGE WORKS FOR THE NORTHERN STRIP AND THE AL QUDS HOSPITAL, WHICH WAS BADLY DAMAGED BY WHITE PHOSPHORUS BOMBARDMENT DURING THE OFFENSIVE. BUT IT HAS CONTINUED TO BAR THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF COMMERCIAL GOODS, AS WELL AS CEMENT AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION GOODS FOR THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTING GAZA - INCLUDING HOUSING AND MANY OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT FACTORIES DESTROYED IN THE WAR - FOR WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EARMARKED MORE THAN \$5BN IN 2009. ISRAEL TOLD EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT ITS NAVY PLANNED TO HALT AN ATTEMPT BY PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS TO BEAT THE BLOCKADE NEXT WEEK

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BY SENDING A FLOTILLA OF THREE CARGO SHIPS AND FIVE PASSENGER VESSELS CARRYING SUPPLIES TO GAZA. THE HAARETZ EDITORIAL SAID: "THE DANGER THAT A FEW TONS OF CONCRETE BOLSTER HAMAS'S MILITARY POWER OR DAMAGE EGYPT'S STATUS IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO THE HUGE DIPLOMATIC GAINS ISRAEL STANDS TO MAKE BY RESTORING RELATIONS WITH QATAR. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT A STATE MAINTAINING CLOSE TIES WITH IRAN AND SYRIA IS PREPARED TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL... WHEN AN ARAB STATE IS WILLING TO HELP REBUILD GAZA, AND IN SO DOING CONTRIBUTE TO REHABILITATING ISRAEL'S STATUS IN THE WORLD, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OPPORTUNITY." WHILE SAYING THAT THE CONDITIONS SOUGHT BY HAMAS HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN ON THE GROUNDS THAT MATERIALS MIGHT BE USED BY THEM FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM A REPORT IN THE SAME PAPER THAT THE REJECTION STEMMED IN LARGE PART FROM EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION. RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND QATAR ARE TENSE PARTLY BECAUSE OF CRITICISMS OF CAIRO ON THE DOHA-BASED SATELLITE CHANNEL AL JAZEERA AND THE EMIRATE'S PERCEIVED CLOSENESS TO IRAN. BUT WHILE THE REPORT QUOTED EGYPTIAN SOURCES AS SAYING THAT ITS OPPOSITION TO THE QATAR PROPOSAL HAD BEEN CO-ORDINATED WITH ISRAEL AND THE INTERNATIONAL "QUARTET" OF THE US, EU, RUSSIA AND THE UN, A SENIOR WESTERN DIPLOMAT SAID THIS WEEK HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE ISSUE. ISRAELI SOLDIERS YESTERDAY KILLED TWO PALESTINIANS WHO HAD INFILTRATED THE COUNTRY FROM SOUTHERN GAZA. THE MILITARY SAID BOTH WERE MILITANTS AND HAD EXCHANGED FIRE WITH TROOPS NEAR THE ISRAELI BORDER COMMUNITY OF NIRIM. BY DONALD MACINTYRE/ THE INDEPENDENT AFP/GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100618754003
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAEL: NAVY COMMANDER'S 'CONTROVERSIAL' PERSONALITY, FLOTILLA ROLE DISCUSSED (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT (7 YAMIM SUPPLEMENT) IN HEBREW 18 JUN 10 PP 21, 22, 24, 26, 28(U)

TEXT:

ARTICLE BY SHOSH MULA: "BREAKWATER" (U)

PUBLICATIONS

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NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL ELI'EZER (CHINEY) MAROM IS HAVING A HARD TIME THESE DAYS. HE IS A CREATURE OF THE SEA WHO THROUGHOUT HIS 40 YEARS IN THE IDF, HAS KNOWN TURBULENCE AND CHANGES BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE OCEAN AND HAS ALWAYS MANAGED TO FLOAT ON THE WATER. YET EVEN SUCH A SEASONED SEAMAN AS HE IS WAS SURPRISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA REVERBERATIONS FOLLOWING THE SHAYETET'S TAKEOVER OF THE PROTEST FLOTILLA TO THE GAZA STRIP, WHICH LEFT NINE DEAD, 28 INJURED FROM AMONG THE PASSENGERS, AND 10 WOUNDED FIGHTERS. YET THE ADMIRAL DOES NOT GIVE UP. "I AM NOT HAPPY BUT NEITHER HAVE I DESCENDED INTO MELANCHOLY OVER CRITICISM BY THE WORLD PRESS," HE ANNOUNCED IN A CLOSED FORUM. "THE WORLD IS DOUBLE-FACED AND PROBLEMATIC WHEN IT COMES TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT. THEY HATED US BEFORE, TOO, SO THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS INCIDENT HAS SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED THE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE STATE OF ISRAEL."

DESPITE THIS UNDENIABLY NOT OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE, CHINEY NEVERTHELESS EMERGED ENCOURAGED FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SHAYETET 13 FIGHTERS LAST WEDNESDAY. THAT WAS HIS FIRST MEETING WITH THEM SINCE THE OPERATION AND IT WAS INTENDED FOR THE NAVY'S INTERNAL DEBRIEFING. A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THAT FRIDAY NIGHT, TWO DAYS BEFORE OPERATION SKY WINDS, WHEN CHINEY DROPPED IN FOR A FINAL BRIEFING WITH THE SHAYETET FIGHTERS AT THE PORT OF ASHDOD. THEY SPENT THE SABBATH EVE TOGETHER, LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND RECITING THE SABBATH KIDDUSH, WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR THE SHIPS. THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, WHEN CHINEY REALIZED THAT THIS HAD BECOME A "COMPLICATED AFFAIR," HE DECIDED TO COMMAND THE OPERATION FROM THE SEA RATHER THAN FROM THE TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS IN THE TEL AVIV IDF HEADQUARTERS AND JOINED THE SHAYETET COMMANDER'S COMMAND BOAT.

"CHINEY'S HEART ACHED," SAY HIS ASSOCIATES, "WHEN, ON BOARD THE COMMAND SHIP THAT SAILED ONLY A FEW METERS FROM THE SHIP, HE SAW HIS FIGHTERS BEING BRUTALLY ASSAULTED AND THROWN OFF THE DECK. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THEY WERE ABLE TO CLIMB BACK ON BOARD, SO HE ASSUMED THAT THEY WERE MISSING IN ACTION AND THAT THEIR LOCATION WAS UNKNOWN. LATER, WHEN ALL THE MEN WERE COUNTED, HE DECIDED TO BREAK IN AND FREE THEM."

THE INCIDENT ENDED WITHIN 40 MINUTES AND THE MAVI MARMARA LIFTED ANCHOR EN ROUTE FOR ASHDOD WHILE CHINEY WAS ALREADY MAKING HIS WAY TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S OFFICE IN TEL AVIV. DURING THE DEBRIEFING HELD IN THE SHAYETET AUDITORIUM AT ITS HOME BASE NEAR ATLIT, THE SOLDIERS RECOUNTED THE TERRIFYING MOMENTS. ONE AFTER THE OTHER, THEY TOOK THE FLOOR AND EACH REPORTED ON HIS ROLE IN THE EVENT AND THE MISTAKES HE HAD MADE. "CHINEY TOLD THE COMBATANTS THAT HE WAS PROUD OF THEM," REPORTS AN OFFICER WHO PARTICIPATED IN THAT MEETING. "HE COMPLIMENTED THEM ON THEIR PERFORMANCE, SAID THEY WERE REAL MEN, THE SALT OF THE EARTH, THAT NO OTHER IDF FIGHTERS COULD HAVE DONE IT BETTER THAN THEY, AND THAT THEY ARE THE MOST WONDERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD."

"I SAT WITH THE FIGHTERS, HEARD THEM OUT, AND LEARNED A LOT FROM THEM," CHINEY ADMITTED LATER. "THESE ARE THE FACTS THAT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, TO THE INNER CABINET, TO THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE, AND TO THE PUBLIC COMMITTEE. WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE." WHEN HE WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE RESULTS AND FINDINGS OF THE DEBRIEFINGS, HE SAID: "I AM NOT AFRAID OF ANYONE AND I AM NOT ASHAMED OF ANYTHING." HE TOLD HIS ASSOCIATES THAT THE SOLDIERS FACED DANGER TO THEIR LIFE AND OPENED FIRE IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE THE TERRORISTS ON THE DECK OF THE VESSEL. HE MAINTAINS THAT THEY LANDED ON THE BOAT WITH COLD WEAPONS

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FOR THE DISPERSAL OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND THAT ONLY AFTER THEY HAD BEEN ATTACKED AND ENCOUNTERED A REAL LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION DID THEY BEGIN TO USE LIVE AMMUNITION -- AND EVEN THEN, IT WAS CONTROLLED SHOOTING, DIRECTED MAINLY AT THE LEGS. "SHOW ME ANOTHER SOLDIER IN THE WHOLE WORLD WHO WOULD HAVE DONE THAT," T; HE SAID ANGRILY. "THE IDF SOLDIERS ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT HAVE SUCH HIGH MORAL STANDARDS."

WHEN HE WAS REMINDED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED IN THE INCIDENT, HE FELL SILENT. "CHINEY DID NOT MEAN THE INCIDENT TO END WITH CASUALTIES, JUST AS THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES ON THE OTHER VESSELS," EXPLAIN HIS ASSOCIATES. "THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT NINE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. WE MUST NOT SAY THAT THE DEAD PEOPLE WERE CIVILIANS BECAUSE THIS CONNOTES THAT THEY WERE INNOCENT, WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE. THEY WERE MERCENARIES WHO SAID BLUNTLY: 'WE WANT TO BE MARTYRS; WE WANT TO KILL OR KIDNAP ISRAELI SOLDIERS.'"

"CHINEY IS INDEED NOT AFRAID," EXPLAINS A SENIOR NAVY OFFICER. "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT NOT EVERY MILITARY OPERATION PROGRESSES SMOOTHLY, WHICH IS WHY WE WILL CHECK WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY. WE ARE INVESTIGATING ONLY THE TRUTH; WE ARE NOT TELLING STORIES."

AND STILL, CHINEY HAS A FULL STOMACH, MAINLY WITH REGARD TO THE MEDIA, WHICH RUSHED TO MAKE ITS VERDICT. "THIS INSTANT WAY OF REACHING CONCLUSIONS UPSETS HIM. LET THE CORRESPONDENTS AT LEAST REPORT THINGS AS THEY ARE," PROTEST HIS ASSOCIATES. "ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT, AT 1100, HE REPORTED THAT THERE WERE NINE DEAD, BUT THEY INSISTED ON TELEVISION THAT THERE WERE 19 BODIES AND THAT SHAYKH RA'ID SALAH WAS AMONG THEM. HE SENT THE SHAYETET COMMANDER TO CHECK WHETHER THE SHAYKH WAS DEAD OR ALIVE AND ONLY AFTER THE COMMANDER MADE ALL THE CHECKS DID WE REPORT THAT HE WAS ALIVE."

"CHINEY IS VERY DISTURBED BY THE FACT THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE NAVY IS GIVEN A TINY BIT OF CREDIT," ADD THE ASSOCIATES. "IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, HE WAS INVOLVED IN EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND TOUGH ASSIGNMENTS, BUT THESE WERE NEVER REPORTED. HIS DAILY SCHEDULE LASTS FROM 0400 TO MIDNIGHT. ON THE WEEK OF THE FLOTILLA'S ARRIVAL, HE HARDLY MANAGED TO GET HOME ON MONDAY, AND ON TUESDAY HE WAS ALREADY INVOLVED IN ANOTHER OPERATION. ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, HE STOPPED THE RACHEL CORRIE, AND THE NEXT DAY THERE WAS THE ENCOUNTER IN WHICH FIVE DIVER TERRORISTS WERE CAUGHT OFF THE GAZA SHORES."

MULA DOES HE CONSIDER THE FLOTILLA AFFAIR AS A SUCCESS OR A FAILURE?

THE ASSOCIATES HE RECEIVED AN ORDER AND HE FULFILLED THE MISSION. IN THE END, ALL SIX VESSELS WERE INTERCEPTED, NOT ONE OF THEM GOT TO THE GAZA STRIP, ALL THE SOLDIERS CAME BACK HOME SAFELY -- NOT IN COFFINS -- AND THEY DID NOT SHOOT AT ANYONE WHO DID NOT DESERVE IT. NO PEACE ACTIVIST WAS HURT. NOT A SINGLE WOMAN WAS HURT. THE ONES WHO WERE KILLED WERE TERRORISTS WHO CAME WITH THE INTENT TO KILL AND KIDNAP SOLDIERS, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, ISRAEL MAINTAINED ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND DETERRENCE. END "THE ASSOCIATES"

ON THIS POINT, HIS CRITICS ALSO AGREE: "THE FIRM AND RESOLUTE STANCE THAT CHINEY BROADCASTS TO HIS SUBORDINATES," SAYS A FORMER NAVY COMMANDER, "AND ACCORDING TO WHICH THEY OPERATED AND CONTINUE TO WORK IN THE NAME OF THE STATE AND ITS SECURITY ALLOWS THEM TO CONTINUE TO PERFORM QUIETLY AND EXECUTE THE ASSIGNMENTS THAT CONFRONT THEM WITH RISKS EVERY DAY. THIS IS HIS GREATNESS."

SEA OF WHISKEY

IN FOUR MONTHS, CHINEY WILL MARK HIS THIRD ANNIVERSARY AS NAVY COMMANDER, AND HE IS DEFINITELY A CONTROVERSIAL COMMANDER. ON THE ONE HAND, HE IS CONSIDERED AN OUTSTANDING SAILOR AND A DECORATED FIGHTER; ON THE OTHER HAND, HE IS A PARTY LOVER WHO ENJOYS THE GOOD LIFE. HIS GROUPIES CLAIM THAT HE IS A PRO, AN EXPERT OFFICER, BRIGHT AND CHARISMATIC, ONE WHO HOBNOBS WITH HIS SUBORDINATES AND SPEAKS TO THEM AT EYE LEVEL. THEY ALSO DESCRIBE HIM AS SOMEONE WITH A BIG MOUTH AND AS A STUBBORN GUY IN THE GOOD SENSE OF THE WORD, WHO EXPRESSES HIS OPINION AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND IS VERY PERSUASIVE.

HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS WITH CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI ARE GOOD: CHINEY IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO TELLS HIM WHAT THINKS WITHOUT FEARING HIM. AS SUCH, HE HAS BECOME A DOMINANT FIGURE IN THE GENERAL STAFF COMMAND AND HAS IMPROVED THE NAVY'S STANDING THERE. "THE NAVY IS A CLOSED AND RELATIVELY UNKNOWN ENTITY. CHINEY HAS MANAGED TO GAIN STRENGTH THROUGH ASHKENAZI," EXPLAINS ONE OF THE FORMER NAVY COMMANDERS. "THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS: THEY ARE MADE OF SIMILAR STUFF, THEY ARE MORE OR LESS IN THE SAME AGE GROUP, NEITHER LIKES EXPOSURE, AND THEY HAVE MANY FRIENDS IN COMMON." AFTER THE FLOTILLA OPERATION, ASHKENAZI

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WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE TO COME OUT IN DEFENSE OF THE NAVY WHEN HE SAID: "THE SHAYETET SOLDIERS OPERATED WELL CONSIDERING THE DANGER TO THEIR LIVES."

CHINEY'S OPPONENTS ADMIT THAT HE IS A PRO, BUT ARGUE THAT HE HAS A PROBLEM WITH NORMATIVE VALUES, THAT HE IS NOT AN EDUCATIONAL MODEL, AND THAT HE IS TOO MUCH OF A HEDONIST. IN THIS CONTEXT, THEY MENTION COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE LIFESTYLE HE LED AS AN IDF ATTACHE IN SINGAPORE, COMPLAINTS THAT WERE INVESTIGATED AT THE BEHEST OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND WERE DISMISSED AFTER IT TRANSPIRED THAT ALTHOUGH HE ENJOYS SPENDING TIME DRINKING WHISKEY AND SMOKING FINE CIGARS, GRAVER CHARGES THAT COULD HAVE DISQUALIFIED HIM FROM SERVING AS NAVY COMMANDER COULD NOT BE FOUND. HIS OPPONENTS MENTION, OF COURSE, HIS VISIT TO THE TEL AVIV GOGO STRIP CLUB IN MARCH 2009, WHICH RESULTED IN A VERBAL REPROOF FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

IS CHINEY THE MAN WHO SHOULD CONTINUE TO LEAD THE NAVY AND DEAL WITH THE NEXT NAVAL CONVOY? COLONEL (RES.) DROR ALONI, A FORMER COMMANDER OF THE NAVY TRAINING BASE AND THE SON OF FORMER MK SHULAMIT ALONI, HAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. "HE IS A BIT OF A TROUBLEMAKER AND THE ISSUE OF BEING A ROLE MODEL TAKES THIRD PLACE IN HIS ORDER OF PRIORITIES, BUT HE IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE NAVY AT THIS POINT IN TIME," HE SAYS. "HE HAS A LONG-TERM VIEW WITH A VERY MATURE OPERATIONAL VISION, COURAGE, AND CONCEPTUAL DARING."

HOW DO ALL THESE CONTRASTS MESH? ONE OF HIS FORMER COMMANDERS SAYS: "OFFICERS ARE MADE OF COMPLEX MIXTURES OF PERSONAL TRAITS. ON THE JUNIOR LEVEL, FROM CAPTAIN TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL, THE LEAST REQUIRED QUALITIES ARE FORMALITY, SENSITIVITY TO THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT, AND ROLE MODELING. WHAT YOU NEED IS ZEAL, BATTLE SKILLS, AND PROFESSIONALISM. OVER THE YEARS, YOUR IMAGE IS BUILT AND AS YOU CLIMB UP THE HIERARCHY LADDER, YOU ACQUIRE THE REQUISITE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. THE SURROUNDINGS LIKewise BECOME MORE TOLERANT BECAUSE YOU HAVE ALREADY GENERATED SYMPATHY."

CHINEY'S ASSOCIATES ARE NOT BOTHERED BY THE CRITICISM. "THERE IS ONLY ONE THING WITH WHICH HE IS CONCERNED AND THAT IS THE SECURITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. HE IS NOT MOTIVATED BY EGO, PUBLICITY, OR WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT HIM." ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN ONE OF HIS TROOPS IS ATTACKED, HE SHOWS HIS FANGS AND CLAWS. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN PEOPLE DERIDED HIS TROOPS FOR EMBARKING ON THE MARMARA WITH PAINT-BALL GUNS, HE WAS FURIOUS: "THIS IS NOT A JOKE. PEOPLE NEARLY DIED HERE. IT HURTS ME, IT ANNOYS ME. I AM SO ATTACHED TO THESE SOLDIERS AND PEOPLE HAVE DONE THEM SO WRONG THAT IT IS REALLY UNKIND." IN EFFECT, EXPLAINS AN OFFICER IN THE SHAYETET, THE FIGHTERS WERE OUTFITTED WITH ALL THE WEAPONS REQUIRED FOR COLD WARFARE AS WELL AS WITH LIVE AMMUNITION AND THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE SOLDIER WHO DID NOT CARRY A FIREARM, "SO THAT TO COME AND SAY THAT THEY WERE USING PAINT-BALL GUNS TO FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISTS IS VICIOUS AND NOT TRUE TO THE FACTS."

CHINEY, CLAIM HIS ASSOCIATES, IS LIKewise IRRITATED BY ARGUMENTS THAT THE NAVY'S IMAGE HAS BEEN TARNISHED. "THERE IS NO NEED FOR REHABILITATION OR ANYTHING," HE SAID. "THE PUBLIC AND THE LEADERSHIP HAVE SHOWN ABSOLUTE TRUST IN THE NAVY; THERE HAS BEEN A SPATE OF PATRIOTISM MANIFESTED IN A MILLION LETTERS OF GRATITUDE, INCLUDING ONE FROM PRESIDENT SHIM'ON PERES, AND EQUIPMENT FROM PEOPLE WHO WANT TO DONATE. THERE IS WALL-TO-WALL SUPPORT -- ON FACEBOOK, IN STICKERS, AND POSTERS -- BUT THERE ARE ALSO SOME SPORADIC PROVOCATIONS BY PEOPLE WHO THINK OTHERWISE. THE FIGHTERS HAVE NO IMAGE PROBLEM: NONE OF THOSE WHO TALKED ABOUT THE OPERATION TALKED ABOUT THEM. THEY ARE BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS. WE SHOULD NOT GET TOO EXCITED BY ALL THOSE WHO OPEN THEIR MOUTHS."

IN ONE OF HIS SPEECHES, HE SAID: "WE AS A COUNTRY HAVE BEEN LIVING IN A STATE OF WAR FOR MANY YEARS. THE GAZA STRIP IS CONTROLLED BY A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AFFILIATED WITH IRAN, WHICH TRANSFERS TO THE GAZA STRIP WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MAINLY THROUGH YEMEN AND SUDAN. ISRAEL HAS EVACUATED ALL THE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS IN THE GAZA STRIP AND WHAT HAVE WE RECEIVED IN RETURN? HAMAS-STAN AND IRAN AND ROCKETS ON OUR HEADS, WHICH FORCED US TO LAUNCH OPERATION CAST LEAD. THE RESULTANT SITUATION IS THAT ISRAEL DECIDED TO STOP ALL FURTHER UNCONTROLLED INTRODUCTION OF WEAPONS TO HAMAS, AND THAT MAKES SENSE. THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ALLOWS A NAVAL BLOCKADE TO BE PLACED AROUND THE GAZA STRIP. PERIOD. IT IS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF. HOW? THROUGH ME AND THROUGH THE NAVY. MY JOB IS TO PROTECT IT ON MY SHIFT."

BEFORE THE MAVI MARMARA, THERE WERE SIX VESSELS THAT PLANNED TO GET TO THE GAZA STRIP: TWO THAT ENTERED THE GAZA STRIP AND WERE NOT INTERCEPTED; TWO BOATS FROM IRAN AND LIBYA, WHOSE ENTRY WAS BLOCKED; AND TWO OTHER SHIPS THAT WERE STOPPED BY FORCE -- THE TALl FROM LEBANON AND THE ORION FROM CYPRUS. WHAT WENT WRONG THIS TIME? THE NAVY CLAIMS THAT ALL THE ALTERNATIVES WERE EXAMINED AS PART OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE OPERATION. "IN PRINCIPLE, WE COULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED THE VESSEL TO ENTER SO THAT NO ONE COULD CLAIM THAT THIS IS A COUNTRY WITHOUT AN ARMY OR LAWS," NAVY PERSONNEL CLAIM. "IN PRACTICAL TERMS, IT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FIRED AT BECAUSE IF IT HAD SUNK, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP IT WITH ROPES ON THE PROPELLER BECAUSE THEY BROUGHT

ALONG FROGMEN WHO COULD HAVE UNTIED THE ROPES. NOR WAS IT POSSIBLE TO STOP IT WITH ANOTHER VESSEL BECAUSE IF THAT HAD LED TO A COLLISION, THEY WOULD HAVE CALLED FOR HELP FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD." IN ONE OF THE DELIBERATIONS, CHINEY COULD BE HEARD SAYING ANGRILY: "THEY ARE ALL CHARLATANS, THOSE WHO THROW IN SUGGESTIONS THAT ARE ENTIRELY DIVORCED FROM REALITY. IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO INTERCEPT A VESSEL WITHOUT REQUIRING LIVE AMMUNITION."

ONE THING IS SURE: NO ONE HAD PREPARED THE FIGHTERS FOR A VIOLENT CLASH WITH TERRORISTS WHO WOULD ATTACK THEM WITH COLD WEAPONS AND LIVE AMMUNITION. IN THE LAID-BACK ATMOSPHERE THAT PREVAILED BEFORE THE OPERATION, WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TOURING CANADA, CHINEY, TOO, DID NOT GET TOO WORKED UP OVER THE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS' THREAT ON THE INTERNET THAT THE SOLDIERS WOULD ENCOUNTER A HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION "BECAUSE THAT STATEMENT HAD ALSO BEEN MADE PRIOR TO ALL PREVIOUS FLOTILLA EVENTS," HE SAID. IN HINDSIGHT, THE SHAYETET'S FIGHTERS COMPLAINED THAT THEY HAD BECOME "THE SCAPEGOAT OF THE OPERATION" AND HAD BEEN PLACED IN AN "A PRIORI LOSING SITUATION." CHINEY SUGGESTS THAT THEY WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THE INQUIRY. MEANWHILE, IT TURNS OUT THAT THE MAVI MARMARA AND THE ANARCHISTS TRAVELING ON IT HAD NOT EVEN BEEN INCLUDED IN THE INTELLIGENCE TARGET LIST, POSSIBLY OUT OF THAT SAME INDIFFERENCE. YET CHINEY DENIES THE CONTENTION THAT THERE WAS NEGLIGENCE. "NEGLIGENCE," HE EXPLAINED "IS ONLY IF IT TRANSPIRES THAT THERE WAS INTELLIGENCE BUT THAT IT WAS NOT PASSED ON TO THE COMBATANTS. IN THIS OPERATION, NO SUCH THING EVER HAPPENED."

"CHINEY BELIEVES THAT THIS WAS A FLOTILLA OF HYPOCRISY," CONCLUDE HIS ASSOCIATES. "AWFUL THINGS WERE SAID ABOUT ISRAEL IN THE WHOLE WORLD, BUT THIS IS NOT NEW. IN THE SECOND LEBANON WAR AND IN OPERATION CAST LEAD ALSO, PEOPLE MADE SIMILAR REMARKS. WE ARE A SPOILED NATION. WE WANT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME IN TURKEY'S 'EVERYTHING IS ON THE HOUSE' CLUBS, SIP COFFEE SECURELY AT THE AZRI'ELI SHOPPING MALL IN TEL AVIV, AND CARRY OUT OPERATIONS WITHOUT CASUALTIES. THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE PREPARED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY, MARCH FORWARD, UNDERTAKE MISSIONS, AND EXECUTE THEM SO THAT THE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO SURVIVE. IF WE CONTINUE TO SET UP COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY OVER EVERYTHING, IN THE END WE WILL BE LEFT WITH NO ONE WHO WILL BE PREPARED TO DO THINGS."

MULA SO WHAT IS PREFERABLE -- TO FORGO AN INVESTIGATION?

THE ASSOCIATES WE HAVE ENOUGH CONTROL AND AUDITING BODIES AND THERE IS A SERIOUS MILITARY INQUIRY. THERE ARE ENOUGH BODIES THAT CAN CHECK MATTERS.

MULA HOW WILL THE NEXT NAVAL CONVOY BE STOPPED?

THE ASSOCIATES THE NAVY WILL DO SOME THINKING AND COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS. WE ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF LEARNING LESSONS. WE HAVE PRETTY GOOD ANSWERS. END "THE ASSOCIATES"

CHINEY HIMSELF DECLARED IN THE IDF GENERAL STAFF COMMAND: "I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE OTHER SIDE PUT US TO TOO MANY TESTS. AS LONG AS ISRAEL MAINTAINS ITS POSITION THAT THE BLOCKADE REMAINS IN EFFECT, WE WILL DO EVERYTHING TO KEEP IT SO. WE ARE SOLDIERS, AFTER ALL, AREN'T WE?"

TROUBLED WATERS

WHEN CHINEY WAS APPOINTED NAVY COMMANDER IN OCTOBER 2007, HE INVITED HIS NEIGHBORS AT MOSHAV SEDE ELI'EZER, WHERE HE WAS BORN, TO A RECEPTION IN THE LOCAL SYNAGOGUE. HE CARRIES IN HIS POCKET A VISIBLE COPY OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS WITH A BLESSING FROM THE LATE CABBALIST RABBI KADURI. AT THE SAME TIME, HIS FRIENDS ATTEST THAT HE IS NOT A SENTIMENTAL PERSON AND MENTION IN THIS CONTEXT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NO FAMILY PICTURES IN HIS BUREAU.

HE INHERITED HIS MOTHER'S SLANTED EYES. LU TSI, AS SHE IS CALLED IN CHINESE, WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A JEWISH FAMILY THAT HAD LIVED IN CHINA FOR YEARS AND WAS MARRIED TO ERIC, A GERMAN JEW WHO CAME TO CHINA DURING WORLD WAR II. THEY IMMIGRATED TO ISRAEL IN 1955 WITH THEIR SIX CHILDREN. THE YOUNGEST, CHINEY, WAS BORN IN ISRAEL FOUR MONTHS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL AND WAS CALLED ELI'EZER (ELI) AFTER THE MOSHAV IN WHICH HIS PARENTS SETTLED. HE IS MARRIED TO ORA, WHO WAS A NAVY RADAR-STATION CONTROLLER, AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. THE TWO OLDER KIDS -- EL'AD AND OSHRAT -- SERVED IN THE NAVY AS OFFICERS. THE THIRD CHILD, AYELET, HAS JUST BEEN DRAFTED. CHINEY HIMSELF JOINED THE ARMY IN 1974 AND HELD A VARIETY OF COMMAND AND STAFF JOBS: COMMANDER OF THE MISSILE FLOTILLA, COMMANDER OF THE HAIFA NAVAL BASE, HEAD OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, IDF REPRESENTATIVE IN THE US JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AND ISRAEL'S DEFENSE AND ARMED FORCES ATTACHE IN SINGAPORE. IN BETWEEN, HE GRADUATED FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE AND HAS AN MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM HAIFA UNIVERSITY.

CHILDHOOD FRIENDS SAY THAT HE WAS A DIMINUTIVE, SLENDER CHILD WHO COULD NOT EVEN SWIM. BENI BEN-MUVHAR, THE HEAD OF THE MEVO'OT HERMON REGIONAL COUNCIL, WHO GREW UP WITH HIM AND WENT TO THE SAME CLASS AS MAROM THROUGH 8TH GRADE, REMEMBERS "A YOUNG AND ENERGETIC KID WHO WAS BRILLIANT WITHOUT BOTHERING TO DO HIS HOMEWORK." SAYS BEN-MUVHAR: "WE WOULD PLAY SOCCER AND SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER ON THE MOSHAV'S CHINCHILLA FARM. HIS PARENTS WERE FARMERS WHO GREW APPLES AND PEARS, WHICH THE MOTHER SOLD AT THE MARKET IN TIBERIAS. CHINEY VISITS THE MOSHAV VERY OFTEN; HE LOVES IT. THIS IS WHERE HIS ROOTS ARE. HE PUTS ON NO SHOW AND DOES CARE FOR CEREMONY."

IN HIS YOUTH, HE WENT TO THE NAVAL OFFICERS SCHOOL IN AKKO, WHERE HE WAS NICKNAMED CHINEY FOR HIS SLANTED EYES. LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RES.) ARNON URI, WHO CURRENTLY SERVES AS DEPUTY HEAD OF THE MATE ASHER REGIONAL COUNCIL, WAS HIS CLASSMATE: "CHINEY LOVED TO PLAY PRANKS. THE TRADITION IN THE BOARDING SCHOOL WAS THAT THE OLDER GUYS TUTORED THE YOUNGER KIDS AND HE HAD THE CREATIVE TALENT TO GIVE THEM WEIRD ASSIGNMENTS. ONCE HE SENT THEM OFF TO THE MEDITERRANEAN TO HAUL BUCKETS OF SEAWATER TO WASH THE MARQUEE, CLAIMING THIS WAS A WAY TO CONSERVE WATER. HE WAS NOT THE MOST OUTSTANDING STUDENT BUT WE ALWAYS KNEW HE HAD POTENTIAL. LATER, WE SHARED THE SAME SECOND LIEUTENANT QUARTERS AND I WAS WITNESS TO HIS COURTSHIP OF HIS WIFE, ORA. I KNEW FROM THE START THAT THIS WAS A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP. THEY MARRIED WITHIN A YEAR."

MULA HOW DID SHE REACT TO HIS VISIT TO THE STRIP CLUB?

URI WITH GRACE. I AM VERY ANGRY ABOUT THAT INCIDENT BECAUSE IT WAS MISINTERPRETED. THE MAN HAD A BEER AT A PLACE THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE SET FOOT IN EVEN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, LET ALONE IN UNIFORM. NEVERTHELESS, THIS WITCH HUNT WAS UNCALLED FOR. THE CHIEF OF STAFF DECIDED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO GUARD THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY, SO LET US HONOR HIS DECISION. END URI

COL (RES.) DROR ALONI, CURRENTLY THE HEAD OF THE KEFAR SHEMARYAHU LOCAL COUNCIL, WHO LIKEWISE WENT TO THE SAME BOARDING SCHOOL AND MET HIM DURING THEIR MILITARY SERVICE, SAYS: "I WAS IN 12TH GRADE WHEN CHINEY WAS IN THE 9TH GRADE AND I REMEMBER HIM AS A SMALL-FRAMED FRENETIC YOUNG MAN," HE SAYS. "HE STARTED OFF GOING TO THE TECHNICAL CLASSES, HOPING TO BECOME A MECHANIC. HE WAS CONSIDERED A GOOD MACHINE OFFICER BUT HE SWITCHED WITH THE AIM OF ADVANCING ALONG THE COMMAND HIERARCHY."

MULA WHAT KIND OF OFFICER WAS HE?

ALONI VERY PROFESSIONAL, THOROUGH, DEMANDING, AND TASK ORIENTED. HE WAS ONCE ON A ROUTINE ASSIGNMENT WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE WAS AN OPERATION THAT HE FELT HE COULD JOIN SO HE LEFT EVERYTHING AND JOINED THAT OPERATION. IT IS AN INSTINCT THAT MANY GOOD ARMY OFFICERS HAVE, BUT IT IS AN EXAGGERATED SHOW OF MISSION ORIENTATION THAT BORDERS ON A LACK OF OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY. IN HIS CASE, HE ALWAYS EXECUTED THE ASSIGNMENTS SUCCESSFULLY.

MULA AND HOW DO YOU ASSESS HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE FLOTILLA EVENT?

ALONI IF THERE WAS A SYSTEM FAILURE, IT SHOULD NOT BE ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO THE NAVY BUT TO THE ENTIRE SYSTEM. AS FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S COGNITIVE FAILURE, THE IDF, TOO, FAILED. I WAS THE NAVY'S TRAINING BASE COMMANDER AND SPENT MOST OF MY MILITARY DUTY ON BOARD MISSILE BOATS WITH THE SHAYETET 13'S MEN, SO PART OF THE SHAYETET'S WAR DOCTRINE WAS SHAPED WITH MY HELP, TOO. I KNOW THIS IS A UNIT MADE UP OF WONDERFUL MEN WHO DO FANTASTIC THINGS BEYOND THE POWERS OF THE AVERAGE HUMAN BEING. TWO WEEKS BEFORE, THEY WERE AWARDED TWO CHIEF OF STAFF CITATIONS FOR SECRET OPERATIONS, AND THE ONE WHO PUSHED FOR THAT RECOGNITION WAS CHINEY. HE IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE NAVY. RANI BEN-YEHUDA, HIS DEPUTY, WHO WAS MY SUBORDINATE FOR MANY YEARS, IS LIKEWISE A WORTHY MAN. HE IS A PROFESSIONAL, A CAUTIOUS AND THOROUGH MAN, AND VERY SUITABLE FOR CHINEY.

HERE'S TO FUTURE VESSELS

ANOTHER FRIEND WHO HAS ACCOMPANIED CHINEY FOR MANY YEARS IS BRIGADIER GENERAL (RES.) RONI IKAR, PREVIOUSLY THE CHIEF OF NAVY INTELLIGENCE, WHO WAS CHINEY'S DIRECT BOSS. AFTER THE FLOTILLA EVENT, IKAR AND HIS WIFE, NETANYA MAYOR MIRYAM FEIRBERG, CALLED TO ASK HOW HE WAS DOING AND TO CHEER HIM UP. "HE SOUNDED VERY RESOLUTE AND SURE OF HIMSELF," SAYS IKAR. "IT WAS HARD FOR HIM ON THE PERSONAL LEVEL, BUT HE SAID HE CARRIED OUT HIS MISSION. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE MAN IS TOUGH AND WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES AS HE HAS DONE TO THIS DAY."

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CHINEY WAS IKAR'S SUBORDINATE AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE CAPTAINS COURSE. "HE PURSUED THE TECHNICAL TRACK AS A MACHINE OPERATOR," REPORTS IKAR. "HE WAS DEPUTY CHIEF ON ONE OF THE SHIPS AND I WAS ITS COMMANDER. LATER, WE CROSSED PATHS AGAIN IN A NUMBER OF JOBS UNTIL, IN 1995, HE WAS APPOINTED MY DEPUTY AS HEAD OF NAVY INTELLIGENCE. I RETIRED IN 1997 AND WE HAVE SINCE MAINTAINED INTERMITTENT CONTACT."

MULA HOW WAS HE AS A SUBORDINATE?

IKAR A HARD NUT. HE HAS HIS OWN OPINION AND IDEAS ON EVERY SUBJECT AND MATTER AND HE FIGHTS FOR THEM. I REMEMBER, FOR INSTANCE, THAT ONCE WE GOT INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ABOUT A TERRORIST GROUP AT A CERTAIN LOCATION IN LEBANON. THAT WAS FLIMSY INTELLIGENCE AND I DECIDED IT WAS INSUFFICIENT TO CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE, BUT CHINEY ADAMANTLY INSISTED ON PURSUING IT AND THOUGHT THAT IT WAS THE PROLOGUE TO A POSSIBLE OPERATION. IN THE END, I AUTHORIZED HIM TO CONTINUE TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE, AND IT TURNED OUT THAT HE WAS RIGHT. HE HAS A CERTAIN CHARM THAT LETS HIM DO THOSE THINGS WITHOUT LEAVING TOO MUCH OF AN AFTERTASTE. I ALSO KNOW THAT HE HAD A CONCEPT REGARDING THE BUILDUP OF THE NAVY WHEN HE WAS THE DEPUTY OF THE PREVIOUS COMMANDER, DAVID BEN-BASSAT, AND IT LED TO A HUGE AND VERY RARE ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE TWO. CHINEY LOST, BUT HE TRIED TO HOLD HIS GROUND.

MULA DO YOU THINK HE IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE NAVY TODAY?

IKAR IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, I PARTICIPATED IN THE NAVY EXERCISES AS AN ADVISER AND AUDITOR AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE NAVY TODAY IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT NAVY TO WHAT IT WAS BEFORE. CHINEY REHABILITATED THE NAVY. THE YOUNG OFFICERS' ECHELON HAS A GLINT IN THEIR EYES AND THEY ARE PROUD OF WHERE THEY ARE SERVING AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING. I MET OFFICERS FROM SHAYETET 13 AND SHAYETET 3 AND I SAW THAT THEIR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION AND PRIDE IS GIGANTIC. CHINEY HAS PUSHED A LOT OF THINGS TO THE LIMIT OF THE NAVY'S CAPABILITIES. SINCE THE NAVAL ARENA HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARD THE RED SEA AND SOUTHWARD, THE FRAMEWORK OF OPERATIONS IN THAT ARENA HAS EXTENDED TO DISTANCES IN WHICH THE NAVY HAS NOT BEEN BEFORE -- AND THIS IS ALL TO HIS CREDIT.

MULA SO WHAT WENT WRONG IN THE FLOTILLA CASE?

IKAR ONE MUST ANALYZE THE INCIDENT ON SEVERAL LEVELS. FIRST OF ALL, THE MERCENARIES ON BOARD THE VESSEL DID NOT COME TO GENERATE PROVOCATIONS THAT WOULD TURN INTO NEWSPAPER HEADLINES, BUT TO KILL AND KIDNAP SOLDIERS; BUT UNFORTUNATELY WE DID NOT POSSESS THAT INTELLIGENCE. THE NAVAL INTELLIGENCE IS FED BY THE GENERAL INTELLIGENCE, SO THE QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ASKED IS WHO SLEPT WHILE ON THE JOB. THE SECOND THING HAS TO DO WITH THE COOPERATION THAT SEEMS TO HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THESE ARMED MEN AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. IT IS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY THAT FINANCED THIS JOURNEY. END IKAR

BRIGADIER GENERAL (RES.) YOSI LEVI, THE FORMER DEPUTY NAVY COMMANDER, ALSO SUPPORTS CHINEY. LEVI WAS HIS COMMANDER OVER SEVERAL PERIODS AND HE DESCRIBES HIM THUS: "A BRILLIANT GUY WHO DOES NOT FORSAKE HIS SUBORDINATES BUT TAKES RESPONSIBILITY. EVEN AS A MAJOR, I KNEW HE WOULD GET FAR."

MULA EVEN TO A STRIP CLUB.

LEVI THAT WAS A HUMAN SLIP-UP THAT WAS BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION. THAT IS HOW I VIEWED IT AT THE TIME AND I BACKED HIM UP. I DO NOT THINK THIS IS A BLUNDER THAT WARRANTS PERSONAL CONCLUSIONS. IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN EMBARRASSING INCIDENT; SO WHAT? CHINEY HAS RAISED THE NAVY'S OPERATIONAL LEVEL AND ON THIS THERE IS WALL-TO-WALL AGREEMENT.

MULA WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE FLOTILLA?

LEVI OPERATIONS SOMETIMES INVOLVE HITCHES TO WHICH WE IN THE MEDIA ARE NOT ALWAYS EXPOSED. THE PROCESS CAN DETERIORATE. I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THE FIGHTERS TRAINED ON DETERIORATION SCENARIOS AS WELL, AND THE FACT IS THAT WHEN IT HAPPENED, WITHIN A FEW MOMENTS, THE FIGHTERS MANAGED TO REVERSE EVERYTHING AND COMPLETE THE MISSION PERFECTLY, WITH NO CASUALTIES ON OUR SIDE AND WITH MINIMUM CASUALTIES ON THE OTHER SIDE. I THINK THEY DESERVE A MEDAL FOR THAT. I AM NOT SAYING IT LOOKED GOOD, BUT OUR IMAGE IN THE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN BLEMISHED IN ANY CASE. END LEVI

ANOTHER FRIEND, LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RES.) BENI ILAN, CLAIMS THAT CHINEY HAS REHABILITATED THE NAVY, WHICH WAS "IN A STATE OF TOTAL COLLAPSE AFTER THE SECOND LEBANON WAR AND THE HIT ON THE INS HANIT, WHICH MIRACULOUSLY DID NOT SINK." BUT NOT EVERYONE SHARES THIS VIEW. CHINEY'S OPPONENTS ARGUE THAT IT IS AN OVERSTATEMENT TO ATTRIBUTE TO HIM

THE REHABILITATION OF THE NAVY BECAUSE THE SITUATION WAS NOT ALL THAT BAD. THEY DO AGREE THAT THE MISSILE STRIKE ON THE HANIT WAS TRAUMATIC, BUT "WHAT THE NAVY DID DURING THE WAR WAS FANTASTIC AND IT PERFORMED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL."

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'REHABILITATE'?" ASKS ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICER. "HE TOOK THE NUMBER 2 AND 3 JOBS, WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR SPLIT, AND COMBINED THEM AGAIN. I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS IS WHAT IMPROVED THE NAVY'S CAPABILITIES. HOW COULD HE HAVE SAVED THE NAVY, WHEN EXCELLENT PEOPLE WERE TOLD: 'YOU HAVE NO FUTURE HERE, GO HOME'?"

"TO CLAIM THAT CHINEY DID NOT REHABILITATE THE NAVY IS A JOKE," REPLY HIS ASSOCIATES. "APART FROM HIS MANY OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS -- BOTH KNOWN AND SECRET -- IT IS SUFFICIENT TO MENTION OPERATION FOUR SPECIES IN NOVEMBER 2009, WHEN THE FRANCOF WAS CAUGHT WITH THE LARGEST CONSIGNMENT OF WEAPONS EVER CAPTURED IN ISRAEL: 300 TONS OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION SEIZED ON THE HIGH SEAS NEAR CYPRUS, SUSPECTED OF HAVING ORIGINATED IN IRAN AND HEADING FOR HIZBALLAH IN LEBANON. CHINEY GOT A CITATION FOR THAT FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF. THERE WAS ALSO OPERATION NOAH'S ARK IN JANUARY 2002, DURING WHICH THE KARINE A WAS CAUGHT EN ROUTE TO THE GAZA STRIP CARRYING SOME 50 TONS OF WEAPONS FOR THE PA."

IT WAS AFTER THAT OPERATION THAT CHINEY'S IDENTITY WAS FIRST REVEALED. "AND THANKS TO CHINEY," SAID THEN PRIME MINISTER ARI'EL SHARON AT THE CEREMONY HELD AT THE ELAT NAVAL BASE. "CHINEY IS THE MAN BEHIND THAT OPERATION," ADDED THEN DEFENSE MINISTER BINYAMIN BEN-ELI'EZER. BUT CHINEY CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE. HE ALSO REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED FOR THIS REPORT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW -- INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST, LARGEST CIRCULATION HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000870

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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100810966073
COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, LEBANON

SUBJ: AL-MANAR: BARAK CONTRADICTS NETANYAHUS TESTIMONY ON FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: BEIRUT AL-MANAR TV ONLINE IN ENGLISH 1002 GMT 10 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "BARAK CONTRADICTS NETANYAHUS TESTIMONY ON FLOTILLA" (U)

INTERNET

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SPEAKING BEFORE THE TURKEL COMMISSION PROBING THE RAID ON THE GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA IN MAY, ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK ON TUESDAY CONTRADICTED STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON MONDAY, WHO TOLD THE COMMITTEE THE SEVEN-MINISTER FORUM ONLY DISCUSSED THE MEDIA ASPECTS OF STOPPING THE FLOTILLA AND DID NOT ADDRESS THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS, ISRAELI DAILY HAARETZ REPORTED.

"THE DECISION TO STOP THE FLOTILLA, WHICH WAS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE SEVEN-MINISTER FORUM, WAS MADE AFTER EXAMINING THE ENTIRE SITUATION AND THE DILEMMAS," BARAK SAID, STRESSING THAT "THE DISCUSSION THAT WAS HELD BY THE SEVEN-MINISTER FORUM DEALT NOT ONLY WITH THE MEDIA ASPECTS OF STOPPING THE FLOTILLA, BUT ALSO WITH THE MILITARY ASPECTS."

THE DEFENSE MINISTER SAID ISRAELI MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI AND THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY'S RESEARCH DEPARTMENT WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING, AND ANSWERED ALL THE MINISTERS' QUESTIONS ON THE PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION.

DURING THE SEVEN-MINISTER FORUM DISCUSSION, BARAK SAID, "COLORFUL AND DETAILED ALTERNATIVES" WERE RAISED. HE SAID THERE WERE THOSE WHO PROPOSED NOT STOPPING THE SAIL AND ALLOWING IT TO ENTER GAZA. ULTIMATELY, THE DEFENSE MINISTER SAID, THE MINISTERS SUPPORTED STOPPING THE FLOTILLA DESPITE WHAT THAT WOULD ENTAIL.

"I SALUTE THE IDF FIGHTERS AND EXPECT THEM TO LEARN ALL THE LESSONS FROM THE PROBES. WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT MILITARY AND CHIEF OF STAFF, AND EXCELLENT FIGHTERS." "ISRAEL IS FIGHTING FOR ITS RIGHT TO EXIST IN ONE OF THE TOUGHEST CORNERS OF THE WORLD. THIS IS NOT AMERICA, THIS IS NOT NORTHERN EUROPE," HE ADDED.

SHORTLY AFTER HE BEGAN SPEAKING, BARAK STATED THAT HE TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT. "I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT OCCURS IN THE SYSTEMS SUBORDINATE TO ME," BARAK SAID.

JUDGE JACOB TURKEL, WHO HEADS THE COMMITTEE, INTERRUPTED BARAK AND ASKED, "WAS IT ONLY THE NAVY'S INTELLIGENCE THAT WAS INCLUDED AND NOT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?" BARAK RESPONDED

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SAYING, "I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. I WAS ONLY EXPOSED TO THIS IN HINDSIGHT."

WHEN ASKED IF THE BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW AND WHETHER UPHOLDING IT IS LEGAL, BARAK CLAIMED THAT AT THE TIME HAMAS TOOK OVER THE GAZA STRIP, THE ORGANIZATION HAD HUNDREDS OF MISSILES – AND NOW, IT HAS 5,000. "THE SIEGE IS NECESSARY TO STOP GAZA FROM TURNING INTO A GIANT WEAPONS STORE TO BE USED AGAINST THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE," HE EXPLAINED.

THE TURKEL COMMISSION ENTERED ITS SECOND DAY OF WORK AFTER PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S TESTIMONY ON MONDAY CAUSED A STORM, AND LED HIM TO PUBLISH A CLARIFICATION.

IN HIS TESTIMONY, NETANYAHU APPEARED TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER, WHO HE SAID WAS THE MAN IN CHARGE WHILE THE PM WAS ABROAD.

LATER, NETANYAHU PUBLISHED A CLARIFICATION SAYING, "THE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY IS ALWAYS MINE - WHETHER I'M IN ISRAEL OR ABROAD."

IN HIS TESTIMONY, THE PRIME MINISTER REFUSED TO ANSWER A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS, AND WHEN HE DID RESPOND, HE INDIRECTLY PLACED RESPONSIBILITY WITH BARAK. "I LEFT INSTRUCTIONS AND ASKED THE DEFENSE MINISTER TO ACTIVATE ME AND THE TOP MINISTERS IF NECESSARY. I WANTED THERE TO BE ONE ADDRESS HERE IN ISRAEL AND HE (BARAK) WAS THAT ADDRESS," THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIRUT AL-MANAR TV ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF BEIRUT AL-MANAR TELEVISION, AFFILIATED WITH THE PRO-IRANIAN HIZBALLAH. URL: [HTTP://WWW.ALMANAR.COM.LB](http://www.almanar.com.lb)

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100515966035
COUNTRY: IRELAND, ISRAEL, LEBANON, MALAYSIA, WEST BANK

SUBJ: AL-MANAR: RACHEL CORRIE BOAT SETS SAIL TO GAZA (U)

SOURCE: BEIRUT AL-MANAR TV ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0744 GMT 15 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "RACHEL CORRIE BOAT SETS SAIL TO GAZA" (U)

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A VESSEL NAMED AFTER THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT ACTIVIST THAT WAS CRUSHED TO DEATH BY AN ISRAELI BULLDOZER IN GAZA SET SAIL ON FRIDAY EVENING, FORMING PART OF AN EIGHT-BOAT CONVOY ATTEMPTING TO DOCK IN GAZA BY LATE MAY.

THE RACHEL CORRIE BOAT, PART OF THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA, WEIGHED ANCHOR AT THE DANDALK PORT IN IRELAND EN ROUTE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

PALESTINIAN LAWMAKER JAMAL AL-KHUDARI, HEAD OF THE ANTI-SIEGE COMMITTEE IN GAZA, SAID THE RACHEL CORRIE BOAT WILL BRING WITH IT 1,200 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID, INCLUDING CEMENT, PAPER, MEDICAL AND SPORTING EQUIPMENT. ADDITIONALLY, SEVERAL PEACE ACTIVISTS AND DIGNITARIES ARE ON BOARD THE VESSEL, HE SAID.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONVOY BEGAN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WHILE VARIOUS ISRAELI SOURCES HAVE SAID THAT ISRAEL INTENDS TO STOP THE FLOTILLAS FROM DOCKING IN GAZA, WITH RUMORS OF AN ISRAELI NAVAL FORCE DRILL TAKING PLACE IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONVOYS' ARRIVAL.

THE CONVOY WAS ORGANIZED BY THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS THE TURKISH NGO IHH, THE EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN TO END THE SIEGE ON GAZA, GREEK AND SWEDISH ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS MALAYSIAN AND IRISH GROUPS.

APPROXIMATELY 600 PEOPLE ARE ON BOARD THE VARIOUS BOATS, BRINGING WITH THEM A VARIETY OF HUMANITARIAN AID AND BUILDING EQUIPMENT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIRUT AL-MANAR TV ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF BEIRUT AL-MANAR TELEVISION, AFFILIATED WITH THE PRO-IRANIAN HIZBALLAH. URL: [HTTP://WWW.ALMANAR.COM.LB](http://www.almanar.com.lb)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER
SERIAL: SEP20100601130045
COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, MALAYSIA

SUBJ: MALAYSIA: MAHATHIR SAYS SHIP TO PROCEED WITH ATTEMPT TO DELIVER AIDE TO GAZA (U)

SOURCE: KUALA LUMPUR BERNAMA ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0902 GMT 01 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

BERNAMA REPORT FROM THE "GENERAL" PAGE: "RACHEL CORRIE WILL PROCEED TO GAZA, SAYS MAHATHIR" (U)
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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 1 (BERNAMA) -- THE RACHEL CORRIE SHIP, WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO DELIVER HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA WITH SIX MALAYSIANS ON BOARD, WILL GO AHEAD WITH ITS PLAN DESPITE YESTERDAY'S ATTACK BY THE ISRAELI NAVY ON A TURKISH SHIP ON A SIMILAR MISSION.

PERDANA GLOBAL PEACE ORGANISATION (PGPO) CHAIRMAN TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE SHIP WAS GOING TO SAIL THROUGH GAZA WATERS AND IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ISRAEL.

"THEY ARE NOT GOING TO ISRAELI WATERS. WHY IS IT THAT THESE ISRAELIS ARE GOING TO BLOCK PEOPLE GOING TOWARDS GAZA AND NOT USING ISRAELI'S TERRITORIAL WATERS AT ALL? THEY HAVE NO RIGHT," HE SAID.

IN FACT, HE SAID, TWO MORE SHIPS WERE GOING AND THESE SHIPS WERE CARRYING MALAYSIANS.

"THEY HAVE BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF SOME SORT OF ENGINE TROUBLE THAT THEY HAD. THEY SET SAIL FROM IRELAND AND HAVE A LONGER DISTANCE TO GO BUT THEY STILL INTEND TO GO AHEAD TOWARDS GAZA," HE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE AL-JAZEERA CABLE NEWS TODAY.

ELEVEN MALAYSIANS, INCLUDING A JOURNALIST AND A CAMERAMAN FROM ASTRO AWANI, WERE REPORTED TO BE ON BOARD THE TURKISH SHIP, MAVI MARMARA, WHICH WAS ATTACKED BY ISRAELI FORCES OFF THE GAZA COAST YESTERDAY MORNING. AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE WERE REPORTED KILLED IN THE ATTACK.

ACCORDING TO THE PGPO, MALAYSIANS ARE SPONSORING THREE SHIPS -- RACHEL, CHALLENGER 1 AND CHALLENGER -- WHICH ARE JOINING SIX SHIPS FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID GROUPS SUCH AS THE TURKISH RELIEF FOUNDATION, EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN TO END THE SIEGE OF GAZA AND 'SWEDISH AND GREEK BOAT TO GAZA INITIATIVES.

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONFRONTATION LIKE WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, TUN DR MAHATHIR SAID: "WELL, IF THE ISRAELI NAVY STOPS THE SHIP, I SUPPOSE THEY CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST THE ISRAELIS WHO ARE ARMED WITH GUNS AND ARE READY TO KILL.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000874

"BUT THEIR MISSION IS TO TAKE THESE AIDS TO GAZA AND THEY WILL PROCEED UNTIL THEY ARE STOPPED. AND IF THEY ARE STOPPED, THEY WILL APPEAL FOR SAFE PASSAGE BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT COMBATANTS, THEY CARRY NO ARMS, THEY ARE TRYING TO HELP PEOPLE IN DISTRESS." HE SAID.

ON CLAIMS BY ISRAEL THAT PEOPLE ON BOARD THE SHIP HAVE LINKS TO HAMAS AND AL QAEDA, HE SAID IT WAS NOT TRUE AS THERE WERE MANY NATIONALITIES ON BOARD.

ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AUTHORITY AND THE ORGANISERS OF THE FLOTILLA, TUN DR MAHATHIR SAID THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANYTHING.

PGPO ADVISOR DATUK MUKHRIZ MAHATHIR SAID THAT BECAUSE MALAYSIA HAD NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, THAT COUNTRY HAD NO RIGHT TO DETAIN OR HOLD ANY MALAYSIANS IN THEIR TERRITORY.

"THIS IS A FORM OF KIDNAPPING AND WE DEMAND THAT ANY MALAYSIANS DETAINED BY ISRAEL BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY. WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT THE FLOTILLA IS CARRYING AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF PEACE ACTIVISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD," HE SAID IN A STATEMENT HERE.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO REASON WHATSOEVER FOR THE ISRAELI TROOPS TO BOARD ANY CIVILIAN SHIP OUTSIDE THEIR TERRITORY, WHAT MORE A SHIP CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA.

"THE ATTACK BY THE ISRAELI NAVY IS NOT ONLY A FORM OF PIRACY BUT ALSO A FORM OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE ATTACK THREATENED THE LIVES OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS ON BOARD THE SHIP. THIS IS CLEAR PROOF OF THE HYPOCRISY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS WHICH ALLOWED THIS ATTACK TO TAKE PLACE," HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: KUALA LUMPUR BERNAMA ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE MALAYSIA'S STATE-CONTROLLED NEWS AGENCY. KNOWN FOR IN-DEPTH COVERAGE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES; URL: [HTTP://WWW.BERNAMA.COM](http://www.bernama.com)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000875

P 261238Z OCT 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/54715 NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 393298

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20101026740012
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, IRAN

SUBJ: ISRAEL: NETANYAHU SAYS GAZA 'IRANIAN TERROR HUB', PRAISES NAVAL COMMANDOS (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH 1137 GMT 26 OCT 10 (U)
TEXT:
REPORT BY AHIYA RAVID: "PM: IHH TRUE NATURE EXPOSED" (U)
INTERNET

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PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU COMMENTED TUESDAY ON THE YNET REPORT SHOWING MEMBERS OF A TURKISH DELEGATION TO GAZA SIDE BY SIDE WITH ARMED ISLAMIC JIHAD MILITANTS, SAYING THE IMAGES "REVEAL THE TRUE NATURE OF THE IHH."

NETANYAHU SPOKE DURING A VISIT AT THE NAVAL COMMANDO BASE IN THE NORTHERN ISRAELI CITY OF ATLIT. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY IDF CHIEF OF STAFF LT.-GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI AND NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL ELIEZER MAROM.

THE PRIME MINISTER MET WITH SOME OF THE COMMANDOS WHO TOOK PART IN MAY'S RAID OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA, NETANYAHU COMMENDED THE SOLDIERS ON THEIR ACTIONS, WHICH HE CALLED "VITAL, LEGAL AND UTTERLY IMPORTANT.

"YOU ACTED UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS, BEFORE PEOPLE ARMED WITH KNIVES, CLUBS, CHAINSAWS AND WEAPONS. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY OTHER NAVAL FORCE IN THE WORLD THAT COULD HAVE COME UP WITH A BETTER WAY TO HANDLE THE SITUATION -- THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT."

GAZA, HE ADDED, HAS BECOME AN IRANIAN TERROR HUB, WHICH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO STOP FROM ARMING, BY ALL MEANS NECESSARY, INCLUDING A MARITIME BLOCKADE.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH -- CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ISRAEL'S LARGEST MEDIA GROUP; URL: [HTTP://WWW.YNETNEWS.COM](http://www.ynetnews.com)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000876

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 841317

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100810966072
COUNTRY: IRAN, ISRAEL, KUWAIT
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN

SUBJ: KUNA: NETANYAHU: WILL NOT ALLOW INTERROGATION OF ISRAELI OFFICERS IN INT"L FLOTILLA INQUIRY (U)

SOURCE: KUWAIT KUNA ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0952 GMT 10 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"NETANYAHU: WILL NOT ALLOW INTERROGATION OF ISRAELI OFFICERS IN INT"L FLOTILLA INQUIRY" -- KUNA HEADLINE (U)

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(KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY) - GAZA, AUG 10 (KUNA) -- ISRAEL SHALL NOT ALLOW INTERROGATION OF ITS OFFICERS OF SOLDIERS BY THE INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE GAZA-BOUND TURKISH AID SHIP THE MAVI MARMARA, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENYAMIN NETANYAHU SAID ON TUESDAY. QUOTED BY RADIO ISRAEL, HE SAID "ISRAEL WOULD NOT COOPERATE WITH ANY PARTY DEMANDING TO QUESTION ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE OFFICERS REGARDING THE INCIDENT WITH THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA'S LEAD SHIP." THIS COMES AS THE UN INVESTIGATION COMMISSION STARTS ITS INQUIRY ON TUESDAY IN NEW YORK.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON YESTERDAY DENIED ISRAELI CLAIMS OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION, VIRTUE OF WHICH THE LATTER IS NOT TO QUESTION ANY ISRAELI OFFICER.

AHEAD OF START OF BUSINESS IN NEW YORK, NETANYAHU YESTERDAY SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THE COMMISSION WOULD REALIZE THE ISRAELI ARMY'S ACTIONS WERE ALL SANCTIONED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HAD IN FACT SHOWED UTMOST RESTRAINT ON BOARD THE MARMARA.

IN A TESTIMONY BEFORE ISRAEL'S OWN INQUIRY INTO THE BLOODY COMMANDO BOARDING OF THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA SHIPS IN MAY, WHICH RESULTED IN KILLING OF 9 TURKS, HE SAID ISRAEL HAS NOTHING TO HIDE REGARDING ITS DEALING WITH THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA.

THE PREMIER FURTHER SAID THE OFFICERS HAD ACTED WITH UTMOST RESTRAINT, HAD BROUGHT THEMSELVES AND HOMELAND PRIDE, AND WERE ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE AT ALL TIMES.

HE ADDED HE HAS UTMOST TRUST IN THE ARMY, AND THAT THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA WAS THERE FOR GOOD REASON; TO COUNTER IRAN'S INFLUENCE OVER THE ENCLAVE WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY TERRORIST HAMAS.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: KUWAIT KUNA ONLINE IN ENGLISH - OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY OF THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT; URL: [HTTP://WWW.KUNA.NET.KW](http://www.kuna.net.kw)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000877

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 451173

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT, LEADER, HUMAN RIGHTS, TERRORISM
SERIAL: GMP20100605739001
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, IRELAND, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK, MALAYSIA

SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMY VIDEO SHOWS 5 JUN SHIP TAKEOVER: NETANYAHU, GAZA NO 'IRANIAN PORT' (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL: NO WEAPONS FOUND ON AID VESSEL, IRISH GOV'T'S 'MODERATE' STAND PRAISED GMP20100605736006 VOICE
OF ISRAEL NETWORK B HEBREW 1000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

FOR A COPY OF THE VIDEO, CONTACT (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507

INTERNET

OSC SUMMARY

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IDF: USE OF FORCE 'UNNECESSARY' IN RACHEL CORRIE TAKEOVER

TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH, OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF
THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE, CARRIES A PRESS RELEASE AT 1014 GMT,
REPORTING: "ON SATURDAY (JUNE 5), IDF NAVAL COMMANDOS BOARDED THE
SEVENTH FLOTILLA SHIP ATTEMPTING TO BREAK THE MARITIME CLOSURE OF
THE GAZA STRIP WITH THE FULL COMPLIANCE OF THE SHIP'S CREW
MEMBERS. NO VIOLENCE OR INJURIES AMONGST THE SOLDIERS OR THE
SHIP'S CREW WERE REPORTED, AS THE USE OF FORCE WAS UNNECESSARY AND NO SHOTS WERE FIRED.

"THE SHIP AND ITS CREW ARE CURRENTLY BEING LED TO THE ASHDOD PORT
AND WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE APPROPRIATE
AUTHORITIES. AFTER A SECURITY INSPECTION, ITS HUMANITARIAN AID
CARGO WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GAZA STRIP FOR THE USE BY THE GAZAN CIVILIAN POPULATION.

"DURING THE MORNING HOURS NAVAL FORCES HAD IDENTIFIED THE SHIP
AND ISSUED NUMEROUS CALLS FOR IT TO DOCK IN THE ASHDOD PORT AND
TRANSFER THE GOODS VIA THE FORMAL LAND CROSSINGS TO THE GAZA
STRIP. THE CALLS WERE IGNORED AND IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE BOAT
INTENDED TO REACH GAZA'S SHORES. THE ISRAELI NAVY CONTACTED THE
BOAT AND CLARIFIED AGAIN THAT THE GAZA STRIP WAS UNDER MARITIME
CLOSURE AND DUE TO SECURITY RISKS IN THE AREA, IT WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER."

A SOUNDLESS VIDEO CLIP POSTED IN THE IDF REPORT SHOWS "AERIAL
FOOTAGE OF IDF SOLDIERS BOARDING THE 7TH FLOTILLA BOAT."
(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100605739001001.WMV) CLICK HERE TO
VIEW THE 47-SECOND VIDEO IN WMV FORMAT.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000878

IDF AUDIO, VIDEO DOCUMENT NAVY-SHIP 5 JUNE COMMUNICATIONS

THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S WEBSITE PROVIDES AN "AUDIO OF THE RADIO TRANSMISSION BETWEEN ISRAELI NAVY AND SEVENTH FLOTILLA SHIP." AN ISRAEL NAVY OFFICER SAYS IN THE CLIP: "THIS IS THE ISRAELI NAVY. YOU ARE APPROACHING AN AREA OF HOSTILITY, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO A NAVAL BLOCKADE. THE GAZA AREA, THE COASTAL REGION AND THE GAZA HARBOR ARE CLOSED TO ALL MARITIME TRAFFIC... YOU ARE HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHANGE YOUR COURSE AND REFRAIN FROM ENTERING THE AREA. I REPEAT: DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE GAZA STRIP IS POSSIBLE THROUGH FORMAL LAND CROSSINGS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE GAZA STRIP, SUBJECT TO PRIOR COORDINATION WITH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES."

THE SPOKESMAN'S WEBSITE FURTHER CARRIES A VIDEO CLIP SHOWING A NAVY OFFICER CONTACTING THE RACHEL CORRIE ON 5 JUNE.

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100605739001002.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S 26-SECOND VIDEO IN WMV FORMAT.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE NAVY OFFICER'S CONVERSATION WITH THE RACHEL CORRIE:

OFFICER: NEXT POINT AND TIME OF DEPARTURE.

BOAT: NEXT PORT IS GAZA PORT. WE'LL BE THERE FOR TWO AND A HALF TO THREE DAYS.

OFFICER: VESSEL LINDA, PLEASE STAY ON CHANNEL 1.

VOICE TRANSLATES CONVERSATION INTO HEBREW.

THE IDF PRESS RELEASE FURTHER STATES: "THE CLOSURE OF THE GAZA STRIP PREVENTS THE SMUGGLING OF ARMS TO THE HAMAS TERROR ORGANIZATION AND ENSURES THE SECURITY OF VESSELS TRAVELING IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, ANY ORGANIZATION OR COUNTRY WISHING TO TRANSFER HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE GAZA STRIP CAN DO SO LEGALLY VIA THE ESTABLISHED LAND CROSSINGS BY COORDINATING WITH THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES, AS IS DONE ON A NEAR DAILY BASIS.

"IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HAMAS HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW ANY OF THE AID CARRIED BY THE OTHER SIX FLOTILLA SHIPS INTO THE GAZA STRIP THUS FAR. FIVE DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE TRUCKS CARRYING THE FLOTILLA'S CARGO TRANSPORTED IT TO THE GAZA STRIP AND UNLOADED IT AT THE KEREM SHALOM SECURITY CROSSING.

"THE INTERNATIONAL RULES OF WARFARE ALLOW THE CAPTURING OF NAVAL VESSELS PRIOR TO THEIR ACTUAL VIOLATION OF A NAVAL BLOCKADE. THIS IS DEPENDENT ON THE VESSELS BEING ON THEIR WAY TO A BLOCKADED AREA, BEING OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF NEUTRAL STATES AND WHEN THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL LIKELIHOOD - BASED ON CREDIBLE EVIDENCE - THAT THE VESSELS INTEND TO VIOLATE THE BLOCKADE, SUCH

305-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000879

AS IN THIS CASE: DECLARATIONS BY THE FLOTILLA'S ORGANIZERS PRIOR TO THE INTERCEPTION, AND THEIR REACTIONS TO THE MESSAGES THAT WERE TRANSMITTED TO THEM DURING THEIR APPROACH, CLEARLY SHOW THAT THEY HAD INDEED INTENDED TO BREAK THE NAVAL BLOCKADE, THUS ALLOWING FOR THE STEPS TAKEN BY IDF FORCES."

NETANYAHU: CASUALTIES CAUSED ONLY ON SHIP CARRYING 'VIOLENT RADICALS'

STATE-FUNDED, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW ADDS AT 1200 GMT: "A MILITARY SOURCE TOLD OUR ARMY AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT KARMELA MENASHE THAT THE SHIP TAKEOVER HAD BEEN CALM BECAUSE THIS SHIP CARRIED GENUINE PEACE ACTIVISTS.

"OUR CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT THE PASSENGERS -- MOSTLY IRISH AND MALAYSIAN -- WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO BEN-GURION AIRPORT AND SENT BACK TO THEIR COUNTRIES. THE CARGO IN THE HULL WILL BE INSPECTED IN THE ASHDOD PORT, AND THE HUMANITARIAN EQUIPMENT WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE SHIP WAS CARRYING NO WEAPONS, BUT 500 TONNES OF CEMENT WERE FOUND. ITS TRANSFER TO THE STRIP IS PROHIBITED BECAUSE IT MAY BE USED FOR HAMAS'S MILITARY NEEDS. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WILL LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING THE CEMENT TO GAZA UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BODY. OUR CORRESPONDENT WAS TOLD THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT THE CEMENT TO REACH HAMAS AND BE USED TO BUILD BUNKERS, BUT RATHER THAT IT SHOULD BE USED FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS ONLY,"

"PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU SAYS THAT, TODAY WE SAW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SAIL OF PEACE ACTIVISTS AND ONE OF HATRED. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THESE PEACE ACTIVISTS, BUT WE RESPECT THEIR RIGHT TO EXPRESS VIEWS DIFFERENT FROM OURS. CONVERSELY, THE HATRED SAIL WAS ORGANIZED BY TERROR-SUPPORTING, VIOLENT RADICALS. NETANYAHU STRESSED THAT ISRAEL APPLIED THE SAME PROCEDURE TO BOTH SAILS: IT ENFORCED THE NAVAL BLOCKADE TO PREVENT THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS FOR HAMAS BUT TRANSFERRED INSPECTED GOODS TO GAZA. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES ON THE BOAT THAT WAS STOPPED TODAY AND ON FIVE OF THE SIX PREVIOUS ONES. THE ONLY CASUALTIES WERE INCURRED ON A SHIP THAT CARRIED TERROR-SUPPORTING ISLAMIC ACTIVISTS, WHO WAITED FOR SOLDIERS WITH AXES AND KNIVES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

"NETANYAHU NOTED THAT ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE AND WILL NOT ALLOW GAZA TO BECOME AN IRANIAN PORT."

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 450648

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100605736006
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, IRELAND

SUBJ: ISRAEL: NO WEAPONS FOUND ON AID VESSEL, IRISH GOV'T'S 'MODERATE' STAND PRAISED (U)

REF: 1. IDF SEIZES AID VESSEL WITHOUT FACING OPPOSITION, SAILING TO ISRAELI PORT GMP20100605736005 VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B HEBREW 0940 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 1000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

RADIO

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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NAVAL COMMANDOS SEIZED THE THE RACHEL CORRIE CARGO VESSEL WITHOUT ANY NEED TO USE FORCE. THE 15 PASSENGERS DID NOT PUT UP OPPOSITION AND THE SHIP IS NOW BEING LED TO ASHDOD PORT. OUR CORRESPONDENT KARMELA MENASHE REPORTS THAT THE PASSENGERS, HALF IRISH AND HALF MALAYSIANS, WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRIES. OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT SHMU'EL TAL REPORTS THAT INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE SHIP DID NOT CONTAIN WEAPONS. HOWEVER, IT DID CONTAIN AMONG OTHER THINGS 500 TONS OF CEMENT, WHOSE TRANSFER TO THE GAZA STRIP IS PROHIBITED BECAUSE IT COULD BE USED FOR HAMAS'S MILITARY NEEDS.

SENIOR SOURCES IN JERUSALEM PRAISE THE CONDUCT OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND SAID IT ASSISTED TO CALM TEMPERERS ALTHOUGH IT IS ONE OF THE MOST PROBLEMATIC GOVERNMENTS FOR ISRAEL. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AVOIDED INCITEMENT AND ISSUED MODERATE STATEMENTS.

NETWORK B'S POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT SHMU'EL TAL UPDATES AT 1005 GMT: "JERUSALEM SAYS THE POLICY OF PREVENTING VESSELS FROM REACHING GAZA WILL CONTINUE. ISRAEL IS READY TO TRANSPORT TO GAZA EVERYTHING THAT IS PERMITTED."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW -- STATE-FUNDED RADIO, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000881

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 450646

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100605736005
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, IRELAND

SUBJ: IDF SEIZES AID VESSEL WITHOUT FACING OPPOSITION, SAILING TO ISRAELI PORT (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 0940 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

RADIO

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THE IDF SEIZED THE RACHEL CORRIE VESSEL. NAVAL COMMANDOS BOARDED THE VESSEL WITHOUT CASUALTIES OR OPPOSITION. THE SEVENTH VESSEL IN THE FLOTILLA IS BEING NOW BEING SAILED TO ASHDOD PORT. THE OPERATION WAS SUPERVISED BY NAVY COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL ELI'EZER MAROM. THE VESSEL IS BEING MANAGED IN A CALM MANNER.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW -- STATE-FUNDED RADIO, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100605966056
COUNTRY: EGYPT, GAZA STRIP, INDONESIA, IRELAND, ISRAEL, JORDAN, MALAYSIA

SUBJ: AMMUN NEWS: ISRAELI TROOPS BOARD MV RACHEL CORRIE AID SHIP (U)

SOURCE: AMMAN AMMUN NEWS IN ENGLISH 1032 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

"ISRAELI TROOPS BOARD MV RACHEL CORRIE AID SHIP" -- AMMUN NEWS (U)

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2010-06-05

AMMONNEWS - ISRAELI TROOPS BOARDED THE AID SHIP RACHEL CORRIE HEADING FOR GAZA TODAY, BUT THERE WAS NO VIOLENT CONFRONTATION, A MILITARY SPOKESWOMAN SAID. "OUR FORCES BOARDED THE BOAT AND TOOK CONTROL WITHOUT MEETING ANY RESISTANCE FROM THE CREW OR THE PASSENGERS. EVERYTHING TOOK PLACE WITHOUT VIOLENCE," THE SPOKESWOMAN TOLD AFP. THE MOVE CAME AFTER THE RACHEL CORRIE REFUSED TO RESPOND TO FOUR REQUESTS FROM THE NAVY TO HEAD FOR THE SOUTHERN ISRAELI PORT OF ASHDOD, AND STAYED ITS COURSE FOR THE GAZA STRIP, WHICH IS UNDER AN ISRAELI NAVAL BLOCKADE. ACTIVISTS ON BOARD THE SHIP HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT HEED ISRAELI CALLS TO CHANGE COURSE, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO HEAD FOR THEIR DESTINATION, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE PREPARED TO LET THEIR CARGO BE INSPECTED.

THE SHIP WAS INTERCEPTED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS SHORTLY AFTER DAWN, BUT THE TROOPS HELD BACK FROM BOARDING THE VESSEL FOR SEVERAL HOURS. THE MILITARY SAID ITS FORCES BOARDED THE 1200-TON RACHEL CORRIE FROM THE SEA, NOT HELICOPTERS. ARMY SPOKESWOMAN LT COL AVITAL LEIBOVICH SAID TODAY'S TAKEOVER TOOK ONLY A FEW MINUTES AND THAT THE VESSEL WAS BEING TAKEN TO ISRAEL'S ASHDOD PORT. THE APPARENTLY PEACEFUL ENDING TO THE STANDOFF COMES JUST FIVE DAYS AFTER THE ISRAELI NAVAL COMMANDOS RAIDED ANOTHER AID SHIP HEADING FOR GAZA IN A BUNGLED OPERATION THAT LEFT NINE FOREIGN ACTIVISTS DEAD AND SCORES WOUNDED, AMONG THEM SEVEN ISRAELI SOLDIERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GAZA-BASED WELCOMING COMMITTEE SAID EARLIER THAT THE RACHEL CORRIE HAD BEEN INTERCEPTED AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SHIP CUT. "SEVERAL ISRAELI BOATS SURROUNDED THEM BETWEEN 30 AND 35 MILES (48 TO 56 KILOMETRES) OFF GAZA AND PREVENTED THEM FROM REACHING GAZA," AMJAD AL-SHAWA SAID AFTER SPEAKING BY TELEPHONE WITH PASSENGERS ON THE BOAT. IN A LAST COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ABOUT 5.38AM (1238 AEST), ACTIVIST JENNY GRAHAM, WHO IS ON BOARD THE RACHEL CORRIE, TOLD ORGANISERS THE VESSEL WAS BEING APPROACHED BY TWO ISRAELI WARSHIPS. MS GRAHAM SAID EQUIPMENT ON BOARD HAD BEEN "JAMMED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY, AND THAT THEY EXPECTED THEIR SATELLITE PHONE TO BE JAMMED SOON AS WELL", THE IRELAND PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE THE SHIPS LOCATION WHEN IT WAS INTERCEPTED.

ISRAELI PUBLIC RADIO, WHICH ALSO REPORTED THAT THE SHIP HAD BEEN INTERCEPTED, SAID IT WAS BEING ESCORTED BY THREE NAVY VESSELS THROUGH A STRETCH OF WATER ABOUT 56 KILOMETRES FROM THE EGYPTIAN COAST. THE VESSEL HAS 15 PEOPLE ON BOARD, INCLUDING IRISH AND MALAYSIAN ACTIVISTS, FOUR INDONESIAN CREW AND A SCOTTISH CAPTAIN. THE RACHEL CORRIE HAD BEEN DUE TO SAIL WITH THE FLOTILLA THAT WAS INVOLVED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAELI TROOPS FIVE DAYS AGO BUT HAD BEEN DELAYED FOR TECHNICAL REASONS. AFP

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: AMMAN AMMUN NEWS IN ENGLISH-- WEBSITE OF THE PRIVATELY-OWNED NEWS AGENCY PROVIDING INDEPENDENT COVERAGE OF DOMESTIC ISSUES; URL: HTTP://EN.AMMONNEWS.NET

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000883

P 050626Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 449838

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100605736002
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: ISRAEL RADIO: AID SHIP REJECTS NAVY'S CALL TO CHANGE ROUTE TO ISRAELI PORT (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL RADIO, ACTIVISTS: ISRAEL NAVY MAKES NO CONTACT WITH GAZA-BOUND AID SHIP GMP20100605736001
HAARETZ.COM ENGLISH 0411 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 0600 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

RADIO

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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THE ISRAEL NAVY HAS MADE CONTACT WITH THE IRISH VESSEL RACHEL CORRIE AND HAS CALLED ON ITS ACTIVISTS NOT TO SAIL TO THE GAZA STRIP BECAUSE IT IS A CLOSED MILITARY ZONE. ISRAEL NAVY VESSELS ARE CALLING ON THE IRISH VESSEL TO SAIL TO ASHDOD AND PROMISE THAT ITS CARGO WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THE GAZA STRIP UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ITS PEOPLE.

OUR ARMY AFFAIR CORRESPONDENT KARMELA MENASHE REPORTS THAT THE SHIP REJECTED THE IDF'S CALL AND ANNOUNCED THAT THEY ARE CONTINUING ON THEIR PATH.

AL-JAZARAH AND GAZA SOURCES REPORTED EARLIER THAT THE ISRAEL NAVY IS BLOCKING THE VESSEL'S ROUTE SOME **60 KM FROM THE GAZA STRIP COASTLINE.**

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW -- STATE-FUNDED RADIO, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

309-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000884

P 041514Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZDADA/AFIAA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 447754

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100604739004
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL SAYS NOT SEEKING 'CONFRONTATION' WITH RACHEL CORRIE, NAVY TO ACT 'FIRMLY' (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL – OSC SUMMARY (IN ENGLISH 04 JUN 10) (U)

TEXT:

INTERNET

OSC SUMMARY

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RACHEL CORRIE NOT TO BE ALLOWED TO REACH GAZA

STATE-FUNDED, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW REPORTS AT 1500 GMT: "PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU TODAY CONVENED THE SEPTET FORUM FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF IRISH SHIP RACHEL CORRIE TO GAZA TOMORROW. OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT SHMU'EL TAL REPORTS THAT JERUSALEM DECIDED NOT TO ALLOW THE BOAT TO REACH GAZA, DIRECTING IT TO ASHDOD INSTEAD. OUR CORRESPONDENT WAS TOLD THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PREVENT A CONFRONTATION, BUT THE NAVY WILL ACT FIRMLY AGAINST ANY BOAT PLANNING TO ARRIVE IN THE AREA, SHOULD THE SAIL ORGANIZERS DECIDE TO DISOBEY ARMY ORDERS."

FOREIGN MINISTRY: 'NO DESIRE FOR A CONFRONTATION'

A "STATEMENT BY MFA DIR. GEN. YOSI GAL ON GAZA BOUND SHIP," RELEASED BY JERUSALEM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ENGLISH AT 1400 GMT, STATES: "AMB. YOSI GAL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS TODAY IN JERUSALEM:

"I WANT TO ONCE AGAIN DELIVER A MESSAGE THAT HAS BEEN DELIVERED IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CHANNELS TO THE RACHEL CORRIE SHIP HEADING TOWARD GAZA:

"WE HAVE NO DESIRE FOR A CONFRONTATION. WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO BOARD THE SHIP. IF THE SHIP DECIDES TO SAIL THE PORT OF ASHDOD, THEN WE WILL ENSURE ITS SAFE ARRIVAL AND WILL NOT BOARD IT. ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE SHIP AND TO OFFLOAD ITS CONTENTS. AFTER AN INSPECTION TO ENSURE THAT NO WEAPONS AND WAR MATERIALS ARE ON BOARD, WE ARE PREPARED TO DELIVER ALL OF THE GOODS TO GAZA. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD AND RELEVANT NGOS ARE WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THE GOODS TO THE CROSSINGS.

"WE WILL WORK WITH THE UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE GOODS ARE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF GAZA."

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

FIN 200

✓ **UK Source Publish Swedish Author's Diary Describing Israel's Raid on Gaza[0] Convoy (U)**

EUP20100605031004 London Guardian.co.uk in English 05 Jun 10 (U)

[Report by Henning Mankell: "Flotilla[0] Raid Diary: 'A Man is Shot. I am Seeing it Happen'" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

The prize-winning writer and creator of Wallander was among those on board the Gaza[0] flotilla[0]. Here he shares his private diary of the events leading to his capture

Tuesday 25 May, Nice

It is five o'clock in the morning and I'm standing in the street waiting for the taxi that will take me to the airport in Nice. It's the first time in ages E and I have had some time off together. Initially we thought we'd be able to stretch it to two weeks. It turned out to be five days. Ship to Gaza[0] finally seems to be ready to set off and I'm to travel to Cyprus to join it, as arranged.

As instructed, I've limited my luggage to a rucksack weighing no more than 10 kilos. Ship to Gaza[0] has a clearly defined goal: to break Israel's illegal blockade. After the war a year ago, life has become more and more unbearable for the Palestinians who live in Gaza[0]. There is a huge shortage of the bare necessities for living any sort of decent life.

But the aim of the voyage is of course more explicit. Deeds, not words, I think. It's easy to say you support or defend or oppose this, that and the other. But only action can provide proof of your words.

The Palestinians who have been forced by the Israelis to live in this misery need to know that they are not alone, not forgotten. The world has to be reminded of their existence. And we can do that by loading some ships with what they need most of all: medicines, desalination plants for drinking water, cement.

The taxi arrives, we agree a price extortionate! and drive to the airport through empty, early morning streets. It comes to me now that I made my first note, there in the taxi. I don't remember the exact words, but I'm suddenly disconcerted by a sense of not quite having managed to register that this is a project so hated by the Israelis that they might try to stop the convoy by violent means.

By the time I get to the airport, the thought has gone. On this point, too, the project is very clearly defined. We are to use non-violent tactics; there are no weapons[0], no

intention of physical confrontation. If we're stopped, it ought to happen in a way that doesn't put our lives at risk.

Wednesday 26 May, Nicosia

It's warmer than in Nice. Those who are to board the ships somewhere off the coast of Cyprus are gathering at Hotel Centrum in Nicosia. It's like being in an old Graham Greene novel. A collection of odd people assembling in some godforsaken place to set off on a journey together. We're going to break an illegal blockade. The words are repeated in a variety of languages. But suddenly there's a great sense of uncertainty.

The ships are late, various problems have arisen, the coordinates still haven't been set for the actual rendezvous. The only thing that's certain is that it will be out at sea. Cyprus doesn't want our six ships putting in here. Presumably Israel has applied pressure.

Now and then I also note tensions between the various groups that make up the leadership of this unwieldy project. The breakfast room has been pressed into service as a secretive meeting room. We are called in to write details of our next of kin, in case of the worst. Everyone writes away busily. Then we are told to wait. Watch and wait. Those are the words that will be used most often, like a mantra, in the coming days. Wait. Watch and wait.

Thursday 27 May, Nicosia

Wait. Watch and wait. Oppressive heat.

Friday 28 May, Nicosia

I suddenly start to wonder whether I may have to leave the island without getting onto a ship. There seems to be a shortage of places. There are apparently waiting lists for this project of solidarity. But K, the friendly Swedish MP, and S, the Swedish female doctor, who are travelling with me help keep my spirits up. Travel by ship always involves some kind of bother, I think. We carry on with our task. Of waiting. Watching and waiting.

Saturday 29 May, Nicosia

Suddenly everything happens very quickly. We are now, but of course still only maybe, to travel sometime today on a different, faster ship to the point out at sea where the coordinates meet, and there we will join the convoy of five other vessels that will then head as a single flotilla[0] for the Gaza[0] Strip.

We carry on waiting. But at about 5pm the port authorities finally give us permission to board a ship called the Challenge, which will take us at a speed of 15 knots to the

3122

rendezvous point, where we will transfer to the cargo ship Sophia. There are already lots of people aboard the Challenge.

They seem a bit disappointed to see the three of us turn up. They had been hoping for some Irish campaigners who have, however, suddenly given up the idea and gone home. We climb aboard, say hello, quickly learn the rules. It's very cramped, plastic bags full of shoes everywhere, but the mood is good, calm. All the question marks seem to have been ironed out now. Soon after the two diesel engines rumble into life. We're finally underway.

23.00

I've found a chair on the rear deck. The wind is not blowing hard, but enough to make a lot of the passengers[0] seasick. I have wrapped myself up in blankets, and watch the moon cast an illuminated trail across the sea. I think to myself that solidarity actions can take many forms. The rumbling means there is not a lot of conversation. Just now, the journey feels very peaceful. But deceptively so.

Sunday 30 May, at sea, south-east of Cyprus, 01.00

I can see the glimmer of lights in various directions. The captain, whose name I never manage to learn, has slowed his speed. The lights flickering in the distance are the navigation lights of two of the other ships in the convoy. We are going to lie here until daylight, when people can be transferred to other vessels. But I still can't find anywhere to sleep. I stay in my wet chair and doze.

Solidarity is born in dampness and waiting; but we are helping others to get roofs over their heads.

08.00

The sea is calmer. We are approaching the largest vessel in the flotilla[0]. It's a passenger[0] ferry, the "queen" of the ships in the convoy. There are hundreds of people on board. There has been much discussion of the likelihood of the Israelis focusing their efforts on this particular ship.

What efforts? We've naturally been chewing that over ever since the start of the project. Nothing can be known with any certainty. Will the Israeli navy sink the ships? Or repel them by some other means? Is there any chance the Israelis will let us through, and repair their tarnished reputation? Nobody knows. But it seems most likely that we'll be challenged at the border with Israeli territorial waters by threatening voices from loudspeakers on naval vessels. If we fail to stop, they will probably knock out our propellers or rudders, then tow us somewhere for repair.

13.00

The three of us transfer to the Sophia by rope ladder. She is a limping old cargo ship, with plenty of rust and an affectionate crew. I calculate that we are about 25 people in all. The cargo includes cement, reinforcement bars and prefabricated wooden houses. I am given a cabin to share with the MP, whom I view after the long days in Nicosia more and more as a very old friend. We find it has no electric light. We'll have to catch up on our reading some other time.

16.00

The convoy has assembled. We head for Gaza[0].

18.00

We gather in the improvised dining area between the cargo hatches and the ship's superstructure. The grey-haired Greek who is responsible for security and organisation on board, apart from the nautical aspects, speaks softly and immediately inspires confidence. Words like "wait" and "watch" no longer exist. Now we are getting close. The only question is: what are we getting close to?

Nobody knows what the Israelis will come up with. We only know that their statements have been menacing, announcing that the convoy will be repelled with all the means at their disposal. But what does that mean? Torpedoes? Hawasers? Soldiers let down from helicopters? We can't know. But violence will not be met with violence from our side.

Only elementary self-defence. We can, on the other hand, make things harder for our attackers. Barbed wire is to be strung all round the ship's rail. In addition, we are all to get used to wearing life jackets, lookouts are to be posted and we will be told where to assemble if foreign soldiers come aboard. Our last bastion will be the bridge.

Then we eat. The cook is from Egypt, and suffers with a bad leg. But he cooks great food.

Monday 31 May, midnight

I share the watch on the port side from midnight to 3am. The moon is still big, though occasionally obscured by cloud. The sea is calm. The navigation lights gleam. The three hours pass quickly. I notice I am tired when someone else takes over. It's still a long way to anything like a territorial boundary the Israelis could legitimately defend. I should try to snatch a few hours' sleep.

I drink tea, chat to a Greek crewman whose English is very poor but who insists he wants to know what my books are about. It's almost four before I get to lie down.

04.30

I've just dropped off when I am woken again. Out on deck I see that the big passenger[0] ferry is floodlit. Suddenly there is the sound of gunfire. So now I know that Israel has chosen the route of brutal confrontation. In international waters.

It takes exactly an hour for the speeding black rubber dinghies with the masked soldiers to reach us and start to board. We gather, up on the bridge. The soldiers are impatient and want us down on deck. Someone who is going too slowly immediately gets a stun device fired into his arm. He falls. Another man who is not moving fast enough is shot with a rubber bullet. I think: I am seeing this happen right beside me. It is an absolute reality. People who have done nothing being driven like animals, being punished for their slowness.

We are put in a group down on the deck. Where we will then stay for 11 hours, until the ship docks in Israel. Every so often we are filmed. When I jot down a few notes, a soldier comes over at once and asks what I am writing. That's the only time I lose my temper, and tell him it's none of his business. I can only see his eyes; don't know what he is thinking. But he turns and goes.

Eleven hours, unable to move, packed together in the heat. If we want to go for a pee, we have to ask permission. The food they give us is biscuits, rusks and apples. We're not allowed to make coffee, even though we could do it where we are sitting. We take a collective decision: not to ask if we can cook food.

Then they would film us. It would be presented as showing how generously the soldiers had treated us. We stick to the biscuits and rusks. It is degradation beyond compare. (Meanwhile, the soldiers who are off-duty have dragged mattresses out of the cabins and are sleeping at the back of the deck.)

So in those 11 hours, I have time to take stock. We have been attacked while in international waters. That means the Israelis have behaved like pirates, no better than those who operate off the coast of Somalia. The moment they start to steer this ship towards Israel, we have also been kidnapped. The whole action is illegal. We try to talk among ourselves, work out what might happen, and not least how the Israelis could opt for a course of action that means painting themselves into a corner.

The soldiers watch us. Some pretend not to understand English. But they all do. There are a couple of girls among the soldiers. They look the most embarrassed. Maybe they are the sort who will escape to Goa and fall into drug addiction when their military service is over? It happens all the time.

18.00

Quayside somewhere in Israel. I don't know where. We are taken ashore and forced to run the gauntlet of rows of soldiers while military TV films us. It suddenly hits me that this is something I shall never forgive them. At that moment they are nothing more to my mind than pigs and bastards.

We are split up, no one is allowed to talk to anyone else. Suddenly a man from the Israeli ministry for foreign affairs appears at my side. I realise he is there to make sure I am not treated too harshly. I am, after all, known as a writer in Israel. I've been translated into Hebrew. He asks if I need anything.

'My freedom and everybody else's,' I say. He doesn't answer. I ask him to go. He takes one step back. But he stays.

I admit to nothing, of course, and am told I am to be deported. The man who says this also says he rates my books highly. That makes me consider ensuring nothing I write is ever translated into Hebrew again.

Agitation and chaos reign in this "asylum-seekers' reception centre". Every so often, someone is knocked to the ground, tied up and handcuffed. I think several times that no one will believe me when I tell them about this. But there are many eyes to see it. Many people will be obliged to admit that I am telling the truth. There are a lot of us who can bear witness.

A single example will do. Right beside me, a man suddenly refuses to have his fingerprints taken. He accepts being photographed. But fingerprints? He doesn't consider he has done anything wrong. He resists. And is beaten to the ground. They drag him off. I don't know where. What word can I use? Loathsome? Inhuman? There are plenty to choose from.

23.00

We, the MP, the doctor and I, are taken to a prison for those refused right of entry. There we are split up. We are thrown a few sandwiches that taste like old dishcloths. It's a long night. I use my trainers as a pillow.

Tuesday 1 June, afternoon

Without any warning, the MP and I are taken to a Lufthansa plane. We are to be deported. We refuse to go until we know what is happening to S. Once we have assured ourselves that she, too, is on her way, we leave our cell.

On board the plane, the air hostess gives me a pair of socks. Because mine were stolen by one of the commandos who attacked the boat I was on.

The myth of the brave and utterly infallible Israeli soldier is shattered. Now we can add: they are common thieves. For I was not the only one to be robbed of my money, credit card, clothes, MP3 player, laptop; the same happened to many others on the same ship as me, which was attacked early one morning by masked Israeli soldiers, who were thus in fact nothing other than lying pirates.

312-6

By late evening we are back in Sweden. I talk to some journalists. Then I sit for a while in the darkness outside the house where I live. E doesn't say much.

Wednesday 2 June, afternoon

I listen to the blackbird. A song for those who died.

Now it is still all left to do. So as not to lose sight of the goal, which is to lift the brutal blockade of Gaza[0]. That will happen.

Beyond that goal, others are waiting. Demolishing a system of apartheid takes time. But not an eternity.

Copyright Henning Mankell. This article was translated by

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507,
(b)(6)

[Description of Source: London Guardian.co.uk in English -- Website of center-left daily with close links to New Labour; comment section covers whole political spectrum; read by well-educated, left-leaning urban professionals; URL: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>]

★ **Turkish Port Authority Denies Israeli Claim of Arms Presence on Aid Ships (U)**

GMP20100531017023 *Istanbul Today's Zaman Online in English 24 May 10 (U)*

[Report by Kenan Bas: "No Guns Aboard Gaza[0] Humanitarian Aid Ships" (U)]

FM [OSC Transcribed Text]

Customs officials at the Port of Antalya have denied Israeli claims that weapons[0] were detected on a ship taking humanitarian aid to Gaza[0] that took off from Antalya on Sunday.

Officials from the Customs Directorate said all passengers[0] that boarded the Mavi Marmara ship were screened and that not a single passenger[0] was in possession of any weapon[0]. "Forty-two passengers[0] boarded in Istanbul and 504 passengers[0] got on the ship here. They were screened. We spotted no weapons[0] and there is no such record in our logs. We did not notice anything suspicious about the Mavi Marmara. Had our officers had any suspicions, they would have reported it," an official, speaking under the condition of anonymity, said.

Israeli commandoes stormed a flotilla[0] of ships carrying activists and aid supplies to Gaza[0] in the early hours of Monday. Sixteen people were reportedly killed.

[Description of Source: Istanbul Today's Zaman Online in English -- Website of English-language daily published by the Zaman media group, supported by Nurcu Sect leader Fethullah Gulen; URL: <http://www.todayszaman.com>]

314-1

EN 030-4120



1 June 2010, 1800 GMT

Volume 3, Issue 99

Classified platform users: please click on the pushpin icon to view the video.



* Israel: Flotilla Incident 23 11 10

An Israeli commando raid on a Turkish-flagged flotilla carrying supplies to Gaza on 31 May has sparked conflicting views of what actually occurred during the incident, which left nine flotilla passengers dead and eight Israeli soldiers wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said he regrets the loss of life, but insisted that the commandos were attacked. Pro-Palestinian activists onboard the flotilla ship Mavi Marmara accused the soldiers of opening fire as soon as they boarded the ship. Both sides presented videos to support their positions.

Istanbul's Hurriyet Online showed video of armed Israeli troops onboard the ship at the moment of the attack. A voice on an intercom is heard telling the passengers "we have lost control of the ship" and instructing them to remain calm and seated. A sound resembling gunfire is



Turkish video details attack on ship (www.hurriyet.com, 31 May)

Click on the still frame above to launch the streamed video or double-click on the following icon for the .wmv video file (2:34)



IDF video of incident aboard ship (IDF, 31 May)

Click on the still frame above to launch the streamed video or double-click on the following icon for the .wmv video file (1:00)

Highlights

- Israel: Flotilla Incident

3151

then heard.

A video released by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesman on 31 May allegedly showed soldiers onboard the ship being attacked by protestors.

The IDF also released video of what it said were weapons seized aboard the ship including knives, Molotov cocktails and detonators.

Palestinian President Abbas said "what Israel has committed on board the Freedom Flotilla was a massacre."

Meanwhile, international media on 1 June reported that Israel has detained or deported hundreds of activists who were onboard the flotilla ships, and that the UN has called for an impartial investigation into the deaths of those killed during the raid. Activists have promised more action, saying another boat is headed to Gaza.

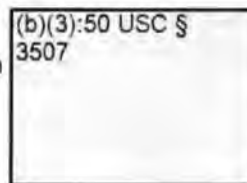
*For more details, see OSC products
GMP20100531739002,
FEA20100531005599,
GMP20100601739005 and
GMP20100601744006.*




IDF video of seized weapons (IDF, 31 May)

Click on the still frame above to launch the streamed video or double-click on the following icon for the .wmv video file (157)

For other videos of interest, click [here](#) to browse Hot Clips on

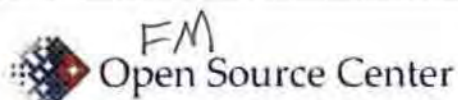


(b)(3):50 USC § 3507



315-3

UNCLASSIFIED



Jordan Times: Viva Gaza To Defy Israel Again Mid-May (U)

GMP20100503966005 Amman Jordan Times Online in English 0115 GMT 03 May 10 (U)

["Viva Gaza To Defy Israel Again Mid-May" -- Jordan Times Headline (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

[Computer selected and disseminated without OSC editorial intervention]

3 May 2010

By Thameen Kheetan

AMMAN - Eight cargo and passenger ships carrying humanitarian aid and hundreds of activists will leave several European ports this month for Gaza, Viva Palestina convoy organisers said.

A total of 600 pro-Palestinian activists from various countries will be on board five passenger boats, while three other ships will carry more than 5,000 tonnes of medical and building supplies to the besieged coastal strip, as part of the fourth edition of the Viva Palestina international aid convoy.

Organisers have moved the date of the departure from June to mid-May, and decided to launch the convoy from various countries instead of launching the entire group from the UK.

In March, Viva Palestina coordinator and British activist Kevin Ovenden told The Jordan Times that the convoy was planning to leave by sea from the UK for Gaza in June, on account of the Egyptian ban on the convoy entering its territory.

Aiming to break the three-year-old Israeli sea blockade on the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, the convoy's activists voiced fears that Tel Aviv will not allow them to sail into the coastal enclave, an argument which Israel confirmed.

"We imagine that there will be some obstacles" from Israeli authorities, British Viva Palestina organiser Alice Howard told The Jordan Times on Sunday over the phone, adding that if this happened, the activists would hold a protest off Gazan shores.

Israel said yesterday that it will not allow the convoy to sail into the Gaza Strip, citing the naval blockade as a reason.

"It is not possible through the sea because there is a blockade," said Merav Horsandi, head of political and media affairs at the Israeli embassy in Amman, adding that the convoy organisers have to coordinate with Tel Aviv in order to bring humanitarian aid to Gaza by land.

Horsandi said she was unable to elaborate on whether or not Israeli forces would open fire on the convoy if Viva Palestina activists insisted on entering the enclave by sea. "I don't know how the defence forces would react? I have no answer," she told The Jordan Times over the phone yesterday.

In December 2008, an Israeli navy patrol boat collided with a boat carrying volunteer medical personnel

318-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000977

and supplies off the Gaza shores, saying after the incident that they were trying to manoeuvre the aid boat away from the "closed military zone".

Citing security concerns and the existing sea blockade, in February last year the Israelis seized a relief boat bound for Gaza and originating from the Lebanese city of Tripoli.

In Amman, Jordanian convoy activists said they and their fellow activists would stage a "naval sit-in", a protest at sea until they are allowed to enter the besieged strip and deliver the humanitarian aid.

"The ships and activists on board are prepared for the possibility of remaining at sea for a long period of time," Jordanian lawyer and activist Fathi Abu Nassar told The Jordan Times, adding that apart from delivering the aid to Gazans, breaking the siege is one aim of the convoy.

He pointed out that the convoy will also face obstacles if attempting to reach Gaza by land, as "the Zionist entity has accords with countries surrounding it", in reference to Egypt and Jordan, which signed two peace treaties with Israel in 1979 and 1994 respectively.

Egyptian authorities prevented Viva Palestina 3 activists from entering the country through the Red Sea port of Nuweibeh in January, forcing them to go back through Jordan and Syria and enter through El Arish Port on the Mediterranean Sea.

In El Arish, the activists clashed with Egyptian security forces after Cairo declared its intention to make some of the convoy's trucks enter the strip through Israel.

Days after the convoy reached Gaza, Cairo told Viva Palestina leader and British MP George Galloway that he was declared persona non grata.

Several international NGOs are taking part in the upcoming Viva Palestina plan, including the Free Gaza Movement, the Free Palestine Movement, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, the Greek and the Swedish Boat to Gaza, as well as the Istanbul-based Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, according to the convoy's website www.vivapalestina.org.

Since March 2009, three Viva Palestina convoys have reached the Gaza Strip, with over 1,000 volunteers and 500 vehicles delivering humanitarian aid to the besieged coastal enclave by land, the website says.

3 May 2010

[Description of Source: Amman Jordan Times Online in English -- Website of Jordan Times, only Jordanian English daily known for its investigative and analytical coverage of controversial domestic issues; sister publication of Al-Ra'y; URL: <http://www.jordantimes.com/>]

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000978

★ **Turkey's IHH[0] To Send 'Freedom Flotilla[0]' Aid Ships to Gaza[0] Despite Israel (U)**

GMP20100509017008/Istanbul Sunday's Zaman Online in English 09 May 10 (U)

[Report by Betul Akkaya Demirbas: "Countdown Begins for Gaza[0] Aid Ships in Spite of Israel" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

With two weeks left until a convoy of international aid ships departs for Gaza[0], the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH[0]) is completing its preparations and hopes to break a years-long Israeli embargo on the Gaza[0] Strip.

The foundation is organizing a flotilla[0] of eight ships, known as the Freedom Flotilla[0] Coalition, which are set to depart for Gaza[0] on May 23, its chairman, Bulent Yildirim, noted. The IHH[0] ships will be joined by 12 others that will set sail from a large number of countries including Venezuela, Malaysia, Germany, Italy, France, Greece and the United States.

The IHH's[0] role in the aid ship project was first announced last month with the motto, "Palestine is our destination, humanitarian aid is our load." "We want this embargo to end. We broke it with an aid convoy [to Palestine] in December of last year. The aid ship project has carried the embargo back to the world's attention," Yildirim remarked.

The foundation recently purchased a passenger ship from Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc. (IDO) to take a delegation of around 500 people to Gaza[0].

"Palestine is faced with an inhumane embargo that lacks any legal basis. Civil society organizations should take the initiative to break this unjust embargo," Yildirim added.

The Turkish ships will be filled with medical equipment, medicine and construction materials to be used to repair schools and hospitals in Palestine. Such repair has symbolic meaning for the country because Israel does not allow any construction materials to be brought in to Gaza[0], fearing they could be misused.

The IHH's[0] aid ship project is also backed by the Free Gaza[0] Movement (FG), a human rights group that in August 2008 sent the first international boats to land in the Port of Gaza[0] in 41 years. The movement called on the international community to support peaceful efforts for humanitarian relief activities for Gaza[0] in a message on its website that reads: "We want to raise international awareness about the prison-like closure of the Gaza[0] Strip and pressure the international community to review its sanctions policy and end its support for continued Israeli occupation."

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The Freedom Flotilla[0] Coalition comprises the FG, the IHH[0], the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza[0] (ECESG), Ship to Gaza[0] Greece, Ship to Gaza[0] Sweden and the International Committee to Lift the Siege on Gaza[0].

The coalition plans to carry 5,000 tons of construction materials, school supplies and medical equipment, as well as hundreds of passengers from over 40 countries.

IHH[0] worried about West Bank representative detained in Israel

The IHH's[0] West Bank representative, Izzet Sahin, was detained by Israeli security forces on April 27 as he was passing through a checkpoint in Bethlehem. Sahin has been in custody since then without any charges filed against him, and Israeli officials have announced that the representative will remain in custody for another week.

Sahin's detention sparked concern among IHH[0] officials, who are worried about his health. According to the foundation, the detention may be retaliation against the IHH[0] project to send aid ships to Gaza[0].

Sahin was transferred to Ashkelon Prison following his stay in an Israel Security Agency (ISA) detention center. Nobody has heard from him since the day he was arrested. Israeli officials have given no reason for the detention of Sahin, who has been studying Hebrew at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"Sahin arrived in the West Bank on Nov. 28 for a number of foundation-related activities in the region, such as the monitoring of aid projects there. However, he was detained on April 27 by Israeli forces as he was passing through a checkpoint. He appeared before a court on May 6. The court decided to extend his detention period for another week. The IHH[0] is engaged in all efforts to bring an end to his detention and bad treatment," an IHH[0] official said.

The foundation is worried that Israel will try to prevent the aid ships from delivering humanitarian aid to Gazans. It is, however, committed to breaking the embargo on Palestinians despite any preventive attempt from Israel or Egypt.

The IHH[0] was part of a convoy of around 250 trucks carrying European, Turkish and Arab aid that hoped to enter the Gaza[0] Strip on Dec. 27, 2009 -- the first anniversary of the start of a 22-day Israeli siege that left nearly 1,500 Palestinians dead and another 5,000 injured. However, the convoy faced bureaucratic obstacles from Egyptian authorities, which refused to allow the convoy to deliver the aid, both food and medical supplies, to Gaza[0] via Egypt. The convoy was finally allowed to enter the Gaza[0] Strip in early January.

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[Description of Source: Istanbul Sunday's Zaman Online in English – Website of Sunday edition of Today's Zaman, published by the Zaman media group, supported by Nurcu Sect leader Fethullah Gulen; URL: <http://www.sundayszaman.com>]

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000981



Turkish Human Rights Group Set To Sail to Gaza With Aid (U)

GMP20100413744014[0] *Istanbul Hurriyet Daily News.com in English 13 Apr 10 (U)*

[Unattributed report: "Turkish rights group's cargo ship to set sail with Gaza aid" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

A Turkish human rights group is preparing to send a cargo ship laden with aid to Gaza in an effort to help the victims of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict currently under an Israeli embargo.

The 1,080-person capacity ship, the "Mavi Marmara," will set sail from Istanbul's Haydarpasa port on May 12 as part of the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, or IHH's, campaign, "Palestine is our route, humanitarian aid is our load."

The ship will be equipped with materials such as cement, iron, children's playgrounds, tents, food, stationery, educational materials, medicine and medical equipment.

"For the past four year a silent genocide has been taking place in Gaza. Because of the embargo, 60 percent of the population, mostly women and children, are suffering from malnutrition and disease. Now, we are acting against it," IHH President Bulent Yildirim said during a press conference in Istanbul on Tuesday.

Yildirim said many of the aid campaigns to Gaza have political motives and governments often send the territory aid on a one-off basis.

"We will have support from many political parties but this initiative is not politically geared, our motives are purely humanitarian and we will be persistent in our aid campaigns and continue to send out materials to meet the needs of the people," he said.

According to Yildirim, Palestinians have had bad experiences with vessels plying their waters since 1948. "Generally people that sit on the water banks fishing and having picnics have been attacked. Therefore through this initiative we want to change this [perception] and help them."

Activists from the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, France, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Venezuela and 42 other countries are supporting the project. Seven other ships will also embark on the journey in an effort to break the embargo and deliver the aid.

"Our aim is to reach Gaza within five days, Israel could block our way but we will not turn back; we will stay in the middle of the sea and invite ships from all across the world until our aid is allowed through," Yildirim said.

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Although there is a remote chance Israel could attack the ships, Yildirim said the prospect was unlikely, adding that such action would be the equivalent of attacking a consulate, which would have severe consequences for relations between the countries.

Yildirim said 1.5 million people are struggling for basic means of survival in Gaza. "Only a limited amount of food and help are sent through tunnels. This is like putting restrictions on a man to breathe through a tube when he can just breathe naturally."

He said the cargo ship was purchased for \$800,000. "No ship-owner consented to lease theirs for the campaign, that is why the foundation had to purchase its own ships," said Yildirim, adding that they hope to receive donations from the public.

A large wooden board will be put up in Haydarpasa for people who support the campaign to leave their hand prints on it, which IHH hopes will encourage more people to participate.

[Description of Source: Istanbul Hurriyet Daily News.com in English -- Website of Hurriyet Daily News and Economic Review, pro-secular daily, with English-language versions from other Dogan Media Group dailies; URL: <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/english>]

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000983

***Turkish Customs Officials, IHH Deny Israeli Claims of Weapons[0] Aboard Flotilla[0] (U)**

GMP20100601744006 *Istanbul Today's Zaman Online in English 01 Jun 10 (U)*

[Report by Emre Soncan, Muzaffer Salcioglu, and Cihan Yenilmez in Ankara and Istanbul: "Officials deny Israeli claims weapons[0] were onboard" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

Officials deny Israeli claims weapons[0] were onboard Turkish officials have denied claims leveled by Israeli authorities that weapons[0] were onboard one of the six aid ships attacked by Israel on Monday. Officials from the Customs Undersecretariat said every passenger[0] was searched before getting on the ship with the help of X-ray machines and metal detectors. Senior officials from the undersecretariat said Israel's allegations were tantamount to "complete nonsense."

Officials from the Customs Undersecretariat said all passengers[0] that boarded the Mavi Marmara ship were screened and that not a single passenger[0] was in possession of any weapon[0]. "Forty-two passengers[0] boarded in Istanbul and 504 passengers[0] got on the ship here. They were screened. We spotted no weapons[0] and there is no such record in our logs. We did not notice anything suspicious about the Mavi Marmara. Had our officers had any suspicions, they would have reported it," an official, speaking under the condition of anonymity, said.

The undersecretariat has cutting-edge technology at all ports and airports. In addition to advanced detectors and X-ray scanners, the undersecretariat uses highly trained sniffer dogs. In fact, there has been a great increase in the capture of criminals by teams of the Customs Undersecretariat, which uses the vessel monitoring system of the Marine Undersecretariat. Previously, the National Intelligence Organization (MIT) was the only agency with access to this system.

Officials from the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH), the organization that organized the aid flotilla[0], also shared their opinions yesterday at a press conference. IHH officials say they were extremely concerned about the fate of those injured in Israel's attack, particularly since all communications have been cut off by Israeli officials. IHH Vice President Yavuz Dede said: "We have explained that these ships comprised a humanitarian aid flotilla[0] and were not, in any way, politically motivated. All the supplies on the ships had gone through customs control. There is absolutely no weaponry or ammunition on the ship. The people on the ship were not soldiers. They are members of civil society groups, members of the press and deputies. The people who went there had set to provided at least a bit of breathing space for the people there."

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000984

Dede said they had expected Israel to make the false accusation that there were weapons[0] on the ship in an attempt to legitimize the atrocious act of storming a humanitarian aid ship and killing people onboard. He said what happened was a shame for the entire human race.

He also condemned Israel's campaign of disinformation. Dede said that two people were killed and 30 wounded during the military assault, but noted that they could not follow later developments because communication with the ship had been lost. He said they were extremely worried by this situation, adding that they had expected some sort of intervention, but nothing like this. "We thought they would be more humane, but we saw a monstrous intervention," Dede said.

[Description of Source: Istanbul Today's Zaman Online in English -- Website of English-language daily published by the Zaman media group, supported by Nurcu Sect leader Fethullah Gulen; URL: <http://www.todayszaman.com>]

Turkish Marmara Captain Confirms IHH Activists Prepared Attack on Israeli Troops (U)

GMP20100611735004 Tel Aviv Haaretz.com in English 0936 GMT 11 Jun 10 (U)

[Unattributed report: "Gaza[0] Flotilla[0] Captain: Activists Prepared Attack Against IDF Raid"; (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507

[OSC Transcribed Text]

The captain and first mate of the Mavi Marmara, the ship which led the Gaza[0] flotilla[0] raided by Israel Defense Forces special forces last week, had attempted to prevent premeditated violent clashes between activists and the Israeli military, evidence released Friday showed.

Late last month, Israeli commandos rappelled onto the deck of one of the ships trying to break Israel's three-year-old blockade of Gaza[0]. The soldiers were intercepted by a crowd of activists, setting off a clash that killed nine men - eight Turks and a Turkish American.

Israel says its soldiers began shooting only after a mob of pro-Palestinian activists attacked them - a version backed up by video footage released by the army. But the activists and their supporters say Israeli commandos needlessly opened fire.

According to the clip, released by the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, the ship's captain Mehmud Tuval had attempted to prevent a violent altercation by disposing of metal bars and chains IHH activists had cut ahead of the IDF takeover. [click](#) to view 5:13 min video in wmv format

Mehmud said that "once we see that the boats [were] around us...actually not us, but around the total ships...about two hours [before the takeover]... I see they were cutting the steels...chains. And I said to the chief officer, he collected all of them and also we put it in the radio room in the bridge."

The captain also indicated that he had thrown some of the bars and chains into the sea, while adding that he also asked IHH activists to pass over the bars and chains that had collected later on.

Tuval said he sent his chief officer to ask for the bars, "saying ...he cannot take directly from the guys..he spoke with the IHH to collect the [steel bars and chains]...we asked them to drop them, drop in the sea, because if they take it from the bridge that's when we have a problem...and [after that] we didn't see any in their hands."

The Mavi Marmara captain said he was indeed worried that the presence of the

Turkish Daily Reports on 'Sharp Reaction' From Civil Society To Israeli Attack (U)

GMP20100531737031 Istanbul Today's Zaman Online in English 31 May 10 (U)

[Unattributed report: "Israeli assault on Gaza[0] flotilla[0] draws sharp reaction from Turkish civil society" (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507

[OSC Transcribed Text]

Thousands of Turks took to the streets on Monday in protest of a pre-dawn Israeli assault on a flotilla[0] of aid ships bound for the Gaza[0] Strip which left up to 19 people dead and dozens wounded.

The aid ships, dubbed the Freedom Flotilla[0], were taking badly needed humanitarian supplies to the people of the Gaza[0] Strip, who have for the past three years been living under a harsh economic blockade. The Israeli assault came as the ships were sailing in international waters.



The assault drew strong condemnation by Turkish civil society, which denounced the Israeli violence with massive rallies throughout the day yesterday.

A group of around 2,000 people had convened in Istanbul's Taksim Square before noon. Carrying Turkish and Palestinian flags, the group chanted anti-Israeli slogans and called on the Turkish government to take action against the disproportionate use of force by Israeli soldiers against civilians. "Down with Israel!" "Greetings to Palestine and aid ships; go ahead with resistance!" and "Turkish soldiers to Israel!" chanted the protestors.

Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) President Tekin Kucukali said his organization was ready to provide medical assistance to civilians injured during the Israeli attack. "The armed raid on civilians carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza[0] has opened a deep wound in people's consciences. We are ready to undertake any responsibility to take the injured to secure places and take care of their wounds there," he stated.

In the meantime, officials at the Antalya Customs Office announced that passengers[0] on the Turkish ships in the aid convoy did not have any weapons[0] or even a knife on them. "All passengers[0] boarded the ships after being screened. Our records show that no weapons[0] were detected on them," they said.



The announcement refutes Israeli claims that the activists were carrying weapons[0] and munitions to Palestinians in the Gaza[0] Strip.

The Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) expressed concern that Israeli security forces may plant weapons[0] on the aid ships after seizing control. "Let alone a weapon[0], there wasn't even a jackknife onboard the ships. But the ships are currently under Israeli control, and the Israelis may place weapons[0] or munitions on the ships to back up their assertions," IHH Vice President Yavuz Dede said. IHH is one of the main coordinators of the Freedom Flotilla[0].

Ahmet Mercan, another IHH official, said Israel's bloody raid on aid activists was a "unilateral war" waged against unarmed civilians. "The assault has shown that Israel is not a state or a society. It is a terrorist organization. The world is now faced with a test. Will it side with human rights or not? How will the world react in the face of such an assault? Israel initiated a war. This is a unilateral war being waged on civilians. This is a war waged on 50 countries. This is a war waged on the collective conscience of humanity," he said.

Members of Turkey's Jewish community also condemned the attack, saying they share Turkey's feelings about the killings of activists on the aid ships. "We are saddened to learn that a military operation was launched against the Mavi Marmara [one of the Turkish ships in the flotilla[0]]. We share the reactions the operation sparked in our country [Turkey]," read a statement issued by the community.

Thousands of people living in Istanbul and Ankara have been in front of the Israeli Embassy and Consulate since the early hours of Monday to protest the killings of the unarmed civilians. Police tightened security measures around the buildings, preventing protestors from entering the embassy or consulate.

'Attack damaged Turkish-Israeli ties'

A statement issued by the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) said the Israeli assault had damaged ties of fraternity between Turkey and Israel.



"With the most recent assault in international waters of unarmed ships which were carrying only humanitarian aid to [Gaza\[0\]](#), Israel has shown the entire world that it will not allow any peaceful attempt in the region and will not respect human rights. The attack cannot be approved or backed by any nation in the world. World leaders do not have the luxury to hide themselves behind mere statements. It is high time the world said 'stop' to the perpetrators of the bloody assault," the MUSIAD statement read and called on the United Nations and the international community to review their approach to Israel.

A similar statement came from Confederation of Turkish Real Trade Unions (Hak-Is) President Salim Uslu, who said Israel committed a crime against humanity by attacking civilians on a ship carrying humanitarian aid to people in need. He also called on the international community to take action against Israeli violence.

"Israel insists on not ending its terror and attacks in the Middle East. It has turned into a traumatic actor in the region. It attacks civilians, children or women included. Israel has caused the shame of the century to humanity and continues to do so. ... The United Nations, NATO, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] and the Arab League should take action and say 'stop' to [Israel's] dirty game," the statement went on to say.

A doctors' organization known as Yeryuzu Doktorlari (Doctors on Earth) also condemned the killings of the activists on the aid [flotilla\[0\]](#), saying humanitarian aid flowing to people in need should not be blocked, regardless of their religion, language or ethnicity. "The attack on the Freedom [Flotilla\[0\]](#) came in violation of international law and universal humanitarian values. Yeryuzu Doktorlari strongly condemns the Israeli assault on the aid ships carrying humanitarian aid to [Gaza\[0\]](#)," read the statement.

[Description of Source: Istanbul Today's Zaman Online in English -- Website of English-language daily published by the Zaman media group, supported by Nurcu Sect leader Fethullah Gulen; URL: <http://www.todayszaman.com>]

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000990

FM, OSC

★ Swedish Foreign Minister Summons Israeli Ambassador Over Gaza Ship Aid Attack (U)

EUP20100531003001 Kista The Local in English 31 May 10 (U)

[Report by Peter Vinthagen Simpson: "Sweden Calls On Israel To Clarify Aid Convoy Attack" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

Sweden calls on Israel to clarify aid convoy attack

Sweden's foreign minister Carl Bildt has summoned the Israeli ambassador to explain reports that Israeli armed forces have boarded the "Freedom Flottila" ships heading to Gaza, killing at least ten people.

"We want a clarification over what has happened," Carl Bildt said to Sveriges Radio P1 over the reports that the ships belonging to the "Ship to Gaza" convoy, carrying humanitarian aid to the Gaza strip, had been boarded by Israeli military forces.

"We know that there are Swedes on some of the ships and we want to know what has happened to them. There appears no reason to question media reports that a Turkish vessel has been boarded, that a fire fight occurred and that people have been killed," Bildt said.

The flotilla of ships, carrying a reported 600 people from around 50 different nations, left Cyprus on Sunday evening and was due to arrive close to Gaza on Monday morning. The convoy, loaded with 10,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid, was intercepted in international waters, 65 nautical miles off the Gaza coast, by Israeli warships and helicopters.

A live feed broadcast from a Turkish registered ship in the convoy shows Israeli forces boarding the ship and opening fire at around 8pm. Israeli military sources have confirmed ten dead, but other reports indicate that the death toll could be as high as nineteen, with dozens more injured.

Eleven Swedes are participating in the aid convoy including the author Henning Mankell, theologian Ulf Carmesund, Jewish artist and musician Dror Feiler and Swedish Green Party MP Mehmet Kaplan.

Swedish Green Party leader Peter Eriksson said that they had lost contact with Kaplan at around 5pm expressed concern over his fate in what he described as a completely legitimate and reasonable non-violent protest.

"If Israel has used extensive violence and killed people then it has to be seen as very serious. And it is important that there are strong reactions from both Sweden and other

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countries," Eriksson told news agency TT

The convoy was organised by activists from a slew of countries to protest the continued isolation of Gaza and to help arrest a deteriorating humanitarian situation.

Mikael Lofgren at Ship to Gaza-Sweden has confirmed that all the ships in the flotilla have been boarded, including the Swedish ship "Sofia[0]".

"We received a call from Dror Feiler, who was on board our boat Sofia[0], at 4.30am in the morning, and then he heard shots from the ships that were being boarded," he told the TT [Tidningarnas Telegrambyra] news agency on Monday adding that the Sofia[0] was boarded 15 minutes later.

Lofgren told the Local on Thursday that the activists were aware of the Israeli government's warnings, and stressed that the project is a peaceful non-violent operation.

"We will not meet violence, with violence," Lofgren said on Thursday.

Israeli military sources however claimed on Monday that their forces were fired upon and that four soldiers were wounded while boarding the Turkish vessel. The report contradicts several recent statements from flotilla organizers who have insisted that none of the six vessels were carrying any weapons.

Israel imposed an economic blockade after the Islamist movement Hamas took power in Gaza in June 2007.

Israel claims that despite the blockade 15,000 tones of humanitarian aid are allowed into Gaza every week, which according to the United Nations is less than a quarter of what is needed.

As the flotilla began its highly publicised voyage towards the Gaza, and before Monday's attacks, the Israeli government has said that it would forward the humanitarian aid supplies on the ships once they had cleared customs.

Peter Vinthagen Simpson

[Description of Source: Kista The Local in English -- Unaffiliated online newspaper covering domestic issues; URL <http://www.thelocal.se>]

Jordan Times: Activists Recall Horror Scenes From Assault (U)

GMP20100603700001[0] Amman Jordan Times Online in English 0105 GMT 03 Jun 10
(U)

["Activists Recall Horror Scenes From Assault" -- Jordan Times Headline (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

[Computer selected and disseminated without OSC editorial intervention]

3 June 2010

By Mohammad Ghazal and Thameen Kheetan

AMMAN - Turkish activists who were aboard the aid ship raided Monday by Israeli soldiers had asked all non-Turkish passengers to remain on the lower decks of the boat to protect them from possible Israeli attacks, according to a Moroccan activist who was on the ship.

"They preferred to expose themselves to the Israeli firing so that they could protect other nationalities," Moroccan activist Hassane Ljabri said yesterday, adding that he and his fellow passengers had not expected any "violent" act from the Israelis, especially since the civilian flotilla was carrying only humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza Strip.

Ljabri made the remarks in an interview with The Jordan Times at Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman, where he was treated for a slight injury he says he sustained in an Israeli prison after Israeli navy forces took over the flotilla and detained hundreds of activists on board.

According to Freedom Flotilla activists, Turkish volunteers constituted most of the victims of the assault, which killed at least nine.

The 46-year-old Ljabri is one of 126 flotilla participants who crossed the Jordan River into the Kingdom by sunrise Wednesday. Some of them were to receive treatment for injuries sustained during the Israeli attack, as the others were to leave from Amman back to their countries.

The Moroccan said the attack began at around 4:00am when Israeli navy personnel landed from helicopters on the top deck of the ship after failing to get on board from their boats. At the time, Ljabri and other Muslim activists were performing dawn prayers.

"We were kneeling when we heard others screaming," he said, noting that since midnight, Israeli helicopters and a warship had been following them in

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000993

international waters, where the attack took place.

"We heard gunshots on the upper deck, and we were targeted with teargas and sound bombs, which we immediately threw into the sea," the activist added, noting that an Algerian man was then shot in the eye.

The Israelis ordered the passengers to gather in one of the ship's halls, where Ljabri said he was able to recognise five dead bodies and several injured. "There was blood everywhere."

"They handcuffed us and pointed their guns towards us," he said, describing the scene as "horrific... many were weeping and screaming".

The ship arrived in the Israeli port of Ashdod before midday, Ljabri said, adding that interrogations started after that.

He revealed that the activists were beaten up by the Israelis on board the ship, adding that the soldiers "used to swear at us in Hebrew, make fun of us and laugh".

Israel has said it was attempting to prevent the flotilla from reaching Gazan shores because it would break its three-year-old siege on the strip, adding that the assault was an act of "self-defence" against the activists.

Ljabri said Israeli officers told him he was "violating Israeli laws and will be sued and deported".

"This is so strange because from the very beginning I didn't want to go to Israel, but to visit the Arabs in Gaza," he noted.

"When we came to Jordan, we were received like heroes... I feel more self-confident now and I believe what we did was right," he said, stressing that he is willing to take part again in any event that aims to break the Gaza blockade and deliver aid to the impoverished enclave.

Among the Malaysian activists aboard the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara, was general practitioner Muhammad Halim.

"When the Israeli commandoes raided the boat and started shooting, I was called to check on some of the injured. I was doing chest compressions on five of those badly shot. Three of them died in front of me. I am so sad about that," Halim, who is specialised in dealing with emergency cases, told The Jordan Times over the phone.

Halim said he saw one of the activists shot in the head by the Israeli commandos, adding that he tried to save the man who died 15 minutes later.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000994

Coordinator of the Malaysian team of activists Noor Azman, who works as a lecturer at the Islamic University in Malaysia, said he was "shocked" with what he saw during the raid.

"I saw one shot by a live bullet in the wrist. He was Indonesian," said Azman, who said he is determined to get the aid to the Gaza Strip.

3 June 2010

[Description of Source: Amman Jordan Times Online in English – Website of Jordan Times, only Jordanian English daily known for its investigative and analytical coverage of controversial domestic issues; sister publication of Al-Ra'y; URL: <http://www.jordantimes.com/>]

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000995

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Indonesia: Several Volunteers from Gaza Flotilla Return Home to Tell of Ordeal (U)

OSB20100608381835[0] Jakarta Jakarta Globe in English 08 Jun 10 (U)

[Article by Nurfika Osman and Armando Siahaan: 'Five Home Safe From Gaza' (U)]

Article Transcription: Five of the 12 Indonesian volunteers aboard a humanitarian flotilla raided by Israeli commandos last week returned home on Monday [7 Jun 10], as parliamentarians urged the government to push for international action against Israel.

Activist Okvianto Baharudin, arrived with his right arm in a sling. He is one of two Indonesians shot during the assault on the Mavi Marmara. The attacks left nine dead.

Okvianto, who arrived separately from Istanbul where he had received medical care, was taken to the Gatot Subroto Army Hospital in Central Jakarta after touching down.

The four others came on a flight from Amman later in the day. They were reunited with their families at the Foreign Ministry's offices.

All four said they were not afraid of returning to Gaza.

After a brief ceremony, Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa said the humanitarian efforts by the volunteers "to help their Palestinian brothers is a noble cause." But he added that a more effective way to send humanitarian aid to the Palestinians should be sought.

Ferry Nur, chairman of the Indonesian Committee for Solidarity with Palestine (KISPA), described the ordeal: "The ship was hijacked by Israeli troops when we were about to conduct our predawn prayer."

"They robbed me of my cameras and everything belonging to volunteers in the ship."

He said everyone aboard was handcuffed for more than 15 hours as they were taken to a prison in Tel Aviv. The Israeli troops prohibited them from going to the toilet and did not feed them until they arrived at the detention centre, he said.

Muhendri Muchtar, the deputy chairman of KISPA, said that during the trip to Tel Aviv, the soldiers hit them if they talked with one another.

Nur said Surya Fahrizal and Okvianto were shot because they tried to use their cameras.

"Fahrizal was about to take a picture and the troops shot him," Nur said, adding that the same thing happened to Okvianto.

Fahrizal, of Friends of Al Aqsa, underwent surgery to remove a bullet in Haifa, Israel, but has since been sent to Amman to receive further medical treatment. Two colleagues from the same group are keeping him company in Jordan, while four Medical Emergency Rescue Committee (MER-C) volunteers have also decided to stay there.

Muhammad Yasin, a reporter for TVOne who had been accompanying the MER-C team at the time of the attack, said all his documentation had been confiscated by the troops. "I could not save anything," he said.

Also on Monday, Hidayat Nurwahid from the People's Representative Council's (DPR) Commission I, which oversees foreign affairs, condemned the Israeli attack as a "crime against humanity."

"We have to push Israel more to stop such unlawful acts," the Justice and Prosperity Party (PKS) politician said.

Ramadhan Pohan, also from the commission, said that even though no Indonesians were killed in the incident, the government had to push for the United Nations to get involved.

"The government should take more action and push the UN to end this war," Ramadhan said.

The political factions in the DPR were united in their demands that Israel be held accountable and that the government push Washington to take action against Israel. Some even asked the government to initiate an international movement to isolate Israel diplomatically.

Hayono Isman, deputy chairman of the commission, urged the government to take concrete and effective measures in aid of Palestine, including encouraging further involvement of the United States and other Western powers to help bring peace to the region.

Source Descriptor: Internet version of the newspaper aimed at middle-class Indonesians and expatriates. Owned by business tycoon James Riyadi's Lippo Group; URL: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/>

*This report was produced by the Open Source Centre.
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326-2

(b)(1),(b)(3):50 USC §3024



326-3

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000998

(b)(1),(b)(3):50 USC § 3507,(b)(3):50 USC §3024



326-4

P 311823Z MAY 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/54715 NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 417266

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT
SERIAL: GMP20100531735017
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY

SUBJ: SIX SHIPS FROM GAZA FLOTILLA DOCK AT ISRAELI PORT, AT LEAST 32 ACTIVISTS DETAINED (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL TOWS MARMARA SHIP TO PORT, SHOWS VIDEO OF PASSENGERS' ATTACK ON IDF TROOPS GMP20100531735015
VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B HEBREW 1500 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)
SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 1555 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY LI'EL KYZER AND YA'IR ETTINGER: "GAZA FLOTILLA DOCKS IN ASHDOD HOURS AFTER DEADLY RAID" (U)
INTERNET

OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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THE TURKISH-FLAGGED SHIP CARRYING INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISTS BRINGING HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA DOCKED AT THE ASHDOD PORT ON MONDAY EVENING, NEARLY 16 HOURS AFTER IT WAS **STORMED BY ISRAEL NAVY COMMANDOS IN WHAT TURNED INTO A DEADLY RAID.**

THE MAVI MARMARA WAS THE LAST OF THE SIX-SHIP FLOTILLA TO BE TOWED INTO THE PORT, AND ITS 600 PASSENGERS WERE KEPT ON BOARD WHILE ISRAEL POLICE SAPPERS CONDUCTED A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE VESSEL.

NINE ACTIVISTS ABOARD THE SHIP WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL MORE WOUNDED IN THE CLASHES THAT ERUPTED WITH ISRAEL NAVY TROOPS **AT 4 A.M. ON MONDAY.** EIGHT OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED, TWO OF THEM SERIOUSLY.

THE OTHER SHIPS WERE TOWED TO PORT OVER THE COURSE OF THE AFTERNOON, WITH DOZENS OF THE ACTIVISTS DETAINED FOR REFUSING TO SIGN ISRAEL'S DEPORTATION ORDERS. ONLY SOME 25 OF THE ACTIVISTS AGREED TO THE ORDER.

ISRAEL PRISONS SERVICES INCARCERATED AT LEAST 32 OF THE ACTIVISTS WHO WERE ABOARD THE GAZA AID FLOTILLA, AT LEAST 16 OF THEM FOR REFUSING TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES.

AT LEAST TWO OF THE ACTIVISTS WHO WERE WOUNDED ON THE SHIP WERE DETAINED AFTER REFUSING TREATMENT AT THE BARZILAI HOSPITAL IN ASHKELON. SOME 34 OF THE FOREIGNERS WERE TREATED HOSPITALS ACROSS ISRAEL FOR THEIR WOUNDS.

ISRAEL HAS SAID IT WILL DEPORT THE ROUGHLY 700 ACTIVISTS IN THE FLOTILLA. BUT THOSE WHO REFUSE TO COOPERATE WILL BE JAILED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

327-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001000

P 251458Z MAY 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 378089

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100525739001
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL: TURKEY REJECTS COMPROMISE OFFER ON GAZA-BOUND 'PEACE FLOTILLA' (U)

REF: 1. ISRAELI NAVY BUILDS PORT COMPOUND TO HOLD GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA DETAINEES NEXT WEEK GMP20100521739013 YISRA'EL HAYOM HEBREW 0000 GMT 21 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW 25 MAY 10 P 4(U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY YOSI YEHOUSHU'A AND ITAMAR EICHNER: "ISRAEL OFFERED A COMPROMISE, TURKEY REFUSED." THIS PRODUCT IS PROVIDED BY THE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT ISRAEL NEWS TODAY, JERUSALEM, AND HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER US GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS. OSC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDITORIAL STANDARDS OF THIS TRANSLATION. (U)

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ISRAEL WANTS VERY MUCH TO PREVENT THE ARRIVAL IN GAZA OF THE "PEACE FLOTILLA" FROM EUROPE. AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT INITIALLY SUPPORTED THE FLOTILLA BUT THEN WITHDREW THEIR PARTICIPATION AS A RESULT OF ISRAELI PRESSURE, YEDIOTH AHRONOTH HAS LEARNED THAT A PROPOSAL THAT ISRAEL MADE TO TURKEY WAS REJECTED.

AS PART OF THE "PEACE FLOTILLA" THAT WAS ORGANIZED BY AID ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS EUROPE, TEN SHIPS LADEN WITH FOOD, CLOTHES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND OTHER GOODS, SET SAIL YESTERDAY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA FOR THE GAZA STRIP. THE FLOTILLA, IN WHICH 700 HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE TAKING PART, IS SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE AT THE GAZA COAST ON THURSDAY. ISRAEL, WHICH WOULD LIKE TO PREVENT THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIPS IN THE GAZA STRIP BUT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO AVOID HAVING TO HAVE IDF TROOPS CLASH WITH THE ACTIVISTS ON BOARD THE SHIPS, APPLIED PRESSURE ON A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO TAKE ACTION TO CANCEL THE FLOTILLA.

AS OPPOSED TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT AGREED TO ISRAEL'S REQUEST, YEDIOTH AHRONOTH HAS LEARNED THAT TURKEY REFUSED. ISRAEL PROPOSED TO TURKEY THAT IT WOULD ALLOW FOR THE EQUIPMENT TO BE DELIVERED TO THE ASHDOD PORT, AND THAT IT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE EQUIPMENT MADE ITS WAY INTO THE GAZA STRIP BY MEANS OF INTERNATIONAL AID GROUPS AND THE UN, UNDER ISRAELI SUPERVISION. ISRAEL ASKED WHETHER TURKEY WOULD BE PREPARED, IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT TO ALLOW THE EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION INTO THE GAZA STRIP, TO TAKE ACTION TO HAVE THE FLOTILLA CANCELLED. TURKEY REJECTED THAT PROPOSAL.

THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL TO TURKEY WAS MADE BY COORDINATOR OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES MAJ. GEN. EITAN DANGOT IN A MEETING WITH THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, WITH WHOM HE MET IN THE LAST NUMBER OF DAYS. THAT MEETING WAS HELD WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER.

THE ISRAELI NAVY IS PREPARED WITH BACK-UP TROOPS FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE BOATS ON THURSDAY. THE MILITARY OPERATION, OPERATION SKY WINDS, WILL BE COMMANDED BY NAVY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. ELIEZER (CHENEY) MAROM. THIS IS TO BE A RELATIVELY COMPLEX OPERATION FOR ISRAEL'S SMALL NAVY. IDF OFFICIALS ARE AFRAID THAT THE ACTIVISTS ON BOARD THE SHIPS WILL SEEK TO CLASH WITH THE IDF TROOPS, WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO OVERPOWER THEM BEFORE THEY REACH THE GAZA COAST, AND WILL TRY TO DOCUMENT THE ANTICIPATED UPHEAVAL SO AS TO EMBARRASS ISRAEL.

THE SHIPS THAT ARE TAKEN OVER BY THE NAVY WILL BE TOWED TO THE ASHDOD PORT, WHERE A SPECIAL DETENTION CENTER HAS BEEN SET UP FOR THE PEACE ACTIVISTS AND PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS WHO WILL BE ARRESTED BY THE IDF.

THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT TURKEY WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FLOTILLA. AN ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOAL HARBORED BY THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA WAS TO CREATE A PROVOCATION AND NOT TO HAVE GOODS ENTER THE GAZA STRIP.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW -- INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST, LARGEST CIRCULATION HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 413922

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, URGENT, HUMAN RIGHTS
SERIAL: GMP20100531739002
COUNTRY: TURKEY, ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

SUBJ: TURKISH VIDEO SHOWS GAZA-BOUND AID SHIP SEIZED BY ISRAELI FORCES (U)

SOURCE: ISTANBUL HURRIYET ONLINE IN TURKISH 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

FOR A COPY OF THE VIDEO, (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507

PUBLICATIONS

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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A 0422 GMT POOL REPORT GIVES SCANT DETAILS OF THE ISRAELI TAKEOVER OF GAZA-BOUND AID SHIPS. A VIDEO CLIP SHOWS THE TROOPS.

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100531739002001.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE SUBTITLED 2.34-MINUTE VIDEO CLIP SHOWING "THE MOMENT OF ATTACK ON THE AID SHIP."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ISTANBUL HURRIYET ONLINE IN TURKISH -- WEBSITE OF PRO-SECULAR, MASS-APPEAL DAILY, ONE OF COUNTRY'S TOP CIRCULATION PAPERS, OWNED BY DOGAN MEDIA GROUP; URL: HTTP://WWW.HURRIYET.COM.TR

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 451196

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MEDIA, MILITARY, TERRORISM
SERIAL: EUP20100605031013
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM

SUBJ: UK COMMENTARY CRITICIZES ISRAEL FOR LACKING UNIFIED MEDIA MESSAGE ON GAZA CONVOY (U)

REF: 1. UK EDITORIAL URGES INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION TO BREAK ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE OF GAZA EUP20100605031012 INDEPENDENT ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
2. UK COMMENTARY ACCUSES WESTERN MEDIA OF HELPING ISRAELI PROPAGANDA ON GAZA CONVOY EUP20100605031011 INDEPENDENT ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
3. UK DAILY ARGUES WEST NEED NOT FEAR TURKISH SHIFT TO 'NEO-OTTOMAN' FOREIGN POLICY EUP20100605031006
GUARDIAN.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
4. UK COMMENTARY ARGUES PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP BLOWING AWAY FROM FATAH TOWARD HAMAS EUP20100605031005 GUARDIAN.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
5. UK SOURCE PUBLISH SWEDISH AUTHOR'S DIARY DESCRIBING ISRAEL'S RAID ON GAZA CONVOY EUP20100605031004
GUARDIAN.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
6. UK SOURCE SAYS EYEWITNESS ACCUSES ISRAEL OF 'SHOOTING TO KILL' ON GAZA CONVOY EUP20100605031003 GUARDIAN.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
7. UK SOURCE REVEALS AUTOPSIES SHOWING GAZA CONVOY DEAD SHOT IN HEAD AT CLOSE RANGE EUP20100605031001 GUARDIAN.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)
SOURCE: LONDON TELEGRAPH.CO.UK IN ENGLISH 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:
COMMENTARY BY CHARLES MOORE: "WHY HAS ISRAEL DISARMED ITSELF IN THE BATTLE FOR WORLD OPINION?" (U)
INTERNET
OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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ONE WOULD BE PERFECTLY JUSTIFIED IN WRITING AN ENTIRE COLUMN ATTACKING THE WAY ISRAEL HAS BEEN MISREPRESENTED OVER ITS FATAL RAID ON THE FLOTILLA BOUND FOR GAZA ON MONDAY. ONE COULD POINT OUT THAT THE IHH, WHICH WAS IN CHARGE OF THE TURKISH BOAT WHICH WAS ATTACKED, HAS WELL-ATTESTED LINKS TO TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS. IT WAS SPOILING FOR A FIGHT: SOME OF THOSE ON BOARD SPOKE OF THEIR DESIRE FOR "MARTYRDOM". ONE COULD ADD THAT THE MEN WHO FOUGHT THE ISRAELI COMMANDOS WERE STRANGELY DESCRIBED BY ABC AS "HUMANITARIANS WITH A FEW KNIVES". CHANTING ANTI-JEWISH BATTLE-CRIES, THEY STABBED AN ISRAELI SOLDIER BEFORE, IT SEEMS, THE ISRAELIS HAD SHOT ANYONE. THE SAME "HUMANITARIANS", JUDGING BY FAIRLY CLEAR FILM OF THE INCIDENT, TRIED TO CLUB ISRAELIS TO DEATH.

THERE WAS NO NEED, ONE MIGHT GO ON, FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO TRAVEL BY THESE MEANS, SINCE THE ISRAELIS WERE PREPARED TO DELIVER IT THEMSELVES, AS THEY REGULARLY DELIVER AID OF THEIR OWN TO GAZA. THE PURPOSE OF THE GAZA BLOCKADE, NOW ROUNDLY CONDEMNED BY WORLD LEADERS, WAS ORIGINALLY BACKED UP BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. VARIOUS FORCES, INCLUDING THE ROYAL NAVY, SAID THEY WOULD HELP INTERDICT SUPPLIES OF ARMS TO GAZA: IT COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO BECOME, IN EFFECT, AN IRANIAN PORT. AND ONE COULD REMIND THE WORLD THAT THE REASON GAZA IS AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY AT ALL IS THAT, IN 2005, ISRAEL WITHDREW FROM IT.

FINALLY, ONE MIGHT NOTE SARCASTICALLY THAT WORLD OPINION'S INSTANTANEOUS OUTRAGE AGAINST ISRAEL'S ACTION CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH ITS MARKED RELUCTANCE TO RUSH TO JUDGMENT WHEN NORTH KOREA SINKS A SOUTH KOREAN SHIP, OR, MOST NOTABLY, WHEN IRAN TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS BUILDING ITS BOMB.

BUT I SHALL SAY NO MORE ABOUT ANY OF THESE THINGS, BECAUSE WHAT FRIENDS OF ISRAEL NEED TO SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT THIS MESS IS ISRAEL'S FAULT.

I DO NOT MEAN, AS SO MANY DO, THAT ISRAEL IS WICKED AND AGGRESSIVE, LET ALONE - AS IS OFTEN, ALMOST OBSCENELY, CLAIMED - THAT ITS ACTIONS REPLICATE THE BEHAVIOUR OF APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA OR EVEN OF NAZIS IN THE HOLOCAUST. I MEAN THAT ISRAEL IS AT FAULT BECAUSE, BY FAILING TO DEFINE THE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT, IT IS ALLOWING SUCH VIEWS TO WIN.

IN FEWER THAN 10 DAYS' TIME, NEARLY 40 YEARS AFTER THE EVENT ITSELF, AND 13 YEARS AND (-POUND-CURRENCY-)191 MILLION AFTER IT WAS ESTABLISHED, THE SAVILLE INQUIRY ON BLOODY SUNDAY IN LONDON DERRY WILL REPORT. THIS SAGA IS A TERRIBLE LESSON IN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WRONG NARRATIVE IS ALLOWED TO CAPTURE THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS. THIS WEEK'S EVENT, PERHAPS PROMPTED BY A SIMILAR, ILL-DISCIPLINED IMPULSE TO TEACH BAD PEOPLE A LESSON, MAY WELL BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL AT THE BAR OF WORLD OPINION 40 YEARS HENCE.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001003

THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN SO DIFFERENT IF ISRAEL HAD SET THE STAGE. THESE CONVOYS, AFTER ALL, ARE NOT NEW. THEIR PROPAGANDA FOR EXTREMISM IS WELL KNOWN, BUT ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE, SO EXPERT AT TRACING THE NETWORKS OF ACTUAL VIOLENCE, SEEMS STRANGELY WEAK IN FOLLOWING THEIR WIDER IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND, SO THE WORLD WAS NOT TOLD NEARLY ENOUGH ABOUT THE PEOPLE ON BOARD. WEEKS AGO, ISRAEL COULD HAVE BEEN WARNING ABOUT THE FLOTILLA. IT COULD HAVE LOBBIED POPULATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND ISLAMIST FANATICS.

IF MILITARY INTERVENTION REALLY WAS NECESSARY, ISRAEL COULD SURELY HAVE FOUND TECHNICAL WAYS TO IMMOBILISE A BOAT WITHOUT ARMED MEN HAVING TO SHIN DOWN A ROPE. WHEN THE ISRAELIS COMPLAIN THAT THEY WERE ATTACKED BY PEOPLE WHO CLAIM THEY ARE PEACEFUL, THEY HAVE A POINT, BUT, GIVEN THAT THEY NEVER BELIEVED THEY WERE PEACEFUL, WHY WERE THESE TOUGHEST OF TOUGH COMMANDOS APPARENTLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE? WHAT SURPRISED THEM?

THE FAILURE, ABOVE ALL, IS IN WHAT IS NOW CALLED (SEE LAST WEEK'S COLUMN) "THE BATTLE OF THE NARRATIVES". I AM GRATEFUL TO THE LATEST JOINT DOCTRINE PUBLICATION PROMULGATED BY OUR CHIEFS OF STAFF (SECURITY AND STABILISATION: THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION) FOR TWO TELLING QUOTATIONS. ONE IS FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF WAR, DRAWN UP BY HEZBOLLAH HIZBALLAH, HAMAS'S MURDEROUS COUSINS IN THE LEBANON. ONE PRINCIPLE STATES: "THE MEDIA HAS INNUMERABLE GUNS WHOSE HITS ARE LIKE BULLETS. USE THEM IN BATTLE." THE OTHER IS FROM GENERAL KEIGHTLEY, WHO COMMANDED THE ILL-FATED BRITISH OPERATION IN THE SUEZ CRISIS IN 1956. "THE ONE OVERRIDING LESSON OF THE SUEZ OPERATION," HE SAID, "IS THAT WORLD OPINION IS NOW AN ABSOLUTE PRINCIPLE... AND MUST BE TREATED AS SUCH."

ISRAEL HAS FOUGHT SO LONG, AND USUALLY SO WELL, IN REAL BATTLES, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO FIGHT IN VERBAL ONES. ON THE DAY OF THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT, ALL THE OUTRAGED GOVERNMENTS WERE ON THE AIRWAVES ALMOST BEFORE ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED. BUT IT TOOK FIVE AND A HALF HOURS BEFORE THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN AMERICA APPEARED IN PUBLIC. QUITE A LOT OF ARTICULATE PEOPLE SPOKE UP IN ISRAEL'S SUPPORT - IT REALLY WILL BE A BLACK DAY WHEN THERE ARE NO ARTICULATE PEOPLE TO BE FOUND TO DEFEND THE JEWISH STATE - BUT THEY HAD NO CLEAR, COORDINATED, ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MESSAGE, AND SO THEIR "INNUMERABLE GUNS" WERE POINTING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

BY CONTRAST, THE "HUMANITARIAN" NARRATIVE WAS CONSTANTLY REPEATED WITH ALL THE EFFICIENT DISHONESTY THAT TERRORISTS, WHEN THEY USE THAT WORD, DEPLOY SO WELL.

WHAT HAS GONE WRONG? EXPERTS TELL ME THAT THERE IS NO PROPER CO-ORDINATION, THAT NO ONE PERSON IS IN CHARGE OF SHAPING AND COMMUNICATING ISRAEL'S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD, AND THAT NO ONE IS SACKED. IT IS MOST ODD THAT THE GOVERNMENT LED BY BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, WHO CAME TO FAME 20 YEARS AGO DURING THE FIRST GULF WAR PRECISELY BECAUSE HE KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF TALKING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, IS SO QUIET. HE SEEMS TRAPPED IN THE GOVERNMENT MACHINE. SOMEWHERE DOWN THE YEARS, ISRAEL ALLOWED ITSELF TO FORGET THAT ITS GREATEST WEAPON IS THE STORY IT CAN TELL ABOUT ITSELF.

ISRAEL IS UNDERSTANDABLY OBSESSED WITH SECURITY, BUT ITS GREATEST SECURITY LIES ULTIMATELY NOT IN THE ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCES, BUT IN POLITICAL WARFARE. IN THE SIX DAY WAR OF 1967, WHAT SWEEPED ALL BEFORE IT WAS THE COMBINATION OF MILITARY MIGHT AND A STORY THE WORLD WANTED TO HEAR, THAT OF DAVID BEATING GOLIATH. MOST OF THE WORLD IS NOT DEEPLY INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENS IN ISRAEL, AND PROBABLY DOES NOT WANT TO BE DELUGED WITH LEGALISTIC DEFENCES OF PARTICULAR ACTIONS. WHAT IT WANTS IS A CLEAR, CALM, REPEATED CASE. IT IS A CASE - AIMED MORE AT PUBLIC OPINION THAN AT FOREIGN MINISTRIES - ABOUT FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, A WESTERN WAY OF LIFE AND THE NEED FOR THE WHOLE OF THE FREE WORLD TO FIGHT TERRORISM.

SOMETIMES YOU HEAR ISRAELIS SAY: "IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE SAY. THE WHOLE WORLD IS AGAINST US." YOU CAN SEE WHY THEY SAY IT, FOR THEY ARE INDEED UNFAIRLY TREATED. BUT WHEN THEY SAY IT, THEY ARE UTTERING A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY. IF THEY WON'T SAY WHAT NEEDS SAYING, NO ONE ELSE WILL SAY IT FOR THEM.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: LONDON TELEGRAPH.CO.UK IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RESPECTED BEST-SELLING CENTER-RIGHT BROADSHEET; REGARDED AS THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT; READ BY POLICY AND OPINION MAKERS; URL: [HTTP://WWW.TELEGRAPH.CO.UK](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

331-2

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001004

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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100810738002
COUNTRY: ISRAEL
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN

SUBJ: ISRAEL WON'T LET UN TO QUESTION IDF SOLDIERS ON FLOTILLA; PM CLARIFIES TESTIMONY (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL: NETANYAHU ENDS TESTIMONY TO GAZA FLOTILLA PANEL, SAYS IDF COORDINATED RAID GMP20100809738001
ISRAEL – OSC SUMMARY ENGLISH 0000 GMT 09 AUG 10 (U)
SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 10 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

INTERNET

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NETANYAHU: ISRAEL WON'T ALLOW UN FLOTILLA PANEL TO QUESTION IDF SOLDIERS

BARAQ RAVID REPORTS IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH: A GOVERNMENT SOURCE SAID MONDAY THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT ALLOW A UNITED NATIONS INVESTIGATION INTO AN ISRAELI RAID ON A GAZA-BOUND AID FLOTILLA TO QUESTION ISRAELI SOLDIERS. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THIS 'CRUCIAL' CONDITION FOR ISRAEL'S COOPERATION IN THE INVESTIGATION WAS MADE CLEAR TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON. THE FOUR-MEMBER UN PANEL APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE ISRAELI RAID ABOARD THE TURKISH SHIP MAVI MARMARA, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF NINE TURKISH ACTIVISTS ON MAY 31, WAS TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING WITH BAN ON TUESDAY.

"THE ISRAELI SOURCE SAID MONDAY THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DEAL STRUCK BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UN CHIEF, THE UN INQUIRY WOULD BASE ITS CONCLUSIONS ON REPORTS COMPOSED BY ISRAELI AND TURKISH INVESTIGATION COMMISSIONS. THE SOURCE FURTHER REVEALED THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DEAL, ANY FURTHER INQUIRY THE PANEL WOULD WISH TO MAKE WOULD HAVE TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE APPROPRIATE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES -- WHOSE IDENTITY WILL BE DETERMINED SOLELY BY ISRAEL."

STATE-FUNDED BUT INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW REPORTS AT 0400 GMT: "PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT COOPERATE WITH ANY COMMISSION SEEKING TO QUESTION IDF SOLDIERS. JERUSALEM STRESSES THAT BEFORE ISRAEL ACQUIESCED TO THE PANEL, IT WAS EXPLICITLY AGREED THAT ITS MEMBERS WOULD NOT QUESTION IDF SOLDIERS AND THAT NO INFORMATION WOULD BE HANDED TO THEM BEYOND THE FINDINGS OF THE TURKEL AND EILAND COMMITTEES."

PM ISSUES CLARIFICATION AFTER TURKEL COMMITTEE TESTIMONY DRAWS 'FIERCE' POLITICAL ATTACK

HERB KEINON REPORTS IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH ON PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE TURKEL COMMITTEE ON 9 AUGUST TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HAD GIVEN CLEAR DIRECTIVES BEFORE LEAVING ON HIS

333-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001005

TRIP TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES THAT DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAQ WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF DEALING WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE FLOTILLA TO GAZA.

SAYS KEINON: "WITHIN MINUTES OF THESE COMMENTS, NETANYAHU CAME UNDER FIERCE POLITICAL ATTACK, ESPECIALLY FROM QADIMA, FOR WHAT IT SAID WAS THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTEMPT TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT TO BARAQ. 'NETANYAHU'S TESTIMONY TO THE TURKEL COMMISSION PROVES ONCE AGAIN THAT THERE IS NO LEADERSHIP,' QADIMA SAID IN A STATEMENT. 'AT THE MOMENT OF TRUTH, HE PUT THE BLAME ON OTHERS AND MADE THE IDF INTO A PUNCHING-BAG.'

"QADIMA HEAD TZIPI LIVNI WROTE THE TURKEL COMMITTEE ON MONDAY NIGHT ASKING THAT IT ALLOW HER TO TESTIFY ABOUT HER ROLE IN THE DECISION TO IMPOSE A MARITIME BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP WHEN SHE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER IN FORMER PRIME MINISTER EHUD OLMERT'S GOVERNMENT. SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO PRESENT ALL THE DIPLOMATIC AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS THAT WENT INTO THE DECISION, WHICH SHE SAID NETANYAHU DID NOT EXPLAIN PROPERLY IN HIS TESTIMONY. 'UNLIKE NETANYAHU, WHO PROVED TODAY THAT HE DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MOMENT OF TRUTH AND THROWS IT ON OTHERS, LIVNI ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY AND ASKS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE,' A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE OPPOSITION LEADER SAID.

"NETANYAHU'S OFFICE, FEELING THAT HIS WORDS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE BEING TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, ISSUED A CLARIFICATION SOON AFTER HIS APPEARANCE, STATING THAT HE SAID UPON LEAVING THE HEARING THAT 'AS PRIME MINISTER, THE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY ALWAYS FALLS ON ME, WHETHER I AM IN THE COUNTRY OR ABROAD, AND THAT WAS THE CASE IN THIS INSTANCE AS WELL.'"

VOICE OF ISRAEL ADDS AT 0500 GMT: "MINISTER BENI BEGIN OF THE LIKUD SAID THIS MORNING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS CONCERNING DEFENSE MINISTER BARAQ HAD BEEN DISTORTED AND THAT SOMEBODY HAD TO BE PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S ABSENCE. HE NOTED THAT NETANYAHU'S REMARKS DO NOT MEAN THAT HE IS EVADING RESPONSIBILITY.

"LABOR MK EYTAN CABEL OF LABOR SAID THAT NETANYAHU'S REMARKS WERE RATHER UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THAT HE WAS SHIFTING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER.

"QADIMA MK ME'IR SHITRIT ALSO SAID THE IMPRESSION GIVEN WAS ONE OF NETANYAHU SHIFTING THE BLAME TO BARAQ AND THE POLITICAL LEVEL SHIFTING THE BLAME TO THE IDF."

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001006

R 061105Z JUN 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
OQQQ
CITE OSC RESTON VA 453718

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY
SERIAL: GMP20100606738012
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: ISRAEL: PURCHASE OF US EQUIPMENT NIXED BY IDF COULD HAVE AVERTED FLOTILLA FIASCO (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH (06 JUN 10) (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY AMIR OREN: "ADVANCED HELICOPTER EQUIPMENT COULD HAVE UNBOTCHED MARMARA OPERATION." FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS, CONTACT (b)(3); 50 USC § 3507

(b)(3); 50 USC § 3507

INTERNET

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(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100606738012001.JPG)
(PHOTO: HAARETZ)

THE IDF LACKS A SIMPLE BUT SMART PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE BOTCHED TAKEOVER OF THE MARMARA LAST WEEK: A CHOPPER-BORNE "BASKET" TO HOLD SOLDIERS. SUCH A CARRIER, WHOSE AMERICAN FORM IS CALLED A HELI-BASKET, WAS PROPOSED FOR USE BY THE IDF YEARS AGO FOR RESCUE MISSIONS AND THOSE LIKE THE MARMARA TAKEOVER. THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE IAF AND THE DEFENSE MINISTRY DECIDED THE NEED FOR THE EQUIPMENT WAS NOT PROVEN, AND FUNDING COULD NOT BE FOUND. THOSE NIXING THE USE OF THE BASKET INCLUDED THE HEAD OF THE IAF'S HELICOPTER

SQUADRON, THE HOME FRONT COMMAND AND THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION OF WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

EIGHT TO 16 COMBAT SOLDIERS CAN BE CARRIED IN THE BASKET, WHICH IS SUSPENDED FROM AN ASSAULT HELICOPTER AND LOWERED TO THE DECK OF A SHIP. ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER, SOLDIERS CAN BE LOWERED TO THE DECK FAR MORE QUICKLY THAN SOLDIERS SLIDING DOWN A ROPE. IF THE COMMANDOS WHO BOARDED THE MARMARA BY SLIDING DOWN A ROPE ONE BY ONE HAD BEEN LOWERED TOGETHER IN SUCH A DEVICE, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO NUMERICALLY INFERIOR WHEN FACING OFF AGAINST A MOB. IN DESCRIPTIONS OF TAKEOVERS OF HIJACKED PLANES BY SPECIAL FORCES, WITH BOTH HIJACKERS AND HOSTAGES, THE NEED FOR SIMULTANEOUS ASSAULT BY A LARGE CONTINGENT IS STRESSED.

THE BASKET IS MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES IN TWO VERSIONS, A 2-TON, WHICH HOLDS 20, AND A 3-TON, WHICH HOLDS 30. ANOTHER MODEL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN ISRAEL IN RECENT YEARS BY OLIVE ENGINEERING, OWNED BY NEHEMYA COHEN. UNLIKE THE AMERICAN VERSION, THE ISRAELI BASKET IS REINFORCED AND EQUIPPED WITH A WATER CANON TO COMBAT PROTESTERS. THE BASKET'S HOMING

DEVICE SETS IT DOWN WITHIN A FEW DOZEN CENTIMETERS FROM A TARGET LOCATION. THE AMERICAN DEVICE, WHICH CAN BE OUTFITTED FOR COMBAT SITUATIONS, WAS DESIGNED ORIGINALLY TO QUICKLY EVACUATE DISASTER VICTIMS FROM HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS, MOUNTAIN TOPS AND SINKING OR DISABLED SHIPS. IT WAS DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 9/11 ATTACK ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER. THE US NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN USING THE HELI-BASKET SINCE 2003, AND THE US AIR FORCE AUTHORIZED ITS USE IN 2006.

WHEN THE PURCHASE OF BASKET, WHICH CAN ALSO BE USED IN THE CLEANSING FOLLOW-UP OF CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS, WAS PROPOSED ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO TO UNIT 669, THE HEAD OF THE IAF'S HELICOPTER BATTALION AND THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION CONDITIONED PURCHASE ON COOPERATION WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY, WHICH HAD STUDIED THE IDEA BUT HAD DECIDED AGAINST IT. ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, IT WAS DETERMINED THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE EQUIPMENT, BUT THE DECISION IS STILL BEING PROCESSED. A DECISION TO PURCHASE THE HELI-BASKET WITH AMERICAN AID DOLLARS WOULD BRING THE EQUIPMENT FAIRLY QUICKLY, BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE SOME OUTFITTING FOR COMBAT USE. INVESTING IN COMPLETING DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISRAELI MODEL TO SUIT IDF NEEDS WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT \$200,000.

SIMILAR EXPENSIVE, MISTAKEN DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE OVER THE LAST DECADE. FOR EXAMPLE, A 2004 PROPOSAL TO THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION TO COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF A ROCKET INTERCEPTOR WAS REJECTED, LEADING TO GREATER EXPOSURE OF THE HOME FRONT TO HIZBALLAH WEAPONS IN THE SUMMER OF 2006. DISDAIN FOR PROPOSALS TO THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND THE GROUND FORCES COMMAND ALSO REPORTEDLY PREVENTED THE EXPOSURE OF TUNNELS, AMONG THEM THE ONE THAT LED TO THE ABDUCTION OF GIL'AD SHALIT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: [HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM](http://www.haaretz.com)

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 531618

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100618746006
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, IRAN, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: ISRAEL NAVY OFFICER COMMANDING FLOTILLA RAID GIVES 'IN-DEPTH' DETAILS OF EVENTS (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH 18 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:
ARTICLE BY YA'AQOV KATZ: "THE NAVY MAN WITH THE PLAN" (U)
INTERNET

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TWO-AND-A-HALF WEEKS AGO, NOW A VICE-ADMIRAL AND DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE ISRAEL NAVY, BEN-YEHUDA WAS COMMANDING OPERATION SEA BREEZE 7 FROM THE NAVY'S UNDERGROUND COMMAND CENTER SEVERAL STORIES BELOW MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN TEL AVIV. HE WATCHED THE LIVE THERMAL VIDEO FEED AS THE COMMANDOS FROM FLOTILLA 13 QUICKLY RAPPELLED DOWN ONTO THE UPPER DECK OF THE MAVI MARMARA WHERE THEY CAME UNDER ATTACK.

THE RESULT OF THE OPERATION WAS NINE DEAD, ALL OF THEM SAID BY THE IDF TO BE "MERCENARIES" WHO PARTICIPATED IN A WELL-PLANNED ATTACK ON THE COMMANDOS.

BUT THAT WAS JUST THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH. THE AFTERSHOCKS OF THE OPERATION ARE STILL BEING FELT OVER TWO WEEKS LATER, WITH ALMOST DAILY REPORTS IN THE TURKISH MEDIA ABOUT THE CANCELLATION OF DEFENSE CONTRACTS WITH ISRAELI COMPANIES AND CANCELLATIONS OF JOINT EXERCISES WITH THE IDF. RELIANT MERMAID XI, SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST, IS NOW ALSO LIKELY TO BE CANCELLED.

BUT BEN-YEHUDA DOES NOT FEEL THE NEED TO APOLOGIZE. IN AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE JERUSALEM POST THIS WEEK AT HIS OFFICE IN NAVY HEADQUARTERS, HE EXPLAINED HOW THE COMMANDOS WALKED INTO A WELL-PLANNED TRAP. YES, HE ADMITTED, THE NAVY DID NOT HAVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE TURKISH ORGANIZATION IHH WAS PLANNING TO ATTACK THE COMMANDOS WITH CLUBS, METAL BARS, KNIVES AND STOLEN PISTOLS. BUT, ONCE THEY REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING, WITHIN 90 SECONDS THE COMMANDOS SUCCEEDED IN TURNING THE TABLES ON THEIR ATTACKERS.

"THERE WAS A CLEVER GROUP OF TERRORISTS ON THE SHIP WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM AND PLANNED TO KIDNAP, INJURE AND KILL ISRAELI SOLDIERS," BEN-YEHUDA SAID. HE ALSO HAS NO DOUBT THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE TERRORISTS. "SOMEONE WHO TAKES A KNIFE AND CHARGES A SOLDIER IS A TERRORIST. YOU DON'T NEED TO COME WITH AN ASSAULT RIFLE," HE SAID. "BUT WHEN YOU TURN FROM A CIVILIAN WHO CURSES AND SLAPS TO A CIVILIAN WHO STABS AND BEATS WITH CLUBS OR STEALS A WEAPON FROM A SOLDIER, YOU TURN FROM A CIVILIAN INTO A TERRORIST."

IF THAT WAS THE CASE THEN WHY DIDN'T THE SO CALLED TERRORISTS CARRY REAL WEAPONS? BEN-YEHUDA HAD A CLEAR EXPLANATION. "THE GROUP KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING, AND IF THEY WERE TO ATTACK THE SOLDIERS WITH GUNS RIGHT AWAY, IT WOULD SHATTER THEIR IMAGE AS HUMANITARIAN ACTIVISTS, THE IMAGE OF THE WEAK AGAINST THE STRONG," HE SAID.

THE IDF, HE ADDED, HAS COLLECTED EVIDENCE REGARDING SEVERAL DOZEN PASSENGERS ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA WHO HAVE ALLEGED TIES WITH TERROR ORGANIZATIONS. SOME OF THEM ARE EVEN KNOWN TO THE IDF FROM PREVIOUS RUN-INS WITH TERROR GROUPS.

"THERE ARE GROWING SIGNS AND PROOF THAT THERE WERE DOZENS OF PEOPLE ON THE SHIP WHO HAD CONNECTIONS WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS FROM AROUND THE REGION AND THE WORLD," BEN-YEHUDA SAID.

HE SAID THE NAVY HAD TWO DIFFERENT WAYS TO BOARD THE SHIP – ONE MORE AGGRESSIVE WITH TEAR GAS, STUN GRENADES AND WARNING SHOTS. THE OTHER WAS THE WAY THE COMMANDOS BOARDED, WITH PAINT-BALL GUNS ON THEIR BACKS AND PISTOLS ON THEIR THIGHS.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT THE OUTCOME IS NOT WHAT WE EXPECTED, SINCE WE WANTED AN INCIDENT WITHOUT ANY CASUALTIES," HE SAID. "BUT WHAT WOULD THE WORLD HAVE SAID IF I BOARDED AGGRESSIVELY AND THEN INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE HURT? IN THIS CASE, WE PREFERRED TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE INNOCENT CIVILIANS WHO WERE ABOARD THE SHIP."

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"WE EXPECTED LIGHT RESISTANCE BUT NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET A GROUP OF TERRORISTS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN THE END "NO INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE KILLED, ONLY THE TERRORISTS. WHEN YOU GO INTO A BUILDING THAT TERRORISTS HAVE TAKEN OVER AND YOU KILL THE TERRORISTS AND FREE THE BUILDING, THIS IS ALSO A SUCCESS. THIS WAS THE CASE HERE AS WELL."

BESIDES WISHING FOR BETTER INTELLIGENCE, BEN-YEHUDA HAS ONE MAIN REGRET -- NOT PREPARING THE PUBLIC FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WOULD BE CASUALTIES IN THE OPERATION.

"HAD WE KNOWN THAT THERE WOULD BE A GROUP OF TERRORISTS ABOARD THE SHIP WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF KILLING ISRAELI SOLDIERS, WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PREEMPTIVE ACTION BY EXPLAINING WHAT THE SHIP WAS DOING AND WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE," HE SAID. "WE SHOULD HAVE WARNED THE INNOCENT ACTIVISTS WHAT COULD HAPPEN." THAT IS WHY NOW THE NAVY IS NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES, PARTICULARLY AS SHIPS FROM IRAN AND LEBANON ARE SCHEDULED TO TRY TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE IN THE COMING DAYS. IHH HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL SEND SIX NEW SHIPS TO GAZA NEXT MONTH.

WHILE ISRAEL DOES NOT HAVE INTELLIGENCE INDICATING THE IRANIAN SHIPS ARE CARRYING WEAPONRY, BEN-YEHUDA SAID THAT THE NAVY'S ASSUMPTION IS THAT PROVOCATEURS WOULD BE ON BOARD.

"I RECOMMEND THAT HUMANITARIAN ACTIVISTS WHO ARE PLANNING ON PARTICIPATING IN THESE NEW FLOTILLAS THINK VERY HARD, BECAUSE THEY CANNOT KNOW WHO IS ON THESE SHIPS," HE SAID. "WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE GROUPS THAT WILL TRY TO MAKE PROVOCATIONS AND REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED ON THE MAVI MARMARA."

THE CRITICISM FOLLOWING THE OPERATION AND THE SUBSEQUENT COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY HAVE NOT SKIPPED OVER BEN-YEHUDA OR THE NAVY, WHICH IS CURRENTLY PREPARING TO EXPLAIN THE OPERATION AND THE STAFF WORK THAT PRECEDED IT.

BEN-YEHUDA POINTED TO A THICK SPIRAL BOOK ON HIS DESK WHICH CONTAINED ALL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE NAVY AND VARIOUS DEFENSE COMPANIES AROUND THE WORLD FROM THE PAST 22 YEARS REGARDING THE SEARCH FOR A TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN BE USED TO STOP A SHIP WITHOUT HAVING TO BOARD IT. THE DOCUMENTS COME IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, INDICATING THE NAVY'S CONTACTS WITH MILITARIES AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. "THERE IS NO WAY TO STOP A SHIP WITHOUT PUTTING SOLDIERS ON THE DECK," HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, THE NAVY HAS EXAMINED NUMEROUS TYPES OF SYSTEMS -- FROM ROPES THAT CAN BE THROWN INTO A SHIP'S PROPELLER TO SMALL SUBMARINES THAT CAN SAIL UNDER A SHIP AND SABOTAGE ITS NAVIGATION SYSTEMS. AS RECENTLY AS 2008, THE NAVY HELD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS AIMED AT DISCOVERING NEW TECHNOLOGY, ALBEIT WITHOUT SUCCESS. "THERE IS NO NAVY IN THE WORLD THAT HAS A SOLUTION FOR THIS PROBLEM," HE SAID.

WHILE THE NAVY CAME UNDER CRITICISM FOR BOARDING THE SHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, BEN-YEHUDA REVEALED THAT THE IDF HELD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE WITH MARITIME LAW EXPERTS TO SHARPEN THE LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE OPERATION. THE REASON INTERNATIONAL WATERS WERE CHOSEN WAS OUT OF CONCERN THAT IF THE SHIPS WERE ALLOWED TO APPROACH GAZA, THE NAVY WOULD FIND ITSELF BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL FLOTILLA ON ONE SIDE AND POSSIBLE HAMAS TERROR BOATS ON THE OTHER.

HE ALSO HAD NO DOUBT THAT UNDER THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND WITH HAMAS IN CONTROL OF THE GAZA STRIP, THE SEA BLOCKADE IS IMPERATIVE FOR SECURITY. THE BLOCKADE, HE SAID, IS LEGITIMATE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND WAS USED, HE SAID, BY COALITION FORCES DURING THE FIRST GULF WAR ON THE PORT OF AQABAH, WHICH THE AMERICANS THOUGHT WAS BEING USED TO SMUGGLE WEAPONRY TO IRAQ. "ISRAEL DID NOT INVENT THIS, AND NEITHER DID THE NAVY," HE SAID.

THERE IS ALSO, HE SAID, NO REAL WAY TO BOARD SHIPS AT SEA AND DISCOVER WELL-HIDDEN EXPLOSIVES AND WEAPONRY. "WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT," HE ASKS, "FOR US TO RIP APART HUNDREDS OF SACKS OF RICE AND EQUIPMENT? THE ONLY WAY IS AT A PORT, AND THAT IS WHY WE OFFERED THE FLOTILLA NUMEROUS TIMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO DOCK IN ASHDOD, UNLOAD THE SUPPLIES AND TRANSFER IT TO THE GAZA STRIP."

IF THE BLOCKADE IS LIFTED, HE HAS NO DOUBT THAT HAMAS WILL WITHIN DAYS BEGIN RECEIVING SHIPMENT AFTER SHIPMENT OF WEAPONRY. "YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A GREAT STRATEGIST TO FIGURE THIS OUT," HE SAID. "IN THE END, LONG-RANGE MISSILES WILL FALL ON TEL AVIV AND WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY THEN? WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: [HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL](http://www.jpost.co.il)

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R 130133Z MAY 10
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TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 302914

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100513966005
COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, JORDAN, TURKEY

SUBJ: AMMUN NEWS: JD 120K RAISED FOR VIVA PALESTINA LIFELINE TO GAZA (U)

SOURCE: AMMAN AMMUN NEWS IN ENGLISH 0112 GMT 13 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"JD 120K RAISED FOR VIVA PALESTINA LIFELINE TO GAZA" – AMMUN NEWS (U)

INTERNET

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2010-05-12

AMMONNEWS - MUHAMMAD ABDUL MAHDI - THE LIFELINE TO GAZA COMMITTEE AT THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS COMPLEX ON WEDNESDAY HELD A NATIONAL DAY TO SUPPORT THE JORDANIAN AID CONVOY THAT WILL BE SENT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CAMPAIGN "VIVA PALESTINA" LAUNCHED FROM TURKEY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL POPULIST AND PARLIAMENTARY FIGURES. THE CONVOY IS EXPECTED TO REACH GAZA BY THE END OF MAY. LIFELINE TO GAZA COMMITTEE RAISED IN ITS FIRST HOURS OF LAUNCHING IN AMMAN OVER JD 120,000 BY WEDNESDAY NOON TIME, FATHI ABU NASSAR, THE COMMITTEE ORGANIZER, TOLD 'AMMON NEWS.' PEOPLE WERE EAGER TO DONATE, AND DONATION BOXES WERE FILLING UP QUICKLY ON WEDNESDAY.

ABU NASSAR SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO GRANT AN "HONORARY CHAIR" WITHIN THE FLEET HEADING TO GAZA FOR WHOEVER DONATES JD 50,000. THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO PLANNING TO LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN TO FINANCE SHOOTING A DOCUMENTARY FILM FOR THE LIFELINE TO GAZA CONVOY FROM THE TIME IT LEAVES JORDAN UNTIL IT REACHES THE GAZA STRIP TO SHED LIGHT ON THE NECESSITY OF HELPING THE BESIEGED PEOPLE OF GAZA. THE CONVOY, WHICH WILL LEAVE TURKEY MAY 24TH, WILL BE CARRYING CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL, CEMENT, AND STEEL TO HELP REBUILD GAZA. BY BANAN MALKAWI

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: AMMAN AMMUN NEWS IN ENGLISH-- WEBSITE OF THE PRIVATELY-OWNED NEWS AGENCY PROVIDING INDEPENDENT COVERAGE OF DOMESTIC ISSUES; URL: [HTTP://EN.AMMONNEWS.NET](http://en.ammonnews.net)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 360707

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, HUMAN RIGHTS, TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MEDIA
SERIAL: GMP20100521739013
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, CYPRUS

SUBJ: ISRAELI NAVY BUILDS PORT COMPOUND TO HOLD GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA DETAINEES NEXT WEEK (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL NOT TO ALLOW SOLIDARITY FLOTILLA TO ENTER GAZA STRIP COAST 'NEXT WEEK' GMP20100518740011 MA'ARIV HEBREW 0000 GMT 18 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YISRA'EL HAYOM IN HEBREW 21 MAY 10 P 7(U)

TEXT:
REPORT BY LILAKH SHOVAL: "SIEGE PUT TO THE TEST." THIS PRODUCT IS PROVIDED BY THE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT ISRAEL NEWS TODAY, JERUSALEM, AND HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER US GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS. OSC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDITORIAL STANDARDS OF THIS TRANSLATION. (U)

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE LARGE FLOTILLA ARE UNDERWAY. THE ISRAEL NAVY IS PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF TEN VESSELS NEXT WEEK THAT INTEND TO ATTEMPT TO BREAK THROUGH WHAT THE FLOTILLA'S ORGANIZERS CALL "THE SIEGE ON GAZA." OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THE NAVY HAS ALSO BEGUN TO CONSTRUCT A COMPOUND AT ASHDOD PORT THAT WILL HOLD, IF NECESSARY, THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ARRESTED WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN ISRAEL AS PART OF THIS FLOTILLA. AS HAPPENED IN PREVIOUS FLOTILLAS THAT TRIED TO RUN THE BLOCKADE, THIS TIME, TOO, THE NAVY IS PREPARING TO PREVENT THE ACTIVISTS FROM REACHING THE GAZA STRIP.

IN ADDITION, MEETINGS WERE HELD ON HOW TO COPE WITH THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT, AND A DECISION WAS MADE TO DISPATCH PR PERSONNEL TO THE FOREIGN MEDIA IN ORDER TO REMIND THEM OF THE NATURE OF THE HAMAS REGIME IN GAZA.

PALESTINIAN SOURCES IN GAZA WHO ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA, WHICH HAS BECOME KNOWN AS "THE SHIPS' INTIFADAH," TOLD YISRA'EL HAYOM THAT BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, TEN VESSELS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROTEST FLOTILLA AND REACH THE COAST OF THE GAZA STRIP CARRYING TONS OF HUMANITARIAN EQUIPMENT, BASIC FOODSTUFFS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO ASSESSMENTS, THE VESSELS WILL SET SAIL FROM CYPRUS OR FROM TURKEY NEAR MIDNIGHT TOMORROW.

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THE FLOTILLA INCREASED THE TENSION BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND ANKARA EVEN MORE. THE REASON: TURKEY IS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT, DESPITE DIRECT WARNINGS FROM ISRAEL, IS ASSISTING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FLOTILLA. IN ADDITION, TURKISH PRIME MINISTER RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN MET WITH THE FLOTILLA'S ORGANIZERS (MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH ORGANIZATION IHH) AND WENT PUBLIC WITH HIS SUPPORT OF "BREAKING THE SIEGE ON GAZA." ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH ADMINISTRATION, ARTISTS AND MEDIA PERSONNEL WILL BE JOINING THE FLOTILLA.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR WESTERN EUROPE, NA'OR GILON, HELD A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF TURKEY IN ISRAEL LAST WEEK, DURING WHICH HE TOLD HIM THAT AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED, THE FLOTILLA IS "A PROVOCATION AND A VIOLATION OF ISRAELI LAW." THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO ACT TO STOP THE FLOTILLA, AND TO ISSUE A FIRM AND PUBLIC CALL TO HIS COUNTRY'S CITIZENS NOT TO TAKE PART IN IT.

"SHORTLY BEFORE THE DEPARTURE, THE SHIPS' CREWS WILL RECEIVE A CALL TO GO TO ONE OF THE PORTS IN TURKEY OR IN CYPRUS, AND ALL THE SHIPS WILL SET OUT FOR THE GAZA STRIP IN A SINGLE CONVOY. THIS IS IN THE HOPE THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT WANT TO LOSE POINTS IN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, AND WILL NOT PREVENT THE ENTRY OF HUNDREDS OF PEACE ACTIVISTS WHO WILL BE ARRIVING IN THE GAZA STRIP ON THE BOATS," A PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OFFICIAL SAID YESTERDAY.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YISRA'EL HAYOM IN HEBREW -- SECOND-LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE; OWNED BY AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN SHELDON ADELSON, A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001012

R 061536Z MAY 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/5471S NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 265153

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, HUMAN RIGHTS
SERIAL: GMP20100506739005
COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, IRELAND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN, EU

SUBJ: ISRAEL: TURKS SAID HELPING HAMAS PREPARE GAZA PORT FOR 'PROTEST FLOTILLA' ARRIVAL (U)

SOURCE: BET EL ARUTZ SHEVA ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0936 GMT 06 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY HILEL FENDEL: "TURKS HELP HAMAS WELCOME ANTI-ISRAEL SHIPS" (U)

INTERNET

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TURKISH AID IS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING HAMAS CLEAN AND PREPARE THE GAZA PORT, IN PREPARATION FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE ANTI-ISRAEL PROTEST FLOTILLA LATER THIS MONTH. PRO-PLO ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE THAT HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH HAMAS ARE PLANNING A FLOTILLA OF AID TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE COORDINATORS OF WHAT SOME CALL THE "SHIP INTIFADA" WANT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH EGYPT, BUT APPEAR TO BE SEEKING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE ISRAELI NAVY, BACKED BY MEDIA AND DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGNS.

THIS PAST JANUARY, A SENIOR HAMAS OPERATIVE IN BRITAIN NAMED MUHAMMAD SAWALHA, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN LAUNCHING THE PREVIOUS FLOTILLA, SAID THE NEXT CONVOY WILL AVOID THE TYPE OF CONFRONTATION THAT OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS TIME WITH EGYPT, AND THAT NEXT TIME, "THE CONFRONTATION WILL BE DIRECTLY WITH THE ZIONIST ENEMY ITSELF ON THE HIGH SEAS." SWISS MP JOSEF ZISYADIS, ONE OF SEVERAL EUROPEAN MPS AND UN PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE ON THE SHIPS, TOGETHER WITH NEARLY 600 OTHERS, THREATENED THAT "IF ISRAEL TRIES TO STOP THE SHIPS, WE WILL SUE HER IN EUROPEAN COURTS."

THE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONALITIES INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING THE FLOTILLA ARE IHH, AN ISLAMIC-ORIENTED HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN TURKEY; A EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION NAMED THE EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN TO END THE SIEGE ON GAZA; AND THE INTERNATIONAL "FREE GAZA" ORGANIZATION THAT RAILS AGAINST THE ISRAELI "BLOCKADE" OF GAZA. IN ADDITION, THE INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER (ITIC), BASED IN RAMAT HASHARON, ISRAEL, STATES THAT PRO-PLO ACTIVISTS FROM SWEDEN AND GREECE HAVE PURCHASED TWO SHIPS FOR THE FLOTILLA, AND HAMAS SUPPORTERS IN BRITAIN -- INCLUDING MP GEORGE GALLOWAY - ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING THE UPCOMING FLOTILLA AND OTHERS.

ARUTZ-7'S HAGGAI HUBERMAN REPORTS THAT TURKISH ELEMENTS ARE HELPING TO CLEAN AND DEEPEN THE PORT, IN PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIPS. "FREE GAZA" AND IHH ARE COORDINATING AMONG THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE TAKING PART IN THE FLOTILLA AND ACCOMPANYING PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

THE SHIPS PLAN TO DELIVER BUILDING MATERIALS, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, SCHOOL BRIEFCASES AND EVEN CARAVANS -- MOBILE HOMES WITHOUT WHEELS -- FOR THE HAMAS-RUN ENTITY IN GAZA. ONE OF THE SHIPS, FROM MALAYSIA, WILL BE LOADED IN IRELAND WITH ITEMS DONATED BY CITIZENS IN IRELAND, SCOTLAND, BRITAIN AND ELSEWHERE. IT WILL LEAVE IRELAND NEXT WEEK, AND WILL MEET UP WITH THE OTHER SHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, FROM WHERE THEY WILL CONTINUE ON TOWARDS GAZA.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BET EL ARUTZ SHEVA ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF ARUTZ 7 SETTLER NEWS SERVICE;
URL: [HTTP://WWW.ISRAELNATIONALNEWS.COM](http://www.israelnationalnews.com)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001013

R 110129Z MAY 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 287388

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY, TERRORISM, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
SERIAL: GMP20100511966011
COUNTRY: GERMANY, GREECE, IRELAND, ISRAEL, JORDAN, MALAYSIA, NORWAY, SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN, TURKEY, WEST BANK

SUBJ: JORDAN TIMES: FIRST SHIP TO LAUNCH WEDNESDAY IN NEW PUSH TO BREAK GAZA SEA BLOCKADE (U)

SOURCE: AMMAN JORDAN TIMES ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0109 GMT 11 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"FIRST SHIP TO LAUNCH WEDNESDAY IN NEW PUSH TO BREAK GAZA SEA BLOCKADE" -- JORDAN TIMES HEADLINE (U)

INTERNET

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COMPUTER SELECTED AND DISSEMINATED WITHOUT OSC EDITORIAL INTERVENTION

11 MAY 2010

BY THAMEEN KHEETAN

AMMAN - THE FIRST SHIP OF AN INTERNATIONAL FLOTILLA AIMING TO BREAK THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE ON GAZA AND DELIVER HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE STRIP WILL DEPART FROM IRELAND WEDNESDAY, PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS SAID.

FIVE CARGO SHIPS LOADED WITH SOME 5,000 TONNES OF AID AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, IN ADDITION TO THREE BOATS CARRYING AROUND 600 ACTIVISTS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD, WILL MEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND HEAD FOR GAZAN SHORES, WHERE THEY EXPECT TO ARRIVE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY.

MORE THAN 150 WHEELCHAIRS, A DENTAL CHAIR, BLOOD COLLECTING MACHINES AND HOSPITAL BEDS WILL BE ON BOARD THE CARGO SHIPS, AS WELL AS 500 TONNES OF CEMENT, PREFABRICATED HOMES, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, WATER FILTRATION EQUIPMENT AND GENERATORS, ACCORDING TO GRETA BERLIN, A CO-FOUNDER OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, ONE OF THE PARTNER NGOS IN THE FLOTILLA.

THE DATE OF ARRIVAL AT THE PALESTINIAN COASTAL ENCLAVE DEPENDS ON THE PREVAILING WEATHER, BERLIN TOLD THE JORDAN TIMES OVER THE PHONE FROM IRELAND, WHERE ACTIVISTS ARE PREPARING FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST CARGO SHIP, THE **MV RACHEL CORRIE**, WHICH WILL CARRY 1,200 TONNES OF HUMANITARIAN AID.

A BOTTLE OF PALESTINIAN OLIVE OIL WILL BE SMASHED AGAINST THE SHIP, NAMED AFTER THE AMERICAN PEACE ACTIVIST WHO WAS KILLED BY AN ISRAELI BULLDOZER IN 2003 WHILE PROTESTING HOME DEMOLITIONS IN GAZA, AS A "CELEBRATION OF PALESTINIAN LAND RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE", THE MOVEMENT SAID IN A STATEMENT, A COPY OF WHICH WAS SENT TO THE JORDAN TIMES.

OTHER SHIPS AND BOATS TAKING PART IN THE FLOTILLA WILL DEPART ON MAY 22 FROM GREEK AND TURKISH PORTS, BERLIN SAID, EXPLAINING THAT ONE CARGO SHIP AND FOUR PASSENGER BOATS WILL DEPART FROM GREECE, WHILE A CARGO SHIP AND A PASSENGER BOAT WILL SAIL FROM TURKEY.

ON BOARD THE PASSENGER SHIPS WILL BE DELEGATIONS FROM IRELAND, GERMANY, NORWAY, MALAYSIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, SHE NOTED, ADDING THAT MPS, JOURNALISTS AND "HIGH-PROFILE" PEOPLE ARE AMONG THE PASSENGERS.

ALSO ON BOARD OF ONE OF THE SHIPS WILL BE A DELEGATION OF VIVA PALESTINA ACTIVISTS, WHO ORGANISED THEIR THIRD LAND CONVOY TO BREAK THE SIEGE AND ENTER GAZA LAST WINTER.

THE FLOTILLA'S MAJOR ORGANISING NGOS ARE THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, THE EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN TO END THE SIEGE OF GAZA, THE SHIP TO GAZA INITIATIVE IN GREECE AND SWEDEN, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO LIFT THE SIEGE ON GAZA, AND THE ISTANBUL-BASED FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, BERLIN NOTED.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001014

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IN ADDITION TO DELIVERING AID TO THE BESIEGED COASTAL STRIP, THE INITIATIVE'S AIM IS TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE, WHICH ISRAEL HAS IMPOSED SINCE THE ISLAMIST MOVEMENT HAMAS TOOK POWER IN GAZA IN 2007.

THE BLOCKADE HAS LEFT AROUND 325,000 REFUGEES IN THE STRIP UNDER "ABJECT POVERTY, UNABLE TO MEET THEIR BASIC FOOD NEEDS", ACCORDING TO UNRWA. THE ORGANISATION ALSO SAYS THAT IT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONDUCT "ANY SIGNIFICANT REPAIRS OR RECONSTRUCTION" SINCE THE 22-DAY ISRAELI MILITARY OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE ENCLAVE IN WINTER 2008/09.

TEL AVIV SAID LAST WEEK IT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE FLOTILLA TO GAIN ACCESS TO GAZAN SHORES DUE TO THE SEA BLOCKADE, ADDING THAT THE ACTIVISTS HAVE TO GO THROUGH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO GET THE AID INTO GAZA.

"WE DON'T ASK FOR THEIR PERMISSION TO GO AND TRAVEL STRAIGHT FROM INTERNATIONAL WATERS TO THE WATERS OF GAZA," BERLIN TOLD THE JORDAN TIMES IN AN E-MAIL YESTERDAY, CONSIDERING THAT "THERE IS NO WAR AT PRESENT AND NO REASON TO STOP US".

POLISH-ENGLISH ACTIVIST EWA JASIEWICZ HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MONTH'S FLOTILLA IN OFFERING THE PALESTINIANS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, WHICH ACTIVISTS SAY ARE NORMALLY NOT ALLOWED INTO GAZA BY THE ISRAELIS.

"DENYING THESE CONSTRUCTION ITEMS FITS ISRAEL'S STRATEGY OF COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT. IT IS ABOUT PUNISHING THE PEOPLE OF GAZA AND DISABLING THEM FROM HAVING A LIFE WITH DIGNITY AND KEEPING THEM IN A CONSTANT STATE OF STRUGGLE," SHE TOLD THE JORDAN TIMES.

MEANWHILE, SOME 15 JORDANIANS REPRESENTING PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS WILL LEAVE AMMAN FOR TURKEY NEXT WEEK TO TAKE PART IN THE FLOTILLA, ACCORDING TO ACTIVIST WAEEL SAQQA.

HE SAID A SPECIAL COMMITTEE FORMED TO ORGANISE THE JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION HAS COLLECTED SOME JD100,000 AS DONATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE.

"WE HOPE TO DO A SIMILAR ACTIVITY ON AN ARAB LEVEL... WHY NOT HAVE SHIPS SAIL FROM DIFFERENT ARAB COASTAL CITIES, FOR EXAMPLE?" HE REMARKED.

11 MAY 2010

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: AMMAN JORDAN TIMES ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF JORDAN TIMES, ONLY JORDANIAN ENGLISH DAILY KNOWN FOR ITS INVESTIGATIVE AND ANALYTICAL COVERAGE OF CONTROVERSIAL DOMESTIC ISSUES; SISTER PUBLICATION OF AL-RA'Y; URL: [HTTP://WWW.JORDANTIMES.COM/](http://www.jordantimes.com/)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

339-2

UNCLAS

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FM CITE OSC RESTON VA 441693

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: GMP20100603734017

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY

* SUBJ: TURKEY: INJURED 'ACTIVISTS' IN FLOTILLA TO GAZA DESCRIBE ISRAELI RAID, INJURIES (U)

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 1518 GMT 03 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

"INJURED ACTIVISTS TALK TO A.A: 'WE ONLY TRIED TO PROTECT HUMANITARIAN AID MATERIALS'" -- AA HEADLINE (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

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ANKARA (A.A) - 03.06.2010 - KENAN AKCIL, ONE OF THE ACTIVISTS WHO WAS INJURED DURING ISRAELI FORCES' RAID ON A SIX-SHIP FLOTILLA CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA, SAID THAT THEY ONLY TRIED TO PROTECT HUMANITARIAN AID MATERIALS IN THE SHIPS.

AKCIL, WHO HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED IN ANKARA, TOLD THE A.A, "I WAS ON THE DECK WHEN OUR SHIP WAS RAIDED. WE ONLY TRIED TO PROTECT HUMANITARIAN AID MATERIALS IN THE SHIP. WE DID NOT HAVE ANY WEAPONS. I WAS SHOT IN MY BACK WHILE TRYING TO THROW A SOLDIER INTO THE SEA. ISRAELI FORCES USED REAL BULLETS AS WELL AS PERCUSSION AND SMOKE BOMBS. I WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL IN JERUSALEM. DOCTORS TREATED ME WHILE MY HANDS WERE HANDCUFFED."

ANOTHER ACTIVIST, MURAT TASKIN, SAID FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED, "OUR SHIP WAS SURROUNDED BY 15 ASSAULT BOATS. THERE WERE THREE FRIGATES WAITING IN THE SEA. ALTHOUGH OUR CAPTAIN SAID THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE SHIPS EXCEPT FOR HUMANITARIAN AID MATERIALS, ISRAELI FORCES OPENED FIRE. I WAS INJURED IN MY BACK, ARM AND FACE. THEY DRAGGED ME AFTER HANDCUFFING MY HANDS. ISRAELI DOCTORS DID NOT MALTREAT US."

AL MAHTI AL HARATI, AN IRISH CITIZEN OF LIBYAN DESCENT, SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE ON BOARD THE SHIPS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES SUCH AS BULGARIA, FRANCE, GREECE, THE USA, LIBYA AND TURKEY.

340-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001016

"THEY FIRST CUT ALL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. THEN, THEY BOARDED THE SHIPS FROM BOATS AND OPENED FIRE ON PEOPLE RANDOMLY. THEY FORCED US TO KNEEL DOWN AND HANDCUFFED US. I AM HAPPY TO BE IN TURKEY NOW," HE ADDED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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340-2

UNCLAS

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FM CITE OSC RESTON VA 742787

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, LEADER, MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: EUP20100723950015

COUNTRY: SPAIN, ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

★ SUBJ: SPANIARDS FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST TOP ISRAELIS OVER GAZA FLOTILLA (U)

REF: 1. SPANISH FREEDOM FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION
AGAINST ISRAEL EUP20100721178003 ELMUNDO.ES SPANISH 0000 GMT
21 JUL 10 (U)

SOURCE: MADRID RNE RADIO 1 IN SPANISH 0900 GMT 23 JUL 10 (U)

TEXT:

RADIO

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SPANIARDS FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST TOP ISRAELIS OVER GAZA FLOTILLA

THE THREE SPANIARDS WHO WERE TRAVELLING IN THE GAZA FLOTILLA ATTACKED BY ISRAEL HAVE FILED A LAWSUIT FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AGAINST ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, SIX OF HIS MINISTERS AND A VICE-ADMIRAL, SPANISH NATIONAL RADIO HAS REPORTED TODAY.

THEIR NGO - CULTURE, PEACE AND SOLIDARITY - SAID THE ATTACKS TARGETED PEOPLE SPECIALLY PROTECTED IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT.

MANUEL TAPIAL, ONE OF THE ACTIVISTS, ACCUSED MADRID OF INACTION OVER THE ATTACK, IN STATEMENTS BROADCAST ON THE RADIO.

"THE ACTIONS - THE NON-ACTIONS - BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT STRUCK ME AS GRAVE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT, WELL, WE ARE THREE SPANISH CITIZENS, WE LIVE HERE AND WE WERE THE VICTIMS OF AN ATTACK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS," HE SAID. "ALL THE INGREDIENTS OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO US GAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH REASON FOR THE STATE TO INTERVENE ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE."

TAPIAL AND ANOTHER ACTIVIST, LAURA ARAU, SAID THAT IF THE AUTHORITIES DO NOT ACT CULTURE, PEACE AND SOLIDARITY WILL ORGANIZE ANOTHER FLOTILLA, THIS TIME UNDER THE SPANISH FLAG.

341-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001018

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: MADRID RNE RADIO 1 IN SPANISH -- NATIONAL STATE-OWNED,
PUBLIC CORPORATION RADIO

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341-2

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FM. STATE

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SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL
VLADIVOSTOK AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO
AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG AMEMBASSY
HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01

TAGS: ASEC, MARR, PREL, PINR, IS, GZ, AU
SUBJECT: GOA LEADERS "DISMAYED" BY ISRAELI RAID, CALL FOR ISRAEL TO ABIDE BY UN
RESOLUTIONS

CLASSIFIED BY: J. DEAN YAP, ECON/POL COUNSELOR, STATE, ECON/POL;
REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (E) SUMMARY: GOA LEADERS EXPRESSED "DISMAY" JUNE 1 AT THE LOSS OF LIFE DURING
THE ISRAELI RAID OF A GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA AND CALLED FOR RESTRAINT. PRO-
PALESTINIAN AND PRO-ISLAMIC GROUPS HELD NON-VIOLENT PROTESTS IN VIENNA (b)(1).Sec.

(b)(1).Sec. 1.4(d)

CHANCELLOR/VICE CHANCELLOR STATEMENTS

2. (U) IN A JUNE 1 STATEMENT, GOA LEADERS EXPRESSED "DISMAY" AT THE VIOLENT
OUTCOME OF THE ISRAELI RAID. CHANCELLOR FAYMANN SAID AUSTRIA COULD NOT REMAIN
SILENT AFTER SUCH AN INCIDENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOTING THAT THE GOA WOULD
WAIT FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION BEFORE MAKING A FINAL ASSESSMENT. THE
CHANCELLOR EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS AND CALLED ON ALL PARTIES INVOLVED
TO LOWER TENSIONS. FAYMANN ADDED THAT, AS A UNSC MEMBER, AUSTRIA WOULD "ACTIVELY
WORK TOWARD ENDING THE VIOLENCE." VICE CHANCELLOR PROELL, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED
FROM A THREE-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL, CALLED THE ISRAELI REACTION "UTTERLY EXCESSIVE
AND IMPROPER."

FM, UN AMBASSADOR WEIGH IN

3. (U) AUSTRIAN FM SPINDELEGGER CALLED THE BLOODSHED "SHOCKING" IN A MAY 31
STATEMENT AND SAID HE WAS "DISMAYED AT THE BLOODY ESCALATION OF EVENTS." HE
CALLED ON ISRAEL TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND DIRECTED THE MFA SECRETARY GENERAL TO
SUMMON THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. SPINDELEGGER FURTHER CALLED ON ISRAEL TO END THE
GAZA BLOCKADE, "AS THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE EU HAVE EMPHATICALLY AND
REPEATEDLY DEMANDED." THE MFA SAID THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV WAS
INVESTIGATING REPORTS THAT AUSTRIAN CITIZENS WERE ON BOARD THE FLOTILLA.

4. (U) THOMAS MAYR-HARTING, AUSTRIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, SAID ISRAEL HAD
BROUGHT ABOUT THE SITUATION THROUGH ITS FAILURE TO ABIDE BY UN RESOLUTIONS.
MAYR-HARTING URGED ISRAEL TO ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.

391-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001094

RALLIES HELD IN VIENNA

5. (U) A NUMBER OF PRO-PALESTINIAN AND PRO-ISLAMIC GROUPS HELD RALLIES IN VIENNA JUNE 1 TO PROTEST THE INCIDENT. A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS HELD A VIGIL IN FRONT OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY. THE ORGANIZATION "STOP THE MASSACRE IN GAZA" CALLED ON THE GOA TO PROMOTE SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE UNSC AND PRESSED CHANCELLOR FAYMANN TO CANCEL HIS JUNE 23-24 VISIT TO ISRAEL.

COMMENT: (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(d)

6. (e) (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(d)

EACHO

391-2

FM: STATE

~~SECRET~~ CAIRO 000611

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/02

TAGS: PREL, KPAL, UNSC, IS, GZ, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPT OPENS GAZA BORDER IN WAKE OF ISRAEL ATTACK ON FLOTILLA

CLASSIFIED BY: MATTHEW A. TUELLER, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, DOS; REASON:

1.4(B), (D)

1. (S) KEY POINTS:

Non Responsive

-- (b)(6) SAID EGYPT HAD WARNED ISRAEL TO AVOID USING EXCESSIVE FORCE TO DISRUPT THE CONVOY. HE ANTICIPATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT THE ARAB POSITION ON THE PEACE PROCESS WILL PROBABLY "HARDEN" FOR THE NEXT 3-4 MONTHS.

Non Responsive

EGYPT OPENS BORDER FOR HUMANITARIAN AND MEDICAL REASONS

3. (S) (b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d) TOLD POLOFF ON JUNE 2 THAT EGYPT CONDEMNED ISRAEL'S KILLINGS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVISTS DURING ITS MAY 31 ATTACK ON THE FREE GAZA FLOTILLA AND HAD OPENED THE RAFAH BORDER CROSSING INTO GAZA TO ALLOW FOR MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE Non

Non Responsive

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001096

Non Responsive

ISRAELI ATTACK IMPACTS PEACE INITIATIVES AND AID SHIPMENTS

(b)(1),(b)
(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

5. ~~(E)~~ [REDACTED] SAID THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE FREE GAZA FLOTILLA SHED LIGHT ON THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL'S "CAPABILITY TO MAKE PEACE" AND COMPLICATED ALL PEACE INITIATIVES. NOTING THAT FM ABLOU GHEIT WAS RETURNING TO CAIRO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUNE 2 ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL, [REDACTED] ANTICIPATED THAT THE ARAB POSITION ON PEACE WILL PROBABLY "HARDEN" FOR THE NEXT 3-4 MONTHS. (b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1,4(d)

Non Responsive

(b)(1),(b)
(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

6. ~~(S)~~ [REDACTED] SAID EGYPT HAD ANTICIPATED THAT THERE COULD BE PROBLEMS WITH THE FLOTILLA AND MADE IT CLEAR TO ISRAEL THAT IT SHOULD AVOID USING "EXCESSIVE FORCE" TO TAKE THE CONVOY. HE SAID THE FLOTILLA HAD NEVER APPLIED TO DOCK IN EL ARISH BECAUSE IT REFUSED TO ADHERE TO THE EGYPTIAN CONDITIONS. [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF THAT EGYPT EXPECTS A SURGE BY THE NGO COMMUNITY TO MOBILIZE MORE AID SHIPMENTS. (b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

WIDESPREAD, SMALL PROTESTS

7. (U) THERE HAVE BEEN SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS IN NUMEROUS EGYPTIAN CITIES CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ATTACK AND PAYING HOMAGE TO THOSE KILLED. (NOTE: PROTESTS MAY HAVE BEEN LIMITED BECAUSE THE OPPOSITION WAS FOCUSED ON THE JUNE 1 SHURA COUNCIL ELECTIONS. END NOTE). IN PUBLIC, EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE PLAYED UP EGYPT'S DECISION TO OPEN THE GAZA BORDER, CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI ATTACK AND CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF THOSE DETAINED IN ISRAEL AND THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PEOPLE IN GAZA. PRIVATELY, SENIOR-LEVEL CONTACTS NOTE THEY SHARE THE GOAL OF PRESERVING PROXIMITY TALKS, BUT STRESS HOW TOUGH THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS FOR THAT. TUELLER

392-2

STATE

UNCLAS TALLINN 000220

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, IS, EN
SUBJECT: ESTONIA TAKES MODERATE LINE TOWARDS ISRAEL

1. (U) FOLLOWING THE MAY 31 ISRAELI RAID ON THE GAZA FLOTILLA, THE ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT AND PRESS HAVE CONDEMNED THE LOSS OF LIFE, BUT ALSO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR ISRAEL'S ACTIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER PAET ON MAY 31 ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT ISSUED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION, CONDEMNING THE LOSS OF LIFE, DEMANDING AN INVESTIGATION, AND CALLING FOR THE GAZA BLOCKADE TO BE LIFTED. THAT WAS THE ONLY GOE STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT. ON THE CONTRARY, THE ESTONIAN-ISRAELI PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT PERHAPS EXCESSIVE FORCE WAS USED, BUT FAULTING THE FLOTILLA FOR CHALLENGING ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE AND STATING ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF. CHAIRMAN OF THIS GROUP IGOR GRAZIN, AN MP FROM THE RULING REFORM PARTY, FURTHER STATED THAT ISRAEL HAS A LEGAL RIGHT TO SEARCH VESSELS HEADED TO GAZA. ESTONIA'S GREEN PARTY ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING BOTH THE RAID AS WELL AS THE FLOTILLA'S PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR.

2. (U) ESTONIAN PRESS WAS EVEN MORE SUPPORTIVE OF ISRAEL. IN THE PAST WEEK ESTONIA'S LARGEST PAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED EDITORIALS SUPPORTING ISRAEL. DAILY NEWSPAPER PAEVALEHT ASKED WHY IT TOOK SIX SHIPS TO DELIVER 10,000 TONS OF AID, AN AMOUNT THAT COULD FIT IN ONE CARGO SHIP. THE PAPER ALSO QUESTIONED THE PRESENCE OF 600 PEOPLE, MOST EXTREMELY HOSTILE TO ISRAEL, ON THE MAVI MARMARA, AND ASKED WHAT ROLE THEY EXPECTED TO PLAY TO HELP THE PALESTINIANS. PAEVALEHT SUGGESTS THAT IF GAZA WANTS PEACE, IT SHOULD STOP SHOOTING AT ISRAEL, AND POINTED OUT ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE HAS RESULTED IN A SHARP DROP IN ROCKET ATTACKS. IN A SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL, PAEVALEHT CRITICIZED HAMAS FOR WITHHOLDING ASSISTANCE FROM NON-SUPPORTERS. ESTONIA'S OTHER LARGE PAPER, POSTIMEES, PUBLISHED TWO EDITORIALS THAT EXPLAINED HOW THIS RAID GREATLY HURT ISRAEL'S STANDING IN THE WORLD, BUT POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL IS FIGHTING FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE.

3. (SBO) PRESIDENT ILVES ANNOUNCED BEFORE THIS RAID THAT HE WOULD TRAVEL TO ISRAEL AT THE END OF JUNE. HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD POST THAT HIS OFFICE IS FOLLOWING THE SITUATION, BUT THAT ILVES DOES NOT PLAN TO CANCEL HIS VISIT.
POLT

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STATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TEL AVIV 001288

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/08/2020

TAGS: PREL, CASC, MOPS, KWBG, KPAL, TU, IS
SUBJECT: GOI CONSIDERS INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OPTIONS ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

- REF: A. TEL AVIV 1218
- B. TEL AVIV 1225
- C. TEL AVIV 1239
- D. TEL AVIV 1265

CLASSIFIED BY: A/DCM MARC SIEVERS, REASONS 1.4 (B),(D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO THE IDF'S ON-GOING INTERNAL REVIEW OF THE MAY 31 GAZA FLOTILLA OPERATION, THE GOI ON JUNE 7 ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A TEAM OF EXPERTS COMPRISED OF RETIRED IDF SENIOR OFFICERS TO EXAMINE THE OPERATION AND DETERMINE LESSONS LEARNED. THE SECURITY CABINET ALSO IS CONSIDERING THE FORMATION OF AN INVESTIGATIVE TEAM OF CIVILIAN LEGAL EXPERTS CHARGED WITH EXAMINING THE LEGALITY OF THE IDF'S MARITIME BLOCKADE OF GAZA AND OF THE IDF TAKEOVER OF THE MAVI MARMARA; IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS WILL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS. SEPARATELY, OPPOSITION PARTY KADIMA SUBMITTED A NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION IN THE KNESSET JUNE 7 ON "THE ATTEMPT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SHIRK RESPONSIBILITY AND DIRECT THE CRITICISM ON THE GAZA FLOTILLA TOWARDS THE IDF'S SOLDIERS AND COMMANDERS."
END SUMMARY.

2. (C) THE IDF CONTINUES TO CONDUCT ITS INTERNAL REVIEW REGARDING THE GAZA FLOTILLA OPERATION. SUCH A REVIEW IS CONSIDERED STANDARD PROCEDURE FOLLOWING ANY OPERATION, ALTHOUGH THE IDF IS COGNIZANT OF THE HEIGHTENED POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS REVIEW. ACCORDING TO DAO SOURCES, A NUMBER OF IDF SENIOR OFFICERS, INCLUDING CHIEF OF THE NAVY VICE ADMIRAL ELI MARUM, HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TESTIFY IN MULTIPLE HEARINGS BEFORE THE ISRAELI SUPREME COURT THIS WEEK IN RESPONSE TO A NUMBER OF PETITIONS BROUGHT AGAINST THE IDF FOLLOWING THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT. THESE REQUESTS TO TESTIFY HAVE DELAYED THE IDF'S INTERNAL REVIEW. IDF INVESTIGATORS CONTINUE TO DEBRIEF ALL PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A CONCRETE TIMELINE OF EVENTS. ACCORDING TO DAO, THE IDF HOPES TO ACHIEVE AN OFFICIAL RECORD OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE OPERATION WITHIN A WEEK.

3. (U) IN ADDITION TO THE IDF'S INTERNAL REVIEW, IDF CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF LTG ASHKENAZI HAS APPOINTED MAJOR GENERAL (RES) GIORA EILAND, A FORMER HEAD OF THE ISRAELI NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF WHO IS CURRENTLY AT A TEL AVIV THINK TANK, TO HEAD A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO EXAMINE THE GAZA FLOTILLA OPERATION AND ESTABLISH SUBSEQUENT LESSONS LEARNED. THE TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL BE COMPRISED OF FORMER IDF SENIOR OFFICERS, INCLUDING FORMER HEAD OF THE OPERATIONS DIVISION BG (RES) AVIV KOHAVI, FORMER HEAD OF IDF INTELLIGENCE AND A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE ISRAELI NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL BG (RES) YUVAL HALAMISH, AND THE FORMER HEAD OF THE ISRAEL NAVY OPERATIONS BRANCH COL (RES) BEN TZION DAABUL. THE TEAM WILL

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ANALYZE THE IDF'S REVIEW OF THE OPERATION WITH THE AIM OF DETERMINING "COMMON THEMES" TO ESTABLISH LESSONS LEARNED; NONE OF THE EXPERTS WERE PART OF THE OPERATIONAL CHAIN DURING THE GAZA FLOTILLA OPERATION. THE TEAM OF EXPERTS INTENDS TO PRESENT ITS FINDINGS TO LTG ASHKENAZI BY JULY 4.

4. (E) THE MAKE-UP AND MANDATE OF A POSSIBLE CIVILIAN INVESTIGATORY MECHANISM ARE THE SUBJECT OF MUCH SPECULATION AS OF JUNE 8. ACCORDING TO (b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),(b)(6) NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN, BUT THE SO-CALLED FORUM OF SEVEN (THE PM'S INNER CABINET) WAS MEETING ON JUNE 8. PRESS SPECULATION IS COHERING AROUND THE IDEA THAT THE GROUP WILL BE MADE UP OF EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL AND MARITIME LAW, AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO FOREIGN OBSERVERS, MOST LIKELY AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM WOULD BE AN AMERICAN. THE MANDATE WOULD BE TO EXAMINE THE LEGALITY OF THE GAZA NAVAL BLOCKADE AS WELL AS OF THE INTERDICTION OF THE FLOTILLA IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.
CUNNINGHAM

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STATE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001210

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR S/ES-O, NEA/IPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS
SUBJECT: GOI RESPONSE TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING SEVERAL MAY 31 PRESS CONFERENCES AND BRIEFS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ISRAELI OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT THE GOI WAS "SORRY FOR ANY LOSS OF LIFE," BUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT LIES ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF THE FLOTILLA'S ORGANIZERS. ACCORDING TO GOI OFFICIALS, THE GOI MADE EVERY ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS TO UNLOAD ITS CARGO OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES IN THE ISRAELI PORT OF ASHDOD, WHEREIN IT WOULD BE SENT TO GAZA ACROSS LAND BORDER CROSSINGS FOLLOWING IDF INSPECTION. ACCORDING TO GOI AND IDF OFFICIALS, GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS REJECTED ALL SUCH OVERTURES, CLEARLY STATING THEIR INTENTION TO BREAK THE IDF'S NAVAL BLOCKADE. GOI OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT IDF COMMANDOS WERE MET WITH "EXTREME VIOLENCE" BY ACTIVISTS ON ONE OF THE SIX FLOTILLA SHIPS. THE GOI CLAIMS IDF COMMANDOS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO "RESPOND IN KIND" IN SELF-DEFENSE. CASUALTY NUMBERS REMAIN SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION, BUT THE ISRAELI MOD ESTIMATED 10 FATALITIES AND 36 WOUNDED, TEN OF WHICH ARE ISRAELI COMMANDOS. IDF OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW THE IDF CAN BOARD ANY VESSEL INTENDING TO BREAK ITS NAVAL BLOCKADE, WHICH IS JUSTIFIED DUE TO THE GOI'S ONGOING ARMED CONFLICT WITH HAMAS. END SUMMARY.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEF

2. (SBU) DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANNY AYALON HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO REGISTER THE GOI'S EARLY REACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE IDF INTERDICTION OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MAY 31. AYALON SAID THAT THE GOI WAS "SORRY FOR ANY LOSS OF LIFE." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GAZA FLOTILLA WAS NOT A HUMANITARIAN MISSION. AYALON SAID THE GOI OFFERED TO HELP TRANSFER THE FLOTILLA'S REPORTED 10,000 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES TO THE GAZA STRIP THROUGH OFFICIAL LAND BORDER CROSSINGS " BUT THAT GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS HAD REFUSED THE OFFER. INSTEAD, AYALON INDICATED THAT GAZA FLOTILLA OFFICIALS SAID THEIR INTENT WAS TO "BREAK THE BLOCKADE" ON GAZA " AND WAS THEREFORE NOT A HUMANITARIAN MISSION.

3. (SBU) AYALON SAID THAT ALLOWING THE GAZA FLOTILLA TO REACH GAZA WOULD HAVE SET A PRECEDENT, OPENING A CHANNEL FOR THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS AND OTHER BANNED GOODS INTO GAZA. HE SAID THIS ULTIMATELY WOULD HAVE CAUSED "MORE BLOODSHED." AYALON SAID THE MOVEMENTS ORGANIZERS DID NOT HEED THE IDF'S CALLS TO PEACEFULLY FOLLOW THEM TO ASHDOD. HE SAID THAT AT LEAST TWO PISTOLS THAT WERE FIRED AT IDF COMMANDOS WERE FOUND ON BOARD ONE OF THE SHIPS, AND THAT NO SOVEREIGN COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TOLERATED SUCH VIOLENCE.

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4. (SBU) AYALON CALLED ON ALL COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO DO "EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER" TO CALM THE SITUATION AND BRING IT TO A PEACEFUL END. HE NOTED THAT THE TURKISH NGO IHH THAT ORGANIZED THE FLOTILLA WAS WELL-KNOWN TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH HAMAS, AND WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN PROVOKING A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION.

BRIEF TO FOREIGN AMBASSADORS

5. (SBU) IN A LATER BRIEF TO FOREIGN AMBASSADORS, (b)(6) AND IDF DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COORDINATION COL ASSAF ORION NOTED THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF DEAD AND WOUNDED GAZA FLOTILLA PARTICIPANTS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME. THEY NOTED THAT THE MFA WOULD REACH OUT PROACTIVELY TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES ONCE IDENTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN COMPLETED, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW LONG THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFICATION WOULD TAKE.

6. (SBU) (b)(6) AND (b)(6) INDICATED THAT ALL FATALITIES/INJURIES OCCURRED ON BOARD THE SHIP "MAVI MARMARA." COL ORION NOTED THAT ACTIVISTS ARMED WITH KNIVES AND METAL BARS ON BOARD THE MARMARA WERE PREPARED FOR IDF COMMANDOS. HE SAID IT WAS UNCLEAR IF THE ACTIVISTS WERE ARMED WITH GUNS IN ADVANCE OR TOOK FIREARMS FROM THE IDF BOARDING PARTY. (b)(6) SAID ONE IDF COMMANDO WAS NEARLY BEATEN TO DEATH WITH A METAL BAR.

7. (SBU) (b)(6) SAID THE INTERDICTION TOOK PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. HE SAID THE GOI ASSERTED THE LEGAL RIGHT TO INTERCEPT THE FLOTILLA IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS DUE TO THE MILITARY BLOCKADE IN PLACE AS A RESULT OF THE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS.

MOD BRIEF

8. (SBU) DURING A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, DEFENSE MINISTER BARAK SAID THE GOI WAS "SORRY ABOUT THE RESULTS," BUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY LIES SOLELY IN THE HANDS OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS. HE SAID THAT THE GOI HAD ASKED THE ORGANIZERS TO HEAD TO ASHDOD AND SEND ITS HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES TO GAZA FOLLOWING IDF SECURITY CHECKS, BUT THAT SUCH CALLS WERE REJECTED.

9. (SBU) BARAK INDICATED THAT IDF COMMANDOS HAD BEEN ATTACKED DURING THE TAKEOVER OF ONE OF THE FLOTILLA SHIPS. DURING THE INCIDENT, IDF COMMANDOS USED ANTI-RIOT GEAR AND LIVE FIRE AGAINST THE FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS WHO HAD USED VIOLENCE.

10. (SBU) BARAK SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO TURKISH OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT PERES AND PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN CANADA. BARAK NOTED THAT THERE IS NO STARVATION OR HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA. THE AREA IS CONTROLLED BY HAMAS, AN ORGANIZATION BARAK SAID WAS ARMING ITSELF WITH ROCKETS TO HARM AND THAT HAVE HARMED ISRAEL. HE SAID IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE GOI STANDS BY ITS RIGHT TO INSPECT ANY SHIPS APPROACHING GAZA.

11. (SBU) BARAK SAID ISRAEL WILL ACT WITH DETERMINATION TO PROTECT ITS SOVEREIGNTY. HE DESCRIBED THE TURKISH NGO IHH THAT ORGANIZED THE FLOTILLA AS A "VIOLENT ORGANIZATION THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HUMANITARIAN AID" WHOSE INTENDED PURPOSE WAS TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA. BARAK CALLED ON ALL

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COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO REMAIN CALM, AND FOR ARAB STATES AND PALESTINIANS NOT TO ALLOW THIS INCIDENT TO DISRUPT ON-GOING PROXIMITY TALKS.

12. (SBU) IDF CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF LTG ASHKENAZI STATED THAT THE IDF INTERDICTION INTENDED TO THWART AN ATTEMPT TO BRING CONTRABAND INTO GAZA. HE SAID THAT THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED ON THE IHH-OWNED MARMARA WERE UNIQUE FROM EVENTS ON THE OTHER FIVE FLOTILLA SHIPS. LTG ASHKENAZI SAID IDF COMMANDOS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO USE RESTRAINT, BUT FACED "EXTREME VIOLENCE" AS THEY BOARDED THE MARMARA. SOME IDF COMMANDOS WERE WOUNDED BY GUNSHOTS AND STABBINGS.

SUCH VIOLENCE NECESSITATED SELF-DEFENSE " HE NOTED THAT AT LEAST TEN ACTIVISTS WERE KILLED, AND SEVERAL DOZENS WOUNDED.

13. (SBU) IDF NAVY COMMANDER VICE ADMIRAL ELIEZER MAROM ADDED THAT IDF COMMANDOS "HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND IN KIND" TO THE VIOLENCE THEY FACED " THE SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE IF THE IDF COMMANDOS HAD NOT ACTED WITH RESTRAINT. HE NOTED THAT ALL WOUNDED ACTIVISTS WERE TREATED BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS ON BOARD THE MARMARA, AND AIRLIFTED TO ISRAELI HOSPITALS.

J5 BRIEF

14. (SBU) IDF J5 STRATEGIC DIVISION CHIEF BRIGADIER GENERAL YOSSI HEYMANN INDICATED THAT THE IDF OPERATION WAS STILL ON-GOING; TWO OF THE SIX FLOTILLA SHIPS HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO ASHDOD, INCLUDING THE CHALLENGER I. BG HEYMANN SAID THAT ALL OTHER SHIPS " INCLUDING THE MAVI MARMARA -- WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO ASHDOD LATER THE EVENING OF MAY 31. HE SAID THAT 10-14 ACTIVISTS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY KILLED OR INJURED, WITH ANOTHER 30 MODERATELY WOUNDED. BG HEYMANN NOTED THAT TEN IDF COMMANDOS HAD BEEN WOUNDED INCLUDING ONE WITH SERIOUS AND ONE WITH MODERATE WOUNDS.

15. (SBU) BG HEYMANN SAID THE INTERDICTION OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY 70 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE COASTLINE. BASED ON THE LAWS OF ARMED CONFLICT, BG HEYMANN SAID A COUNTRY PARTY TO A CONFLICT MAY LEGALLY IMPOSE A NAVAL BLOCKADE TO PREVENT SHIPS FROM ENTERING OR EXITING ITS TERRITORY OR TERRITORIAL WATERS. HE REFERENCED THE GOI'S ONGOING CONFLICT WITH HAMAS, AND SAID INTERNATIONAL LAW PERMITS THE CAPTURE OF SHIPS, EITHER HOSTILE OR NEUTRAL, THAT SEEK TO BREACH A NAVAL BLOCKADE. BG HEYMANN SAID A MARITIME VESSEL MAY BE BOARDED PRIOR TO ENTERING THE AREA UNDER NAVAL BLOCKADE IF THERE ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT THE VESSEL INTENDS TO BREACH THE BLOCKADE.

OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION

16. (SBU) ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELI POLICE AND PRISON SERVICE WERE PLACED ON THE HIGHEST STATE OF ALERT FOLLOWING NEWS OF THE VIOLENT INTERDICTION. FOLLOWING A JOINT EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTER YITZHAK AHARONOVITCH AND POLICE COMMISSIONER DUDI COHEN, THE ISRAELI POLICE WILL BLOCK CERTAIN ROADS AND ROUTES, INCLUDING THE WADI ARA AND TEMPLE MOUNT AREA. THE ISRAELI NSC'S COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU ISSUED A WARNING TO ALL ISRAELI CITIZENS TRAVELING IN TURKEY TO REMAIN IN PLACE AND MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS INSTEAD OF ATTEMPTING TO DEPART TURKEY AT THIS TIME.

CUNNINGHAM

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001103

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ANKARA 000861

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL
VLADIVOSTOK AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO
AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/11

TAGS: PGOV, TU, PREL

(b)(1), Sec.
1.4(d)

SUBJECT: IHH: [redacted] FLOTILLA. (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)

CLASSIFIED BY: DANIEL O'GRADY, POLITICAL COUNSELOR, STATE, POLITICAL;

REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (e) SUMMARY: ON JUNE 11 THE FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF'S (b)(1),(b)(6), Sec. 1.4(d) GAVE US HIS FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF THE MAY 31 ISRAELI INTERDICTION OF THE GAZA-BOUND MAVI MARMARA. ACCORDING TO UNSAL, THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCE (IDF) MADE SEVERAL UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO SEIZE THE MAVI MARMARA BEFORE FIRING ON AND KILLING PASSENGERS. HE CONTENDS THE PASSENGERS REACTED SPONTANEOUSLY OUT OF SURPRISE AND FEAR AND THEN QUICKLY CEASED RESISTING WHEN THEY REALIZED THE IDF WAS USING LIVE AMMUNITION. UNSAL ALLEGES THE IDF SPECIAL FORCES WERE CARRYING "SMALL NOTEBOOKS" WITH ABOUT 20 NAMES AND FACES OF MAVI MARMARA PASSENGERS, TARGETING PALESTINIANS, NGO LEADERS, AND JOURNALISTS. ALTHOUGH RANK AND FILE IHH MEMBERS ARE CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE LAUNCH OF ANOTHER FLOTILLA, NGO LEADERS ARE CURRENTLY OBSERVING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CONSULTING LEGAL EXPERTS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS MAKING A LEGAL CASE AGAINST ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.
END SUMMARY.

2. (e) ON JUNE 11, THE (b)(1),(b)(6), Sec. 1.4(d) THE FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF (IHH), (b)(1),(b)(6), Sec. 1.4(d) GAVE US A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF THE ISRAELI RAID ON THE IHH-LED FLOTILLA. [redacted] WAS A PASSENGER ON THE MAVI MARMARA ON MAY 31 WHEN IT WAS BOARDED BY ISRAELI DEFENSE

(b)(1),(b)
(6), Sec. 1.4

(b)(1),(b)(6), Sec. 1.4(d)



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(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)



8. ~~(c)~~ (b)(6) IS PLANNING TO GO TO THE U.S. AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK TO CONSULT WITH "LEGAL EXPERTS" AND OTHER NGOS IN ORDER TO PLAN FUTURE IHH ACTIONS. HE CONTACTED US ON JUNE 10 FOR VISA ASSISTANCE. HE HAS SINCE FOUND A STILL-VALID U.S. VISA IN AN EXPIRED PASSPORT.

COMMENT

(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

9. ~~(c)~~

(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

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(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001106

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000791

STATE/

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, NEA, NEA/IPA NSC FOR D.WALTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, ID, IS, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01 INDONESIAN FM COMMENTS ON GAZA FLOTILLA

REF: JAKARTA 765

1. (SBU) INDONESIAN FM NATALEGAWA PUBLISHED AN OP-ED REGARDING THE GAZA FLOTILLA IN THE JUNE 7 ISSUE OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JAKARTA POST, HIS MOST EXTENSIVE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE MATTER TO DATE. (NOTE: THE PIECE WAS ADAPTED FROM AN ADDRESS THAT NATALEGAWA GAVE TO THE OIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN JEDDAH ON JUNE 6.) NATALEGAWA'S OP-ED RESTATED THE BROAD PRINCIPLES OF INDONESIAN POLICY TOWARD ISRAELI- PALESTINIAN ISSUES. HE CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION, URGED A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT, AND CALLED ON ISRAEL TO LIFT THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA. HE ALSO ENDORSED THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION AND PROXIMITY TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS. THE FULL TEXT OF FM NATALEGAWA'S OP-ED FOLLOWS.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT:

INSIGHT: THE WORLD NEEDS TO PROCEED BEYOND CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI MARTYR M. NATALEGAWA THE JAKARTA POST MONDAY, 06/07/2010

ALL OF US, PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESENT MEETING ARE DRIVEN BY THE SAME MOTIVATION: TO RESPOND URGENTLY TO THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE HUMANITARIAN VESSEL, THE MAVI MARMARA.

ALL OF US, WITHOUT EXCEPTION SHARE A DEEP SENSE OF GRIEF FOR THE LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURIES CAUSED BY THE ISRAELI ATTACKS.

THE RAID BY ISRAELI FORCES RESULTING IN THE KILLING AND INJURING OF SCORES OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS REPRESENTS A GROSS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

IT REPRESENTS, ONCE AGAIN, ISRAEL'S UTTER DISREGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES.

AND, UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS CONSISTENT WITH ISRAEL'S PRACTICE OF CREATING NEW OBSTACLES WHENEVER THERE IS FRESH PROSPECT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS, INCLUDING THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED "PROXIMITY TALKS".

AS SUCH, ISRAEL FULLY DESERVES THE UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATIONS FOR ITS LATEST HEINOUS AND COWARDLY ACT.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001110

INDONESIA, MY OWN COUNTRY, HAS BEEN SWIFT AND CRYSTAL CLEAR IN EXPRESSING ITS CONDEMNATION.

AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL, THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS SPOKEN.

SIMILARLY, THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL HAS ADDED ITS VOICE.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, SCORES OF ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR VIEW. THUS, ASEAN AND GCC (GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL) FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN SINGAPORE LAST WEEK ALSO JOINED THE CHORUS OF CONDEMNATIONS.

FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE OIC (ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE) MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL NO DOUBT TODAY ADD TO THE LIST OF GLOBAL OUTRAGE.

YET INDONESIA DEEMS IT IMPORTANT THAT WE PROCEED BEYOND CONDEMNATION.

EXPRESSION OF CONDEMNATION DOES NOT, OF ITSELF, MAKE FOR A POLICY.

IN THIS CONNECTION, INDONESIA CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT WE REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS ON A NUMBER OF POINTS.

FIRST, ENSURE THAT ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY RELEASE ALL DETAINED PERSONS AND FACILITATE THEIR SAFE RETURN TO THEIR HOMELANDS.

SECOND, ENSURE THAT ISRAEL BE HELD FULLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS ACTIONS. A PROMPT, IMPARTIAL, CREDIBLE AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE ATTACK IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.

THIRD, ENSURE THAT WE SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE IN DEMANDING THAT ISRAEL, IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT DELAY, LIFT ITS ILLEGAL BLOCKADE OF THE GAZA STRIP, OCCUPIED PALESTINE, WHICH HAS CAUSED A DEEP HUMANITARIAN CRISIS.

FOURTH, ENSURE THAT ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY CEASE ALL ACTS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE BUILDING OF ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE.

AND FIFTH, ENSURE PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS LEADING TO THE REALIZATION OF THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION WITH AN INDEPENDENT AND VIABLE PALESTINIAN STATE LIVING SIDE BY SIDE IN PEACE AND SECURITY WITH ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS. MORE SPECIFICALLY, SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN POSITION ON THE PROXIMITY TALKS, AS WELL AS EFFORTS FOR THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE FOR THESE TALKS.

IN SEEKING TO PROMOTE THOSE OBJECTIVES, INDONESIA DEEMS IT IMPORTANT THAT MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC NOT ONLY CONSOLIDATE A COMMON POSITION, BUT ALSO THAT WE BUILD BRIDGES TO COUNTRIES, AND INDEED, CIVIL SOCIETIES THE WORLD OVER, BEYOND OUR ORGANIZATION:

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EQUALLY OUTRAGED BY THIS LATEST ISRAELI ILLEGAL ACT.

IN OTHER WORDS, TO GALVANIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE WIDEST SENSE, DRIVEN NO DOUBT BY COUNTRIES SUCH AS THOSE BELONGING IN THE OIC, THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AGAINST THE ISRAELI ACTION AND DEMANDING ITS ACCOUNTABILITY.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001111

REMAINING ONE IN SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF THE PEACE PROCESS.

AND REMAINING ONE IN SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

INDONESIA WISHES TO THANK ALL THOSE, INCLUDING PALESTINE, THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN AND TURKEY, AS WELL AS THE ICRC FOR THEIR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE 12 INDONESIAN HUMANITARIAN PERSONNEL ABOARD THE VESSEL.

TWO OF OUR NATIONALS HAVE SUSTAINED SERIOUS INJURIES.

INDONESIA SHALL REMAIN STEADFAST IN ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

END TEXT.

HUME

397-3

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ KUWAIT 000379

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/31/2020

TAGS: PREL, CASC, PINR, PGOV, PHUM, KU
SUBJECT: GOK CONVOKES P-5 ON "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" INCIDENT

CLASSIFIED BY: POLITICAL COUNSELOR PETE O'DONOHUE FOR REASONS 1.4 B AND D

GOK: "ISRAELI ATTACK" (b)(1),Sec. 1.4(d)

1. (S) KUWAITI MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS AND ACTING FM ROUDHAN ABDULAZIZ AL-ROUDHAN (IN THE ABSENCE OF THE FM, WHO IS TRAVELING IN ASIA) CONVOKED P-5 AMBASSADORS MAY 31 TO PROTEST IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE EVENTS EARLIER IN THE DAY OFF GAZA, (b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

AMCIT AMONG THE KUWAITI PARTICIPANTS

2. (S) IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUERY ON THE NUMBER AND CONDITION OF KUWAITI PARTICIPANTS IN THE FLOTILLA, AL-ROUDHAN CONFIRMED THAT 16 KUWAITIS WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE FLOTILLA AND THAT NO REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED OF ANY INJURIES TO THEM. POST UNDERSTANDS THE KUWAITI PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE (b)(1),(b)(6),Sec.

(b)(1),(b)(6) Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

POLOFF RECEIVED A CALL FROM (b)(1),(b)

(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4 (b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d) WHO SAID THAT HIS AMCIT DAUGHTER, HAYA (d)

A SOCIAL ACTIVIST, WAS ALSO AMONG THE 16. U/S JARALLAH REQUESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT RECEIVE REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF THE 16 KUWAITI NATIONALS, FOLLOWING REPORTS THE GOI PLANNED TO DETAIN THEM.

PRESS INQUIRIES

398-1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001113

3. (SBU) POST CONTINUES TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR COMMENT FROM THE LOCAL PRESS AND WOULD APPRECIATE APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE ASAP; FOR NOW WE ARE AVOIDING COMMENT OTHER THAN TO REGRET THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE WHILE NOTING THAT THE FACTS OF THE MATTER ARE NOT YET CLEAR.

FOR MORE REPORTING FROM EMBASSY KUWAIT, VISIT:
KUWAIT'S CLASSIFIED WEBSITE AT:

[HTTP://WWW.INTELINK.SGOV.GOV/WIKI/PORTAL:KUWAIT](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/portal:kuwait)

(b)(6)

308-

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000165

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KPAO, KDEM, PHUM, PGOV, MP, IS
SUBJECT: FREEDOM FLOTILLA IN THE MAURITIAN MEDIA

1. (U) SUMMARY: ISRAEL'S MAY 31 ACTIONS TO HALT THE "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" HEADED FOR GAZA HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE (MOST SHARPLY CRITICAL), A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, A DEMONSTRATION AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PORT LOUIS, AND THE DELIVERY OF A LETTER TO THE EMBASSY ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT OBAMA. THE OUTPOURING OF CRITICISM HERE FOR THE ISRAELI ACTIONS WAS PREDICTABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ISRAEL'S MAY 31 ACTIONS TO HALT THE "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" HEADED FOR GAZA QUICKLY GENERATED MEDIA COVERAGE. ON JUNE 2, THE DAILY "LE MAURITIEN" REPORTED A STATEMENT BY THE LEFT WING PARTY LALIT CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS BY ISRAEL AGAINST THE "LIBERTY FLOTILLA,"

CALLING IT "AN ACT OF PIRACY" AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS TO "IMMEDIATELY STOP ALL BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL."

(NOTE: POST IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUBSTANTIVE, ONGOING BILATERAL RELATIONS. END NOTE.) ON JUNE 3, THE PRIVATE RADIO STATION RADIO PLUS REPORTED THE GOM "CONDEMNED THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES." IN ITS 0800 NEWS BROADCAST THE RADIO CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ARVIN BOOLELL, WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT "CONDEMNED THE ATTACKS." BOOLELL ADDED THAT IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO USE FORCE AGAINST CIVILIANS, AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT AID AND FOOD REACH GAZA. THE RADIO STATION THEN ANNOUNCED A DEMONSTRATION FOR THAT DAY IN FRONT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY. ALSO ON JUNE 3 THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "LE MATINAL" CARRIED A STATEMENT BY THE GOM ON ITS FRONT PAGE. ONE OPINION PIECE THE SAME DAY SAID THAT THE ISRAELI VERSION OF THE FACTS WAS MORE CREDIBLE AND INDICATED LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE, ENDING "LETS NOT CONDEMN ISRAEL, LETS FORGET PALESTINE. THE WORLD CUP IS IN NINE DAYS!"

3. (U) ON JUNE 4, AT LEAST FOUR STORIES IN THE MAINSTREAM PRESS CONTINUED THE COVERAGE, WITH OPINION PIECES AND REPORTING ON THE DEMONSTRATION AND THE GOM STATEMENT. THIS PRESS COVERAGE WAS ALMOST UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE TOWARD ISRAEL. THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR "L'EXPRESS" REPORTED THAT "THE WHITE HOUSE IS TAKING A MORE CAUTIOUS POSITION ON THE RAID, STANDING BY A U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL STATEMENT CONDEMNING 'ACTS WHICH RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF A LEAST TEN CIVILIANS AND MANY WOUNDED,' WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE ACTS." A HARSH CARTOON DEPICTED AN ISRAELI SOLDIER, THINKING THAT A DOVE CONCEALS ISLAMIC FIGHTERS, KILLING THE DOVE AND PEERING INTO ITS BLOODY REMAINS IN SEARCH OF THE IMAGINARY FIGHTERS.

4. (U) ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 4, AFTER FRIDAY PRAYERS, KADER HOSENALLY, FROM THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION "FREE PALESTINE NOW," DELIVERED A LETTER OF PROTEST TO THE U.S. EMBASSY. HOSENALLY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001115

JUMMAH MOSQUE. THE LETTER, ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT OBAMA, WAS ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, AN EVENT COVERED ON MAURITIAN TV AND IN THE PRESS.

5. (U) OVER THE WEEKEND, THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "LE DIMANCHE" PUBLISHED A LETTER FROM FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMA VALAYDEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE "KILLING OF AT LEAST TEN CIVILIANS BY ISRAEL FORCES AND THE INJURIES INFLICTED ON MANY MORE. HE URGED THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE LEAD THROUGH THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR ITS "BARBAROUS ACTS" AND TO ASK ISRAEL TO STOP ITS "OPERATIONAL CAST LEAD" AGAINST PALESTINIANS OF THE GAZA STRIP. ALSO, THE LEADER OF MUSLIM PARTY FRONT SOLIDARITE MAURICIEN AND NEW MP CEHL MEAH CONDEMNED THE ATTACKS AND SAID HE PLANS TO SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO SEND MEDICATION TO THE CHILDREN IN GAZA. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PAUL BERENGER CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI ATTACK, CALLING IT "SHOCKING BRUTALITY," AND ADDED THAT MAURITIUS HAS BEEN SLOW IN CONDEMNING THIS ATTACK. HE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THE FRANCE-AFRICA SUMMIT, WHICH WAS BEING HELD WHEN THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE, DID NOT CONDEMN IT.

COMMENT

6. (SBU) MAURITIUS TENDS TO BE STRONGLY PRO-PALESTINIAN AT ANY TIME. THE REACTION HERE TO THE BOTCHED RAID WAS PREDICTABLE.

WILLS

UNCLAS RABAT 000477

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ASEC, MARR, PINR, MO, GZ, IS
SUBJECT: A SUBDUED GAZA FLOTILLA PROTEST IN RABAT

REF: RABAT 0474

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: ON JUNE 6 AN ESTIMATED 50,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN A DEMONSTRATION IN RABAT AGAINST THE ISRAELI ARMY'S DEADLY RAID ON A GAZA- BOUND AID FLOTILLA. ORGANIZED BY TWO NGOS -- THE MOROCCAN NATIONAL ACTION GROUP FOR SUPPORTING IRAQ AND PALESTINE AND THE MOROCCAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE -- THE DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD UNDER THE SLOGAN "LIBERTY MARCH AGAINST ZIONIST TERRORISM." HOWEVER THIS TIME, UNLIKE IN ANTI-ISRAEL DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN MOROCCO, THE RHETORIC WAS DECIDEDLY LESS VIOLENT, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS THE CURRENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION. ULTIMATELY, THE EVENT WAS AS MUCH ABOUT MOROCCAN ISLAMIST GROUPS COMPETING WITH ONE ANOTHER TO SHOW HOW MUCH OF THE CROWD THEY COULD MOBILIZE AS IT WAS ABOUT CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ATTACK. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THOUSANDS OF MARCHERS CAME OUT IN RABAT SUNDAY, JUNE 6, TO DECRY THE RECENT ISRAEL RAID ON A GAZA-BOUND AID FLOTILLA. WAVING MOROCCAN AND PALESTINIAN FLAGS AND CHANTING SLOGANS CONDEMNING "THE VILE ACT" PERPETRATED BY THE ISRAELI ARMY, THE MARCHERS NUMBERED APPROXIMATELY 50,000, ACCORDING TO SECURITY OFFICIALS. ESTIMATES IN THE PRESS VARIED WILDLY, WITH ONE NEWSPAPER PUTTING THE FIGURE AT A TREMENDOUSLY EXAGGERATED 600,000.

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE CAIRO SPEECH

3. (U) IN RECENT YEARS, ANTI-ISRAEL DEMONSTRATIONS OF THIS TYPE TYPICALLY HAVE ATTRACTED ANGRY PARTICIPANTS WHO TARGETED THE U.S. AS MUCH AS THEY TARGETED ISRAEL. POSTERS OF PRESIDENT BUSH WERE AS COMMONPLACE AS THOSE OF ISRAELI LEADERS (CAPTIONED WITH INFLAMMATORY SLOGANS SUCH AS "WAR CRIMINALS" OR "BUTCHERS"), AND AMERICAN FLAGS WERE OFTEN BURNED ALONGSIDE ISRAELI FLAGS. A CONSISTENT ELEMENT IN MOROCCAN PUBLIC OPINION OVER THE PAST HALF A CENTURY HAS BEEN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE -- AT LEAST AT THE LEVEL OF RHETORIC. PUBLIC OPINION (SUCH AS IT EXISTS) STILL ALSO LINKS UNPOPULAR ISRAELI ACTIONS LIKE THE FLOTILLA ATTACK WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND THE MAJORITY OF MOROCCANS STILL VIEW AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY UNFAVORABLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. (U) THE JUNE 8 DEMONSTRATION, HOWEVER, MARKED THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS THAT A MOROCCAN DEMONSTRATION OF THIS TYPE WITNESSED A MORE RESERVED CRITICISM OF THE U.S. THERE WAS NO POSTER OF PRESIDENT OBAMA IN EVIDENCE NOR OF ANY OTHER U.S. LEADERS, AND THERE WERE NO BANNERS WITH HARSH CRITICISM OR VIOLENT SLOGANS AGAINST AMERICA.

400 -1

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001117

DEMONSTRATORS DID CHANT SLOGANS CALLING ON THE CURRENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO STOP ITS UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO ISRAEL, BUT HARSH OR VIOLENT RHETORIC WAS NOT HEARD, AS USED TO BE CONSISTENTLY THE CASE IN THE PAST. THIS TIME THE AMERICAN FLAG WAS NOT SET ALIGHT.

5. (SBU) OBSERVERS AND DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZERS ATTRIBUTED THE CHANGE IN TONE -- AT LEAST TOWARD THE U.S. -- TO THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND THE PRESIDENT'S CAIRO SPEECH. (b)(6) TOLD POL
LES THAT "THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE STILL-PREVAILING 'OBAMA-MANIA' IN THE REGION." ANOTHER PARTICIPANT, (b)(6)
(b)(6) ADDED, "MOROCCANS, LIKE OTHER ARABS, HAVE STARTED SHOWING SIGNS OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT OBAMA. THIS ABSENCE OF HARSH CRITICISM DURING THE DEMONSTRATION SHOWS CLEARLY A DIVIDE BETWEEN TWO ERAS."

LOCAL POLITICAL ENTITIES FLEX THEIR MUSCLE

6. (SBU) WHEN THE MOROCCAN NATIONAL ACTION GROUP FOR SUPPORTING IRAQ AND PALESTINE AND THE MOROCCAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE CALLED FOR A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION ON JUNE 6, THE GOAL, OF COURSE, WAS TO SHOW UNCONDITIONAL MOROCCAN SUPPORT TO THE PALESTINIANS AND TO DENOUNCE THE ATTACK AT SEA. MOROCCAN POLITICAL PARTIES, NGOS, UNIONS AND ISLAMIST

MOVEMENTS QUICKLY ISSUED COMMUNIQUEs CALLING ON THEIR MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE MASSIVELY. ON JUNE 6, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE ISLAMIST MOVEMENTS -- MOST UNRECOGNIZED, BUT TOLERATED, BY THE GOM -- MOBILIZED THE BIGGEST TURN-OUT, WITH THE JUSTICE AND CHARITY (GOOD WORKS) ORGANIZATION (JCO) LEADING THE WAY. FOUR OF THE NINE MOROCCANS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED (AND SURVIVED UNHURT) IN THE GAZA FLOTILLA ARE JCO LEADERS, BUT THE HIGH JCO TURNOUT ALSO POINTS TO ITS ABILITY TO MOBILIZE SUPPORTERS. THE ISLAMIST PARTY OF JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT (PJD), A FULLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTY, ALSO BROUGHT OUT MANY HUNDREDS OF SUPPORTERS. HOWEVER, THE OVERALL PICTURE WAS ONE OF HUGE CROWDS OF JCO-AFFILIATED ISLAMISTS WHO WERE WELL ORGANIZED IN SELF-IDENTIFYING GROUPS, WHILE MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES WERE SCATTERED AND POORLY ORGANIZED. THE MESSAGE THEY SOUGHT TO SEND WAS CLEAR: THE ISLAMIST MOVEMENTS, LED BY THE JCO, ARE THE PREMIER GRASSROOTS POLITICAL ENTITY IN MOROCCO.

7. (SBU) COMMENT: MANY MOROCCAN POLITICAL OBSERVERS INTERPRET THE JUNE 6 RABAT DEMONSTRATION AS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CURRENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND MOROCCAN PUBLIC OPINION -- AND PERHAPS WITH ARABS IN GENERAL. AS ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS SAID, "IT IS A MUTUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH SIDES TO ESTABLISH A NEW RELATIONSHIP BASED ON TRUST AND CONFIDENCE." OTHERS SAW THE DEMONSTRATION AS AN INTERNAL MOROCCAN POLITICAL STRUGGLE TO SHOW TO THE PUBLIC OPINION WHICH POWER IS STILL ABLE TO MOBILIZE THE GREATEST PROPORTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME. IN THIS CASE, THE ISLAMISTS PROVED TO BE THE FORCE TO RECKON WITH. END COMMENT.

(b)(6)

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STATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DOHA 000230

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/2020

TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, QA, TU

SUBJECT: QATAR TO PAY LEGAL COSTS OF FLOTILLA VICTIMS SEEKING COMPENSATION

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR JOSEPH E. LEBARON, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D).

(SBU) KEY POINTS

-- QATAR'S PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE ARAB LEAGUE THAT QATAR WOULD FUND THE LEGAL EXPENSES OF THOSE TAKING ISRAEL TO COURT OVER THE RECENT KILLING OF FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS OFF GAZA, ACCORDING TO ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL AMR MOUSSA. SEPARATELY, QATAR'S AMIR HAS REPORTEDLY GIVEN THE SAME PROMISE TO TURKEY.

-- QATARI MEDIA REPORTED ON JUNE 6 THAT QATAR HAD ALSO COMMITTED ITSELF TO FUNDING A "WORLDWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN" TO EXPOSE TEL AVIVS AGGRESSION IN GAZA.

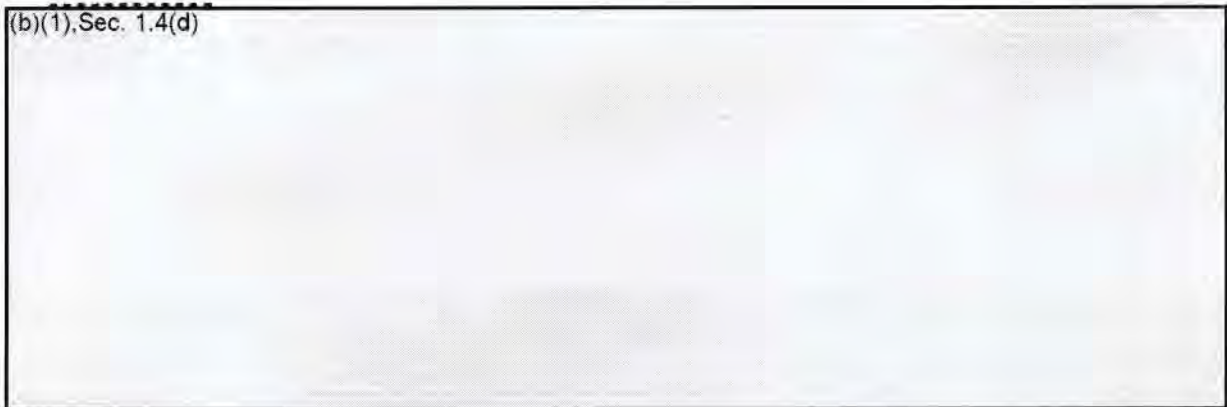
-- QATAR'S STANCE WON PRAISE ACROSS THE ARAB WORLD, EVEN FROM EGYPT, WHOSE RELATIONS WITH QATAR HAVE BEEN TENSE FOR SOME TIME.

-- NOTED IMAM AND FREQUENT AL JAZEERA GUEST YOUSEF AL-QARADAWI SINGLED OUT QATAR AND TURKEY FOR PRAISE IN THEIR RESPONSES TO THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT.

-- IN A JUNE 4 FRIDAY SERMON HE CRITICIZED ISRAEL'S "ZIONIST GANG" FOR "ATTACKING ACTIVISTS AND VOLUNTEERS ON BOARD A DEFENSELESS SHIP CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID." QARADAWI FURTHER CALLED UPON THE PALESTINIANS TO BREAK OFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

(e) COMMENTS

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(d)



401-1

END KEY POINTS AND COMMENTS.

1. (U) SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE AMR MOUSSA ANNOUNCED JUNE 5 THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR WOULD PAY THE LEGAL EXPENSES OF ITS FELLOW ARAB STATES TAKING ISRAEL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE OVER THE RECENT KILLING OF NINE FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS OFF GAZA. QATAR, HE ADDED, ALSO AGREED TO FUND A GLOBAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN OPPOSING ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE OF GAZA. ACCORDING TO MOUSSA, PRIME MINISTER HAMAD BIN JASSIM AL THANI OF QATAR TOLD THE ARAB LEAGUE OF THE GOQ'S MORAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN BOTH AREAS.

2. (U) THE AMIR OF QATAR HAS TOLD TURKEY'S PRIME MINISTER THAT QATAR WILL ALSO FUND THE LEGAL COSTS FOR TURKS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FLOTILLA, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

3. (U) THE PALESTINIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ARAB LEAGUE, BARAKAT AL FARA, TOLD THE MEDIA THAT DOHA'S GESTURE WILL "GO A LONG WAY IN SERVING THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE."

YASSER ABDUL MONAIM OF THE COUNCIL OF ARAB PRESS AND INFORMATION PRAISED QATAR'S OFFER TO FUND THE LEGAL ACTION AND MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL, SAYING THE MOVE WOULD HELP "IN SHAPING WORLD OPINION AGAINST TEL AVIV."

4. (SBU) EVEN IN EGYPT, WHOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH QATAR HAS BEEN TENSE FOR MORE THAN 18 MONTHS, THERE WAS PRAISE FOR QATAR. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE EGYPTIAN LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, MOHAMED BASUINI, SAID "QATAR'S GESTURE WOULD CONTRIBUTE IMMENSELY TO EFFORTS TO EXPOSE ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND WAR CRIMES IN GAZA."

QARADAWI PRAISES QATAR, TURKEY
AND SLAMS ISRAEL'S "ZIONIST GANG"

5. (U) SEPARATELY, NOTED IMAM AND FREQUENT AL JAZEERA GUEST YUSEF AL-QARADAWI SINGLED OUT QATAR AND TURKEY FOR PRAISE IN THEIR RESPONSES TO THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT. WHILE MANY MUSLIMS HAVE TAKEN ISSUE WITH THE MODERN TRAPPINGS AND WESTERN ORIENTATION OF THE TURKISH STATE, QARADAWI SAID IT IS THE ARABS (SAVE QATAR) WHO SHOULD BE ASHAMED. "WE HAVE TO APPLAUD OUR BRETHERN THE TURKS. SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT TURKEY HAD LOST ITS LINK WITH ISLAM BUT THE RECENT INCIDENT SHOWED THAT ISLAM WAS STILL INHERENT IN THE HEARTS OF ITS PEOPLE," HE SAID.

6. (U) AL-QARADAWI IN A FRIDAY, JUNE 4 SERMON CRITICIZED ISRAEL'S "ZIONIST GANG" FOR "ATTACKING ACTIVISTS AND VOLUNTEERS ON BOARD A DEFENSELESS SHIP CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID. BUT THEN WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED," HE ADDED, "AS THEY HAD

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KILLED THE PROPHETS OF GOD." QARADAWI WENT ON TO SAY THAT "CORRUPT ZIONISTS ARE WAR-MONGERS. I BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL'S DAY OF GOD'S WRATH IS COMING VERY SOON BECAUSE THEY HAVE, TEMPTED BY THE AMERICAN VETO AND WEAPONS, CROSSED ALL LINES," HE DECLARED.

7. (U) TURNING TO THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, QARADAWI IN HIS SERMON SAID, "I HOPE THAT THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY WILL ANNOUNCE IT IS NO LONGER SEEKING PEACE WITH ISRAEL. WE DO NOT GAIN ANYTHING FROM THESE LIES...CALLED THE PEACE PROCESS."

(b)(6)

401-3

STATE

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000324

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PINR, EUN, IS, GZ, SW
SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA TIDBITS FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND PORT UNION

1. (U) THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES RECENT REACTIONS TO THE GAZA AID FLOTILLA BY THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT, MFA AND PORT WORKERS UNION.

2. (SBU) PARLIAMENT: AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE LEFT PARTY, THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT TODAY HELD A DEBATE ON THE WIDER GAZA AID ISSUE. AS SWEDEN IS FOUR MONTHS AWAY FROM GENERAL ELECTIONS, THE DEBATE WAS MORE ABOUT CAMPAIGNING THAN FOREIGN POLICY MAKING. FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT SUMMED UP THE DEBATE WELL WITH HIS CLOSING STATEMENT: "WHAT IS THE RED-GREEN OPPOSITIONS POSITION? FOREIGN POLICY IS NO LAUGHING MATTER. THE OPPOSITION BASICALLY ONLY AGREES ON ONE THING--TO BRING HOME THE MILITARY ATTACHE, AND EVEN THEN THEY AGREE THAT IT PROBABLY WILL NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT WHATSOEVER."

3. (SBU) MFA: ON JUNE 4, DCM SILVERMAN MET WITH (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) STATED THAT THE SWEDISH POSITION IS CLEAR IN TWO ASPECTS: ISRAEL WAS WRONG TO BOARD THE SHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND ISRAEL HAD USED EXTENSIVE VIOLENCE. BILDT HAS STATED THAT SWEDEN WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THE EU'S UNITY AND WORK THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM.

4. (SBU) PORT WORKERS UNION: THE AP NEWS WIRE REPORTED ON 5 JUNE THAT THE SWEDISH PORT WORKERS UNION WILL LAUNCH A WEEKLONG BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI SHIPS AND GOODS IN RESPONSE TO THE RAID ON THE GAZA-DESTINED AID FLOTILLA. ALTHOUGH SWEDISH TRADE UNIONS ARE TRADITIONALLY VERY POWERFUL, THIS IS A SMALL FREESTANDING GROUP WITH ONLY 1,500 MEMBERS. POST DOES NOT EXPECT THIS GROUP TO HAVE ANY REAL IMPACT ON TRADE BETWEEN SWEDEN AND ISRAEL.
BARZUN

402-1

STATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TUNIS 000416

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/09/2020

TAGS: PREL, ELAB, KWBG, KPAL, IS, GZ, TS
SUBJECT: LABOR UNION SECRETARY GENERAL CONDEMNS ISRAELI RAID ON FREE GAZA
FLOTILLA

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR GORDON GRAY FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

1. (C) SECRETARY GENERAL ABDESSALEM JERAD OF THE TUNISIAN NATIONAL LABOR UNION DELIVERED A LETTER JUNE 9 TO THE AMBASSADOR CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI RAID ON THE FREE GAZA FLOTILLA. THE LETTER CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE "UNJUST SIEGE" ON GAZA, CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL'S (GOI) "AGGRESSION" THAT KILLED AND INJURED DOZENS OF PEOPLE, AND CALLED ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ARAB GOVERNMENTS, AND THE ARAB LEAGUE TO CONDEMN THE GOI AND APPROVE IMMEDIATE SANCTIONS AGAINST IT. JERAD SAID THE U.S. WAS BEING INCONSISTENT IN ITS DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN IT SUPPORTED THE GOI AND CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR BLOCKING A UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (UNSCR) FOLLOWING THE RAID. HE REFERRED TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CAIRO AND ANKARA SPEECHES AND SAID THE LACK OF U.S. ACTION HAD DIMINISHED THEIR CREDIBILITY. IN RESPONSE, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THE UGTT'S ROLE IN ORGANIZING MANY OF THE RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL, AND PLACED THE MEETING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S RESPECT FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THAT THE U.S. ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE NEED FOR AN INVESTIGATION. THE EMBASSY ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING THE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GENERAL UNION FOR TUNISIAN WORKERS (UGTT), THE NATIONAL LABOR UNION, ABDESSALEM JERAD, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OTHER SENIOR LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 9. JERAD HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING TO DELIVER A LETTER CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S RAID ON THE FREE GAZA FLOTILLA. (NOTE: THE LETTER WILL BE E-MAILED TO NEA/MAG SEPARATELY.) ANTICIPATING THAT THE UGTT WOULD IMMEDIATELY DISSEMINATE A PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING THE MEETING THE EMBASSY LIKEWISE PREPARED A PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING TO CONVEY THE U.S. POSITION. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, JERAD HAD ANNOUNCED IN A JUNE 3 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WOULD BE DELIVERING A LETTER CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ACTION TO THE U.S. EMBASSY, THE EU MISSION, AND THE UN OFFICE, AS WELL AS A SEPARATE LETTER TO THE TURKISH EMBASSY THANKING ITS GOVERNMENT FOR ITS STANCE. THE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE WAS PLACED IN AN ON-LINE NEWS MAGAZINE WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER THE MEETING.

CONTENTS OF THE LETTER

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3. (U) THE LETTER CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE "UNJUST SIEGE" ON GAZA AND CONDEMNED GOI "AGGRESSION" THAT KILLED AND INJURED DOZENS OF PEOPLE; INVITED THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONDEMN THE GOI AND APPROVE IMMEDIATE SANCTIONS AGAINST IT TO HOLD IT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION; CALLED ON ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND THE ARAB LEAGUE TO MOVE QUICKLY TO DETER THE GOI AND MOBILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO JOIN IN CONDEMNING THE EVENTS; LAUNCHED AN APPEAL TO ALL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS TO TAKE PRACTICAL INITIATIVES TO ISOLATE THE GOI; AND STRESSED THE NEED TO PROSECUTE THE PERPETRATORS.

ADDITIONALLY, THE LETTER SAID THE UGTT EXECUTIVE BUREAU DEPLORES THE SILENCE OF POWERFUL COUNTRIES WHICH DEAL WITH AND SUPPORT THE GOI, AND PLEDGED THE UGTT TO AN EFFORT TO MOBILIZE TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONALLY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO ASK FOR THE END TO THE ISRAEL OCCUPATION OF GAZA.

THE MEETING

4. (SBU) JERAD OPENED HIS COMMENTS BY VOICING HIS RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES AND ITS LONG TRADITION OF SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION. HE INITIALLY SAID THE PEOPLE HAVE NOT LOST FAITH IN PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM, LIBERTY, AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PEOPLE, BUT LATER REFERRED TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CAIRO AND ANKARA SPEECHES AND SAID THE LACK OF U.S. ACTION HAD DIMINISHED THEIR CREDIBILITY. HE INSISTED ON TWO POINTS: THAT THE UGTT WAS NOT PROTESTING THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL BUT ONLY THE GOI'S ACTIONS TO OPPRESS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WHICH DO NOT MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS; AND THAT THE UGTT WAS NOT SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS PALESTINIANS BUT AS PEOPLE WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED. HIS KEY POINT WAS TO URGE THE U.S. AS THE "WORLD'S SUPERPOWER," AND IN ACCORD WITH THE U.S.S OPPOSITION TO COLONIALISM AND ITS DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GOI TO END THE EMBARGO. HE POINTED TO THE U.S. BLOCKING A UNSCR FOLLOWING THE RAID AS AN EXAMPLE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. HE ALSO PROTESTED THE U.S. PROVIDING "ADVANCED ARMAMENTS" TO THE GOI INSTEAD OF

SANCTIONING IT, AS THE U.S. DOES TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT RESPECT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS.

5. (SBU) IN HIS RESPONSE THE AMBASSADOR PLACED THE MEETING WITH JERAD IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. HE NOTED THAT THE UGTT HAD ORGANIZED MANY OF THE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE ISRAELI RAID AND SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE AS A FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL RIGHT IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES EVEN IF THE DEMONSTRATION IS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. WAS ALSO CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION; THAT WHILE THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE GOI IT IS ALSO THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO UNRWA; AND THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS SHOWN HIS COMMITMENT TO HELPING RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN ISSUE SINCE HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE. THE SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUED A UNANIMOUS PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT. THE AMBASSADOR UNDERSCORED THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO SEE A TWO-STATE SOLUTION WITH BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS LIVING SIDE-BY-SIDE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

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COMMENT

6. (C) (b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(d)

END COMMENT.

(b)(6)

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STATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TUNIS 000407

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/2020

TAGS: ASEC, KPAL, PGOV, PHUM, PREL, GZ, TS, IS
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: TUNISIA: UPDATE ON REACTIONS TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: TUNIS 399

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR GORDON GRAY FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

1. ~~(E)~~ THE TUNISIAN GENERAL LABOR UNION (UGTT) CONTINUED THE WEEK,S PROTESTS OVER THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT WITH A DEMONSTRATION IN TUNIS ON JUNE 3. THE EVENT, WHICH DREW UGTT SUPPORTERS FROM AROUND THE AREA, RECEIVED MINOR COVERAGE IN TUNISIAN PRESS, BUT DISPLAYED A MARKED INCREASE IN ANTI-AMERICAN THEMES. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UGTT IS CALLING ON THE AMBASSADOR NEXT WEEK, LIKELY TO FORMALLY CONDEMN ISRAEL,S ACTIONS AND PERCEIVED U.S. UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. THE UGTT PROTEST AND THE DISRUPTION OF A TEACHER,S UNION MEETING IN GAFSA PROBABLY REVEAL HOW DEEPLY TUNISIAN ANGER RUNS OVER THE GAZA INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

UGTT LEADS DEMONSTRATION

2. ~~(SBU)~~ THE TUNISIAN GENERAL LABOR UNION (UGTT) ON JUNE 3 HELD A DEMONSTRATION CONDEMNING ISRAELI ACTIONS IN THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT AND AFFIRMING SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS, MARKING THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF PROTESTS THIS WEEK (REFTEL). UGTT SECRETARY GENERAL ABDESSELEM JERAD HEADED THE PROTEST, AND PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED LABOR UNION MEMBERS, WORKERS, STUDENTS, AND INDEPENDENT ACTIVISTS. DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED ON MOHAMED V AVENUE IN TUNIS, AND A PRIVATE ARABIC DAILY, AL-SHAROUQ, REPORTED THAT "THOUSANDS" ATTENDED THE EVENT.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE UGTT TOOK PART IN THE DEMONSTRATION IN TUNIS; ONE OF THE BANNERS FROM THE EVENT READ "THE REGIONAL UGTT OFFICE IN BIZERTE SUPPORTS RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS IN LEBANON, PALESTINE, AND IRAQ." UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY THAT PROTESTORS BURNED ISRAELI FLAGS, AND PHOTOS OF THE EVENT SHOW A PLETHORA OF PALESTINIAN FLAGS AND SCARVES. THE UGTT EXECUTIVE BOARD MET BEFORE THE DEMONSTRATION AND ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING ISRAELI ACTIONS, CALLING ON THE UN TO IMPLEMENT SANCTIONS, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO TURKEY.

4. ~~(E)~~ AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION, ACCORDING TO CIVIL SOCIETY CONTACTS, POLICE USED FORCE AGAINST PROTESTORS WHO WERE CARRYING BANNERS CALLING FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ENDING TUNISIA,S POLICY FOR NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL, ACCORDING TO CIVIL SOCIETY CONTACTS.

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MINOR PRESS COVERAGE

5. (SBU) SOME OF THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON THE UGTT DEMONSTRATION, BUT APART FROM THE UGTT'S PAPER, NONE OF THEM CARRIED THE STORY ON THE FIRST PAGE. LA PRESSE, AN OFFICIAL FRENCH DAILY, HAD A SHORT ARTICLE ON THE DEMONSTRATION WITHOUT PHOTOS ON PAGE EIGHT. A PRIVATE ARABIC DAILY, AL-SHAROUQ, PUBLISHED A LONGER ARTICLE ON THE DEMONSTRATION AND INCLUDED PHOTOS. THE UGTT'S PAPER, ASH-SHAAB, NOT SURPRISINGLY CARRIED THE STORY ON THE FIRST PAGE, HAD TWO PAGES OF ARTICLES AND PHOTOS WITHIN THE PAPER, AND PUBLISHED PHOTOS OF THE EVENT ON ITS BACK COVER.

SOME ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT

6. (SBU) THE UGTT DEMONSTRATION HAD SOME ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES. THE UGTT'S PAPER SHOWED PHOTOS OF DEMONSTRATORS WITH BANNERS, AND A HANDWRITTEN ONE READ "U.S. IMPERIALISM AND WORLD ZIONISM ARE THE WORST ENEMIES OF FREEDOM." UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY THAT DEMONSTRATORS BURNED US FLAGS AT THE UGTT PROTEST, AND JERAD REPORTEDLY TOLD FRENCH PRESS THAT "THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE A GOOD HAND IN DEFENDING MANKIND AND DEMOCRACY, BUT ITS CONTINUOUS AND SCANDALOUS 'COVER' FOR ISRAEL'S CRIMES TAKE AWAY ALL CREDIBILITY."

7. (SBU) JERAD CALLED THE EMBASSY REQUESTING AN URGENT APPOINTMENT WITH THE AMBASSADOR, DURING WHICH WE EXPECT HE INTENDS TO DELIVER A MESSAGE CONDEMNING ISRAELI ACTIONS IN THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. THE AMBASSADOR HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH JERAD ON JUNE 9 AND PLANS TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THE U.S. POSITION ON THE GAZA INCIDENT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED PROXIMITY TALKS.

TEACHERS FIGHT OVER FLOTILLA STANCE

8. (SBU) AN INDEPENDENT ARABIC DAILY, AS-SARIH, REPORTED THAT ARGUMENTS OVER THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT DISRUPTED A MEETING OF THE TEACHER'S UNION IN GAFSA. THE FORMER HEAD OF THE UNION WANTED THE UNION TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ACTIONS, AND AN ALTERCATION OCCURRED BETWEEN THE FORMER AND CURRENT HEAD OF THE UNION. MEMBERS DECIDED TO CANCEL THE MEETING FOLLOWING THE ARGUMENT.

COMMENT

9. (S) THE UGTT'S LATEST DEMONSTRATIONS APPEARED HARsher IN TONE THAN THE GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED PROTEST ON JUNE 1, AND THE PROTEST AND DISRUPTION IN THE TEACHERS UNION MEETING INDICATE HOW STRONGLY THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT HAS STIRRED THE ANGER OF THE TUNISIAN POPULACE. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO

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CONTROL THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE LATEST EXPRESSIONS OF ANGER
ARE INCREASINGLY DIRECTED TOWARD THE USG. END COMMENT.

GRAY

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/001128

STATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 000396

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/02/2020

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PGOV, KPAL, ASEC, PINR, TS, IS, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: TUNISIA DEMONSTRATION AND CONTINUED REACTIONS TO GAZA INCIDENT

REF: A. TUNIS 389
B. TUNIS 293

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR GORDON GRAY FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

1. (C) THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA SANCTIONED A DEMONSTRATION ON JUNE 1 THAT VOICED SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND PROTESTED ISRAELI ACTIONS OVER THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT. POLOFFS OBSERVED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE GATHERING FOR THE EVENT, WHICH NEWSPAPERS REPORTED INCLUDED "THOUSANDS." LEADERS OF THE RULING DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL RALLY (RCD) PARTY AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SUCH AS PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR BEN DHIA APPEARED AND CLAIMED CREDIT FOR ORGANIZING THE DEMONSTRATION. WIDESPREAD PRESS COVERAGE AND CONDEMNATIONS OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT CONTINUED FOR A THIRD DAY. END SUMMARY.

GAZA DEMONSTRATION

2. (C) THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED A DEMONSTRATION ABOUT THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 1, FOLLOWING THE PREVENTION OF SEVERAL OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS EARLIER IN THE WEEK (REF A). POLICE CLOSED OFF A PORTION OF MOHAMED V AVENUE, A PROMINENT STREET IN TUNIS, FOR THE EVENT, AND POLOFFS OBSERVED TUNISIANS GATHERING FOR THE DEMONSTRATION CARRYING BANNERS, FLAGS, AND A MEGAPHONE. POLOFFS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE ON THE STREET, PROBABLY BEFORE THE PROTEST BEGAN, AND NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS INCLUDED "THOUSANDS." POLICE FORCES HEAVILY MONITORED THE EVENT, AND POLOFFS OBSERVED THEM LINING THE DEMONSTRATION AREA AND ON STREET CORNERS. THE TUNISIAN GENERAL LABOR UNION (UGTT) HAS CALLED FOR ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION ON JUNE 3.

3. (C) WHILE BANNERS APPEARING IN THE MEDIA EXPRESSED PREDICTABLE SYMPATHY FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND ANGER AT ISRAEL, AT LEAST SOME BANNERS CARRIED BY OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS INCLUDED SLOGANS SUCH AS "NO TO AMERICAN INTERESTS AND TO ZIONIST EMBASSIES ON ARAB LAND," AND "SHAME ON ARAB REGIMES, GAZA IS DYING." ACCORDING TO REPORTS UGTT LEADER ABDESSALAM JERAD WAS SENDING A MESSAGE OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE AMBASSADOR OF TURKEY AND A MESSAGE OF CONDEMNATION TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR. (NOTE: NO SUCH MESSAGE HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY. END NOTE.)

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WIDESPREAD COVERAGE IN PRESS

4. (U) ALL EIGHT OF THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS CARRIED HEADLINES ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATION ON THE FIRST PAGE. THE DAILY PAPERS, WHICH ARE EITHER OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATELY OWNED BUT PRO-GOVERNMENT, USED THE SAME TEXT FROM THE OFFICIAL NEWS OUTLET, THE TUNISIAN AFRICAN PRESS AGENCY. THE STORY HIGHLIGHTED THAT THAT "POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMPONENTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY" STAGED THE DEMONSTRATION AND INCLUDED THE DEMONSTRATORS' CALLS FOR THE SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE LIFTING OF THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA. THE ARABIC LANGUAGE PAPERS HAVE HAD WIDE COVERAGE OF THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT. THE TABLOID CHOUROUQ, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIED A THREE PAGE COMMENTARY OF FOUR TUNISIAN EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW WHO CONDEMNED ISRAELI ACTIONS AS A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

RULING PARTY ANXIOUS TO BE SEEN IN FRONT

5. (C) HIGH-PROFILE LEADERS OF THE RCD PARTY AND GOVERNMENT FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN PHOTOS OF THE DEMONSTRATION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED HEADS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND OPPOSITION PARTIES. SOME OF THE LEADERS PRESENT WERE PRESIDENCY SPOKESMAN BEN DHIA, THE HEAD OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVISERS, RCD SECRETARY GENERAL GHARIANI, RCD POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER NEZZI NAZIHA ZARROUK, AND HEAD OF THE SOCIAL LIBERAL PARTY MONDHOR THABET. SEVERAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WERE REPRESENTED, INCLUDING THE UGTT, THE FARMERS UNION, AND THE WOMEN,S UNION.

6. (C) AN EMBASSY CONTACT SAID THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED BY THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE EL-TAJDID (RENEWAL) PARTY, THE DEMOCRATIC FORUM FOR LABOR AND LIBERTIES (FDTL), AND THE PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP). THEY REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR THE DEMONSTRATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AND THE GOVERNOR OF TUNIS SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED ON

THE PARTIES TO HAVE A LARGE DEMONSTRATION WITH ALL PARTIES REPRESENTED.

COMMENT

7. (C) (b)(6)
(b)(1),Sec. 1.4(d)

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(b)(1),(b)(6),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(6)

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STATE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 000734

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS
STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/ARP (CSULLIVAN), AND NEA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KPAO, KMDR, AE, IR, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: CONTINUED UAE MEDIA CRITICISM

REF: 10 ABU DHABI 708

1. (U) WHILE UAE MEDIA CONTINUES ITS CRITICAL LINE ON RECENT ISRAELI (AND U.S. ACTIONS), THE UAEG HAS BEEN MOSTLY QUIET. EDITORIALS IN UAE ARABIC AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES CONTINUE TO HARSHLY CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR "VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAW" AND CRITICIZE USG LEADERSHIP FOR NOT CONDEMNING THE GOI FOR THEIR MAY 31 ACTIONS AGAINST CIVILIAN SHIPS BOUND FOR GAZA (REFTEL). CRITICISM OF USG LEADERSHIP HAS INCREASED OVER THE LAST WEEK, WITH ONE ARABIC DAILY, AL KHALEEJ, EDITORIAL STATING, "THE UNITED STATES BLOCKED A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL. [...] FOR A THOUSAND TIMES, WE CAN SAY THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT ABLE TO COMMIT SUCH A CRIME AND OTHER CRIMES, WITHOUT THE UNLIMITED SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER ALLIES."

2. (U) ONE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY PICKED UP A JUNE 6 STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE SEMI-OFFICIAL MEHR NEWS AGENCY IN TEHRAN QUOTING AN IRGC NAVY OFFICIAL SAYING THAT THE NAVY WAS "READY TO ESCORT THE PEACE AND FREEDOM CONVOYS THAT CARRY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEFENSELESS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF GAZA WITH ALL ITS STRENGTH." WHILE THIS IS OBVIOUS POSTURING BY IRAN, IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, IT WILL HAVE SOME RESONANCE AT THE STREET LEVEL.

3. (SBU) COMMENT: EMIRATI CONTACTS REMAIN LARGELY SILENT ON THE ISSUE OF THE GAZA-BOUND SHIPS AND THE UAEG HAS NOT RELEASED ANY FURTHER STATEMENTS. WAM, THE OFFICIAL EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, HAS NOT PUBLISHED NEW MATERIAL, BUT QUOTED REGIONAL NEWS REPORTS OF THE JUNE 5TH ISRAELI SEIZURE OF THE MV RACHEL CORRIE, AN IRISH-FLAG SHIP HEADED FOR GAZA. END COMMENT.
GREENE

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 000708

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/ARP (CSULLIVAN), AND NEA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAO, AE

SUBJECT: "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" LIGHTS UP HEADLINES IN UAE

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: IN SEPARATE JUNE 1 STATEMENTS, UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH KHALIFA AND FM SHEIKH ABDULLAH CONDEMNED ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST THE "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" MANNED BY INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISTS SAILING FOR GAZA. THESE STATEMENTS REFLECT, IN PART, VERY STRONG PUBLIC SENTIMENT REGARDING ISRAELI ACTIONS AND ARE DESIGNED TO STAY AHEAD OF THAT OPINION. STREET PROTESTS, HOWEVER, ARE UNLIKELY. ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS COVERED OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL RESPONSES TO ISRAEL'S SEIZURE OF THE VESSELS, ALL CONDEMNING ISRAEL'S ACTIONS IN EXTREMELY HARSH TERMS. THE USG HAS NOT COME IN FOR DIRECT CRITICISM, BUT ENGLISH AND ARABIC DAILIES EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE USG'S ROLE IN "SOFTENING" LANGUAGE USED IN A RECENT UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE ON THE FLOTILLA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH KHALIFA STRESSED THE NEED FOR A COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE AND THE NEED TO MAKE THE ISSUE A TOP PRIORITY AMONG GCC STATES. "UAE CONDEMNS FREEDOM FLOTILLA ATTACK," READ THE HEADLINE PUBLISHED BY WAM, THE OFFICIAL EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY. THE NEWS ITEM, COVERING FM SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S RESPONSE TO THE ATTACK, REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THE ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW. SHEIKH ABDULLAH SAID THE ISRAELI RAID ON THE SHIPS WAS AN "UNPROVOKED RESPONSE" TO A PEACEFUL HUMANITARIAN MISSION. IN A QUASI-OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT, WAM SUMMARIZED A GULF NEWS EDITORIAL IN WHICH THE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE WAS CALLED "A TERRORIST ATTACK." THE OPINION PIECE STATED, "AGAIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FAILS THE CHILDREN OF GAZA AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT PEACE AND JUSTICE AROUND THE WORLD."

3. (SBU) DESPITE THE FOCUS IN PUBLIC, EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE REMAINED SILENT ON THE INCIDENT. UAE MINISTER OF TRADE, SHEIKHA LUBNA AL QASIMI, ARRIVED AT BETHLEHEM ON JUNE 1 TO ATTEND A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE AND HAS ALSO REMAINED SILENT ON THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT.

4. (U) GULF NEWS, WHICH HAD A REPORTER ON-BOARD THE LEAD VESSEL OF THE FLOTILLA, HAS PUBLISHED MORE THAN 40 ARTICLES IN THE LAST 48 HOURS RELATED TO THE ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST THE FLOTILLA. AN EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE "URGENT ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL FOR ITS DESPICABLE ACT." A SCREAMING FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE ON JUNE 1 READ, "FREEDOM ATTACKED." THE ARTICLE REFERRED TO THE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE AS "THE MEDITERRANEAN MASSACRE" AND STATED THAT ISRAELI FORCES FIRED ON CIVILIANS "ARMED ONLY WITH BABY MILK AND PACKS OF ANTIBIOTICS." THE ARTICLE COMPARES THE CAPTURE OF THE FLOTILLA TO "OTHER ISRAELI MASSACRES," AND LISTS INCIDENTS IN LEBANON AND GAZA. BELOW A HALF-PAGE PHOTO OF THE LEAD VESSEL OF THE FLOTILLA, THE CAPTION READ, "ISRAELI COMMANDOS [...] FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY AT PASSENGERS." AL BAYAN, AN ARABIC NEWSPAPER,

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PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL STATING, "THE JEWISH STATE [IS] THE WORLD RECORD HOLDER IN BLOODY ARROGANCE AND PIRACY."

5. (U) IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ARABIC NEWSPAPERS, COLUMNISTS AND CARTOONISTS CONDEMNED ISRAEL'S "MASSACRE" ABOARD VESSELS IN THE FLOTILLA. THE NATIONAL, AN ABU DHABI-BASED ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, WROTE IN AN EDITORIAL THAT ISRAEL'S TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS OUGHT TO BE COMPARED WITH APARTHEID-ERA SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WAS INCREASING. ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER KHALEEJ TIMES DECLARED IN AN OPINION PIECE, "THE NUMBER OF SHIPBOARD CASUALTIES INDICATES THAT ONCE FIGHTING STARTED, THE ISRAELI COMMANDOS SIMPLY SPRAYED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE INTO THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM."

6. (U) NEWSPAPERS STRESSED THAT THE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE WAS CARRIED OUT IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND THAT THE USG OUGHT TO APPLY GREATER PRESSURE ON THE GOI. SEVERAL COLUMNISTS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE USG'S ROLE IN SOFTENING THE TONE OF THE RECENT UNSC STATEMENT EXPRESSING REGRET AT THE LOSS OF LIFE ABOARD FLOTILLA VESSELS. IN ONE OPINION PIECE, THE AUTHOR URGED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR ITS ACTIONS AND SAID THAT NATIONS THAT FAILED TO ACT WOULD, "IN THEIR SILENCE AND COMPLICITY, ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH THE ISRAELIS WHO CARRIED OUT THE MURDEROUS PREDAWN ATTACK." AN EDITOR AT ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY AL KHALEEJ DECLARED, "IT IS TIME FOR THE ARABS TO REALIZE THAT THIS U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS LIKE ITS PREDECESSORS THAT CANNOT ABANDON ITS ZIONIST ALLY."

7. (SBU) COMMENT: THE EMIRATI LEADERSHIP IS NO FRIEND OF HAMAS. ISRAELI ACTIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE INFLAMED PUBLIC OPINION AND - AS WITH MOST GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION - THE UAEG WANTS TO BE OUT IN FRONT, WHILE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PUBLIC OUTRAGE IN THE UAE WILL SPILL INTO THE STREETS, THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND MEDIA COVERAGE ARE THE STRONGEST WE HAVE SEEN ON ISRAEL SINCE THE 2008 ISRAELI OFFENSIVE IN GAZA. END COMMENT.
GREENE