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B100

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Benze, David K
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:26 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Gaza Flotilla: Saudi Media Reaction

RELEASED IN FULL

SAUDI ARABIA Media Reaction

Freedom Flotilla disturbs a U.S. -Saudi economic meeting at the JCCI: Several papers reported that the Israeli raid on the Freedom Flotilla dominated and disturbed a meeting between a visiting U.S Congressional delegation and members of the Saudi business community at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) on Wednesday. Attempts by the U.S. delegation not to discuss the issue were in vain, as Saudi businessmen and businesswomen insisted that the continuous U.S. support of the "Israeli aggression" in the region would have a direct impact on the sales of American products. Saudi businessmen said the priority for them is to have peace in the region which will allow all countries to prosper economically. A young Saudi businessman, Ahmad Mustafa Sabri, who appeared in the much talked about recent MTV documentary "True Life," said that every topic should be open for discussion in a house of commerce. Sabri added, "We are not going to talk about business while our brothers are being killed" (*Saudi Gazette*, pg. 2; *Al-Watan* and *Shams*, pg. 1).

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B101

From: Daniels, Cherrie S
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
CC: Oslo, PAS; Oslo, PolEcon; Selinger, Thomas B; Peterson, Julie Anne
Subject: MGGZ01: Norwegian FM Store Opposes Boycott of Israel, according to Media reports
Sent: 6/3/2010 5:26:05 AM

Monitoring Group and EUR/NB colleagues - Here is Embassy Oslo public affairs section's Gaza Flotilla related media reaction for today - the top story is especially noteworthy.

Cherrie S. Daniels
Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs and A/DCM
U.S. Embassy Oslo

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From: Naess, Petter
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:39 AM
Subject: Oslo press brief, Thursday, June 3

Oslo press briefing Thursday, June 3, 2010

News/commentary

(U) FM Støre opposes boycott (VG16-17) Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre says the demand for boycott of Israel is an expression of frustration that he understands and shares, but he is against a unilateral Norwegian boycott, which would mean closing a door. He notes that details on what happened during the boarding are still unclear. Embassy pol.econ section note: This comment was likely generated by Red-Green Government Coalition member Kristin Halvorsen's (Education Minister, from the Socialist Left Party) suggestion of a boycott of Israel in previous days, as well as by opinion polling reported June 2 showing a majority of Norway's public supported a boycott and thought FM Støre's reaction to that point had been too mild. See June 2 media reporting and June 1 MFA press release at bottom of this email. End note.

In a column in Dagens Næringsliv yesterday (Profession: Hostage) Bjørn Gabrielsen - one of a new breed of "freethinkers" (Aslak Nore is another) commonly associated with the left but who resist leftist orthodoxy on a range of issues - slammed writer Erlend Loe for participating in a protest outside the Israeli embassy and thereby becoming a puppet for terrorist groups Hamas and Hizbollah. Loe made it quite clear that he neither hated Israel or supported Hamas, but needed to protest the Israeli operation against the ship and express support for the people of Gaza. The Gabrielsen/Loe debate has also been picked up by Dagbladet. Petter Eide, Secretary General of Norwegian People's Aid, writes that Gabrielsen's criticism of Loe - and Swedish writer Henning Mankell (who participated in the convoy) as "useful idiots" for Hamas is a red herring; the issue is solidarity with the people of Gaza and the killing of civilians in international waters (DB65)

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In Aftenposten Per Anders Madsen emphasizes that IDF soldiers were incontestably out of line, boarding a ship and shooting civilians in international waters. But an event consists of more than the most evident facts, and David Grossman's article in Aftenposten yesterday – in which he asserted that both IDF and the Gaza pilgrims were hoodwinked by the Turkish based organization IHH – complicates the story, and should be a warning to those who would simplify complicated issues. In an op-ed in VG Hanne Skartveit (*Mutual fear – and with good reason*, VG2-3) also underscores the complexity of the conflict, and alludes to Grossman and the alleged IHH ties to Al Qaeda.

Ingrid Brekke (*Controlled Information* AFTK9) writes that it is disturbing to realize how easy it was for Israeli authorities to control the flow of information from the event and ensure that the world only had access to one version. In this age of instant information, it took almost 36 hours for eyewitness accounts to reach the outside world. Dag Tuastad of PRIO writes that no solution in the Middle East can be achieved until the West recognizes Hamas. (VG46)

Editorials

DAGBLADET

Not credible; Truth is the first casualty of war. Israel argues a) that commandos had expected no resistance from demonstrators and b) that they knew ships were full of militant activists who were out to make trouble and therefore had to intervene.

AFT=Aftenposten

VG=VG

DB=Dagbladet

DA=Dagsavisen

DN=Dagens Næringsliv

KK= Klassekampen

c=cover

Excerpt from June 2 Oslo press brief:
Oslo press briefing Wednesday, June 2, 2010

News/commentary

Israel

The cover of Aftenposten, as well as 5 pages inside the newspaper is devoted to the incident aboard the Free Gaza Flotilla. Aftenposten's US Correspondent Alf Ole Ask reports on UN activities, and has a picture of US demonstrators demanding that the US stop aid to Israel. John Harbo compares this to the massacres in Sabra and Shatila in 1982, as another time that Israel seriously did not care about what the world would think. (He emphasizes that it was different, however, in that the media was not hindered in their work at that time, and that the 1982 massacre did have serious ramifications for Israelis involved, whereas today, the Israeli government is working to defend what happened aboard the "Mavi Marmara"). Both Harbo and Ask write that Turkish-Israeli relations have been jeopardized, and that this might hamper the efforts in the UN to make sanctions against Iran stricter.

Aftenposten commentator Harald Stanghelle writes that the Israeli government is betting that the outrage will die out, and that no one in the end will demand betterment for the Palestinians in Gaza. Kjetil Wiedswang in Dagens Næringsliv writes that it is in nobody's interest to remove the blockade on Gaza—the Israeli right wing has nothing against showing Hamas from their bad side, Egypt does not want to let radical Islamists into their own society, and Iran is providing weapons to Hamas to get at their main enemy Israel. In most Arabic countries in the region, authoritarian leaders are targeting their populations' anger against this blockade, rather than at their own misrule.

David Grossman, an Israeli author, writes that the Israeli Government went into a trap, and that only a very unsure, panicked, and confused government would do what Israel has done, and that the Turkish religious fanatics who organized the Free Gaza Flotilla knew to take advantage of that. VG seconds this, and writes that one of the organizations behind the Flotilla, Turkish IHH, has connections to Al-Qaida, according to a Danish research report. Dagbladet's editors call the Israeli decision to board the ship disastrous, and that they now have lost Turkish support. Dagbladet focuses on the Swedish writer, Henning Mankell, who was also a part of the Flotilla, as well as on the three Norwegians who spent yesterday in Israeli prison. Henning Mankell in VG calls the Israeli government pirates.

Aftenposten.no and NRK.no write that Hillary Clinton refuses to condemn Israel after the incident, but Dagsavisen's editors point out that the US did agree to the UN Security Council condemnation of the incident yesterday. SV's leader Kristin Halvorsen had suggested a boycott, which most prominent labor politicians say is not appropriate. Today, VG's editors second this opinion, and write that the best way to get Israel to stop the blockade of Gaza is through open communication, not through a boycott. Through a poll in VG, where 1028 people answered, VG writes an article about how the Norwegian people want a boycott, and are of the opinion that Jonas Gahr Støre has reacted in too mild a manner. Meanwhile, NUPi director Jan Egeland hopes that this incident can result in an opening of the long blockade on Gaza, according to Dagsavisen, and he says to Klassekampen that Israel now should expect ship upon ship headed towards Gaza. He also encourages Norway to work with the UN and the US about creating a humanitarian corridor for necessary goods to enter Gaza. (AFTc, 15-17, K3, K5, DB, 2, 12-16, <http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/verden/1.7149338>, <http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/uriks/article3675578.ece> VG, 2, 6-9, 10, DAc, 2, 3, 16-19, DN, 2, KK, 12-13)

Petter Næss
Information Resource Director
American Embassy
Office of Public Affairs

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Press release, 01.06.2010

Norway supports the Security Council's demand for a transparent, impartial investigation of the Israeli operation against the Gaza convoy

In a statement dated 31 May, the UN Security Council condemns the acts that led to the loss of civilian lives when Israeli naval forces boarded the convoy carrying humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The statement underscores the need for a prompt, impartial and credible investigation of the incident.

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"The Security Council's statement shows that the entire international community condemns the Israeli raid on the convoy carrying humanitarian assistance to Gaza. I welcome the Security Council's demand for a transparent and impartial investigation of the Israeli military operation, which is something I also took up with the UN Secretary-General yesterday. It is in Israel's interests to cooperate on such an investigation," said Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable and underscores the need to allow necessary goods into the area.

"Norway has repeatedly called for an end to the blockade of Gaza so that humanitarian aid and other necessary assistance can reach the Palestinian population. This is important not least to enable the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for Assistance to the Palestinians (AHLC) to fulfil its Security Council mandate concerning the reconstruction of Gaza after the war," said Mr Støre.

In its statement, the Security Council calls for full consular access to those who were on board the ships and who are now detained in Israel. It also calls on the Israeli authorities to release those detained and their ships. The three Norwegian nationals who were on board the convoy have been identified by the Israeli authorities, and are now being detained in the Beer Sheva prison.

"In line with the Security Council, Norway calls for full consular access to the Norwegian nationals involved, and for the immediate release of those detained. We have made this clear to the Israeli authorities," said Foreign Minister Støre.

http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/press/News/2010/investigation_israel.html?id=606557

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2102

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Valdez, Pablo M.
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:18 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: MGGZ01: (Reuters) Israel resists international probe into Gaza ship raid

RELEASED IN FULL

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel resisted calls for an international inquiry to investigate its lethal seizure of a Turkish ship bound for blockaded Gaza. Israeli Finance Minister Steinitz said "there is a need for an investigation to draw lessons", an apparent reference to a narrow Israeli inquiry into the operational details of the commando raid. "As far as we are concerned there is no need for a commission of inquiry," he said, using Israel's term for a state panel, usually led by a judge, that would look into all aspects of the operation, including decisions made by political leaders.

Watch Officer
Operations Center
Department of State
202-647-1512

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

13103

From: Benze, David K
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:14 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: GAZA Flotilla: CNN: Another Gaza Showdown Looming

RELEASED IN FULL

(CNN) – The next showdown over Israel's naval blockade of Gaza could come as early as Friday as an Irish-owned ship filled with humanitarian aid steams into the region.

The Rachel Corrie, named for an American activist killed in Gaza several years ago, was expected to arrive late Friday or early Saturday off the coast of Gaza. The vessel left Ireland laden with 550 tons of cement, educational materials, toys and medical equipment – the latest effort by peace activists to deliver humanitarian goods and break Israel's blockade, according to aid organizers.

Free Gaza Movement activist Derek Graham said that the plan was for the Rachel Corrie to be unloaded in Gaza and then return to Ireland.

The Irish government asked that Israel not interfere.

But an Israeli government official who spoke on background because of the diplomatic sensitivity of the issue told CNN "the Israeli government is offering to receive the ship's cargo, as it has offered other vessels if it docks at (Israel's) Ashdod port. The Israeli government will unload the cargo, screen it, and deliver it to Gaza."

That was the same deal rejected by the flotilla of six ships before Israeli commandos attacked one of them Monday. Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs Micheal Martin told the lower house of the Irish Parliament, the Dail, that he had asked the Israeli ambassador to convey to his government his request that, "following the tragedy which has occurred, the Rachel Corrie be allowed to continue unimpeded, and to deliver its cargo to Gaza."

"We will be watching this situation very closely – as indeed will the world – and it is imperative that Israel avoid any action which leads to further bloodshed," the foreign minister said.

More such ships may be on the horizon. The European Campaign to End Siege on Gaza announced Wednesday it has enough money to fund three more ships in a new fleet to Gaza.

On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended his country's actions that led to the deaths Monday of nine activists aboard the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish boat laden with humanitarian supplies for Gaza. Netanyahu said the goal of the international flotilla had been to penetrate Israel's blockade of Gaza, which he said was needed to halt the shipment of weapons from Iran to militants in Gaza.

Speaking in a nationally televised address, Netanyahu said the state has the responsibility to stop every vessel bound for Gaza, including the flotilla that was targeted Monday.

"That was not a love boat. That was a boat of hatred. It was not a peaceful flotilla. The soldiers who boarded the ships were attacked by clubs, batons and knives."

An attempt by Israel to deliver the goods from the flotilla was rejected, the IDF said Wednesday.

Palestinian sources confirmed that trucks that arrived from Israel at the Rafah terminal at the Israel-Gaza border were barred from delivering the aid.

Ra'ed Fatooh, in charge of the crossings, and Jamal Khudari, head of a committee against the Gaza blockade, laid out the following conditions for the aid to be accepted: Israel must release all flotilla detainees – and representatives of the Free Gaza Movement, which organized the flotilla, must deliver it.

Israel had released all foreign flotilla detainees by Wednesday, but four Israeli Arabs remained in custody.

Three Turkish Airlines planes carrying 466 activists and nine bodies landed Thursday morning in Istanbul, an official said.

Their numbers included several wounded people, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc told CNN.

Most of the passengers were Turks, who made up the majority of the activists in the flotilla.

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The commando raid that led to the deaths continued to draw international condemnation Wednesday and sparked outrage in the streets of world capitals. Demonstrators also decried Israel's ongoing blockade of Gaza.

"For years, many in the international community have been complicit in a policy that aimed at isolating Gaza in the hope of weakening Hamas," said the International Crisis Group, a think tank that denounced the Israeli action.

"This policy is morally appalling and politically self-defeating. It has harmed the people of Gaza without loosening Hamas' control. Yet it has persisted regardless of evident failure."

Turkish officials were seething. The country's prime minister launched strong rhetoric against the Jewish state — a onetime close ally — and its ambassador has been yanked from Tel Aviv.

A U.S. official said Turkey will cancel a trilateral military exercise with the United States and Israel set for August in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Attorneys for a Muslim humanitarian group have filed a petition asking Turkish prosecutors to sue Israel for murder.

The Israeli state attorney general's office, in a response to the High Court on two petitions regarding the flotilla, defended the Israeli actions Wednesday. It said the "Hamas terrorist organization" controls Gaza and is intent on deliberately assaulting civilians.

As a result, Israel has worked to thwart the infiltration of weapons and ordnance from tunnels between Egypt and Gaza and has imposed a naval blockade on Gaza to stop the weapons smuggling.

As for the Rachel Corrie, the Free Gaza Movement said customs officials and a senator from the Irish Green Party inspected the vessel and found no weapons.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Benze, David K.
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:08 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: GAZA Flotilla: AP: Israel trying to limit diplomatic damage from raid

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Israel trying to limit diplomatic damage from raid

By MARK LAVIE
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) -- In an attempt to limit the diplomatic damage from its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Israel dropped plans Wednesday to prosecute dozens of pro-Palestinian activists, opting instead to deport them all immediately.

The stunning reversal came as Israel faced increasingly sharp international condemnation for Monday's high-seas raid that ended when Israeli commandos killed nine activists. The outcry included accusations of war crimes and a decision by Nicaragua to break diplomatic relations with Israel over the raid.

But Israeli officials said the decision not to prosecute any of the activists - despite suspicions that they were sent to attack Israeli forces on the ship - was primarily an attempt to control the damage to Israel's relations with Turkey, an unofficial sponsor of the flotilla. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive diplomatic issues.

Israel is anxious to patch up ties with Ankara because it is the Jewish state's most important Muslim ally. At least four of the nine killed were Turkish and the ship Israel attacked was Turkish. Israel ordered families of its diplomats out of that country a day after Ankara branded the raid a "massacre."

Turkish lawmakers continued to express their outrage Wednesday, calling on their government to review its political, military and economic ties with Israel. The lawmakers also said Israel must formally apologize for the raid, compensate the victims and bring those responsible to justice.

In a step aimed at calming the furious response, Israel announced Wednesday that it would deport all of the activists by day's end.

They received a hero's welcome in Istanbul. A few thousand jubilant relatives and supporters, waving Palestinian and Turkish flags, applauded outside the airport.

The deportees included about 50 of the nearly 700 activists on the ships who Israel said were apparently linked to the world jihad movement and possibly al-Qaida. Israel accused the suspects of attacking Israeli troops rappelling onto one of the ships and beating them with iron rods, clubs and knives. Originally, Israel planned on detaining them in Israel while police looked into possible charges.

But Israeli Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein said in a statement Wednesday that "keeping them here would do more damage to the country's vital interests than good."

Israeli Cabinet Minister Isaac Herzog said the expulsions were an attempt to dampen criticism of Israel.

"We are trying to take full control of this crisis management and move forward," Herzog told The Associated Press, while indicating that Israel would reject calls from the U.N. and others for an independent inquiry. "We are the last nation (that) you can say doesn't check itself," he said.

Herzog defended Israel's blockade of Gaza, saying weapons Hamas could receive by sea could be used

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"against Israel and the region."

International envoy Tony Blair told The Associated Press that Israel should ease the blockade and let more supplies in. He said the blockade was "counterproductive," but said it would be hard to lift it because of Israel's objections.

Israel instructed the families of its diplomats stationed in Turkey to return to Israel immediately because of noisy demonstrations at the Israeli embassy and consulate and the high level of Turkish outrage over the raid.

In another bizarre twist, Israel unloaded supplies from the six boats commandeered during the raid and sent some of the goods toward Gaza, only to see the blockaded territory's Hamas rulers refuse to accept them.

Israeli security officials said they had loaded 20 trucks with equipment that was on the ships, including wheelchairs, toys, clothes and medicine. They said contrary to earlier claims, there was no cement on board.

The Hamas minister of social affairs, Ahmad al-Kurd, accused Israel of keeping batteries for the wheelchairs and withholding tons of cement carried by the flotilla. He said the government would not accept the aid until Israel frees everything confiscated from the ships, but later said the aid would be picked up when all detainees were released.

Hanin Zoabi, an Arab lawmaker who sailed with the activists, was heckled when she took the podium in the Israeli parliament Wednesday.

"Go to Gaza, you traitor," Miri Regev, a lawmaker in the ruling Likud Party and former Israeli military spokeswoman, screamed in Arabic.

Despite the outcry over the raid, the Palestinians were resuming indirect peace talks with Israel Wednesday through U.S. envoy George Mitchell.

Associated Press writers Karin Laub in Jerusalem and Selcan Hacaoglu in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Benze, David K
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:32 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: GAZA Flotilla: Local Media Reactions (Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Algeria)

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KUWAIT

Kuwaiti members of Freedom Flotilla return to a hero's welcome

Major Kuwaiti newspapers reported on the return of the 18 Kuwaiti participants of the Freedom Flotilla aid convoy to the country yesterday. The 18 activists who attempted to undermine the embargo placed on Gaza by the Israeli authorities were given a widely-publicized hero's welcome upon arriving in Kuwait, with both the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly at the forefront of relatives, MPs and members of the public who were present at the airport to receive the activists.

Dr. Waleed Al-Tabtabaie, a prominent member of Kuwait's National Assembly who participated in the Freedom Flotilla, was reported by the Al-Seyassah newspaper to have said that he, along with his compatriots, were subject to both verbal and physical abuse by Israeli prison authorities while detained in a Beersheba prison before being deported to Jordan.

Al-Qabas carried statements by all of the Kuwaiti returnees related to their participation in the Freedom Flotilla. One of the returnees, Haya Al-Shatti, spoke of the psychological abuse she encountered from Israeli prison guards, and said that they threatened to not release her and her compatriots until they signed a paper "acknowledging the existence of Israel."

Al-Seyassah newspaper reports that the Chairman of the Representatives of the Families of Persons in the Popular Committee for the Advocacy of the Sons of Kuwait Salah Al-Abdul Jader has confirmed that a second aid convoy is due to be initiated soon. The newspaper quotes him as saying that "60 Kuwaitis, both male and female, have signed up to take part in a second Freedom Flotilla after the purchase of two humanitarian ships."

BAHRAIN

All dailies celebrated the return of the four Bahrainis, who were in the Freedom flotilla to Gaza, yesterday. They had a heroes' welcome at Bahrain International Airport after they were taken hostage by Israeli commandos. In their press statements, the four citizens said that Israelis tortured them mentally and left them tied down for 36 hours at Eilat City Prison. They said: "the Israelis confiscated our money, cell phones and laptops but we will return to Gaza again with humanitarian aid."

Akhbar Al-Khalij & Al-Watan: During his meeting with a senior congressional delegation, the Second Vice Chairman of the Parliament Dr. Salah Ali said that the Parliament had reservations on the U.S. stance towards the UN Security Council statement on the Israeli aggression on freedom flotilla. Dr. Ali affirmed that the U.S. must have a fair and clear policy that is not based on full submission to the number one enemy of peace, Israel.

Commentaries:

Mansoor Al-Jamri of *Al-Wasat* believes that there is a new rhetoric coming out of Washington. He referred to an article by U.S. strategic analyst Anthony Cordesman in which he describes the Israeli ally as a strategic burden on the United

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States because as America and its President strive to restore peace and support Israel, Tel Aviv continues to embarrass Washington with its aggressive and defiant attitude in the region.

UAE

Freedom Flotilla Response:

Headlines: Israeli raid a test for President Obama; A setback for US diplomacy; Israeli raid may not change US policies (*Khaleej Times*); The White House refuses to condemn Israel and [Secretary] Clinton supports an Israel investigation (*Al Khaleej*); [Turkish PM Recep Tayyip] Erdogan to Obama: Israel is about to lose its sole friend in the Middle East (*Al Khaleej*); Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas wants "bold decisions" from Obama on Middle East (*Gulf News*); Israel Daily *Yedioth Ahronoth*: [PM Benjamin] Netanyahu and [Defense Minister Ehud] Barak planned the piracy operation (*Al Ittihad*); Netanyahu is proud of his crime (*Al Bayan*); Israel deports all detained Gaza aid activists (*All press*); Israel rushes to free aid activists (*The National*);

Editorials

Note: Anti-US sentiment escalates in UAE press, especially Arabic press. Most of the editorials reiterated their customary accusations of the US pro-Israel policy and its unconditional support of Israel's "barbaric" crimes and aggression. Writers also criticized President Obama's "moral collapse" and his defense of Israel crimes.

"A Miserable and Unacceptable American Softness"

Al Bayan Lead Editorial

"Obama's remark on Israel's naval aggression is surprising and shocking. His words do not correspond to the gravity of the crime. Such brutal and grotesque attack deserves more than expressing "deep regret!"

Moreover, the president, who advocates the adoption of dialogue and communication to solve problems and conflicts rather than the language of force and war... This president couldn't find more than this miserable sentence in response to Israel's bloody piracy? Of course, he could deliver the appropriate response, if the offender was not Israel!

The U.S. protection of Israel in international arena is a familiar and well-known issue. Washington has always played the role of the protective umbrella to Israel, covering its violations with an unwarranted immunity against all international resolutions. Moreover, Washington has allowed Israel to continue its aggression and violations, without any restrictions. One fact is clear; Obama's softness with these Israeli crimes is dangerous and unacceptable."

Cartoons

Emarat Alyoum

The cartoon suggests that the international Justice is turning a blind eye to US and Israeli criminal acts, as they violate all the international law.

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المعالم الدولية 11



ALGERIA

- The four Arabic-language newspapers whose journalists were among the Gaza aid flotilla, Echourouk El Youmi, El Khabar, Djazair News and El Bilad, published the testimonies of their journalists as well as members of the Algerian delegation.
 - The Algerians were blackmailed and insulted—the Israeli intelligence interrogated them about Enrico Macias, terrorism, and the financing of the Gaza aid flotilla. Echourouk El Youmi
 - Journalist Kada Ben Amar said: “They attacked during Al-Fadjr prayer. The Israeli soldiers searched the boat ‘Marmara’ with sniffing dogs.” Echourouk El Youmi
 - All members of the Algerian delegation refused to sign a document on not returning to Gaza to be released within 48 hours. Echourouk El Youmi
 - Photographer Maamar Halim said, “The Israelis took my camera but I hid the flash memory card in my shoes.” Echourouk El Youmi
 - The wife of Aboudjerra Soltani, the president of the Movement for the Society of Peace (MSP), said, “I was interrogated by an Israeli General because I have a diplomatic passport.” Echourouk El Youmi
 - The wife of Aboudjerra Soltani said, “The Israelis shot at us from helicopters.” L’Expression
 - The coordinator of the Algerian delegation, Ahmed Ibrahim, said, “I have seen Israeli soldiers killing wounded people.” Echourouk El Youmi



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Front page of Echourouk El Youmi

- Journalist Hamid Zaatchi said, "One of the Israeli investigators is from Constantine. The Israelis took all our cameras and threatened to kill a 1-year-old baby." El Khabar
- Journalist Abdelatif Belkaim said, "We were subjected to all forms of torture." Djazair News
- MSP Vice-president and president of the Algerian delegation, Abderrazak Mokri, said, "The flotilla achieved all of its goals." El Bilad
- Ennahda (Renaissance) Movement's leading officer Mohamed Dhouibi was wounded in Gaza; he is hospitalized in Jordan. Echourouk El Youmi



Mohamed Dhouibi—photo in Echourouk El Youmi

- 31 Algerian pro-Palestine activists repatriated to Algeria—the 32nd activist who had been wounded in his eye is still hospitalized in Jordan. Algerian Radio Channel 3
- The Algerian Foreign Minister, Mourad Medelci, said that the members of the Algerian delegation were released due to coordination with Turkey, Jordan and Egypt. Djazair News
- The Algerian Health Minister says that Algerian volunteer doctors will be sent to Gaza this week. Djazair News
- The Egyptian Embassy in Algiers refuses to receive a delegation from El Islah (Reform) Movement. El Islah is calling for the permanent unconditional opening of the Rafah Terminal and international denouncing the U.S.-Jewish-Egyptian alliance against Gaza. El Bilad

U.S. OFFICIALS IN THE PRESS

- The black mask of a white policy: Obama is Bush+smile and culture. La Tribune
- The U.S. voted against conducting an investigation into the Israeli raid on the Gaza aid flotilla. El Khabar

ISSUES OF U.S. INTEREST

- Protest against Israel blocked in front of the U.S. Embassy in Algiers. AP

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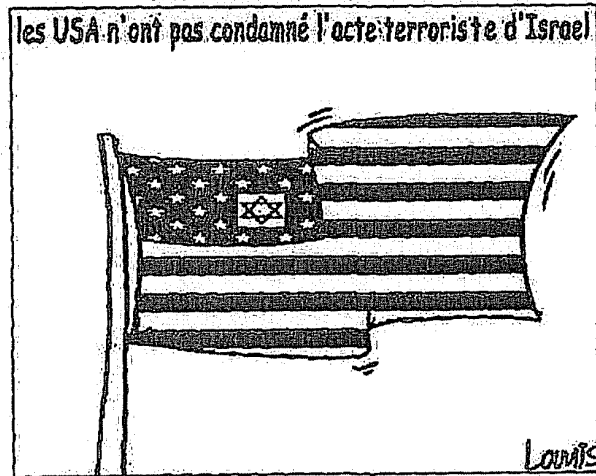
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MISCELLANEOUS

- French comedian M'bala M'bala Dieudonné said, "I am a cultural fighter against Zionism." El Khabar
 - Dieudonné wants a global anti-Zionist front. Liberté

CARTOON

- The U.S. has not condemned Israel's terrorist act. Le Jour d'Algérie



- The whole world condemns Israel. Liberté



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From: Chatterji, Rina
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
CC: Blome, Donald A
Subject: FW: xlation of the Arab League Resolution
Sent: 6/3/2010 4:20:45 AM
Attachments: EN_AL_Res_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx [EN_AL_Res_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx],
AR_AL_Res_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx [AR_AL_Res_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx]

FYI

From: Blome, Donald A
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:18 AM
To: Chatterji, Rina
Subject: FW: xlation of the Arab League Resolution

Final with embassy translation.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Najeeb, Usama M
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:59 AM
To: Rosenstock, Matthew S; Watkins, Todd J; Blome, Donald A; Perry, Laura M
Subject: xlation of the Arab League Resolution

Enclosed is the Arabic original and unofficial English translation of the Arab League resolutions issued yesterday at the foreign ministers' meeting.

Thank You
Usama Najeeb

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)
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B106A
RELEASED IN FULL

**Israeli military attack on Freedom Convoy going to Gaza Strip
and breaking the Israeli siege imposed on it**

The Arab League council on the ministerial level extraordinary session on 02 June 2010 at the Arab League General Secretariat head quarters,

-After looking at the general secretariat memo,

-Has studied the required steps regarding the Israeli military attack and piracy conduct in international Mediterranean sea waters on the Freedom convoy which carried humanitarian material going to Gaza strip which lies under siege, and which led to the deliberate murder and fall of unarmed civilian victims and injured in this convoy, and all the participants of which were kidnaped using armed force,

-Considers the continuous Israeli occupation of Arab territories and insistence to change the demographic and geographic formation of the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem to be the basis for disruption and tension in the area,

-Decides that Israel's continuation, as the occupation force, to put Gaza Strip under siege and obstruct its reconstruction is a crime against humanity that should be immediately stopped using all legitimate means including resistance,

-Emphasizes that the continuity of some states to offer support to Israel despite its savage practices and violations against Palestinian people and those who try to offer to Palestinians necessary humanitarian help, is based on a big political mistake by giving Israel an immunity to not respect international law bases which is a precedent that threatens the entire international order,

-Emphasizes that these Israeli policies and practices that form state terrorism feeds terrorist inclinations in the Middle East,

-After discussions and listening to the speeches of the heads of delegations and the general secretary,

DECIDES

- 1- To condemn the intentional military attack that Israel conducted against the Freedom Convoy in the international waters, an issue that constitutes piracy and state terrorism and threat to the stability and security in the Mediterranean Sea, and a clear violation of international law that protects sailing in international waters, and related international humanitarian law concepts and principles.
- 2- To break the siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip and commit to deliver medical and food aid and necessary construction material for reconstruction and other required needs for the Palestinian people in the strip using all the means, and hold Israel internationally responsible for the obstruction of humanitarian aid and necessary requirements for reconstruction, and for not opening all the crossings for the movement of people and goods.

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- 3- To assign Lebanon, the Arab member in the United Nations Security Council, and the Arab group in New York to request holding a meeting for the Security Council, in coordination with Turkey, and friend countries and groups, to issue the required resolution condemning the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and compulsion of Israel to immediately lift this siege, and request holding the continued 10th session in the context of the UN General Assembly to counter the Israeli siege on Gaza Strip.
- 4- To commit to the resolutions of Sirte Summit and particularly resolution number 508 dated 28 March 2010 to stop all forms of normalization with Israel and commitment to the discussions in this regards, and in light of this continuous Israeli challenge and violation of all its commitments, the ministerial council decides to send a recommendation to their excellencies heads of states to implement the speech of Saudi King Abdallah at the Economic Summit in Kuwait in January 2010 that the Arab Peace Initiative will not stay on the table for long.
- 5- That Israel's continuation of its practices and the last of which was the criminal attack on unarmed civilians emphasize clearly Israel is not serious in reaching fair and comprehensive peace in the region and is committed to make the negotiations useless and in vain and doubts the credibility of assurances offered to the Palestinian side, and assign the Secretary General to direct a message to the US Administration in this regards.
- 6- To Coordinate the Arab steps with Turkey and other concerned sides to file cases to national and international specialized suing agencies, on top of which is the ICC regarding the Israeli siege imposed on Gaza Strip.
- 7- To ask Israel to immediately release the remaining kidnapped members of the Freedom Convoy and detained ships and relief material.
- 8- To welcome the Human Rights Council resolution regarding forming an independent fact finding committee to investigate the violations of international law in the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy and express appreciation for the countries that voted for the resolution and express resentment from the position of countries that voted against this resolution.
- 9- To welcome the positions of countries that took clear and strong procedures against the Israeli military attack and condemned it, and express resentment from the positions of some countries at the United Nations Security Council that obstructed the agreement to conduct an independent international investigation.
- 10- To call for coordination with all international rights and humanitarian organizations to actually and immediately begin to show all the sides of this case, including the legal and humanitarian dimensions, and target the world media to reveal this crime and show its consequences, and

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praise the Qatari pledge to cover all the special costs for this movement on the legal and media tracks.

- 11- To appreciate all the activists who participated in this noble humanitarian mission and bless the souls of the victim martyrs and express appreciation of the Arab League council and its support for Turkey's honorable position and international positions that expressed condemnation for this attack and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and their fair case.
- 12- To ask the Arab delegation participating in the Arab-Turkish Cooperation Forum meetings to express the appreciation for Turkey's positions and offer the condolences for the families of the victims of the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy.
- 13- To ask the Secretary General to follow on the implementation of this resolution and keep the Arab League Council in continuous session.

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العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية المتجهة إلى قطاع غزة
وكسر الحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض عليه

إن مجلس الجامعة على المستوى الوزاري في دورته غير العادية بتاريخ 2010/6/2 بمقر الأمانة العامة بالقاهرة،

- بعد اطلاعه على مذكرة الأمانة العامة،
- وإذ تدارس خطوات التحرك المطلوبة إزاء العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي وممارسة القرصنة في المياه الدولية بالبحر المتوسط على قافلة الحرية التي حملت مواد إنسانية متجهة إلى قطاع غزة الواقع تحت الحصار، وما أدى إليه هذا العدوان من قتل متعمد وسقوط ضحايا وجرحى في صفوف المدنيين العزل في هذه القافلة، واختطاف جميع المشاركين تحت قوة السلاح،
- وإذ يعتبر أن استمرار إسرائيل في احتلال الأراضي العربية وإمعانها في تغيير التركيبة السكانية والجغرافية للأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة بما فيها القدس الشرقية يشكل أساس الاضطراب والتوتر في المنطقة،
- وإذ يقرر أن استمرار إسرائيل، بصفتها القوة القائمة على الاحتلال، في حصار قطاع غزة وتعطيل إعادة بنائه يمثل جريمة ضد الإنسانية يجب وقفها فوراً بجميع الوسائل المشروعة بما فيها المقاومة،
- وإذ يؤكد أن استمرار بعض الدول في تقديم الدعم لإسرائيل رغم هجينة ممارساتها وانتهاكاتها ضد الشعب الفلسطيني وضد من يحاولون تقديم مساعدات إنسانية ضرورية له، إنما يستند إلى خطأ سياسي كبير بإعطاء إسرائيل حصانة إزاء عدم احترامها للقواعد القانون الدولي في سابقة تهدد النظام الدولي برمته،
- وإذ يؤكد أن هذه السياسات والممارسات الإسرائيلية التي تشكل إرهاب دولة تُغذي نزعات الإرهاب في الشرق الأوسط،
- وبعد المداولات والاستماع إلى كلمات رؤساء الوفود والأمين العام،

يقرر

- 1- إدانة العدوان العسكري المبيّث الذي ارتكبتها إسرائيل ضد قافلة الحرية في المياه الدولية، الأمر الذي يشكل قرصنة وإرهاب دولة وتهديداً للاستقرار والأمن في البحر

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- المتوسط، وخرقاً صريحاً للقانون الدولي الذي يحمي الملاحة في الميناء الدولية، وللاتفاقيات الدولية ذات الصلة ومبادئ وقواعد القانون الدولي الإنساني.
- 2- كسر الحصار الذي فرضته إسرائيل على قطاع غزة، والالتزام بإيصال المعونات الطبية والأغذية ومواد البناء اللازمة لإعادة الإعمار وغيرها من الاحتياجات الضرورية للشعب الفلسطيني في القطاع بشتى الوسائل، وتحميل إسرائيل المسؤولية الدولية المترتبة على التعرض للمعونات الإنسانية والاحتياجات الضرورية لإعادة الإعمار، وعدم فتح جميع المعابر أمام حركة الأفراد والبضائع.
- 3- تكليف الجمهورية اللبنانية، العضو العربي في مجلس الأمن، والمجموعة العربية في نيويورك بطلب عقد اجتماع لمجلس الأمن، بالتنسيق مع تركيا والدول والتجمعات الصديقة، لإصدار القرار اللازم لإدانة الحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض على قطاع غزة وإلزام إسرائيل برفعه فوراً، وطلب عقد الدورة المستأنفة العاشرة في إطار الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة لمواجهة الحصار الإسرائيلي على قطاع غزة.
- 4- الالتزام بما جاء في قرارات قمة سرت وخاصةً القرار رقم 508 بتاريخ 2010/3/28 بوقف كافة أشكال التطبيع مع إسرائيل وما أكدته المداولات في هذا الصدد، وفي ظل هذا التحدي والخرق الإسرائيلي المستمر لكافة التزاماتها يوصي المجلس الوزاري برفع توصية لأصحاب الجلالة والفخامة والسمو بشأن تنفيذ ما ورد في كلمة خادم الحرمين في القمة الاقتصادية في الكويت في يناير 2009 بأن المبادرة العربية لن تبقى على المائدة طويلاً.
- 5- إن إمعان إسرائيل في ممارساتها وآخرها في العدوان الإجرامي على المدنيين المُزَلّ تؤكد بالدليل الواضح عدم جدية إسرائيل في التوصل إلى سلام عادل وشامل في المنطقة وإصرارها على أن تجعل المفاوضات غير ذات فائدة أو جدوى ويُشكك في مصداقية التأكيدات والتطمينات التي قُدمت إلى الجانب الفلسطيني، وتكليف الأمين العام بتوجيه رسالة إلى الإدارة الأمريكية بهذا الشأن.
- 6- تنسيق التحرك العربي مع تركيا والجهات المعنية الأخرى لرفع دعاوى أمام جهات التقاضي الوطنية والدولية المختصة وعلى رأسها محكمة العدل الدولية فيما يتعلق بالحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض على قطاع غزة.
- 7- مطالبة إسرائيل بالإفراج الفوري عن بقية المختطفين من أفراد قافلة الحرية والسفن المحتجزة ومواد الإغاثة.
- 8- الترحيب بقرار مجلس حقوق الإنسان الخاص بتشكيل لجنة تقصي حقائق مستقلة للتحقيق في انتهاكات القانون الدولي عن الاعتداء الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية

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- والإعراب عن التقدير للدول التي صوتت لصالح القرار، وكذلك الإعراب عن استيائه من مواقف الدول التي صوتت ضد هذا القرار.
- 9- الترحيب بمواقف الدول التي اتخذت إجراءات واضحة وقوية في مواجهة العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي وإدانته، والإعراب عن استيائه إزاء مواقف بعض الدول في مجلس الأمن التي أعاققت الاتفاق على إجراء تحقيق دولي مستقل.
- 10- الدعوة إلى التنسيق مع كافة المنظمات الدولية الحقوقية والإنسانية للبدء الفعلي والفوري لإظهار كافة جوانب هذه القضية، ببعديها القانوني والإنساني، والتوجه نحو وسائل الإعلام العالمية لكشف هذه الجريمة وإظهار تداعياتها، والإشادة بتعهد دولة قطر بتغطية جميع التكاليف الخاصة بالتحرك على المسارين القانوني والإعلامي.
- 11- توجيه تحية تقدير إلى جميع الناشطين الذين شاركوا في هذه المهمة الإنسانية النبيلة والترحم على أرواح الضحايا الشهداء، والتعبير عن تقدير المجلس ودعمه لموقف تركيا المشرف والمواقف الدولية التي عبرت عن إدانتها لهذا العدوان وتضامنها مع الشعب الفلسطيني وقضيته العادلة.
- 12- الطلب من الوفد العربي المشارك في اجتماعات منتدى التعاون العربي التركي بالإعراب عن التقدير للمواقف التركية وتقديم العزاء لأهالي ضحايا العدوان الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية.
- 13- الطلب إلى الأمين العام متابعة تنفيذ هذا القرار وإيقاء المجلس في حالة انعقاد دائم.

(ق: رقم 7215 - د.غ.ع - 2010/6/2)

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B107

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Valdez, Pablo M
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:54 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: MGGZ01: (AP) Forensic report indicates nine activist killed by gunshots

RELEASED IN FULL

ISTANBUL (AP) - Turkey's NTV television says an initial forensic report concludes that the nine activists killed in the Israeli commando raid on the aid flotilla to Gaza died of gunshot wounds.

Pablo Valdez
Watch Officer
Operations Center
Department of State
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B108

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Parker, Andrew C
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:08 AM
To: Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Cc: Brandeis, Katherine L; Leone, Christina A; Plott, Susan M; Zuckerman, Eve
Subject: Re: Status of Free Gaza Amcits

RELEASED IN PART

Spoke with [redacted] daughter of 81 year old [redacted] about 30 min ago. She had not yet heard from him - but for the first time did not seem worried. Her phone # is [redacted]

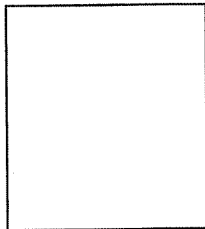
B6

From: Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)
To: Bernier-Toth, Michelle; SES-O_CMS; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Brandeis, Katherine L; Leone, Christina A
Sent: Thu Jun 03 07:52:10 2010
Subject: RE: Status of Free Gaza Amcits

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From: Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:43 AM
To: SES-O_CMS; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Brandeis, Katherine L; Leone, Christina A
Subject: Status of Free Gaza Amcits

Per Andy Parker in Tel Aviv, the following Amcits have been deported to Istanbul:



Turks are planning reception desks to assist pax with onward travel resy. Probably will be a PR show as well. Pax will be admitted to Turkey without visas etc while in transit. Onward travel is not covered by Israel. That was only for people who accepted immediate repat from the Port. No consular access was accorded by GOI at Ben Gurion Airport. Two or three smaller medical flights took injured to Ankara. No Amcits in that category that we have known about.

[redacted] has been deported to Athens. Andy has notified [redacted]s wife.

Location unknown: [redacted] (dual Irish/Amcit)

Others believed to have left thru Allenby:



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RELEASED IN FULL
B113

From: Schrank, Alexander D
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Turkey - Situation Calms with Flights Scheduled; NSC Meeting Ends; Moderate Statement by FM Davutoglu
Sent: 6/2/2010 12:10:17 PM

The Turkish National Security Council meeting ended with a statement focused on the PKK and Gaza. The NSC is a consultative body chaired by PM Erdogan that provides recommendations to the cabinet and other bodies:

NSC ANNOUNCEMENT: "At the meeting the attack that happened in Iskenderun on the night of May 31 and the attack of Israel on the same day against the ships taking aid to Gaza were evaluated. Both attacks were studied with all of their dimensions and the things were lived were discussed in detail. The terrorist incidents that occurred in the recent period, the works in the fight against terrorism, additional measures to be taken and steps to be taken were negotiated.

It was noted that the multi-dimensional struggle against terrorism will continue with determination in every field and works to eliminate the conditions that are exploited by terrorism will be speeded up. The steps to be taken after the Israel attack were taken up. The issue was put on the table with its political, military, economic and legal dimensions.

Within this framework the international initiatives that were launched were evaluated. The UN Security Council and NATO council issued statements condemning Israel. The UN Human Rights Committee at its meeting today in Geneva accepted the investigation of Israel's attack by an international neutral committee.

As a result of the works conducted by our government the wounded and dead were brought back. All bodies and all volunteers from every country will be brought back on Turkish Airlines (THY) planes that are specifically assigned to Istanbul."

FOREIGN MINISTER DAVUTOGLU: Upon his return to Ankara today from the United States, FM Davutoğlu told the press that the United States had also signed on the condemnation issued by the UN Security Council and there was no need for further speculation in this regard. Therefore, the United States has condemned Israel. In addition, he said the United States has clearly issued a condemnation and has openly showed solidarity with Turkey. He also said Turkey is ready to normalize ties with Israel if it lifts the blockade on Gaza. He said, "It is time that calm replaces anger" in the wake of Israel's deadly boarding of the IHH Free Gaza flotilla. Davutoğlu also told the press that the future of Turkish-Israeli ties depends on Israel's attitude. <http://www.internetajans.com/default.asp?NID=96596>; <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-211900-turkey-to-normalise-israel-ties-if-gaza-blockade-ends.html>

TURKISH PARLIAMENT: The Turkish Parliament has just passed a joint declaration condemning Israel by unanimous vote. The declaration asked the GOT to "review economic and

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military relations" with Israel. It also asked Israel to apologize to Turkey. "Turkey's reactions do not target the people of Israel," it noted:

<http://www.cnnturk.com/2010/turkiye/06/02/israile.kinama.deklarasyonu.krizi.cozuldu/578602.0/index.html>

The human rights committee of the Turkish parliament will send a letter to several parliaments to condemn the Israeli attack on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla. <http://haber.turk.net/ENG/2439613/-Turkish-Parliament-Committee-To-Send-Letter-Of-Condernnation>

Alexander Schrank
Turkey Desk Officer
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)
U.S. Department of State
tel: (202) 647-7581, fax: (202) 647-5087

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B114
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Turkey boosts security for Jews

By JONAH MANDEL
06/03/2010 05:56

Local Jewish community exhibits solidarity with flotilla fatalities.

Though hundreds of Turks protested against Israel for the third day on Wednesday, the Turkish Jewish community seems to have scored an important success by publicly distancing itself from the Jewish state and the violent hatred aimed at it.

Following the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla, Turkey's Jewish community and chief rabbinate expressed their sorrow over the "military operation against the *Mavi Marmara* ship" and the "loss of life and injury resulting from the operation," in a joint statement on the community's official Web site, musevicemaati.com.

"We share the public reaction this operation has created in our country and express our deep sorrow," the statement read.

In addition, during an interview with Israeli haredi radio station Kol Barama on Monday, Turkish Chief Rabbi Isak Haleva repeatedly praised the regime's attitude toward its Jews, while softly condemning Israel for its recent operation, to the native-Israeli interviewer's surprise.

Turkey maintains strict separation between religion and state, and Jews there consider themselves Turks, which might strike some Israelis who automatically fuse religious and national identity as odd.

The results of Turkish Jewry's public voice were apparent in Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Tuesday speech on the raid: Even as he slammed Israel's "bloody massacre... deserving of any kind of curse and condemnation," he not only praised his Jewish subjects for their loyalty, but spoke out against any hostilities toward them.

"I thank the Turkish Jewish community, putting in words their right and sincere reaction to the event," he said. "Our Jewish citizens have, as members of the Turkish people, defended, and continue to defend, the right position of Turkey to the utmost."

He added that "looking with hatred upon our Jewish citizens... is not acceptable; it cannot be and should never be."

On Wednesday, Turkish Interior Minister Besir Atalay said security had been stepped up at 20 different sites alone in Istanbul, which has several synagogues and centers serving 23,000 Jews.

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Nonetheless, it is likely that beyond their loyalty to the state, any other public sentiment by the Jewish community in Turkey would only have exacerbated the hostilities they face from the majority-Muslim population.

"The situation in Turkey is very difficult for the Jews now," Eyal Peretz, chairman of Arkadash – The Turkish Community in Israel, told *The Jerusalem Post* on Wednesday.

"The atmosphere on the streets is hostile, and there is a feeling of anger," he said, noting that the Israeli institutions in Turkey had been closed.

Peretz noted the link that Islamists in Turkey made between Jews and the State of Israel, and pointed out that Erdogan's statements would carry weight on the Turkish street in helping to curb violence toward Jews.

Still, he added that "the Jewish community in Turkey, which has always tried to culturally assimilate into the general society and maintain a low profile, is now perplexed and helpless."

Peretz noted that Jews in Turkey also served in the military there, paid taxes, and generally considered themselves Turks.

"We Israelis understand the need for an operation against the boats, but how would we feel if Israeli civilians were killed by the Turkish military?" he asked.

Those sentiments notwithstanding, "in every confrontation between Israel and Muslims, since the state's inception to this very day, the Jewish community in Turkey has felt a backlash of hostility to varying degrees, especially from the more religious factors in the Turkish populace," Peretz said.

"Accordingly, there have always been waves of aliya from Turkey after Israel's wars," he added, predicting another imminent one in the wake of recent events.

AP contributed to this report.

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B115

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Rudnitski, Jennine R.
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 7:48 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: MGGZ01: (Reuters) Arabs seek UN push to end Israel's Gaza blockade

RELEASED IN FULL

CAIRO - Arab states will ask the UN Security Council to demand an end to Israel's blockade of Gaza, the Arab League chief said after ministers met to respond to Israel's attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla. "The Arab League will go to the Security Council and demand lifting of the blockade from Gaza," the League secretary general, Amr Moussa, said after the talks.

Jennine Rudnitski
Operations Specialist, SES-O
202.647.1512

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12117

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Goldberg, Joshua W
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 6:37 PM
To: SES-O
Cc: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Situation Report No.6 - Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01 (SBU Version)

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

SITUATION REPORT No. 6

Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01

Wednesday, June 2, 2010
1830 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

Please see the classified version of this product.

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

Please see the classified version of this product.

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)*

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)*

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- (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)
- Turkey: Please see the classified version of this product.
- (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: WJReisser/JGrocblacher
Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, ICS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS

Approved: GPMacris

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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B/120

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Posner, Michael H
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:50 PM
To: Otero, Maria
Cc: Baer, Daniel B; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Cassidy, Joseph P; Stanfield, Emily
Subject: Israel

RELEASED IN FULL

Maria

Here is a quick update on recent developments related to the Flotilla. A resolution on the topic passed in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) this morning with 32 in favor, 3 opposed (US plus Netherlands and Italy), and 9 abstentions (Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine and the UK). The flotilla resolution contained problematic language (e.g. "occupation") and also called for a new UN fact finding mission, which will result in even more of a focus on Israel in the HRC. Many of those who voted against the resolution or abstained did so based on the fact that the UNSC Presidential Statement's call for impartial, credible investigation does not necessarily require an international fact finding mission.

We have no doubt that our isolation on this issue will affect our other HRC priorities at the Council. In particular, we are concerned that this could have a negative effect on the renewal of the Sudan mandate.

According to press reports, Israel's inner security cabinet voted to deport remaining prisoners within 48 hours. A government statement stated that the detainees would be expelled immediately according to the procedures set by law. Turkey has sent three planes to Israel to repatriate approximately 400 people. According to press reports, Egypt has opened its Rafah crossing for travel and humanitarian aid and has allowed a shipment of electric generators into Gaza. This is the first time it has let in non-food or medical supplies since late 2008.

PRM is drafting a memo with ideas for improving the humanitarian situation, which we welcome (and to which we have contributed ideas). I also plan to give some ideas to NEA/SEMEP on how to address the human rights situation in Gaza.

Mike

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B122

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Enav, Cari R
To: Casteel, Ezra A; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: RE: MGGZ01: (Reuters) UN rights body sets probe into flotilla raid
Sent: 6/2/2010 1:42:18 PM
Attachments: 100602 HRC 14 Flotilla EOV - FINAL.doc [100602 HRC 14 Flotilla EOV - FINAL.doc],
Gaza Flotilla res.pdf [Gaza Flotilla res.pdf]

Please note that three (vice 33) African countries were absent.

Voting breakdown:

32 in favor

3 opposed (US, Italy, Netherlands)

9 abstentions (Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, UK)

3 absent (Cameroon, Madagascar, Zambia)

Attached is the resolution and the EOV as delivered.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Casteel, Ezra A
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: MGGZ01: (Reuters) UN rights body sets probe into flotilla raid

GENEVA (Reuters) - The United Nations Human Rights Council voted to set up an independent fact-finding mission to look into what it called violations of international law in Israel's raid on a Gaza aid flotilla. In a resolution proposed by Pakistan for the Organization of the Islamic Conference and Sudan for the Arab group, the Council by a vote of 32 of its 47 members also condemned the Israeli action as outrageous. The United States together with Italy and the Netherlands voted against, while nine European, African and Asian nations abstained and 33 more African countries did not vote.

Ezra Casteel
S/ES-O Operations Specialist
202.647.1512

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B/123A

RELEASED IN FULL

HRC 14

Explanation of Vote: The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the
Humanitarian Boat Convoy

We regret having to call a vote and vote no on this resolution. It is our hope that, over time, this Council will be able to unite around balanced and appropriate responses to urgent situations that deserve our attention. We have engaged intently in discussions here in Geneva and in forums around the world in response to the events addressed in this resolution, and are deeply committed to working with partners to ensure a full and appropriate response to this incident and the circumstances that led to it.

As noted in our statement in this chamber yesterday, the United States is deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships. We condemn the acts that resulted in the loss of at least ten lives and many wounded, and we express our condolences to their families.

We call attention to the Security Council statement adopted on June 1. It is important to ensure a prompt, credible, impartial, and transparent investigation. Israel has a very strong interest in conducting such an investigation that meets international standards and exposes all the facts. There are, of course, a number of ways to ensure such an outcome.

The United States continues to be deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza and the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation there. The situation in Gaza is unsustainable and unacceptable. In line with the Security Council statement adopted yesterday, we stress the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and provision and distribution of humanitarian access throughout Gaza, and we will continue our work towards this end while bearing in mind the Government of Israel's legitimate security concerns.

In the context of today's debate, it is important to once again stress that the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement, negotiated between the parties, that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and fulfills the

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aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous, and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

Unfortunately, the resolution before us rushes to judgment on a set of facts that, as our debate over the last day makes clear, are only beginning to be discovered and understood. It creates an international mechanism before giving the responsible government an opportunity to investigate this incident itself and thereby risks further politicizing a sensitive and volatile situation. We understand the impetus to respond quickly to a troubling set of events. But we have an obligation to determine facts and make considered judgments on how to best address what is a complex and difficult situation.

For these reasons, we must vote against this resolution.

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B124

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:44 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Six Germans still held in Israel after Gaza aid boat raid

RELEASED IN FULL

Six Germans still held in Israel after Gaza aid boat raid

BERLIN, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - Six Germans who were on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla held up by Israeli forces, including one who was injured, remained in detention in Israel on Wednesday, the German foreign ministry said.

Five Germans were detained "in a prison" following the deadly assault, foreign ministry spokesman Anton Peschke said.

"The Israeli authorities intend to take them later this evening to Ben Gurion airport to deport them," he added.

The sixth "could be kept in a hospital near to Tel Aviv," he said, without giving any details of the man's condition or injuries.

At least 11 Germans were on the boats which were raided Monday by Israeli commandos leaving at least nine people dead. Five, including two deputies from the Left Party, a former deputy and a doctor, had already been deported.

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B126

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:47 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: UN rights council approves probe into Israel's ship raid

RELEASED IN FULL

UN rights council approves probe into Israel's ship raid

GENEVA, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - The UN Human Rights Council on Wednesday adopted a resolution setting up an independent international probe into Israel's interception of Gaza-bound ships.

The resolution, which also condemned Israel's "outrageous attack," was adopted after a vote, with 32 countries voting in favour, three against, and eight abstentions.

It "decides to dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian aid and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance."

The text also decides to "authorise the president of the council to appoint members of this independent international fact finding system."

Israeli commandos boarded one of the aid ships bound for the Gaza Strip in the pre-dawn raid on Monday that left at least nine passengers dead. Hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists were also arrested.

The move sparked global outrage and prompted states from the Arab League and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to ask for the special session of the 47 member states in the rights council.

It also drove Pakistan, Sudan and the Palestinian delegation to propose the resolution during the urgent sitting, during which countries ranging from Laos to Peru to Iceland all spoke out against Israel's move.

The United States said it was "deeply disturbed" by the violence but opposed the resolution.

US ambassador Eileen Donahoe said the text "rushes to judgement on a set of facts" that were only starting to emerge.

"It creates an international mechanism before giving the responsible government the opportunity to investigate the incident itself," she added.

The Netherlands also voted against, with its envoy saying that the call for a "parallel investigation" into the raid by the council "would not be conducive to relaunching the Middle East peace process."

Israeli ambassador Aharon Leshno Yaar did not refer to the resolution when he spoke ahead of the vote, but he reiterated that the activists onboard the raided ship did not have peaceful motives.

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He noted that Molotov cocktails, clubs and iron bars were used against Israeli soldiers.

He also claimed that "large quantities of cash were also found on board, some in the pockets of the attackers and most in courier belts ready for transfer to the Hamas."

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B127

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:39 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: All detained activists en route home: Israel prisons

RELEASED IN FULL

All detained activists en route home: Israel prisons

JERUSALEM, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - The hundreds of activists detained in a deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla have all been released from prison to be deported, a prisons authority spokesman said on Wednesday.

"There are no longer any detainees in prison," Yron Zamir told AFP when asked about the people detained after Monday's commando raid in international waters that killed nine activists.

He said they were all taken to Ben Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv or to the Jordanian border.

More than 120 people were deported to Jordan on Wednesday morning, others were put on flights out and more were awaiting deportation at the airport.

Authorities said 682 people from 42 countries had been aboard the six ships that tried to bust the Gaza blockade.

There was very little official information about the condition of the injured passengers being treated in Israeli hospitals.

Physicians for Human Rights put the number of wounded activists at 52.

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B 128

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Casteel, Ezra A
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:19 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: MGGZ01: (Reuters) Israelis "humiliated" ship activists: eyewitness

ALGIERS (Reuters) - Activists aboard a Turkish aid ship used sticks to defend themselves against a raid by Israeli commandos but were eventually forced to surrender and were tied up, one of the activists said. "They humiliated us," said Ahmed Brahimi, an Algerian who said he was on board the Mavi Marmara ship where most of the violence took place during the raid. "We were not armed. We did not go there to fight," Brahimi, who said he was the coordinator of the Algerian contingent on board the convoy's ships.

Ezra Casteel
S/ES-O Operations Specialist
202.647.1512

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B129

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Silliman, Douglas A
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Connelly, Maura; Schlicher, Ronald L; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Jeffrey, James F; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; EUR-SE-DAR-DL

Subject: FW: Per your request - Turkish Planes

Sent: 6/2/2010 8:50:36 AM

All,

Following up on conversations with Israelis in DC and Tel Aviv, we called the Turkish MFA Operations Center. MFA Ops reports that two Turkish passenger planes are currently on the ground in Israel loaded with pax. There is a third Turkish passenger plane also on the ground without pax.

There are also three "ambulance planes" to carry wounded. MFA says those planes (not sure how many of them or how many pax) are being loaded now.

MFA said all planes would take off "in a synchronized way." Not sure what that means.

Doug

Douglas A. Silliman
Deputy Chief of Mission
U.S. Embassy Ankara, Turkey
90-312-455-5555 x7190

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:46 PM
To: Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Miles, Barbara J
Subject: Per your request - Turkish Planes

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Tayla, Suheyra
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:33 PM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

Page 1 of 2

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StateDept01541

To: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Ahn, Michael; Arvey, Jason M
Subject: Turkish planes

Laura,

I talked to MFA crisis desk. They said that there are no Turkish planes took off Israel yet.

Now there are 3 ambulance planes, and 3 passenger planes in Israel waiting at the airport. 2 of the passenger planes have their passengers on board.

Right at this moment, ambulance planes are making preparations to board their patients. They are foreseeing all six planes to leave Israel in a synchronized way.

FYI

Suheyra

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B130

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Casteel, Ezra A
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:50 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: MGGZ01: (AP) Turkish lawmakers urge govt to review Israel ties

RELEASED IN FULL

ANKARA (AP) - Turkish lawmakers issued a declaration calling on the government to review its political and military ties with Israel. The lawmakers also urged Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza, issue an apology for the deadly raid on Gaza-bound aid ships that left nine activists dead, and compensate victims.

Ezra Casteel
S/ES-O Operations Specialist
202.647.1512

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B131

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Casteel, Ezra A
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:49 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: MGGZ01: (AP) Israel to expel all activists by day's end

RELEASED IN FULL

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's attorney general said all of the nearly 700 activists detained in a deadly raid on an aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip will be deported by the end of the day. Yehuda Weinstein said Israel decided not to prosecute any of the activists. Officials earlier said they were considering prosecuting about 50 people believed to be involved in violence.

Ezra Casteel
S/ES-O Operations Specialist
202.647.1512

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B132

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:45 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Arraf

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Richter, Kim B.
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:32 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Subject: Arraf

Roseville woman on Gaza flotilla freed from Israeli jail

By Niraj Warikoo
Detroit Free Press
June 1, 2010

A Palestinian-American woman originally from Roseville who was part of the Gaza flotilla was released today from an Israeli jail after being beaten by Israeli security, her husband told the Free Press today. Huwaida Arraf, a native of metro Detroit, is a Palestinian advocate who was on one of the several ships by activists in a flotilla looking to deliver aid to people in Gaza. She is co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement, a controversial group, and is married to Adam Shapiro, an activist with the Free Gaza Movement.

"She was released from the prison about 5-6 hours ago," Shapiro told the Free Press. "She was beaten up on the ship by an Israeli commando when they took it and again in the jail. She was punched at least once. And on the way out of prison, one officer elbowed her in the face. She's bruised, but she's a tough kid."

Israeli officials said they could not confirm Arraf's story.

Orli Gil, consul general of Israel to the Midwest, told the Free Press that they could not find a record of someone with her name with a U.S. passport.

Gil also said: "She was probably not beaten."

She added, "If there was any violence initiated by the people on the boats, of course the soldiers had to react to this in order to get over the resistance."

Shapiro said Arraf was on the Challenger One boat, which was part of a flotilla that was intercepted by Israel. Since the incident, Arraf has been featured in media outlets such as the New York Times and CNN.

An Israeli captain told Israeli newspapers he and others were violently assaulted after they landed on one of the ships. He said some of the activists attempted to lynch the Israelis with weapons.

Shapiro said the Israelis are giving misleading statements.

"It's clear they have been coached on what to say," Shapiro said. "They are acting as if they are the weak victims ... to make it seem they were somehow the victims here is utterly ridiculous."

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Israeli officials have said that while they regret the shooting deaths, their commandos acted in self-defense in dealing with violent extremists.

Kim Richter

CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA

(202) 647-8308

Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

richterkb@state.gov

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B133

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:36 AM
To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; 'Dennis B Ross'; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'; 'Dennis_B.Ross@nsc.eop.gov'
Cc: Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: RE: Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers

B6

Israeli DCM Dan Arbell just called me back with further clarification. He said that there are/are "four to five" individuals who are "being left behind" temporarily, but not/not because of any judicial procedures. These "four to five" are either undergoing medical treatment, and thus staying behind at their request, or they are waiting for the right flights to their intended destination. The "four to five" are not being held involuntarily, nor are they being held for political or judicial reasons. He did not elaborate on the nationalities.

*Jeffrey Feltman
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209*

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:00 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; Dennis B. Ross; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'
Cc: Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers

To all:

Israeli DCM Dan Arbell just called me with the following information (which does not track entirely with what Embassy Tel Aviv has reported, so I underscore that I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this message):

-- The Israeli Attorney General has determined that all/all Gaza flotilla detainees are to be released now. This includes those wounded and includes even the "six or seven" who were suspected of instigating the attacks on the Israeli commandos. All means all, Dan said; responding to my question, he confirmed that the Lebanese wounded, [redacted] [redacted] was part of the "all."

B6

-- One Turkish plane, full, has already left Ben-Gurion Airport for Turkey. A second plane is currently being filled. "Within a few hours" everyone should be out. There are Turkish consular officials working with the Israelis, and the Turkish Ambassador to Israel is likely to be on one of the planes leaving.

-- There were some Israelis who objected to the Attorney General's blanket release, but the Supreme Court has upheld the decision.

This seems to be good news; let's hope it is accurate.

Jeffrey Feltman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209

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B134

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

From: Cunningham, James B
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:33 AM
To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; 'Dennis B Ross'; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'
Cc: Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: RE: Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers
Expires: Sunday, November 28, 2010 5:00 PM

Seems to be, per my email about talk with Gilad.

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:00 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; 'Dennis B Ross'; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'
Cc: Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers

To all:

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B6

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-- There were some Israelis who objected to the Attorney General's blanket release, but the Supreme Court has upheld the decision.

This seems to be good news; let's hope it is accurate.

Jeffrey Feltman
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209

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B136

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Giaouque, Jeffrey G
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 7:53 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: ASEAN-GCC Statement on Israel

RELEASED IN FULL

**JOINT STATEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF
ASEAN-GCC COUNTRIES**

At the Second ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting on 1 June 2010 in Singapore, Foreign Ministers considered the recent attacks by the Israeli authorities against personnel aboard the humanitarian vessel, Mavi Marmara.

The Ministers strongly deplored and condemned this Israeli raid and act of violence in international waters.

The Ministers expressed condolences to the victims of the raid and solidarity with the people and Government of Turkey and other countries.

The Ministers urged the immediate release of those who are still held hostage by the Israeli authorities.

The Ministers called for the removal of the Israeli blockade in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, in particular UN Security Council Resolution 1860.

Through the aforementioned raid and violence, Israel has once again created additional hurdles to the Middle East peace process which is currently entering a critical phase with the launching of the "proximity talks".

The Ministers agreed on the need for international cooperation to ensure that Israel is held accountable for its action in accordance with international law. Specifically, the Ministers urged the United Nations to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its Charter, including through investigation of the Israeli attack in order to ensure its accountability.

.....

1 June 2010

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B138

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Larson, Jennifer A
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
CC: Siekman, Kelly O; Engelken, Stephen C
Subject: Statement from UNESCO Director-General
Sent: 6/2/2010 7:35:04 AM

As predicted. Please see this link:

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_director_general_shocked_and_concerned_over_deadly_israeli_military_interception/

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Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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B139

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Hayes, Molly E
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 6:37 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Morocco Underlines Emergency to Break Inhumane Blockade on Gaza

RELEASED IN FULL

Morocco Underlines Emergency to Break Inhumane Blockade on Gaza

Geneva, June 1 (MAP) - Morocco's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva Omar Hilale underlined, on Tuesday, the pressing need to break the Israeli inhumane and appalling blockade imposed on Gaza.

Hilale, who was speaking at a meeting held by the UNHRC to discuss the Israeli raid on an aid fleet bound for Gaza, said that Morocco was deeply shocked and dismayed by this Israeli military assault. Having expressed Morocco's solidarity with the injured and its heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the diplomat reiterated the Kingdom's condemnation of this vile attack, as well as its concern over Israel's disproportionate use of force.

The Kingdom of Morocco utterly rejects this act which runs counter to the international law, he said, adding that the Israeli military attack is unacceptable at the political, diplomatic and humanitarian levels, all the more so because it targeted an aid convoy in international waters, which is a blatant breach of the international human rights law and humanitarian law.

The Moroccan ambassador said that the gravity of this Israeli attack should call upon the international community's conscience since it occurred at a time when US-brokered indirect talks are being held between Palestinians and Israelis. He added that Morocco, which commends the swift reaction by the UNSC, urges Israel to abide by the Council's declaration calling for the immediate release of civilians.

Morocco calls for all parties to resolutely engage in the peace process with the aim of establishing an independent and viable Palestinian State with Al Quds Asharif as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security. (Maghreb Arab Press - MAP)

B140

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Pattarini, Daniel M
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID FLOTILLA
Sent: 6/2/2010 6:34:49 AM

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: SMART Core
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 02:28:34
To: Pattarini, Daniel M
Cc: MUSCAT-SMARTS
Subject: OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID FLOTILLA

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MRN: 10 MUSCAT 378
Date/DTG: Jun 02, 2010 / 021028Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: OIIP, KPAO, KMDR, MU
Captions: SIPDIS
Pass Line: STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD, NEA/PI, INR/R/MR, NEA/SA/EX/PMO
 LONDON FOR NEA WATCHER
 PARIS FOR NEA WATCHER
 FOREIGN PRESS CENTER FOR NEA WATCHER
Subject: OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID FLOTILLA

I. SUMMARY: The Omani print media reacted swiftly to Israeli military action against the aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip. Nearly all of Oman's English and Arabic papers

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Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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issued strong condemnations and called on the international community to take actions to punish Israel for violations of international law and to force it to end the blockade of Gaza. END SUMMARY.

ISRAEL KNOWS HOW TO "KILL PEACE;" WILL THE U.S. ACT NOW?

2. On Tuesday June 1, the private English-language daily the "Tribune" (circulation 15,000) wrote that the only explanation for the attack on the convoy of aid ships was that Israel wanted to scuttle the peace process. The paper condemned the action and the "apathy" of the international community to the plight of Gaza under the blockade.

"The raid has brought into sharp focus the crippling Israeli blockade of Gaza and the international community's apathy to Gaza's plight. So far Israel has been getting away with every atrocity it has been perpetrating against the Palestinians and this time the world should not allow it to happen. It should be isolated and punished for yesterday's crime, which is not only against the Palestinians but others also. What is appalling in the sordid drama is Israel indulged in the heinous act just on the eve of its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington to confer with the Obama administration officials on the progress of the current proximity talks to restart the Middle East peace dialogue. Israel's peace postures are a charade and the Jewish state is taking the world, particularly the US, for a ride. It's time President Obama sees through Israel's game. Will he act now?"

ATTACK DESERVES "CONDEMNATION OF THE HIGHEST ORDER"

3. On Tuesday, the English-language government daily "Observer" (circulation 20,000) blasted the action against the aid flotilla, declaring it both a common occurrence of Israeli abuse and unique in that it occurred in international waters and was directed at international actors of many nationalities.

"In the past, the Jewish state had restricted its excesses to areas and countries that it either controls or with whom it has unpleasant relations. Yesterday morning, it chose to target organizations and people who oppose its aggressive initiatives in international waters... Yesterday's strike by heavy force certainly deserves condemnation of the highest order for reasons that it occurred in international waters and caused death, injury and anguish to peaceful citizens of dozens of peace-loving countries who wanted to help distraught residents of a poverty-ridden area."

ACTION "A KIND OF ISRAELI BARBARISM"

4. Also on Tuesday, the Arabic-language government daily "Oman" (circulation 38,000) wrote that although Israel has clearly announced that it would prevent the fleet from arriving to Gaza's shores, it's cruel actions against international activists is a clear violation of all international laws and norms. The editorial also called for international action which would force Israel to end the Gaza blockade.

"It is no exaggeration to say that what happened is, by all standards, a kind of Israeli barbarism, which has long been practiced by Israel and is still practiced when dealing with Palestinians and everything related to the occupied Palestinian territories... And that it is vital and necessary for those organizations particularly the UN General Assembly, the Security Council and the Red Cross, to work on issuing practical resolutions to force Israel to live up to its responsibility as occupying force. But the fact is that the Israeli government aims to throttle the Gaza Strip, destroy its economy and prevent its people from very basic living requirements."

ISRAEL "BLEW UP ALL PEACE"

4. On June 1st, the private Oman Arabic daily "Azzaman" (circulation 25,000) stated that Oman is standing by the Palestinians and condemning the Israeli aggression on the aid fleet which killed many people; "New Assault":

"The Israeli aggression on the freedom ships to Gaza blew up all peace attempts that the Arabs stood firm by with the blessing of the United States and European Union. They have showed the whole world that they do not intend to move towards peace but only favor escalation of the situation by ignoring all international laws. In the midst of the Israeli intransigence and the silence of the international community, the Arabs and Muslims should take a strong stand and provide a unified vision to deter Israel and condemn it internationally and legally."

Signature:	Schmierer
<hr/>	
Drafted By:	MUSCAT:Pattarini, Daniel M
Cleared By:	Front-Office:Hurtado, L Victor (Muscat) Craven, Myca R (Muscat)
Approved By:	Front-Office:Schmierer, Richard J
Released By:	MUSCAT:Pattarini, Daniel M
Info:	
Attachments:	Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule:

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B142

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Levin, Jan
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:35 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: DEPORTATIONS UPDATE -- IL RADIO

RELEASED IN FULL

FYI. Embassy Tel Aviv will try to confirm this afternoon.

Israel will act to immediately expel all the detainees according to the procedures set by law

Israel will act to immediately expel all the detainees according to the procedures set by law 01/06/2010. Following the discussion of the security and diplomatic cabinet today, the Prime Minister consulted with the Defense Minister, Justice Minister, and Interior Minister on the question of expelling the detainees from the flotilla to Gaza.

It was agreed that the detainees would be expelled immediately -- according to the procedures set by law. The Interior Minister announced that the expulsion will begin this evening, and the assessment is that it can be completed in approximately 48 hours.

Subject: DEPORTATIONS UPDATE -- IL RADIO

IL RADIO REPORTS THAT TO DATE 325 PERSONS DETAINED FROM THE GAZA FLOTILLA HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO BEN GURION AIRPORT FOR DEPORTATION TO TURKEY. APPROXIMATELY 180 REMAIN IN JAIL AND WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE AIRPORT IN THE COMING HOURS. IL RADIO'S REPORTER ADI ME'IRI SAYS IL INTENDS TO DEPORT ALL THE FOREIGN NATIONALS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE GAZA FLOTILLA BY THE END OF THE DAY.

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B143

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:11 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

RELEASED IN FULL

Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

ANKARA, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - Turkey's justice ministry is mulling possible legal action against Israel over its deadly raid on aid ships bound for the Gaza Strip, Anatolia news agency reported Wednesday.

Officials are looking into both domestic and international law to see what action might be undertaken after Monday's operation in international waters that left nine people dead, among them at least four Turks, the report said.

The ministry will also decide whether to file a complaint with Turkish prosecutors, it said.

Calling the raid a "bloody massacre," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tuesday urged an international inquiry into the raid, insisting that Israel's "lawlessness" must be punished.

"It is no longer possible to cover up or ignore Israel's lawlessness. It is time for the international community to say 'enough is enough'," he said.

Most of the bloodshed occurred on a Turkish-flagged ship, the Mavi Marmara, carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists from about 30 countries, mostly Turkish nationals mobilised by an Islamist charity.

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B/H4

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:40 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Malaysia thanks Jordan for aiding in saving detained Malaysians

RELEASED IN FULL

Malaysia thanks Jordan for aiding in saving detained Malaysians

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Xinhua) -- The Malaysian government expressed its deepest gratitude to Jordan here on Wednesday for the latter's assistance in successfully bringing Malaysians detained earlier out of Israel.

Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that the 12 Malaysians on board the humanitarian aid ship attacked by Israel on Monday were safe.

According to the statement, the Malaysian volunteers had arrived in Jordan at 11:20 a.m. Malaysian time.

Upon arrival at the King Hussein Bridge, the group was received by the Malaysian Ambassador Abdul Malek Aziz.

The statement also said that the Malaysians were on their way to Amman and arrangements were being made to bring them back to Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Anifah Aman, who is on his way to Jordan, will thank the Jordanian government for its assistance in securing the release of the Malaysians.

He would also meet with the released Malaysians, added the statement.

Israel defense forces attacked the humanitarian ship Mavi Marmara that had 12 Malaysians on board in the international waters early Monday.

The violent act has resulted in strong condemnation from the Malaysian government.

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U
Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

B145

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:23 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Algerian and U.A.E reaction

RELEASED IN FULL

Algeria

The Presidential Alliance parties, the National Liberation Front (FLN), the National Democratic Rally (RND) and the Movement for the Society of Peace (MSP) held yesterday a Gaza solidarity gathering of the Palestinian Ambassador. The Secretary General of the FLN/Minister of State/Personal Representative of President Bouteflika Abdelaziz Belkhadem called upon Egypt to permanently open the Rafah Terminal. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, the spokesman of the RND Miloud Chorfi and the president of the MSP Aboudjerra Soltani called for putting an end to the blockade.

On the other hand, the Secretary General of the Workers' Party (PT), Louisa Hanoune, and the president of the Algerian National Front (FNA), Moussa Touati, held separate Gaza solidarity meetings.

Abdelaziz Belkhadem was also the guest of the Algerian TV's show "In the Spotlight," Belkhadem called upon Arab countries to isolate Israel.

The Algerian Minister Delegate Minister will take part in today's Arab League emergency meeting in Cairo.

The Secretary General of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), Abdelmadjid Sidi Saïd, condemned the "Israeli barbarian aggression" at the 99th International Labor Conference (ILO) in Geneva.

Three Algerian TV channels—EPTV, Canal Algérie and A3—aired last night Palestine-related movies.

- o Gaza: All members of the Algerian delegation have been released. [Tout sur l'Algérie](#)
- o Israel releases all members of the Algerian delegation. [Algerian Radio website](#)
- o The Algerian delegation survives the Israeli raid. [Algerian Radio website](#)
- o 121 detainees, including all members of the Algerian delegation released; they arrived in Jordan last night. [Echourouk El Youmi](#)
- o Israel releases the Algerians—President Bouteflika has ordered to send a plane to repatriate them. [El Khabar](#)
- o A great thing...an Arab emergency summit—the Europeans were more courageous in their reaction to Israel. [Ennahar](#)
- o Israel releases 28 Algerians due to Jordan's mediation. [Djazair News](#)
- o Gaza: The Algerians released. [La Nouvelle République](#)

U.A.E.

- o General: Washington blocks the condemnation of the Zionist Entity (*Al Khaleej*); U.S. moves cautiously on Gaza flotilla crisis (*Gulf News*); More than 100 deported activists arrive in Jordan (*Gulf News*); Turkey Prime Minister

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Recep Tayyip Erdogan: Israel is rude and it must pay a price (*Al Khaleej*); Israel threatens to repeat "the massacre of freedom" and ignores world anger (*Al Bayan*); Egypt opens border as new aid ship sails for Gaza (*The National*)

- UAE: President Khalifa Bin Zayed calls for united response to the Israeli attack (*Al Ittihad*); The Federal National Council condemns Israeli raid on Freedom flotilla (*Khaleej Times*); *Al Khaleej* conducts a full-page investigative report entitled "The Zionist Terrorism Kills Freedom." The report reviews reaction of Emirati intellectuals, politicians and business leaders to the "Zionist attack on Freedom Flotilla"; Local events condemn Zionist attack on Freedom Flotilla; The Palestinian community staged a solidarity protest in Dubai (*Al Khaleej*)

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B147

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:05 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Malaysia to table motion at parliament to condemn Israel

RELEASED IN FULL

Malaysia to table motion at parliament to condemn Israel

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Xinhua) -- The Malaysian Cabinet decided on Wednesday to table a motion at the Malaysian Parliament to strongly condemn Israel for attacking the humanitarian aid ship to Gaza.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement posted on its official website that the motion will be tabled next Monday, when the parliamentary meeting resumes.

On Tuesday, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said that Malaysia would make a motion so that Israel's brutal act would be brought up at the United Nations (UN) Security Council meeting.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Anifah Aman departed for Jordan Wednesday morning to seek the release of the 12 Malaysians on board the ship attacked by Israeli commandos.

The minister said earlier that Malaysia was disappointed with the UN as it had not strongly deplored Israel for breaking international laws.

Instead, the UN only expressed its regret over the incident, added Anifah.

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B148

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L.
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 1:24 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Flotilla Reaction: Cairo External News Summary 02-06-2010

RELEASED IN FULL

Some more reactions from Egypt.

Gaza Flotilla: Parliament Speaker Fathi Sorour said the two Egyptian parliamentarians detained in Israel after being taken by Israeli forces were released with the efforts of the general intelligence and ministry of foreign affairs (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). In a related context, UNSC condemned the Israeli attack on the flotilla. Egyptian delegate to the UN Maguid Abdel Fattah said the Arab group at the UN allowed the UN 30 days to complete their independent investigation before calling for another UNSC meeting to discuss the new procedures (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). In a related context, President Mubarak ordered yesterday the opening of Rafah Crossing to allow in humanitarian and medical needs to Gaza. The crossing will be opened in the two directions for an undefined time (Al Ahram, RAY). An official at Rafah Crossing said additional staff was called in to help facilitate the crossing operation. The first day of operation is today. Mamdouh Gabr, the secretary general of the Egyptian Red Crescent said his organization is currently deciding how much aid it will send (Al Gomhuria, El Shorouk). Khaled Meshaal in a speech in Yemeni Capital Sanaa thanked Egypt and asked for the crossing to remain permanently open (El Shorouk, Youm7). In a related context, Official and popular condemnations of the Israeli attack on the flotilla continued for the second day (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). Shura Council speaker Safwat El Sherrif said the Israeli army conduct could not be interpreted or justified. El Sherrif condemned the Israeli attack on behalf of the NDP and emphasized the need to hold an international investigation of the incident (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). Arab Foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting today to discuss the consequences of the Israeli attack on the flotilla (Al Gomhuria). Amr Moussa said yesterday at the permanent delegates meeting that Turkey is now partnering with Arabs to counter the Israeli attack (El Shorouk). The meeting was attended for the first time by the Turkish Ambassador who falsified Israeli allegations that the attack was an act of self defense (Youm7). In the closed session, Syrian delegate proposed a 5 step plan that focuses on stopping normalization, lifting the siege, holding Israel accountable for the attack, unite in refusing indirect and direct negotiations before lifting the siege, coordinate to pursue Israeli war criminals (Youm7). In a related context, Egyptian and Libyan officials discussed yesterday countering the consequences of the Israeli attack on the flotilla (Al Gomhuria).

Thank You

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Usama Najeeb
Political Specialist on External and Military Affairs
U.S. Embassy Cairo

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B149

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:48 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: India condemns Israeli raid of flotilla bound for Gaza

RELEASED IN FULL

India condemns Israeli raid of flotilla bound for Gaza

NEW DELHI, June 2 (Xinhua) -- India has condemned Israel for " indiscriminate use of force" in its raid on flotilla with humanitarian aid bound for the Gaza Strip, while calling for peaceful dialogue to restore peace between Israel and Palestine.

Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vishnu Prakash said Tuesday night in a statement that India deplores the tragic loss of life and the reports of killings and injuries to people on the boats carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza.

"It is our firm conviction that lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and not through use of force," said the statement.

Meanwhile, India's ruling Congress party has also condemned the attack on the flotilla.

"Such use of force is blatant negation of all human values. The party expresses its sympathy with the families who have lost their members and with those who have suffered injuries," party general secretary Janardan Dwevedi said.

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12150

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Shelstad, Jeffrey
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:32 AM
To: 'Higdon, George S.'; SES-O
Cc: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: RE: Requested article

RELEASED IN PART

B6

Mr. Higdon -

I have just spoken with the U.S. Consulate in Karachi.

The event happened yesterday afternoon (06/01) and the protest outside the Consulate was not large.

The Consulate reports all is quiet now (06/02 at 0915 Karachi / 0015 EDT).

Jeff Shelstad
Watch Officer
Department of State Operations Center (S/ES-O)
ShelstadJ@state.gov (202) 647-1512

From: Higdon, George S. [mailto:George_S_Higdon@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:06 AM
To: SES-O
Subject: Requested article

Requested article concerning rioting near the American Consulate in Karachi in response to Israeli raid.

G. Scott Higdon
Duty Officer
WHSR
(202) 456-9431 (open)
770-7400 (secure)

From: NOC Media Monitoring [<mailto:kcraswell@techopsolutions.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:13 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients
Subject: FOLLOW-UP #10--MMC IOI #569-05/10--Arrests Made In Anti-Israel Protest Targeting U.S. Consulate - Karachi, Pakistan

Title: Anti-Israel protest turns violent in Karachi
Location: Karachi, Pakistan

MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information.

Excerpt from News Articles:

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The red zone of Karachi depicted a battle scene Tuesday evening as law enforcement agencies countered activists of the Inamia Student Organization (ISO), who were marching towards the American consulate to protest against Israel's attack on an aid flotilla.

According to reports, a large number of ISO activists staged a demonstration at the Karachi Press Club against Israel's atrocities, and after the demonstration the participants started marching towards the American Consulate to protest further.

Demonstrators pelted stones at police as they attempted to continue their march towards the consulate. Some reportedly succeeded in reaching the consulate, where officers tried to curb the agitation. Electricity was turned off and heavy clouds of smoke were visible.

Policemen used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd and arrested several activists.

Sources:

Express Tribune / International Herald Tribune

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/17909/anti-israel-protest-turns-violent-in-karachi/>

The Daily Times (Pakistan)

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C06%5C02%5Cstory_2-6-2010_pg12_1

Kim Craswell

Operations Analyst

DHS NOC Media Monitoring

Phone: (703)-802-6231 ext 5809

Cell:

B6

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B151

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Doner, Susan L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:12 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Requested article

RELEASED IN PART
B6

Forwarding...

From: Higdon, George S. [mailto:George_S_Higdon@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:06 AM
To: SES-O
Subject: Requested article

Requested article concerning rioting near the American Consulate in Karachi in response to Israeli raid.

G. Scott Higdon
Duty Officer
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(202) 456-9431 (open)
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From: NOC Media Monitoring [mailto:kcraswell@techopsolutions.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:13 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients
Subject: FOLLOW-UP #10--MMC IOI #569-05/10--Arrests Made In Anti-Israel Protest Targeting U.S. Consulate - Karachi, Pakistan

Title: Anti-Israel protest turns violent in Karachi
Location: Karachi, Pakistan

MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information.

Excerpt from News Articles:

The red zone of Karachi depicted a battle scene Tuesday evening as law enforcement agencies countered activists of the Inamia Student Organization (ISO), who were marching towards the American consulate to protest against Israel's attack on an aid flotilla.

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Policemen used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd and arrested several activists.

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Sources:

Express Tribune / International Herald Tribune

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/17909/anti-israel-protest-turns-violent-in-karachi/>

The Daily Times (Pakistan)

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C06%5C02%5Cstory_2-6-2010_pg12_1

Kim Craswell

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:10 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Israel repatriating families of Ankara embassy staff: report

RELEASED IN FULL

Israel repatriating families of Ankara embassy staff: report

JERUSALEM, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - Israel is repatriating the families of its embassy staff in Ankara amid tensions over its raid on a Gaza-bound aid convoy, in which at least four Turkish nationals died, Israeli public radio reported Wednesday.

Around 50 people related to Israeli consulate and embassy staff in Ankara were heading home, a senior official told the station, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Sullivan, John L
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:57 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: UPDATE: 124 Gaza aid flotilla activists arrive in Jordan

FYI

124 Gaza aid flotilla activists arrive in Jordan
DALE GAVLAK, Associated Press Writer

ALLENBY BRIDGE, Jordan (AP) - Dozens of pro-Palestinian activists detained in the Israeli raid on the Gaza aid flotilla arrived in Jordan on Wednesday after being deported from neighboring Israel, Jordanian officials said.

The 124 activists from 12 Muslim nations - most of them without diplomatic ties with Israel - crossed the Allenby Bridge aboard five Jordanian buses.

The bridge across the Jordan River is under Israeli control. It links Jordan with the West Bank.

Jordanian government spokesman Nabil Al-Sharif said there were 30 Jordanians in the group. Jordan is one of two Arab nations with a signed peace treaty with Israel.

The bridge's Jordanian chief, Brig. Mahmoud Abu Jumaa, said Jordan will help repatriate the activists - who include lawmakers and journalists - to their respective countries in coordination with their governments.

Kuwaiti ambassador Sheik Faisal Al Sabah said there were 16 Kuwaitis aboard the buses. "They will be flown home aboard a Kuwaiti government-chartered plane later Wednesday," Al Sabah said.

He said the other activists came from Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Yemen, Oman and Bahrain.

Dozens of other activists remain in Israeli detention, but most are expected to be deported in the coming days.

Worldwide condemnation has poured on Israel since its naval commandos halted the aid flotilla in international waters overnight Monday, setting off a melee that left nine activists dead and dozens wounded. Turkey, an unofficial backer of the flotilla, has led the criticism, accusing Israel of committing a "massacre," and the U.N. Security Council demanded an impartial investigation.

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12/55

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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From: Cassidy, Joseph P
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:01 PM
To: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL); Mayfield, Kay (DRL); Johnstone, Kari A (DRL); Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)
Cc: Posner, Michael H
Subject: FW: Daily Press Briefing - with Philip J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs

Importance: High

B5



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MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, the Secretary conveyed to Foreign Minister Davutoglu primarily what she conveyed in her press availability that you heard a short time ago, that we support the Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. We support an Israeli investigation and – but we're open to different ways of ensuring a credible investigation, including international participation.

From: Pelton, Erin
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:45 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Daily Press Briefing - with Philip J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs

The Gaza/flotilla-related discussion from today's Daily Press Briefing is excerpted below.

On-Camera Daily Press Briefing Index
 Tuesday, June 1, 2010
 3:41 p.m. (EDT)

Briefer: Philip J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs

03:41 p.m. EDT

MR. CROWLEY: But I can report the Secretary had a very detailed, in-depth discussion with Foreign Minister Davutoglu. The first portion of the meeting was on the immediate situation with respect to the flotilla. The second half of the meeting regarded the situation with respect to Iran. I'll go into detail on that, I'm sure, through your questions.

QUESTION: P.J., I'm wondering if you can give us a bit of – a little bit of flavor of what the conversation between the Secretary and the Turkish foreign minister was. He had some pretty strong things to say this morning. His boss has had some pretty strong things to say as well. Is it safe to assume that – I mean, he came out and said that he wanted the United States to condemn this act. Neither the Secretary nor the spokesman at the White House would do that. Is it fair to say that there's still not a meeting of the minds on this between the U.S. and Turks?

MR. CROWLEY: Actually, not at all. It was a – obviously, very in-depth discussion lasting far longer than had been originally scheduled. And throughout the meeting, both the Secretary and Foreign Minister Davutoglu more than once said, look, we are here as allies and we have a shared interest in working through what are very tragic circumstances that have created significant emotions in the region. The foreign minister talked about Turkey's immediate concern, which is the return of their citizens and Turkish citizens who were tragically killed in this episode. And the Secretary fully

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understood that. In fact, we have our own concerns and are providing consular assistance today to roughly 11 American citizens who were part of the flotilla.

And so in our conversations that we've had subsequently with Israeli officials, we have again stressed the importance of moving ahead and releasing citizens from a wide range of countries, not just Turkey, even as Israel goes through and begins its own investigation of what happened.

QUESTION: Well, yeah, but you still haven't condemned this. Was the conversation at all heated? Why was there the need for the foreign minister to make a phone call to his -- to the prime minister?

MR. CROWLEY: I mean, that was simply about the sequence of events. You've got the foreign minister has met -- since he met with Secretary Clinton, he has also met with the National Security Council Advisor General Jones and working through and teeing up having those meetings prior to a call. So it was just a matter of rescheduling the President's call and making sure that the -- we had preliminary meetings with the Secretary and the National Security Advisor first.

QUESTION: Did their conversation enter into the Gaza situation, deeper into that situation? And I assume that there are disagreements there on the role of Hamas. Did they broach these subjects?

MR. CROWLEY: No, they weren't discussed. Clearly, there -- the foreign minister went through some background from a Turkish standpoint and the preparations that they had made and discussions they had had with Israeli Government officials prior to the launching of the flotilla. But this was primarily focused on understanding where we are now and what should be done in the short and intermediate term.

QUESTION: Did the Turks agree with the idea of an Israeli probe of what happened or did they push more for foreign participation, international participation?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, the Secretary conveyed to Foreign Minister Davutoglu primarily what she conveyed in her press availability that you heard a short time ago, that we support the Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. We support an Israeli investigation and -- but we're open to different ways of ensuring a credible investigation, including international participation.

Now, Turkey will have its own judgment as to any investigation it might undertake, since this was a Turkish ship among other international --

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

MR. CROWLEY: I mean, and Foreign Minister Davutoglu did say, and we fully understand, that this is not just an incident that involves Turkey and Israel. A number of countries, including the United States, obviously had citizens and flagged vessels as part of this flotilla.

QUESTION: On the investigation --

QUESTION: Can I --

MR. CROWLEY: One at a time.

QUESTION: Can I follow on something Matt said and some -- and one of the ways you've answered the -- where we go from here, or the meeting upstairs with the foreign minister? First of all with the foreign minister, did he ask her assistance, Secretary Clinton's assistance, in talking to the Israelis about freeing the ship or freeing Turkish citizens or getting them released?

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And secondly, you mentioned 11 Americans. I'm led to believe there were at least 14 that are still there. Perhaps there are different categories.

MR. CROWLEY: There have been some American citizens who have already departed Israel. I would just simply say I think we provided consular services for 11 today.

QUESTION: Still in detention? They are -- those -- the 11 are still in detention?

MR. CROWLEY: I think those 11 are still being held, yes.

QUESTION: On the investigation --

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

MR. CROWLEY: All right, hold on. Again, one at a time.

QUESTION: The other part of the question about did the foreign minister ask Secretary Clinton's assistance in talking to the Israelis on Turkey's behalf?

MR. CROWLEY: The -- well, the Turkish Government has been in touch with the Israeli Government. I think they have a couple of aircraft that have already arrived at Ben Gurion and they are understandably anxious to bring those who are killed, injured, but other Turkish citizens, back to Turkey. He stressed that a couple -- a number of times. The Secretary indicated that we would convey Turkey's desires to Israel and we have done that.

QUESTION: What would participation look like in an investigation -- can I (inaudible)?

MR. CROWLEY: Sure.

QUESTION: Because you said impartial and transparent and so on investigation, then an Israeli investigation. Are those two separate things or are we supporting -- or are you supporting just an Israeli investigation?

MR. CROWLEY: We believe that Israel is in the best position to conduct an investigation of what transpired. And as we've said, we want to make sure it is prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent.

QUESTION: Why?

QUESTION: How would you determine that?

QUESTION: (Inaudible) the fox watching the henhouse here. I mean, you've said there's 11 Americans involved in this. What other --

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I said there -- no, let me clarify. I said that we've provided consular services to 11 Americans today.

QUESTION: Okay. A foreign military boarded a ship in international waters, assaulted its passengers, handcuffed and beat some of those passengers, many of them humanitarian activists, and you're saying you're not prepared to send U.S. investigators. I mean, this is clearly a case of the fox watching the henhouse.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, you're making some presumptions in those -- in your question.

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QUESTION: What's the presumption? You said there's 11 --

MR. CROWLEY: No, no, no, you characterized what happened on the ship. We are still trying to ascertain precisely what happened on that ship.

QUESTION: Then will you send investigators from the United States to do an impartial --

MR. CROWLEY: As the Secretary indicated, we completely support what was described in the presidential statement last night in the UN and we are open to determine if there are opportunities for international participation in that investigation.

QUESTION: Would that include sending the FBI?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm not prepared to say what role the United States would have at this point.

QUESTION: P.J. --

QUESTION: P.J., this building has made it a point to criticize and to condemn human rights practices worldwide. These ships had aid, medical equipment including wheelchairs, building equipment. How essential is it right now that this equipment get to the Palestinians? How important is it that there -- that these materials are now sort of confiscated and not within the hands of those who desperately need it? Is this useful right now?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, first of all, I can't say right now what the status of the material that was on the ship -- certainly, again in the presidential statement, there was an encouragement, which we absolutely support, that that material be provided to the people of Gaza. As the Secretary said again today, we have pressed the Israelis to expand the amount of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza, and we will continue to work with the Israelis every day to try to make that happen.

Lachlan.

QUESTION: It's my understanding that before this flotilla was launched, there was some communication by the Israeli Government with the U.S. ambassador there about the possibility that U.S. citizens would be aboard some of these ships. And the Israelis have made no secret about what they were planning to do. They even put together a press pool to observe this. So I'm wondering, did the United States offer any words of caution to Israel before it undertook this attempt to stop these ships? Was there any kind of communication at any level, ambassador or from this building, to the Israeli Government saying you need to be careful and watch how you handle this situation?

MR. CROWLEY: I'll take that question. I believe the answer is yes, but I'm not in a position to characterize what our communication was prior to the launching of the flotilla.

QUESTION: Okay. And then further on that, what is the U.S. Government saying to Israel now about this? Because there is going to be another attempt, I think as early as tomorrow, to bring a ship into Gaza. Is the United States offering any words of caution to Israel that if you're going to try to stop it this time, do it differently?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, the Secretary had the opportunity to learn from the Israeli Government yesterday; Minister of Defense Barak called in to provide the Israeli perspective on this. And the Secretary, during that conversation, did express concern about the -- obviously, the loss of life, the injury, the impact that that's had on emotions in the region. And she did, at that point, express that for the United States, for Israel, for other countries, we should be extremely cautious in both what we say and what we do in coming days in light of what's transpired.

QUESTION: So what you're saying is that the message from the United States Government is that Israel should not use these same tactics the next time they encounter ships like this heading towards Gaza.

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MR. CROWLEY: Well, as to what Israel does, we are obviously very aware that there is one or more ships that are still heading towards Gaza. This is a very serious incident that's occurred. The loss of life is tragic. The Secretary expressed our condolences to the Turks for their loss of life on board these ships. I think -- don't think anyone wants to see a repeat of what happened yesterday.

QUESTION: And could you just clarify a point of international law for me? Because the Israeli Government says that it's well within their rights to do what they did yesterday. They cite the Paragraph 62-A of the San Remo Manual, whereas the Turkish foreign minister this morning was quite emphatic that this took place in international waters and Israel had no right to board these ships. What is the opinion of the United States Government on this --

MR. CROWLEY: Well, not being an international lawyer, I'm not going to that from the podium. Clearly, that will be something that will be investigated, and I'm sure debated, as we go forward.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) -- understanding that Israel was acting in self-defense?

MR. CROWLEY: We certainly --

QUESTION: Although --

MR. CROWLEY: -- understand that Israel has a right to self-defense. Given the situation in Gaza, it has been subject to rocket attacks in the past. There is a state of hostility between Israel and Hamas. But as to particular questions of international law, I'll defer. That will be -- clearly be something that will be thoroughly debated and investigated.

QUESTION: You sound like you're saying that Israel had the right to defend itself here because of Palestinian rockets.

MR. CROWLEY: Israel has a right to self-defense, to be sure. That said, there is also a clear humanitarian need to provide material to the people of Gaza to help them subsist and rebuild, and we recognize that as well.

QUESTION: In this incident, you see its right to self-defense being applied?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm -- as we've said, we regret the tragic loss of life here. We've called for a prompt, credible, transparent investigation. We are still trying to determine what happened on that ship. I'm not going to prejudge the investigation from here.

QUESTION: Doesn't this provide the Obama Administration an opening? It said early on its first months in office that it wanted to repair its relations with the Arab and Muslim world. This crisis has proven, many believe, that Israel is acting as a strategic liability. The U.S. has ways of ending the crisis in Gaza, the starving of the 1.6 million of the civilian population. They have assets, humanitarian assets, ships. Would the U.S. consider breaking with coordinating with Israel some sort of siege to let humanitarian goods and medical services into the strip?

MR. CROWLEY: We -- as I just said -- I can repeat what I just said. We clearly have supported the expansion of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. As the Secretary and others have said, the situation in Gaza is unsustainable. We want to see how we can provide greater assistance to the people of Gaza --

QUESTION: What is the assistance you give now?

MR. CROWLEY: -- but -- let me finish -- but clearly, while protecting Israel's legitimate right of self-defense.

QUESTION: What is the assistance you're giving now? There was 900 million pledged last year. What's happened to it?

MR. CROWLEY: I'll be happy to take that question.

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QUESTION: Can I change topics for a second?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm sure not yet.

QUESTION: Can I just clarify a few things? You mentioned the 11 that you have provided consular access to. Can you give us the total number of Americans you believe were involved in the incident? There's been ranges up to 20 and down to lower than that.

MR. CROWLEY: Let me see what our latest information is.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. CROWLEY: Because I don't -- I wasn't -- I've heard like 14.

QUESTION: Right. I've heard that one, yeah.

MR. CROWLEY: I don't think we had contact to all of them. There were some people who have manifested on these vessels, we haven't found them yet, so I'm not sure we've arrived at a --

QUESTION: Okay. And I have --

MR. CROWLEY: -- firm number of those involved.

QUESTION: I have a few more questions --

MR. CROWLEY: Go ahead.

QUESTION: -- if I can ask my colleagues' indulgence on. How many Americans injured? Do you have a list of those yet?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm only aware of one that received minor injuries and was treated yesterday at an Israeli hospital.

QUESTION: One you said, okay.

MR. CROWLEY: One.

QUESTION: Has -- have you heard anything from the Palestinians about their unwillingness to take part in further indirect peace talks -- in the proximity talks?

MR. CROWLEY: As far as I know, and I talked to George Mitchell a few minutes ago, he's planning to leave for the region later this afternoon and he has meetings planned as early as tomorrow with Palestinian officials.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

QUESTION: Hold on, hold on a second. I've got a couple more.

MR. CROWLEY: All right.

QUESTION: Just on the blockade, can you clarify the U.S. position? Do you think it should be lifted or do you think there's a legitimate Israeli reason for it?

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MR. CROWLEY: We believe there are -- certainly, Israel has a right to be concerned about the nature of materials that is moving into Gaza. At the same time, we've long called for an expansion of humanitarian goods to the people of Gaza to help improve their situation on the ground.

QUESTION: Does that include the blockade?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm not going to get into issues of the blockade.

QUESTION: All right. And then my last question was -- I don't think you've sufficiently answered why the -- why an Israeli investigation could be at all independent and transparent. Why exactly -- why would you call, of all things, for an Israeli investigation of --

MR. CROWLEY: I think the term used in the presidential statement was "impartial" and we support that investigation and believe that Israel is in the best position to lead that investigation.

QUESTION: How can a party to the investigation be impartial if it's an investigation of itself? Why are they in the best position? Can you explain that?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm --

QUESTION: Well, I mean, just in --

QUESTION: I was going to ask the same question. It does not make sense.

MR. CROWLEY: We support the --

QUESTION: Especially judging from the --

MR. CROWLEY: We -- look, we support the statement from the UN release last night and that characterizes our position.

QUESTION: But why do you think Israel would be impartial in this investigation? If you judge by their media comments, they've already prejudged, which is something you say you don't want to do.

MR. CROWLEY: I -- again, I -- I don't agree with your -- you're leaping ahead here before --

QUESTION: Well, the --

MR. CROWLEY: -- the investigation has barely begun.

QUESTION: You say Israel is best positioned. You have just said a few minutes ago --

MR. CROWLEY: Right.

QUESTION: -- that Israel is best positioned. And you haven't answered his question about why that's so when they're part of this. And how can that be?

MR. CROWLEY: Well --

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

QUESTION: Just -- well, hold on. Just to clarify a point. I mean, just a moment ago you said the question of whether or not this was an -- under international law or not, was something to be addressed as part of an investigation. But the

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Israeli Government has already said its actions are permissible under their interpretation of international law. So how can they conduct an investigation that would examine the question of whether or not this took place --

MR. CROWLEY: Again, I'll just repeat what I just said. We believe that Israel is in the best position to carry out this investigation. As the Secretary said a short time ago, we are open to ideas on how there might be broader participation.

QUESTION: We're just asking you to explain your logic. We're not -- we just want to know why you think they're best positioned. Can't you explain that?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, these were Israeli forces that carried out this action and we think that that means that they're in the best position to investigate whether -- what the instructions were given to those forces, how they viewed the situation as they approached the flotilla, and what transpired on board that ship.

QUESTION: Will Abbas still come as scheduled?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, President Abbas is -- will be here next week and will visit with the President on June 19th.

QUESTION: So the fact that Mr. Netanyahu is no longer meeting with the President today, that is not putting off the calendar?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, as the -- the President and the prime minister talked multiple times yesterday and they agreed that they would reschedule their meeting as soon as possible.

QUESTION: Do you or the Turks or anyone else that you've talked to have any ideas about potential international participation in the investigation?

MR. CROWLEY: Look, we're going to have these kinds of conversations in the coming days --

QUESTION: Well, I'm just asking if -- but have they -- have they happened already?

MR. CROWLEY: What -- has what happened?

QUESTION: Have ideas been thrown out about how there could be international participation --

MR. CROWLEY: Not to my knowledge.

QUESTION: -- in the investigation?

MR. CROWLEY: Not yet.

QUESTION: So this is just -- so the Security Council statement is based on air? If there haven't been ideas tossed around or people haven't suggested different ways that there could be an international component to the investigation, how are you supporting it?

MR. CROWLEY: All right, let me clarify. We are -- we will look at how -- I mean, obviously, Turkey has a vital interest in this. Other countries have a vital interest in this. There are -- a number of citizens and ships from multiple countries that were involved in this. And we will work within the Council and more broadly to see how an international element can be introduced into this investigation.

QUESTION: Right. Well, just let me -- let's just look at a different example. Look at the South Korean ship incident, where you had numerous countries involved in that, with the South Koreans obviously taking the lead, but you were involved as well. I mean, is that something that -- is that something that --

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MR. CROWLEY: We were invited to participate because we have a particular expertise that --

QUESTION: So it's up to Israel to invite people, whoever they want, to join their investigation?

MR. CROWLEY: Look, I've just said we will help think through how to make this as credible and transparent, impartial, and prompt as possible.

QUESTION: But you believe though, right now, that Israel is capable of doing all -- meeting all those criteria on its own?

MR. CROWLEY: As a --

QUESTION: On its own.

MR. CROWLEY: As a vibrant democracy accountable to its people, we have every confidence that Israel is fully capable of investigating this.

QUESTION: Okay. Well, I think that was the answer to the question --

MR. CROWLEY: Okay.

QUESTION: -- that people were asking before. If that's what you believe, then that's -- that's fine.

QUESTION: But does a vibrant democracy arrest journalists, handcuff and beat them? Just that allegation in itself should absolve Israel from doing its own investigation.

QUESTION: I was wondering -- the Israelis have said that they believe the aid group was connected to terrorist groups -- al-Qaida. Do you agree? Does the State Department -- can you confirm that? Is there any truth to it?

MR. CROWLEY: I've got -- I don't know. I don't know on what basis -- I've heard that said. I'm not sure on what basis --

QUESTION: Can you take that question? I mean, it's -- because they cite -- one of the groups that they say they're connected to -- is a group that in 2008 the United States put on the state -- on the terrorism list.

MR. CROWLEY: I understand that.

QUESTION: So you should have some knowledge or understanding about it.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, part of this goes into the aspect of -- again, this should be part of the investigation in terms of who was on that ship, how was it organized. These vessels assembled somewhere between the coast of Turkey and Israeli waters, and so it might have been organized under one group's auspices, but we're very conscious of the fact that there were a number of people representing a variety of different NGOs on that ship.

QUESTION: Could you take the question?

MR. CROWLEY: What's -- so I just want to understand the question. Is -- what is our assessment of the IHH?

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. CROWLEY: All right. We'll take that question.

QUESTION: Will Turkey do its own investigation if the Israelis are doing their -- if, I mean --

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MR. CROWLEY: Well, that's a matter to address to the Government of Turkey.

QUESTION: The prime minister said this morning that Turkey was not going to move forward with plans to try mediating a restart in the Israel-Syria indirect talks. I'm wondering if that came up in the meeting with the Secretary. And more broadly, is there concern in the State Department that this is really going to torpedo any effort to get the kind of regional support for peace moves that you've been working for for the past year and a half?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, we certainly hope not. As the Secretary reiterated today and at various statements that we put out yesterday, we think that this incident underscores why we are trying to push ahead with a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, because ultimately, that is the only way that you avoid these kinds of situations in the future. So we are – that's why George Mitchell is going back to the region tonight and we want to see the proximity talks continue and lead to direct negotiations.

Now, during the course of the meeting, Foreign Minister Davutoglu reflected on the deep and rich history that Turkey has with Israel. Turkey has been one of Israel's closest friends in the region for 60 years. But as to what happens in light of this incident, I think that remains to be seen. But to the extent that Israel can address Turkey's very legitimate concerns about getting its citizens returned – and I suppose Turkey will be judging the nature of the Israeli investigation into this incident. And on that basis, different countries will determine what the implications are.

QUESTION: As you wait for the Israeli investigation, how much weight will you give to the statements of American citizens who were there, who were on those boats? Some of them have even released statements to the press denying Israeli allegations that they used white weapons and that everything they had was basically made out of plastic.

MR. CROWLEY: Again, that's why we have been very cautious in our statements until we have a better perspective on what actually happened on that ship and why we have called for a prompt, thorough, impartial, transparent investigation.

Jill.

QUESTION: P.J., the foreign minister this morning told some journalists that the one thing that they really want from the United States is condemnation of this action by the United States. Did that come up? Did he ask Secretary Clinton to do that? Was there any – if so, was there any answer by the Secretary?

MR. CROWLEY: It did not come up. He did not make that demand specifically in the meeting. And the Secretary reiterated during the meeting what she said afterwards, which is we have to have a careful, thoughtful approach to this going forward.

QUESTION: Did he make any demands or ask for anything for the United States directly to do?

MR. CROWLEY: We've already covered that. He indicated that Turkey's immediate focus was on the – on their citizens and the return of those who have been killed, injured, and others on board the ship. And we have conveyed Turkey's concern to the Israeli Government.

QUESTION: What coordination has the State Department had with the Egyptian Government? I saw that the Rafah crossing was supposed to be opened rather soon, at least temporarily.

MR. CROWLEY: I can't – at a high – I don't know how high a level. I think we've been in touch with a variety of capitals since yesterday to compare notes and to express our concern about moving forward in a cautious way. I don't know whether Egypt indicated to us in advance what they are prepared to do.

QUESTION: Has Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit been rescheduled?

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MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

QUESTION: When will he come?

QUESTION: P.J. --

MR. CROWLEY: Right. The meeting that was supposed to be held today will be rescheduled. I don't know that there's a new date yet.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) in a conference call today said he thanked the United States profusely for the actions it took behind the scenes at the Security Council to -- quote, unquote -- "water down the resolution." What happened behind the scenes in the Security Council on -- what did the United States do to help out the Israelis?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I think it was a thorough debate over many hours. As with the case with statements that come out of the Security Council (inaudible) -- statement, words have meaning and we worked closely with a number of countries to make sure that going forward that there was significant action calling for an investigation, but making sure that any actions do not further inflame emotions in the region.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Shelton, Deretta F
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:59 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: Situation Report No.4 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

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SITUATION REPORT No. 4

Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01

Tuesday, June 1, 2010
2030 EDT

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

(SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv consular officers gained access to 11 detained American citizens, two of whom had been briefly hospitalized. Two Amcits, including former Ambassador Peck, were deported. A consular assistant visited the morgue June 1; none of the deceased match photos of any known Americans. At least 100 detainees have not yet been registered. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

- (SBU) The Israeli cabinet decided to repatriate all Turkish detainees not suspected of attacking Israeli military personnel. The cabinet also supported a National Police request to detain those suspected of attacking the IDF for further investigation. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*
- (SBU) Israelis believe all of the deceased are Turkish citizens. Turkish embassy officials are working to identify the remaining dead. There are 42 Turkish nationals in Israeli hospitals; 24 Turks have been repatriated. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*
- (SBU) The Prisons Service is holding about 610 flotilla participants. All detainees refusing to sign deportation waivers will be brought before a judge prior to facing deportation. Forty eight of them chose to comply with the expulsion order and have already left. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

CARGO

(U) The unloading of the flotilla's cargo continues at the port of Ashdod where Israeli officials are examining the cargo for illicit materials. The IDF hopes to deliver legitimate cargo to the Gaza Strip at the end of the week. *(Yedioth Ahronoth)*

INCOMING SHIPS

Please see the classified version of this product.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

(SBU) The UN Human Rights Council delayed a vote on a Palestinian-drafted resolution condemning Israel and establishing an investigatory mechanism until June 2. *(MGGZ01/USUNHCR e-mail)*

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- (U) Media reports indicate Egypt opened its border with the Gaza Strip, letting Palestinians cross until further notice. *(Reuters)*
- (SBU) Jordan offered to facilitate the repatriation of citizens of Muslim states that do not have relations with Israel. At least one Indonesian and one Lebanese are among the wounded, and the Jordanians will handle their repatriation.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Amman e-mail)

TURKISH RESPONSE

(SBU) PM Erdogan struck a more moderate tone following his May 31 remarks. Erdogan denounced anti-Semitism but appealed to Israelis to pressure the Netanyahu government to stop resorting to violence. He also called for the immediate release of passengers and seized ships. *(Ankara 781)*

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

Drafted: JMSindle

Approved: PMBeekman

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

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B160

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

From: Duguid, Gordon K. [duguidgk2@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:52 PM
To: Heffern, John A; Baez, Alejandro X; EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.
Cc: USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: RE: Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

B5

[Redacted]

B5

Gordon Duguid
 Public Affairs
 Tel: +202-647-9606

From: Heffern, John A. [mailto:HeffernJA@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:59 AM
To: Duguid, Gordon K; Baez, Alejandro X; EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.
Cc: USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: RE: Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

[Redacted]

SBU
 This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Duguid, Gordon K. [mailto:duguidgk2@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:15 PM
To: Baez, Alejandro X; EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.
Cc: USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: RE: Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

Thanks,

[Redacted]

Gordon Duguid
 Public Affairs
 Tel: +202-647-9606

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From: Baez, Alejandro X [mailto:Baezax@state.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:49 AM

To: EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.

Cc: USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group

Subject: Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

01 Jun. 2010

Press Release: (2010) 074

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.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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B162

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Rosenthal, Hannah S
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:01 PM
To: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Feltman, Jeffrey D
Cc: Cofsky, Warren A (DRL); Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)
Subject: FW: Arab Media Reports on Flotilla Participants: Writing Wills, Preparing for Martyrdom, Determined to Reach Gaza or Die

RELEASED IN FULL

Just FYI

From: MEMRI [mailto:memri@memri.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:54 PM
To: Rosenthal, Hannah S
Subject: Arab Media Reports on Flotilla Participants: Writing Wills, Preparing for Martyrdom, Determined to Reach Gaza or Die

If you are having trouble viewing this email click here.



Special Dispatch | 2990 | June 1, 2010

Palestinians



**Arab Media Reports on Flotilla Participants:
 Writing Wills, Preparing for Martyrdom,
 Determined to Reach Gaza or Die**

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









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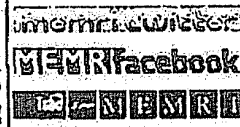
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Flotilla Participants

Following is information from the Arab media about some of the flotilla participants. It should be noted that many of these were from the Muslim Brotherhood across the Muslim world:

Egypt

In Friday sermons, Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Badi' expressed support for Hamas, frequently reiterating harsh statements in favor of jihad and of the armed struggle in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan (For more on this subject, see also MEMRI Special Dispatch No. 2986, "MEMRI TV Clips on the Gaza Flotilla: Activists On Board Chant Songs of Martyrdom at Departure," <http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/4249.htm>).

The Egyptian flotilla delegation included two members of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Egyptian parliament: Muhammad Al-Baltaji and Hazem Farouq.

Al-Baltaji, who is deputy secretary-general of the Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc in Egypt, said at a March 2010 conference, "A nation that excels at dying will be blessed by Allah with a life of dignity and with eternal paradise." He also said that his movement "will never recognize Israel and will never abandon the resistance," and that "resistance is the only road map that can save Jerusalem, restore the Arab honor, and prevent Palestine from becoming a second Andalusia."^[1]



Muslim Brotherhood logo

Lebanon

The Lebanese flotilla delegation, with six members, was headed by attorney Dr. Hani Suleiman, who also participated in a February 2009 Gaza flotilla. He was pro-bono attorney to Japanese terrorist Kozo Okamoto.^[2] In 2006, he signed a communiqué supporting armed resistance in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq.^[3]

Three other members of the Lebanese delegation are Al-Jazeera TV correspondents.^[4] One, 'Abbas Nasser, worked for Hizbullah's Al-Manar TV from 1997 through 2003; he has said that he enjoyed working there because he felt like part of a family, and because the channel "embraced his religious and political orientation." In 2003, he also worked for Iran's Al-'Alam TV.^[5]

Another delegation member, Hussein Shaker, is known as "Abu Al-Shuhada" ("Father of the Martyrs"). He has reportedly expressed a desire to meet "his martyrs" (i.e. relatives killed during the 2006 Lebanon war), and has called his participation in the flotilla revenge for their deaths.^[6]

Jordan

The Jordanian flotilla delegation included Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan activists such as delegation head Wael Al-Saka, a veteran Muslim Brotherhood member,^[7] and Salam Al-Falahat, who was general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan from 2006 to 2008.^[8] In an interview last year, Al-Falahat said: "We in the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan see Palestine as part of the Islamic and Arab land that must not be relinquished – on the contrary, defending it is a national and jurisprudential obligation... We see Hamas movement in Palestine as standing at the head of the project of the Arab and Islamic liberation for which the Muslim Brotherhood calls... The Muslim

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Brotherhood supports Hamas and every Arab resistance movement in the region that works for liberation."^[9]

Also in the delegation was Jordanian publicist and journalist Muhammad Abu Ghanima, a former head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan's information bureau and a member of the movement's political bureau. Abu Ghanima writes frequent articles praising Hamas and condemning the Palestinian Authority. In one, he vehemently attacked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, calling on the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to topple his regime even at the cost of thousands of martyrs.^[10]

Journalist Saud Salam Abu Mahfouz, member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan's political party, the Islamic Action Front, is also director-general of the Jordanian *Al-Sabil* newspaper, which is identified with the Muslim Brotherhood. His son, Jordanian correspondent for Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV, was arrested in Egypt in 2008.^[11]

Syria

The only Syrian citizen of the flotilla's 700 participants was Shadha Barakat. She was sent as a representative of the Civil Association for Resisting Zionism and Aid for Palestine, which supports armed resistance in Palestine and in Iraq. Her husband Ayman said that she had written a play on assassinated Hamas founder and leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and had told him that when she reaches Gaza she "plans to visit [Yassin's] home and inhale the scent of the place where he lived."^[12]

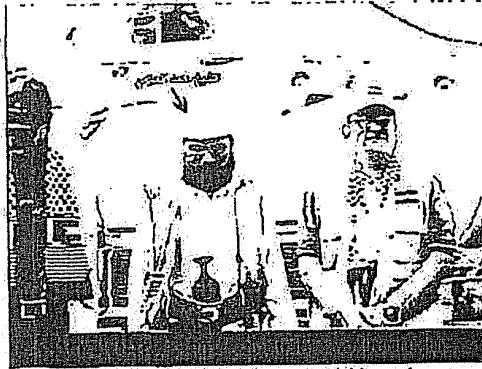


Logo of the Civil Association for Resisting Zionism and Aid for Palestine

Yemen

Prominent activists in the Yemeni flotilla delegation were three MPs from the Al-Islah party, an Islamist party that is close to the Muslim Brotherhood. One, Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hazmi, was photographed on the deck of the Mavi Marmara brandishing his large curved dagger.^[13]





Yemenite Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hazmi

Another Yemeni MP in the flotilla, Hazza' Al-Maswari, also from the Al-Islah party, previously expressed vehement anti-American sentiment. In 2004, he objected to a Yemeni program for dialogue with prisoners from Al-Qaeda aimed at tempering their views, declaring recently at Friday prayers: "We cannot tell militants 'don't terrorize Americans' or 'don't attack their interests.' Those who plant hatred will harvest hatred."^[14]



Depiction of flotilla on Yemeni website^[15]

Kuwait

Among the prominent flotilla activists from Kuwait were Salafist MP Walid Al-Tabtabai, who is known to support armed resistance in Palestine and in Iraq. He said: "We think that the armed resistance in Iraq is legitimate resistance. Every resistance directed against anyone who occupies it is legitimate..."^[16] Al-Tabtabai also expressed explicit support for Hamas and objected to the regime of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud 'Abbas.^[17]

Another prominent Kuwaiti activist in the flotilla was Dr. Osama Al-Kandari, a Hadith lecturer at the College of Basic Education. In February 2009, he signed a communiqué expressing support for Hamas and for jihad in Palestine against the "Jewish enemies."^[18]

Bahrain

Sheikh Jalal Al-Sharqi, head of the Association of Islamic Scholars in the GCC Countries, was also on board. Previously, Al-Sharqi signed a clerics' petition calling to acknowledge Hamas's legitimacy, as recognized by shari'a, and not to prevent it from obtaining weapons. The petition justified the stance of the "fighters in Gaza" who cling to jihad "against the Jews" and to

martyrdom.[19]

Israeli Arabs

The Monitoring Committee of the Israeli Arabs sent four of its members to the flotilla, including Sheikh Raed Salah, head of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel. He made statements in support of Hamas and against the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority. Previously, Salah said at the Conference of the Palestinians in Europe: "We are very joyful over the Freedom Flotilla... that in another few days will break the siege on free Gaza, noble Gaza, heroic Gaza. At the same time, we emphasize to all the world that the Freedom Flotilla heralds another flotilla to come - do you know what that is? It is the flotilla returning the Palestinian refugees to our country, to our plains, to our sea and our land, to our fields and our groves." [20]

Bishop Hilarion Capucci

Another passenger on the Mavi Marmara was Bishop Hilarion Capucci, who in the 1970s was convicted and imprisoned in Israel for smuggling weapons from Lebanon to the PLO, but afterwards was freed at the request of the Vatican. According to Algerian flotilla participants, Hilarion said that he was "waiting for the day when he could return to Palestine and hear the church bells and the *muezzins'* calls of 'Allah Akbar,' under the skies of a free Palestine." [21]



Bishop Hilarion Capucci, left, with Algerian delegation head Dr. Abd Al-Razzaq Maqri

Anticipating Conflict, Willing to Die

In their statements, flotilla participants raised the possibility that Israel would use force to prevent the ship from reaching the Gaza coast, and declared that this would not stop them. Many noted that they would break the siege even if it cost them their lives.

Muhammad Al-Baltaji, of the Muslim Brotherhood faction in the Egyptian parliament, said: "The flotilla participants have two aims: to reach Gaza and break the siege, and to denounce Israel if it prevents the flotilla from entering Gaza, even at the cost of martyrdom or imprisonment." [22]

Algerian delegation head Dr. Abd Al-Razzaq Maqri, who is the deputy head of the Algerian group Movement of Society for Peace, Algeria's major Islamist party, said, "The Algerians on board will hear only the orders of their leaders, who seek to break the siege. [The options are] martyrdom, imprisonment, or breaking [the siege]." [23]

The website of the group titled its collection of photos from the flotilla "Photos of Algerian Mujahideen." [24]



Photo of flotilla participants, under the title "Photos of Algerian Mujahideen"

Algerian delegation coordinator Ahmad Brahimi said about his delegation: "Algeria has been known for its support of the Palestinian cause since the days of Salah Al-Din Al-Ayyubi. Our fathers gave their blood and lives to defend Palestine... and we are the sons of those fathers." He added that the delegation's only purpose was to reach Gaza, and that Israel could not prevent it from doing so.[25]

Another participant, Attorney Fathi Nassar of Jordan, said: "The Freedom Flotilla members are filled with determination to reach Gaza or die." [26]

Rami Abdou, representative of the *European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza*, said that most of the participants were willing to lay down their lives to reach Gaza. He stressed that they would not allow the occupation forces to tow the ship to Ashdod.[27]

Shadha Barakat's husband Ayman said that his wife was likely to be harmed during the venture, adding that "she will make no truce with Zionism" and that "since she was a child, she has dreamed of attacking an Israeli." [28]

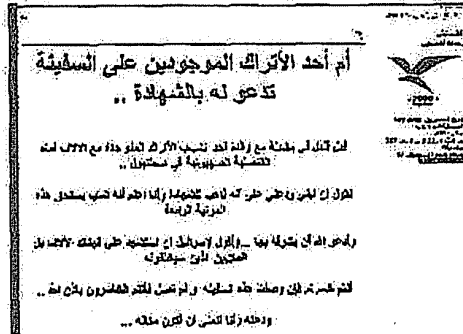
Participants Write Their Wills

At a press conference in Antalya, Turkey, the flotilla organizers asked all the participants to "write their wills." [29] Following the press conference, Kuwaiti Salafist MP Walid Al-Tabtabai reportedly "did not hesitate to write his will, in defiance of the Israeli threats." [30]



Kuwaiti MP Walid Al-Tabtabai wrote his will before boarding the *Mavi Marmara*

The father of Kuwaiti activist Abd Al-Rahman Al-Filkawi told the Kuwaiti *Al-Watan* daily that his son had told him that the flotilla participants' morale was high, and that they "would sacrifice themselves for the sake of Allah. He added that his son had "told them before embarking that he would be a martyr for the sake of Allah." [31] Likewise, on the various Internet forums, it was reported that the mother of one of the Turkish participants had said that her son had bade her farewell and told her that he was going to lay down his life. [32]



- [1] tkhwanonline.com, March 15, 2010.
- [2] <http://www.inbaa.com>, August 11, 2008.
- [3] <http://www.alwahdawi.net>, April 5, 2006.
- [4] *Al-Akhabar* (Lebanon), June 1, 2010; *Al-Safir* (Lebanon) June 1, 2010.
- [5] <http://www.nowlebanon.com>, May 31, 2010; www.bintiubail.org, June 1, 2010.
- [6] <http://www.inbaa.com>, August 11, 2008.
- [7] <http://stocksexperts.net/archive.php?t=11429.html>, *Al-Sabil* (Jordan), May 31, 2010.
- [8] *Al-Sabil* (Jordan), May 31, 2010.
- [9] *Al-Raya* (Qatar), September 23, 2009.
- [10] <http://ziad-1937.maktoobblog.com/>, December 3, 2008.
- [11] *Aljazeera.net*, August 12, 2009. *Al-Sabil* (Jordan), January 9, 2010.
- [12] *Al-Watan* (Syria), June 1, 2010; <http://alfikralarabi.net/vb>, June 1, 2010.
- [13] <http://almethaq.net>, May 31, 2010.
- [14] <http://www.anti-war.com/jps/sultan.php?articleid=2649>, May 25, 2010.
- [15] www.yemen-sound.com
- [16] <http://www.alarabiya.net>, May 29, 2004; www.news.gov.kw, April 24, 2004.
- [17] <http://islamtoday.net>, March 7, 2010.
- [18] <http://www.islamway.com>, February 7, 2009.

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[19] islamonline.net, February 16, 2009; www.aqsatv.ps, May 27, 2010.

[20] <http://alsedeek.com/alsedeek>, May 10, 2010.

[21] <http://hmsalgeria.c4.ixwebhosting.com/ar/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1669>, May 26, 2010.

[22] www.ikhwanonline.com, May 27, 2010.

[23] www.arab48.com, May 25, 2010.

[24] http://www.hmsalgeria.net/ar/qazza_live/

[25] <http://www.insanonline.net>, May 22, 2010.

[26] *Al-Haqiqa Al-Dawliyya* (Jordan), May 27, 2010.

[27] http://paltimes.net/arabic/read.php?news_id=113072, May 27, 2010.

[28] *Al-Watan* (Syria), June 1, 2010.

[29] <http://www.aqsatv.ps/ar>, May 27, 2010; alfikralarabi.net/vb, June 1, 2010.

[30] *Al-Rai* (Kuwait), May 30, 2010.

[31] *Al-Watan* (Kuwait), May 31, 2010.

[32] <http://www.paldf.net>, May 31, 2010.

 Please remember the environment before printing.

For assistance, please contact MEMRI at memri@memri.org.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Valdez, Pablo M
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:42 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: (Reuters) Israel to deport all foreigners seized on Gaza ships

RELEASED IN FULL

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel said it would immediately deport hundreds of foreign activists seized aboard a Turkish-backed aid flotilla to Gaza in a bloody raid.

Pablo Valdez
Watch Officer
Operations Center
Department of State
202-647-1512

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B/168

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

From: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:29 PM
To: Cassidy, Joseph P; Posner, Michael H; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)
Subject: RE: This won't help

B6, B5

[Redacted]

B6

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

From: Cassidy, Joseph P
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:24 PM
To: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)
Subject: RE: This won't help

He has a non-diplomatic style (and I say that in a complimentary way).

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

From: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:23 PM
To: Cassidy, Joseph P; Posner, Michael H; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)
Subject: RE: This won't help

See Jim Jeffrey's (our Amb in Turkey) comments -- just received

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

From: Cassidy, Joseph P
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:13 PM
To: Posner, Michael H; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)
Subject: FW: This won't help

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

From: Cassidy, Joseph P
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:12 PM
To: Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL)
Subject: FW: MFA on cabinet meeting

[Redacted]

B5

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

From: Sievers, Marc J
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:08 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Subject: MFA on cabinet meeting

[Redacted]

B6

called me to update on deportation authority. Cabinet decided it has authority to expedite departure of all detainees not suspected of attacking Israeli military personnel. This apparently covers all those in detention in Beer Sheva. They will still be asked to sign release form, but oral request to leave Israel will be accepted.

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Cabinet decided, however, to support police request to detain for possible investigation and perhaps prosecution those who are suspected of attacking Israeli military. He said this means basically all the wounded currently in hospitals and a small number of those in Beer Sheva will be held at least for a few more days while Attorney General decides how to proceed, it's not clear yet whether they will put any of them on trial. I noted this would scuttle understanding reached with Turks about evacuating Turkish wounded. He said that was correct.

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12173

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Kazi, Pamela R
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:04 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Copy of Flotilla Coalition Passenger List v3.xlsx updated 4 PM 6.1.10

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Kazi, Pamela R
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:54 PM
To: Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Cc: Richter, Kim B
Subject: Copy of Flotilla Coalition Passenger List v3.xlsx updated 4 PM 6.1.10



Copy of Flotilla
Coalition Pas...

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

12174

From: Valdez, Pablo M
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:34 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: (Reuters) Irish PM calls on Israel to free Irish detainees

RELEASED IN FULL

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Ireland called for the immediate and unconditional release of seven of its nationals detained by Israel after the seizure of ships taking aid to Gaza, and warned of "serious consequences" if they were harmed.

Pablo Valdez
Watch Officer
Operations Center
Department of State
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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B178

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M.
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:36 AM
To: DRL-NESCA-DL
Cc: DRL-MLGA-DL
Subject: FW: Two Additional Ships Heading to Gaza

RELEASED IN FULL

Want to make sure all or some of NESCA is receiving these flotilla working group updates.

From: Sindle, James M.
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:32 AM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Cc: Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Goodman, Ilan A; Silliman, Douglas A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Leary, Thomas M; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ankara-POL-DL; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L; Combs, James D; Gilmore, Bradley T; Allison, Alicia P; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Grubb, Jason B; Howe, Geoffrey G; Chue, Jason; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Waters, John R
Subject: Two Additional Ships Heading to Gaza

Colleagues:

There is press reporting that the Free Gaza Movement is sending two additional vessels to Gaza. The first ship is Ireland's "Rachel Corrie," with about 10 passengers on board including Denis Halliday, the Irish former UN Human Rights Coordinator in Iraq. The second ship is the US-flagged "Challenger II", which dropped out of the first flotilla to undergo repairs in Nicosia. According to Free Gaza Movement spokesperson Audrey Bomse in Larnaca, the Rachel Corrie left Malta on her way to Gaza the night before last and she should be coming near Crete today. Arrival is expected around Gaza between late Wednesday and sometime Thursday.

If anyone has additional information on the status of the vessels and the number, nationalities, and the names of the passengers aboard please forward it to the collective. It should help us in terms of tracking any Amcits in advance of detainment. CG Istanbul and Embassy Ankara reaching out to the IHH organizers was valuable in this regard during the first iteration. GOI has told Embassy Tel Aviv that the IDF still intends to intercept these vessels, but is reviewing how to do it.

Many Thanks,

Jim Sindle
Pol-Mjl Officer
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Martone, Stephanie L
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:48 AM
To: DRL-Users-DL
Subject: FW: DRAFT Tasking List for Monday, June 1, 2010

RELEASED IN FULL

Stephanie Martone
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights & Labor
202-647-3026

From: Duckworth, Karl E [mailto:DuckworthKE@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:40 AM
To: PAO Group
Subject: DRAFT Tasking List for Monday, June 1, 2010

DRAFT Tasking List for Monday, June 1, 2010

Unclassified E-mail: PA/PO Group

Classified E-mail: PAPress_Officers

Daily Schedule

Daily Press Briefing: 2:30 p.m.

Briefer: PJ

Tasking list prepared by Karl Duckworth, x7-4733 (or in the PA/FO at 7-8232 after 10 a.m.)

Final Guidances Due at 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

PENDING RELEASES

AFRICA

CA / AF / RWANDA: Do we have any updates on American lawyer Peter Erlinder? Is he still incarcerated?

S/WCI / IO / L / UGANDA: Please provide guidance on the Rome Statute Review Conference in Kampala and the intervention.

EAST ASIA

EAP / IO / NORTH KOREA: Do we have any information on the Russian team that is investigating the ship explosion? Do we expect China to send its own team to confirm the report? Is this in preparation for UNSC action? What's next?

EUROPE

FOR THE TOP: EUR / TURKEY: What is on the agenda for Secretary Clinton's meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu? Will the Gaza flotilla be discussed?

FOR THE TOP: EUR / ROMANIA: What is on the agenda for Secretary Clinton's meeting with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi?

NEAR EAST

NEA / CA / IS/PAL: What updates do we have on the taking of the Gaza flotilla ship? Were any Amcits on the boat? If so, where are they now? Were any Americans injured in protests in Israel or the Palestinian territories? What does the United States plan to do? (Also - see below tasking - I'll leave it up to you if you want to combine.)

IO / NEA / IS/PAL: What happened at the emergency meeting at the UN yesterday in regards to the above incident? What specific proposal did Turkey put forward? Will we support any action against Israel?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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ISN / NEA / IO / IRAN: Do we have a reaction to the IAEA report on Iran that says, among other things, that Iran's stockpile of LEU has risen to 2.43 tons? Does this finding add to our skepticism about this month's revived nuclear fuel deal brokered by Brazil and Turkey? Are we concerned that the report also indicates possible activity in Iran to develop a nuclear payload for a missile?

NEA / LIBYA: Is the Secretary still planning on meeting with Libyan Foreign Minister Musa Kousa? If so, what is on the agenda? Do we have an update on the health and our thoughts on the Lockerbie bomber? Will it be discussed?

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

S/RAP / SCA / AFGHANISTAN: Can we have details on the Secretary's 10 a.m. call with Afghani President Hamid Karzai? What was discussed? (It's on the public schedule.)

FOR THE TOP: S/RAP / SCA / AFGHANISTAN: Can we have a few sentences for the top on the beginning of the Consultative Peace Jirga?

SCA / S/RAP / DRL: Do we have any reaction to the Afghan government's suspension of the operations of two church-based relief groups over suspicions they were involved in converting Afghans to Christianity?

SCA / INDIA: What are our expectations for the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue? Can we have an overview of our relations with India? (One of the Indian reporters has been asking for this for awhile.) What are the issues/goals/successes SCA wants to highlight?

DRL / SCA / PAKISTAN: Do we have any comment on the Pakistani court's decision on Monday, ordering the government to restore access to Facebook?

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

UPDATE: WHA / JAMAICA: Do we have an update on the situation in Jamaica? What's the status of the embassy?

MISCELLANEOUS

UPDATE : OES: Can we have updates on the oil spill cleanup and international offers of assistance?

ISN / IO: Can we have an assessment on the meetings of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference?

UPCOMING

June 2

NEA: Who are the visiting Middle East democracy activists? What organizations do they represent and what are their goals? With whom are they meeting?

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Russians To Study Warship Sinking Probe (Kim, AP)

Monday, May 31, 2010

Associated Press

By Hyung-jin Kim

SEOUL, South Korea - Russian experts arrived in Seoul on Monday to review findings of an investigation that blamed North Korea for the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship, as the South sought to build support for U.N. punishment of the North.

If Russia endorses the multinational probe's conclusions, the move could convince China and other major powers to support possible U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang for the sinking two months ago of the Cheonan, which killed 46 sailors.

The South Koreans shared the investigation's findings with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao last weekend before a summit, but Beijing has yet to blame North Korea or support any potential U.N. action against its longtime ally.

Wen is now in Japan, where he was expected to face more pressure to censure North Korea. On Monday, he met with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who said Tokyo strongly supports Seoul's plans to bring North Korea before the U.N. Security Council for sanctions or condemnation.

North Korea has denied sinking the ship and has said the multinational investigation - involving America, Britain, Sweden and Australia - was a biased probe conducted by South Korea's allies.

A Russian endorsement of the investigation could greatly contribute to the legitimacy of the conclusions. Like China, Moscow is a traditional North Korean ally and a veto-holding permanent council member.

The Russian team - including torpedo and submarine experts - arrived Monday and were to stay in South Korea for several days as they review the investigation results and examine the ship's wreckage, said a Defense Ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity citing department policy.

The official declined to provide further details, citing Russia's request not to publicize many of the team's activities.

Russia's ambassador in Seoul, Konstantin V. Vnukov, told a forum Friday that Moscow will determine its position on the U.N. action on North Korea after the experts study the probe results, according to YTN television network.

Australia Begins Legal Action To Stop Japan Whaling (AFP)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

AFP

TOKYO (AFP) - Australia has launched legal action at the International Court of Justice to stop Japan's whaling programme, Japanese officials said Tuesday, calling the move "extremely regrettable".

"We were informed that Australia has filed a lawsuit with the International Court of Justice regarding research whaling. We will discuss how to deal with it," said a fisheries agency official.

Hirofumi Hirano, Japan's top government spokesman, said: "I think it is extremely regrettable. The Japanese government will deal with it properly, based on our position."

Japan defends whaling as part of its cultural tradition and hunts the ocean giants under a loophole in a 1986 international moratorium on commercial whaling that allows lethal "scientific research".

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Australia has long protested the hunts, including annual whaling expeditions in Antarctic waters, and has in recent months hardened its stance, announcing last week that it would launch legal action in The Hague.

"We want to see an end to whales being killed in the name of science in the Southern Ocean," said Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett last week, vowing "to bring a permanent end to whaling in the Southern Ocean".

A Japanese foreign ministry official told AFP on Tuesday: "We are studying our strategy regarding the lawsuit. Details are yet to be decided, but we won't disclose our strategy even after we make a decision."

China Bans Court Evidence Gained Through Torture (Jacobs, NYT)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

New York Times

By Andrew Jacobs

BEIJING - The top judicial and law enforcement bodies in China have issued new guidelines that seek to halt the use of torture in obtaining confessions or witness testimony, especially in death penalty cases.

The rules, announced Sunday, would nullify evidence gathered through violence or intimidation and give defendants the ability to challenge confessions presented during their trials.

The new regulations were issued weeks after the authorities conceded that the confession used to erroneously convict a farmer for a murder was based on torture. The case came to light only after the supposed victim turned up alive and the defendant had spent 10 years in prison. It has provoked national outrage.

"Judicial practice in recent years shows that slack and improper methods have been used to gather, examine and exclude evidence in various cases, especially those involving the death penalty," said a statement released by the central government.

Although such provisions are a basic feature of modern criminal codes, legal experts said it was the first time Chinese law has explicitly spelled out rules for the admissibility of prosecutorial evidence.

Confessions gained through torture are thought to be common in China, though rights advocates and defense lawyers say such mistreatment gains public notice only when a defendant dies in custody. In some recent cases, jailhouse deaths have spurred protests and alarmed the authorities, who are eager to maintain social stability.

In a rare admission of the problem, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, which carries out investigations and prosecutions, issued a report in 2003 acknowledging that what it characterized as forced confessions had led to the deaths of 460 people and serious injuries for 117 others.

The stakes are high in China, which puts to death more people than all other countries combined. The government does not release figures on executions, but Amnesty International estimates more than 1,700 last year.

Lawyers and legal scholars praised the new regulations, which are part of a larger package of legal reforms that have been in the works for years, but have been stalled by powerful interests within the country's public security apparatus.

"They have come just in time because the necessity is so great," said Zhang Xingshui, a defense lawyer. "It is a good cure for loopholes, because legal workers are often under so much pressure to get cases closed no matter what it takes."

Several lawyers said that they were curious to see the extent to which the regulations would be carried out, pointing out that China often fails to abide by its own rules and regulations.

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The larger problem, legal experts say, is the disconnect between China's stated desire for the rule of law and the Communist Party's insistence that the judicial system serve the party.

When it comes to criminal justice, the Ministry of Public Security and Supreme People's Procuratorate are often averse to measures that might limit their powers. After a previous round of legal revisions in 2007, for example, prosecutors refused to allow lawyers to meet with clients accused of violating state-secrets laws, a hazy designation that is often used against dissidents.

Nicholas Bequelin, a researcher with Human Rights Watch in Hong Kong, called the new guidelines a welcome step, but said that they were weak medicine for an ailing criminal justice system.

"I think the government has abandoned any ambition of carrying out systemic reform and instead has adopted an approach where it aims at marginal procedural improvements," he said.

Cui Min, a professor at Chinese People's Public Security University, was somewhat more optimistic. One important element of the regulations, he noted, requires the police to testify in court if they are accused of using torture to extract a confession.

"This may be common practice for police in the West or in Hong Kong, but it is a new thing for Chinese policemen to testify in court," he said. "We have to cultivate a new mindset, one that accepts the idea of possibly setting free a criminal over wrongfully convicting an innocent man."

Israel: At Least 9 Pro-Palestinian Activists Killed On Gaza Flotilla Carrying Aid (Zacharia, WP)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Washington Post

By Janine Zacharia

JERUSALEM -- At least nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed and dozens were wounded aboard an aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip when Israeli naval commandos seized control of the boats about 70 miles offshore in international waters early Monday.

An Israeli army spokesman would not disclose their identities or nationalities. Some Turkish, Israeli and Arab media outlets had earlier put the death toll at 19 activists and said they included as many as 10 Turkish nationals. The wounded were evacuated to Israeli hospitals and the ships were led into Israel's Ashdod port, where the passengers and aid supplies were being unloaded and screened. Seven Israeli naval personnel were also injured.

Sharp condemnations of Israel rang out from across the world, with several European countries summoning Israeli ambassadors to protest. The European Union called for an inquiry into the deaths. And the United Nations Security Council planned to meet Monday afternoon for an emergency session. The United States expressed regret at the loss of the life and said it was "working to understand the circumstances of the tragedy."

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is in Canada and had been scheduled to meet President Obama in Washington on Tuesday, decided to cut short his trip and will return home Monday night instead, his office said.

Turkey, which dispatched the main Mavi Marmara ship carrying 600 activists and thousands of tons of aid, strongly condemned Israel, warning of deep consequences to relations, as protesters demonstrated outside the Israeli consulate in Istanbul and Israel released a travel advisory warning Israelis to avoid travel to Turkey.

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"We strongly condemn these inhumane acts of Israel. This grave incident which took place in high seas in gross violation of international law might cause irreversible consequences in our relations," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Israel had warned the organizers of the flotilla -- transporting items such as concrete to help Gaza rebuild after last year's war with Israel -- that they would not be allowed to sail directly through the blockaded region.

The activists refused to dock in Israel and have relief supplies unloaded and inspected there, saying they did not trust that Israel would allow the contents to be trucked to the Gaza Strip.

Overnight, Israeli naval personnel dropped from helicopters onto the largest passenger ship from Turkey, which had mostly Turkish nationals aboard. Short video clips broadcast on television stations showed demonstrators clubbing the navy personnel with metal bars and showed at least one Israeli commando firing.

Israeli military officials said demonstrators attacked the navy personnel with knives and live fire and seized at least one of the soldiers' weapons.

"This IDF naval operation was carried out under orders from the political leadership to halt the flotilla from reaching the Gaza Strip and breaching the naval blockade," the Israeli army said in its statement.

Past flotillas either reached Gaza or were diverted to Israel peacefully. But the activists, frustrated with a continuing blockade of Gaza, mounted a much larger effort this time to challenge the siege. Israel, amid growing tensions with Turkey and anxieties about the Turkish organizers' contacts with what Israeli officials described as terrorist groups, said it needed to keep the siege in tact.

Some in Israel, before the raid and after, questioned the wisdom of Israel trying to take the ships by force.

Israel has managed a blockade on Gaza in an effort to isolate the Islamist leadership of Hamas, which took control of the strip of territory in 2007. Israel allows goods to pass into the Gaza Strip but limits, or prevents, certain categories needed especially for construction. Many goods are smuggled into Gaza through underground tunnels from Egypt, creating an overall dysfunctional economy reliant on the decisions of outside powers.

On Monday, after the clash at sea, Israel closed one of the main border crossings into Gaza and turned back roughly 60 trucks of goods destined for the strip.

Flotilla organizers, from the Turkish non-governmental organization IHH, or Humanitarian Relief Fund, said they were transporting 6,000 tons of cement, more than 2,000 tons of iron, 100 prefabricated houses, 500 wheelchairs, medical equipment, wood and glass for building, as well as electric generators and food.

Reports of the activists' deaths prompted demonstrations in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, and Israel increased the presence of police and military across the country in anticipation of possible riots. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas declared three days of mourning.

A committee representing the Arab Israeli community declared a general strike for Tuesday. Already on Monday, Arab merchants in the Old City of Jerusalem shuttered their shops and restaurants in protest.

Turkish flags flew high above Gaza's port on Monday alongside posters with photos of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We are shocked by reports of killings and injuries of people on board boats carrying supplies for Gaza,

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apparently in international waters," United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry and Filippo Grandi, commissioner-general of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, said in a statement. "We condemn the violence and call for it to stop," they said, adding that they were seeking a "full explanation" from Israel.

"We wish to make clear that such tragedies are entirely avoidable if Israel heeds the repeated calls of the international community to end its counterproductive and unacceptable blockade of Gaza," the statement by the U.N. officials said.

Analysis: Condemnation of Israeli assault complicates relations with U.S.

By Glenn Kessler
Tuesday, June 1, 2010; A01

The worldwide condemnation of the deadly Israeli assault on the Gaza aid flotilla will complicate the Obama administration's efforts to improve its tense relations with Jerusalem and will probably distract from the push to sanction Iran over its nuclear program.

The timing of the incident is remarkably bad for Israel and the United States. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Obama were scheduled to meet Tuesday in Washington as part of a "kiss and make up" session. The United Nations, meanwhile, was set to begin final deliberations on Iran in the weeks ahead.

Now the White House talks have been scrubbed, Israel's actions were the subject of an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting Monday and the administration increasingly faces a difficult balancing act as Israel's diplomatic isolation deepens.

In contrast with forceful statements from European, Arab and U.N. officials -- and impromptu demonstrations from Athens to Baghdad -- the White House responded to the assault Monday by saying only that Obama had held a phone conversation with Netanyahu in which the prime minister expressed "deep regret at the loss of life" and "the importance of learning all the facts and circumstances around this morning's tragic events."

Hours later, the State Department issued a statement saying that the United States remains "deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza" and "will continue to engage the Israelis on a daily basis to expand the scope and type of goods allowed into Gaza."

Even before Monday's incident, Israel was on shaky diplomatic ground. After the government was accused of using forged foreign passports in the assassination of a Palestinian militant in Dubai, Britain expelled an Israeli diplomat in March. Australia did the same last week.

The latest furor may have caused irreparable harm to Israel's relations with Turkey -- a Muslim state with which Israel has long had close ties -- because so many of those onboard were Turkish. At the United Nations, Turkey's foreign minister urged the Security Council to condemn Israel's raid and set up a formal inquiry to hold those responsible for it accountable.

"This is terrible for Israel-Turkey relations," Namik Tan, the Turkish ambassador to the United States, said in an interview. "I am really saddened by it."

Tan, who served as ambassador to Israel from 2007 through 2009, said Israel's actions demand condemnation from every country because the flotilla incident took place in international waters and involved civilians on a

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humanitarian mission. But he said the Obama administration's initial statement was wanting. "We would have expected a much stronger reaction than this," he said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu will be in Washington on Tuesday to discuss Iran with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, but Turkey's fury over the Gaza incident will inevitably top the agenda.

Daniel Levy, a former Israeli peace negotiator now at the New America Foundation in Washington, said it's not the first time Israel has done itself a disservice.

"Israel constantly claims it wants the world to focus on Iran, but then it ends up doing something that gets everyone to focus on itself," he said.

Apart from the raid, attention is likely to fall on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, which has faced an Israeli blockade since the Hamas militant group seized power three years ago. Although the Obama administration has pressed quietly for less onerous restrictions on trade, it has not questioned Israeli policies. Special envoy George J. Mitchell has never visited Gaza in about a dozen trips to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Without high-level attention, the situation in Gaza -- a narrow coastal area with 1.5 million people -- has faded from view. Now that might change.

Robert Malley, Middle East director for the International Crisis Group, said Monday's deaths were a consequence of ignoring the "unhealed wound that is Gaza."

In condemning Israel's actions Monday, European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton signaled that the European Union would press anew for a shift in policy. "The E.U. does not accept the continued policy of closure," she said in a statement. "It is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. We need to urgently achieve a durable solution to the situation in Gaza."

Malley said U.S. officials have told him that the situation in Gaza "is very high on Obama's agenda." Obama highlighted Gaza in his Cairo speech a year ago, saying, "Just as it devastates Palestinian families, the continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza does not serve Israel's security."

In that speech, Obama appeared to appeal to Palestinians to undertake acts of civil disobedience rather than violence, saying that it was "not violence that won full and equal rights" for African Americans but "a peaceful and determined insistence."

Whether the flotilla was an act of civil disobedience remains up for debate. Its organizers said it was, but Israeli officials said members of the Israel Defense Forces were met with violence when they boarded the ships.

Not only has the incident strengthened the Islamist Hamas, it has probably weakened the secular Palestinian leadership on the West Bank. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas quickly condemned the attack as a "massacre," but he will probably face new pressure to abandon indirect talks with Israel.

Iran, whose nuclear ambitions deeply concern Israeli leaders, also is a beneficiary. Turkey holds one of the rotating seats on the U.N. Security Council and was already deeply skeptical of the U.S.-led push to impose new sanctions on the Islamic republic. But now the council's attention will be diverted by the Israeli assault.

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Deadly Israeli Raid Draws Condemnation

By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — Israel faced intense international condemnation and growing domestic questions on Monday after a raid by naval commandos that killed nine people, many of them Turks, on an aid flotilla bound for Gaza.

Turkey, Israel's most important friend in the Muslim world, recalled its ambassador and canceled planned military exercises with Israel as the countries' already tense relations soured even further. The United Nations Security Council met in emergency session over the attack, which occurred in international waters north of Gaza, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel was flying home after canceling a Tuesday meeting with President Obama.

With street protests erupting around the world, Mr. Netanyahu defended the Israeli military's actions, saying the commandos, enforcing what Israel says is a legal blockade, were set upon by passengers on the Turkish ship they boarded and fired only in self-defense. The military released a video of the early moments of the raid to support that claim.

Israel said the violence was instigated by pro-Palestinian activists who presented themselves as humanitarians but had come ready for a fight. Organizers of the flotilla accused the Israeli forces of opening fire as soon as they landed on the deck, and released videos to support their case. Israel released video taken from one of its vessels to support its own account of events.

The Israeli public seemed largely to support the navy, but policy experts questioned preparations for the military operation, whether there had been an intelligence failure and whether the Israeli insistence on stopping the flotilla had been counterproductive. Some commentators were calling for the resignation of Ehud Barak, the defense minister.

"The government failed the test of results; blaming the organizers of the flotilla for causing the deaths by ignoring Israel's orders to turn back is inadequate," wrote Aluf Benn, a columnist for Haaretz, on the newspaper's Web site on Monday, calling for a national committee of inquiry. "Decisions taken by the responsible authorities must be probed."

The flotilla of cargo ships and passenger boats was carrying 10,000 tons of aid for Gaza, where the Islamic militant group Hamas holds sway, in an attempt to challenge Israel's military blockade of Gaza.

The raid and its deadly consequences have thrown Israel's policy of blockading Gaza into the international limelight; at the Security Council on Monday voices were raised against the blockade, and the pressure to abandon it is bound to intensify.

Israel had vowed not to let the flotilla reach the shores of Gaza, where Hamas, an organization sworn to Israel's destruction, took over by force in 2007.

Named the Freedom Flotilla, and led by the pro-Palestinian Free Gaza Movement and a Turkish organization, İnsani Yardım Vakfı, the convoy had converged at sea near Cyprus and set out on the final leg of its journey on Sunday afternoon. Israel warned the vessels to abort their mission, describing it as a provocation.

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The confrontation began shortly before midnight on Sunday when Israeli warships intercepted the aid flotilla, according to a person on one boat. The Israeli military warned the vessels that they were entering a hostile area and that the Gaza shore was under blockade.

The vessels refused the military's request to dock at the Israeli port of Ashdod, north of Gaza, and continued toward their destination.

Around 4 a.m. on Monday, naval commandos came aboard the Turkish ship, the Mavi Marmara, having been lowered by ropes from helicopters onto the decks.

At that point, the operation seems to have gone badly wrong.

Israeli officials say that the soldiers were dropped into an ambush and were attacked with clubs, metal rods and knives.

An Israeli official said that the navy was planning to stop five of the six vessels of the flotilla with large nets that interfere with propellers, but that the sixth was too large for that. The official said there was clearly an intelligence failure in that the commandos were expecting to face passive resistance, and not an angry, violent reaction.

The Israelis had planned to commandeer the vessels and steer them to Ashdod, where their cargo would be unloaded and, the authorities said, transferred overland to Gaza after proper inspection.

The military said in a statement that two activists were later found with pistols taken from Israeli commandos. It accused the activists of opening fire, "as evident by the empty pistol magazines."

Another soldier said the orders were to neutralize the passengers, not to kill them.

But the forces "had to open fire in order to defend themselves," the navy commander, Vice Adm. Eliezer Marom, said at a news conference in Tel Aviv, adding, "Their lives were at risk."

At least seven soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. The military said that some suffered gunshot wounds; at least one had been stabbed.

Some Israeli officials said they had worried about a debacle from the start, and questioned Israel's broader security policies.

Einat Wilf, a Labor Party member of Parliament who sits on the influential Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that she had warned Mr. Barak and others well in advance that the flotilla was a public relations issue and should not be dealt with by military means.

"This had nothing to do with security," she said in an interview. "The armaments for Hamas were not coming from this flotilla."

The fatalities all occurred aboard the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish passenger vessel that was carrying about 600 activists under the auspices of İnsani Yardım Vakfı, an organization also known as I.H.H. Israeli officials have characterized it as a dangerous Islamic organization with terrorist links.

Yet the organization, founded in 1992 to collect aid for the Bosnians, is now active in 120 countries and has been present at recent disaster areas like Haiti and New Orleans.

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"Our volunteers were not trained military personnel," said Yavuz Dede, deputy director of the organization. "They were civilians trying to get aid to Gaza. There were artists, intellectuals and journalists among them. Such an offensive cannot be explained by any terms."

There were no immediate accounts available from the passengers of the Turkish ship, which arrived at the naval base in Ashdod on Monday evening, where nearly three dozen were arrested, many for not giving their names. The base was off limits to the news media and declared a closed military zone.

The injured had been flown by helicopter to Israeli hospitals. At the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, near Tel Aviv, relatives of injured soldiers were gathered outside an intensive care unit when a man with a long beard, one of the wounded passengers, was wheeled by, escorted by military police.

Organizers of the flotilla, relying mainly on footage filmed by activists on board the Turkish passenger ship, because all other communications were down, blamed Israeli aggression for the deadly results.

The Israeli soldiers dropped onto the deck and "opened fire on sleeping civilians at four in the morning," said Greta Berlin, a leader of the pro-Palestinian Free Gaza Movement, speaking by phone from Cyprus on Monday.

Israeli officials said that international law allowed for the capture of naval vessels in international waters if they were about to violate a blockade. The blockade was imposed by Israel and Egypt after the Hamas takeover of Gaza in 2007. Israel's deputy foreign minister, Danny Ayalon, said Monday that the blockade was "aimed at preventing the infiltration of terror and terrorists into Gaza."

Despite sporadic rocket fire from the Palestinian territory against southern Israel, Israel says it allows enough basic supplies through border crossings to avoid any acute humanitarian crisis. But it insists that there will be no significant change so long as Hamas continues to hold Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier captured in a cross-border raid in 2006.

The Free Gaza Movement has organized several aid voyages since the summer of 2008, usually consisting of one or two vessels. The earliest ones were allowed to reach Gaza. Others have been intercepted and forced back, and one, last June, was commandeered by the Israeli Navy and towed to Ashdod. This six-boat fleet was the most ambitious attempt yet to break the blockade.

U.N. Report Says Iran Has Fuel For 2 Nuclear Weapons (Sanger, Broad, NYT)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

New York Times

By David E. Sanger And William J. Broad

WASHINGTON - In their last report before the United Nations Security Council votes on sanctions against Iran, international nuclear inspectors declared on Monday that Iran has now produced a stockpile of nuclear fuel that experts say would be enough, with further enrichment, to make two nuclear weapons.

The report, by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a branch of the United Nations, appears likely to bolster the Obama administration's case for a fourth round of economic sanctions against Iran and further diminish its interest in a deal, recently revived by Turkey and Brazil, in which Iran would send a portion of its nuclear stockpile out of the country.

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When Iran tentatively agreed eight months ago to ship some of its nuclear material out of the country, the White House said the deal would temporarily deprive Iran of enough fuel to make even a single weapon.

But Iran delayed for months, and the figures contained in the inspectors' report on Monday indicated that even if Iran now shipped the agreed-upon amount of nuclear material out of the country, it would retain enough for a single weapon, undercutting the American rationale for the deal.

The toughly worded report says that Iran has expanded work at one of its nuclear sites. It also describes, step-by-step, how inspectors have been denied access to a series of facilities, and how Iran has refused to answer inspectors' questions on a variety of activities, including what the agency called the "possible existence" of "activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile."

A spokesman for the White House, Michael Hammer, said in a statement on Monday that the report "clearly shows Iran's continued failure to comply with its international obligations and its sustained lack of cooperation with the IAEA." He said the report "underscores that Iran has refused to take any of the steps required of it" by the security council or the I.A.E.A.'s board of governors, "which are necessary to enable constructive negotiations on the future of its nuclear program."

Iran, which insists that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, has said it has conducted no work on weapons, and argues the evidence of work on warheads is forged.

Iran's nuclear progress had been expected to be a central subject at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday at the White House between Mr. Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. Mr. Netanyahu canceled the visit after a deadly raid by Israeli commandos on ships carrying supplies to Gaza.

But the report left hanging the question of whether Israel would ratchet up the pressure on Washington and its allies to show that they can deal with the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran diplomatically. Israeli officials have hinted, but never explicitly threatened, that they would take military action if diplomacy fails and Iran is close to weapons capability.

Administration officials have argued that the combination of the sanctions they expect to come out of the Security Council, along with other sanctions imposed by the United States and its European allies, may change Iran's calculus. But many inside and outside the administration are highly skeptical.

It has been four years since the Security Council first demanded that Iran cease all enrichment of uranium, citing its efforts to hide its activities and deceive inspectors. The country has openly defied those resolutions, telling inspectors those demands - along with calls to allow inspectors to visit a series of facilities that could be useful in energy or weapons production - had been "issued illegally and have no legal basis."

The inspectors reported Monday that Iran now has now produced over 5,300 pounds of low-enriched uranium, all of which would have to undergo further enrichment before it could be converted to bomb fuel.

The inspectors reported that Iran had expanded work at its sprawling Natanz site in the desert, where it is raising the level of uranium enrichment up to 20 percent - the level needed for the Tehran Research Reactor, which produces medical isotopes for cancer patients. But it is unclear why Iran is making that investment if it plans to obtain the fuel for the reactor from abroad, as it would under its new agreement with Turkey and Brazil.

Until recently, all of Iran's uranium had been enriched to only 4 percent, the level needed to run nuclear power reactors. While increasing that to 20 percent purity does not allow Iran to build a weapon, it gets the country closer to that goal. The inspectors reported that Iran had installed a second group of centrifuges - machines that spin incredibly fast to enrich, or purify, uranium for use in bombs or reactors - which could speed its production

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of the 20 percent fuel.

The inspectors also noted that the agency had finally succeeded in setting up a good monitoring system for the 20-percent work after a rocky start in February, when Iran began raising the enrichment levels. "A new, safeguards approach," the report said, "is now being implemented."

But the report called the equipment upgrades and the continuing enrichment "contrary to the relevant resolutions of the I.A.E.A.'s Board of Governors and the Security Council." Both have called on Iran to cease its uranium enrichment because of outstanding questions about Tehran's intentions. The sanctions, if passed, are intended to compel Iran to comply with that demand by the Security Council.

Last fall, President Obama, along with the leaders of Britain and France, denounced Iran for secretly building a second enrichment plant near the holy city of Qum, without alerting inspectors until just before those three countries announced they had discovered the facility. But curiously, the report suggested that now, with its existence revealed, Iran may be losing interest in it. The report said that Iran had installed no centrifuges in the half-built enrichment facility, which is located inside a mountain near a military base.

Iran has sought to locate many of its nuclear facilities in underground sites so as to lessen their vulnerability to aerial attack. In the new report, the inspectors said that the Iranians disclosed that a new analytical laboratory slated for construction amid a warren of tunnels at Isfahan "would have the same functions as the existing" unprotected laboratory there.

The report quoted an Iranian letter as saying the second, underground laboratory was needed "to meet security measures."

U.S. Says Afghan Peace Deal Must Ensure Women's Rights (Madhani, USAT)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

USA Today

By Aamer Madhani

WASHINGTON - As Afghanistan prepares to open a peace conference aimed at persuading Taliban leaders to put down their weapons, U.S. lawmakers have made clear that they want women's rights preserved in any potential deal to integrate former insurgents into the government.

About 1,600 Afghans, that will including lawmakers, tribal and religious leaders, will convene in a tent at Kabul Polytechnic University for a peace jirga on ways to get insurgents to stop battling the government of President Hamid Karzai.

Rep. Donna Edwards, D-Md., who went to Afghanistan as part of a congressional delegation, says she wants to ensure that women's rights aren't set aside during the conference, which begins Wednesday.

"He faces a really tremendous challenge," Edwards says of Karzai. "At the same time, he has a constitution. . . Women's participation is a bottom line."

During the Taliban's rule of Afghanistan, women lived under severe restrictions. Women weren't allowed to

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work outside of the home and girls were prohibited from going to school. The Taliban also required women to wear a head-to-toe veil, and they risked a beating if they were caught in public with a man who wasn't a close relative.

Karzai will offer jobs to mid- and low-level Taliban plus aid for their villages if they lay down their arms, according to the draft of his jirga offer obtained by the Associated Press. The Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Program would be supported by \$160 million from the U.S., Japan, Britain and others.

Insurgents must renounce violence, vow to respect the Afghan constitution and sever ties with al-Qaeda or other terrorist networks, according to Karzai's offer.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander, said the jirga offer appeared "very, very responsible."

Abdullah Abdullah, the most prominent Afghan opposition leader, said the peace conference only offers "false hope" that members of the Taliban are willing to embrace democracy.

"The core of the problem is that they're not looking to have a part in a power-sharing system, but they are looking to reverse the system itself," Abdullah said.

"If anything, the Taliban have become more hard-line," he said. "On issues of women, on human rights, on education . . . not on one of these things that are part of the democratic process have they softened."

In Washington last month, Karzai said at least 20% of the participants in the jirga will be women. Edwards also said Afghan officials told her during her Kabul visit that women would play a meaningful role in the conference, with more than half of the breakout meetings being led by women.

"It would be most unfortunate for us, and for our values, if we allowed (the jirga) to happen without engaging women in a way that's consistent with the constitution," she said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the U.S. wouldn't back any plan between the government and militants that diminished women's rights.

It is "essential that women's rights and women's opportunities are not sacrificed or trampled on in the reconciliation process," she said.

Afghanistan Suspends Two Aid Groups (Nordland, Wafa, NYT)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

New York Times

By Rod Nordland And Abdul Waheed Wafa

KABUL, Afghanistan - The Afghan government suspended the operations of two church-based relief groups on Monday over suspicions that they were involved in converting Afghans to Christianity, even though the evidence against them apparently consisted of nothing more than a listing in a telephone directory.

An Afghan television station, Noorin TV, broadcast photographs that it claimed showed Westerners' baptizing Afghans, both men and women, and other Afghans' praying to Jesus at private prayer meetings. It mentioned the two groups in the same report, although it had no evidence tying them to such activities; officials at Noorin TV confirmed.

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Converting to any religion from Islam is a crime in Afghanistan, and proselytizing is also outlawed.

The suspended groups, Church World Service, an American organization, and Norwegian Church Aid, say they do not proselytize.

Both groups have major operations in Afghanistan, disbursing millions of dollars in aid. Church World Service employs 190 people, and Norwegian Church Aid 50 people in a variety of development programs here, the government said.

Students at Kabul University staged a protest on Monday in response to the television report, briefly blocking streets around the campus.

Mohammed Sediq Amarkhiel, a spokesman for the Ministry of Economy, which regulates aid groups working here, said there was no actual evidence against the two groups, which were known for "doing a good job here." However, Mr. Amarkhiel added, the ministry decided on the suspensions because the television reports "raised suspicions" and "made people very emotional and angry." The government will investigate the groups' activities, he said.

"If they are really involved in proselytizing Afghan people for Christianity, then definitely these people will be introduced to the judicial authorities," Mr. Amarkhiel said.

Evangelizing is a delicate issue in Afghanistan, a conservative Islamic country where there are no known native Christians and no formal churches, although some foreign embassies hold services within their own compounds. But many foreign nongovernmental organizations and aid groups here are supported by Christian groups abroad.

Foreign aid groups have to make a "commitment that their activity will be based on the Constitution of Afghanistan," which forbids conversion from Islam, Mr. Amarkhiel said.

The television reports were shown last Thursday and Friday on Noorin TV, a small station in Kabul known as an antigovernment gadfly. Even the station's director, Muhammed Arif Noori, however, said Noorin TV had no evidence that the two aid groups had been involved in proselytizing. The report merely raised "suspicions" about the two groups after finding them in a local telephone directory of nongovernmental organizations and noticing that they each had the word "church" in their names, Mr. Noori explained in an interview.

The television reports showed photographs that were alleged to be of Christian baptisms as well as videotapes of Christian prayer meetings, held at what the station said were seven missionary safe houses in western Kabul. The baptisms, presided over by at least four Western men, were done by dunking Afghan men completely in full bathtubs and pouring buckets of water over the heads of Afghan women as they stood in empty bathtubs.

Atle Sommerfeldt, Norwegian Church Aid's general secretary, said "the N.C.A. is not engaged in missionary work anywhere in the world, and not in Afghanistan."

Mr. Sommerfeldt said most of the group's development work, concentrating on rural and agricultural development in four central and southern provinces, continued as usual because most of it was carried out by local Afghan partners who were not affected by the suspension.

"In Afghanistan, as elsewhere in the world, N.C.A. does not have a mandate to influence people to change religion," he said. "We hope and believe in a speedy and positive solution."

Maurice A. Bloem, deputy director of programs for Church World Service, said in a statement that proselytizing

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was against his organization's code of conduct, The Associated Press reported.

The group has an \$8 million budget for Afghan projects this year, according to Liv Snesrud, its Afghanistan program coordinator.

Last year, Al Jazeera broadcast a report showing evangelical Christian soldiers at an American base who were apparently discussing trying to convert Afghans to Christianity by distributing Bibles in Pashto and Dari, the country's two main languages.

The United States military responded that such activity was forbidden by military rules, and confiscated and destroyed the Bibles.

Pakistani Court Orders Access To Facebook Restored (Ellick, Gillani, NYT)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

New York Times

By Adam B. Ellick And Waqar Gillani

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - A Pakistani court on Monday ordered the government to restore access to Facebook, nearly two weeks after it blocked the social networking Web site amid anger over a Facebook page that solicited images of the Prophet Muhammad.

Images or drawings of the prophet are considered blasphemous by most Muslims.

"We cannot block access to information," said Justice Ejaz Ahmed Chaudhry, a High Court judge in the city of Lahore who had also issued the original ban.

Still, in the ruling, Justice Chaudhry ordered the government to block specific content considered blasphemous to Islam. He also called on the authorities to explore a central censorship system, such as those used in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to block hate content.

The court will reconvene on June 15 to review the government's progress.

The Islamic Lawyers Forum, the group that filed the original case to ban access to Facebook, rejected the court-ordered restoration on Monday, pledging to pursue what it called "a complete ban again" if the government does not adequately censor offensive content.

Outside the courtroom, protesters chanted slogans against Facebook.

The controversy erupted after a Facebook user created a page called "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" and asked for submissions.

On May 19, thousands of Pakistanis responded with angry protests around the country. As a result, the Lahore High Court ordered the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority to block access to over 600 Web sites, including Facebook, YouTube and certain pages on Flickr and Wikipedia. Access to most sites has since been restored.

On Saturday, Bangladesh became the second country to block Facebook. As in Pakistan, the ban is expected to be temporary.

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COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 31 May 2010
10485/10 (Presse 152)
(OR. en)

**Declaration by HR Catherine Ashton on behalf of the EU on
the Israeli military operation against the Flotilla**

The EU deeply regrets the loss of life during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the Flotilla sailing to Gaza and offers its condolences to the families of the victims. The EU condemns the use of violence that has produced a high number of victims among the members of the flotilla and demands an immediate, full and impartial inquiry into the events and the circumstances surrounding them.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains a source of grave concern. The EU does not accept the continued policy of closure. It is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. We need to urgently achieve a durable solution to the situation in Gaza.

The EU underlines its call for an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza.

The EU calls on Israel to urgently provide Member States with consular access to and information about their citizens.

The EU calls upon all parties and relevant actors to prevent a further escalation of tensions and underlines the need to continue the proximity talks with a view to the resumption of direct negotiations.

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B - 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

10485/10 (Presse 152)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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B181

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

From: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:39 AM
To: DRL-MLGA-DL; Ostermeier, Amy A; Nossel, Suzanne F; Aswad, Evelyn M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Johnstone, Kari A (DRL)
Subject: Fw: Special NAC on Gaza
Attachments: UNSC Statement.docx; EU statement on Gaza Convoy.doc

B5

Per my email response to Evelyn re broadening our guidance outreach:

[Redacted]

B5

From: Doner, Susan L
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Sent: Tue Jun 01 07:31:43 2010
Subject: FW: Special NAC on Gaza

Forwarding the e-mail w/ attachments...

- Susan

From: Harrison, Paul Q
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:02 AM
To: Heffern, John A; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Daalder, Ivo H; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X
Cc: Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth_d_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart; 'Vershbow, Alexander R HON OSD POLICY'; SES-O_Shift-I; Rathod, Rona R
Subject: RE: Special NAC on Gaza

Dear All,

[Large Redacted Area]

B5

Attached are the EU and UNSC statements.

POSSIBLE NAC Statement Text:

[Redacted]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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B5

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Heffern, John A
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:50 AM
To: Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Daalder, Ivo H; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X
Cc: Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart; 'Vershbow, Alexander R HON OSD POLICY'; Harrison, Paul Q
Subject: RE: Special NAC on Gaza

Below are cleared talking points per A/S Feltman's earlier email.
Thank you.
Payton

--The Administration has publicly expressed its deep regret and concern for the tragic loss of life and the injuries suffered surrounding the recent incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships.

--We have called for a credible and transparent investigation and urge the Israeli government to investigate the incident fully.

--We continue to believe that the situation in Gaza is unsustainable and have long called on Israel to address the humanitarian crisis there. At the same time, any durable solution to Gaza must address Israel's legitimate security concerns, as the Quartet and the UN Security Council consistently acknowledge.

--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 from day one of this Administration to launch negotiations between the parties that will achieve Palestinian aspirations to exercise their right of self-determination within their state.

--The proximity talks that are currently underway are the only hope for re-starting direct, credible, and productive negotiations, and we are pursuing them at the request of 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. There will be setbacks and challenges to progress toward peace, but we must remain steadfast. As we continue our efforts in the Security Council and with Israel to

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overcome the current impasse, it is critical that the Arab League not take a decision that would damage the proximity talks, which are the only viable path forward.

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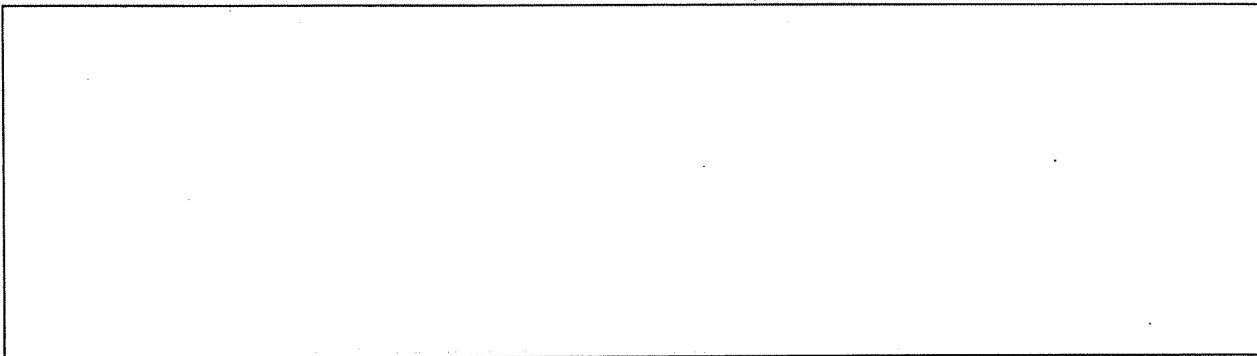
From: Gordon, Philip H

Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:42 AM

To: McEldowney, Nancy E; Daalder, Ivo H; Heffern, John A; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X

Cc: Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart; 'Vershbow, Alexander R HON OSD POLICY'

Subject: RE: Special NAC on Gaza



B5

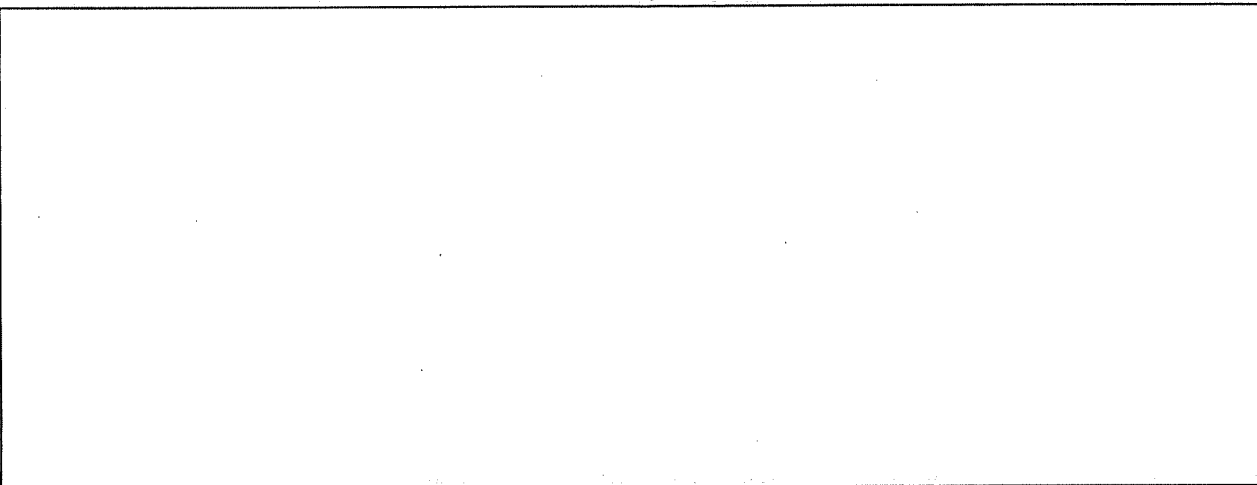
From: McEldowney, Nancy E

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 9:01 PM

To: Daalder, Ivo H; Heffern, John A; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X

Cc: Gordon, Philip H; Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart

Subject: Special NAC on Gaza



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From: Baily, Jess L
To: Marsh, Denise M; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Leary, Thomas M; McEldowney, Nancy E; Katsoulos, Athena; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)
Cc: EUR-SE-DAR-DL
Sent: Mon May 31 16:53:57 2010
Subject: Fw: Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
To: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Mon May 31 16:36:38 2010
Subject: FW: Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

From: Ratney, Michael A
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:45 PM
To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Connolly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H
Cc: Sayles, Ambrose G
Subject: Fw: Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

B5

From: USUN, PRESS
To: USUN, PRESS
Sent: Mon May 31 15:40:41 2010
Subject: Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

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Office of Press and Public Diplomacy
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USUN PRESS RELEASE #109
AS DELIVERED

May 31, 2010

Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

Thank you, Mr. President and thank you, Assistant Secretary-General Fernandez-Taranco.

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The United States is deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident last night aboard the Gaza-bound ships. We are working to ascertain the facts. We expect a credible and transparent investigation and strongly urge the Israeli government to investigate the incident fully.

As I stated in the Chamber in December 2008, when we were confronted by a similar situation, mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by member states and groups that want to do so. These non-provocative and non-confrontational mechanisms should be the ones used for the benefit of all those in Gaza. Direct delivery by sea is neither appropriate nor responsible, and certainly not effective, under the circumstances.

The United States remains deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza, and the deterioration of the situation there, including the humanitarian and human rights situation. We continue to believe the situation is unsustainable and is not in the interests of any of those concerned. We will continue to engage the Israelis on a daily basis to expand the scope and type of goods allowed into Gaza to address the full range of the population's humanitarian and recovery needs. Hamas' interference with international assistance shipments and the work of nongovernmental organizations complicates efforts in Gaza. Its continued arms smuggling and commitment to terrorism undermines security and prosperity for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

We will continue to work closely with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, along with international NGOs and the UN, to provide adequate access for humanitarian goods, including reconstruction materials, through the border crossings, while bearing in mind the Government of Israel's legitimate security concerns.

Ultimately, this incident underscores the need to move ahead quickly with negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region. The only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement, negotiated between the parties, that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and fulfills the aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous, and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. We call again on our international partners – both inside and outside this Council – to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the entire region.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Source: Reuters

UNITED NATIONS, June 1 (Reuters) - Following is the full text of a formal presidential statement adopted on Tuesday by the United Nations Security Council on Israel's action against an aid flotilla heading for Gaza.

The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel. The Council urges Israel to permit full consular access, to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the convoy to its destination.

The Security Council takes note of the statement of the UN Secretary-General on the need to have a full investigation into the matter and it calls for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

The Security Council underscores that the only viable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement negotiated between the parties and re-emphasizes that only a two-State solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbors, could bring peace to the region.

The Security Council expresses support for the proximity talks and voices concern that this incident took place while the proximity talks are underway and urges the parties to act with restraint, avoiding any unilateral and provocative actions, and all international partners to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the region.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

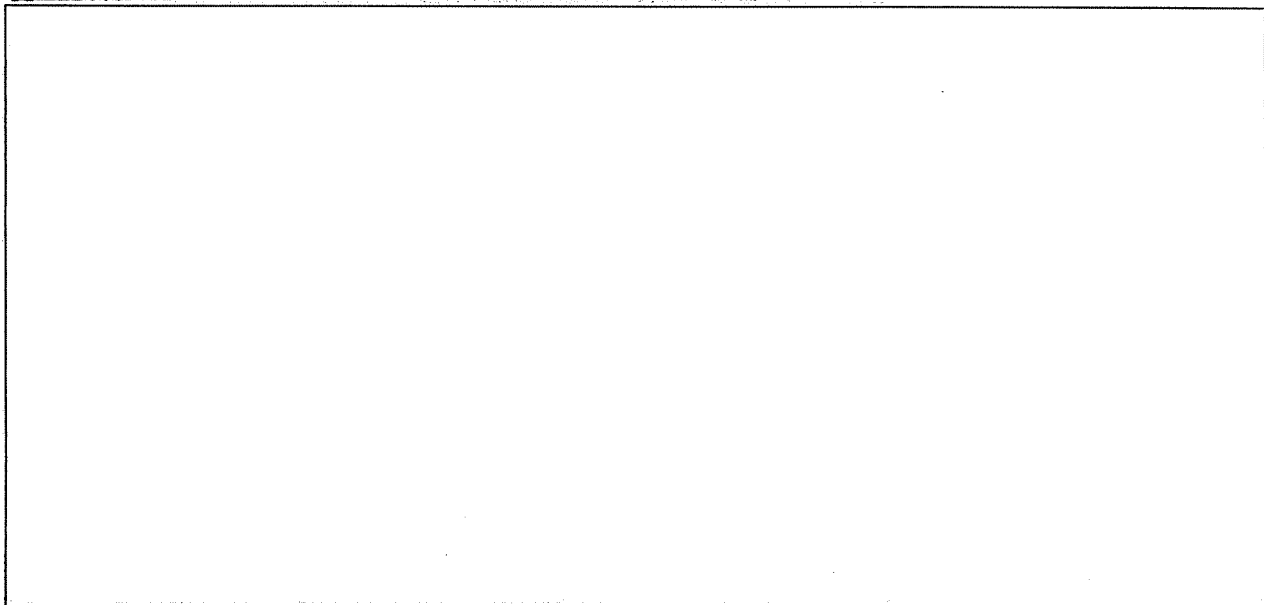
RELEASED IN PART

From: Graze, Deborah E
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:14 AM
To: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Cassidy, Joseph P; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Mayfield, Kay (DRL)
Subject: Fw: Final Gaza PRST
Attachments: Presidential Statement Gaza 31.May rev 1.doc

B6

From: Germain, Ellen J (USUN)
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Cc: Schedlbauer, Amy W; Germain, Ellen J (USUN)
Sent: Tue Jun 01 01:46:22 2010
Subject: Final Gaza PRST

Being read in the SC chamber now.



B6

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: Levent Gumrukcu [redacted]
Date: Mon, 31 May 2010 22:35:44 -0700 (PDT)
To: [redacted]
Subject: PRST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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DRAFT SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE RECENT INCIDENT IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

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Schwartz, Jonathan B

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Gorove, Katherine M
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 7:01 PM
To: Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Woodward, Shirley G; Pomper, Stephen E; Banos, Mariano H
Subject: Israeli proposed COE -questions.DOC
Attachments: LEGAL-#247657-v2-Israeli_Flotilla_incident_-_Commission_of_Experts_-_questions.doc

Here is a newer version of this paper in case we need it at future point.

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82

Schwartz, Jonathan B

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Gorove, Katherine M
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 12:46 PM
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Woodward, Shirley G; Pomper, Stephen E; Banos, Mariano H; 'Bob and Sue Harris.Biniatz'
Subject: israeli-proposed COE - considerations.DOC
Attachments: LEGAL-#247657-v1-Israel_Flotilla_incident_-_Commission_of_Experts_-_questions.doc

Here's a draft paper for 2:30 meeting today on the proposed Commission of Experts, drawing from the questions raised by Joanne and Steve Townley. I can collect comments/edits. Thanks, Kate

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAR 2012 201004163

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83

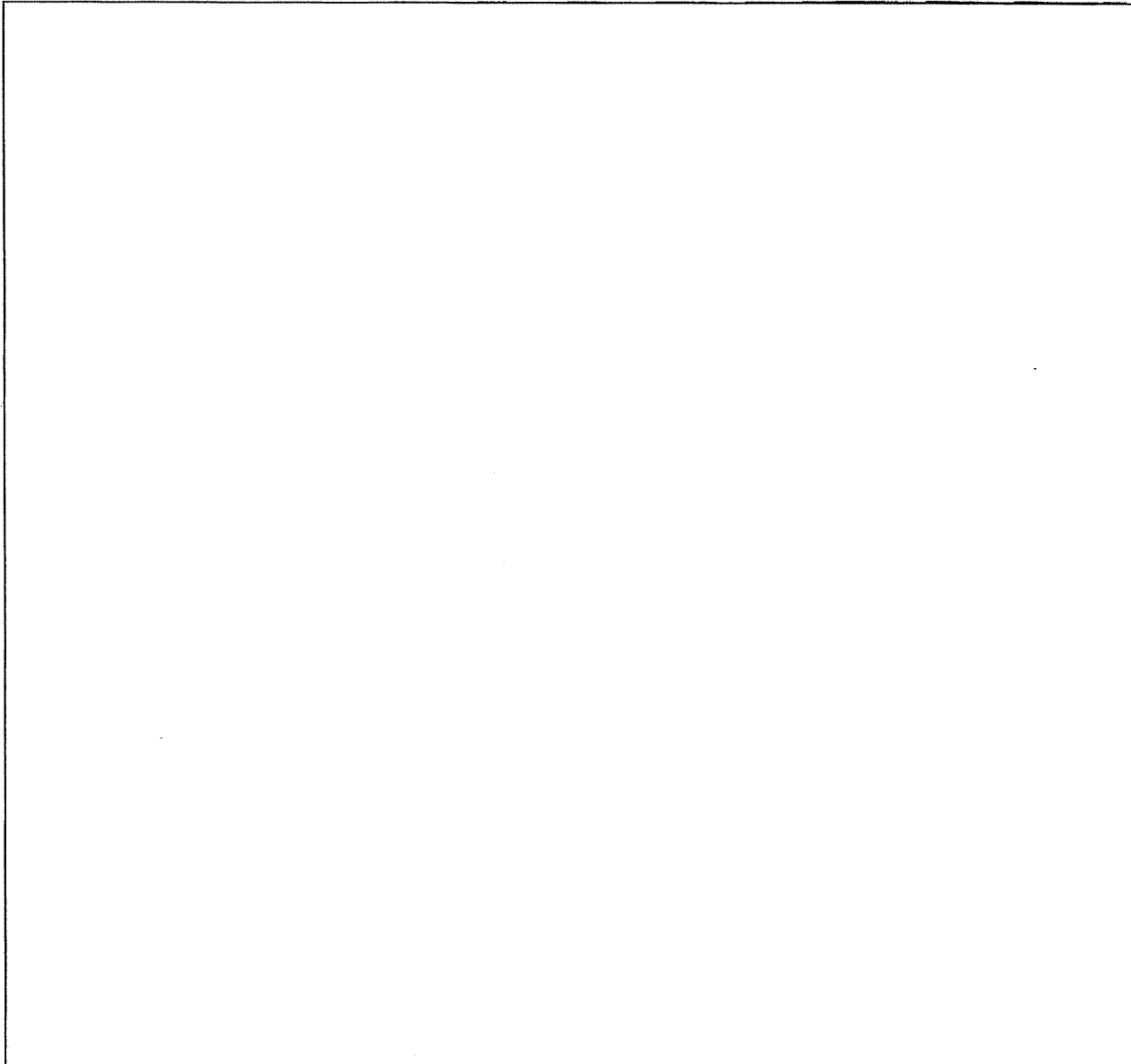
Schwartz, Jonathan B

From: Cleveland, Sarah H
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 12:27 PM
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B
Subject: FW: Israel -Flotilla and beyond

RELEASED IN PART
B5

Importance: High

Jon -- per the Samantha Power conversation, FYI.



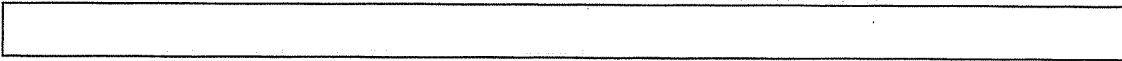
B5

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAR 2012 201004163

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B5

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JS

Schwartz, Jonathan B

From: Dolan, JoAnn
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 6:11 PM
To: Perina, Alexandra H; Jacobson, Linda; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Harris, Robert K; Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B
Subject: FW: flotilla outline 2.doc
Attachments: flotilla outline 2.doc

RELEASED IN FULL

Inadvertently some of the changes to the prior draft were dropped from the final version. I have reentered them here as tracked changes for others to review and Linda to confirm before we send this to Harold. Please advise if there is anything further. In view of this complication, Stephen may want to wait until OOB to send forward to permit final input from others.

From: Jacobson, Linda
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 4:17 PM
To: Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn
Subject: flotilla outline 2.doc

Here is the latest version incorporating some comments from BH and JoAnn. I need to leave at 4:45 today, so please send your comments soonest, or if later, to JoAnn. Steve, I think this is good to go to HHK if addressees have no further thoughts.

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DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAR 2012 201004163

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**Israeli military attack on Freedom Convoy going to Gaza Strip
and breaking the Israeli siege imposed on it**

The Arab League council on the ministerial level extraordinary session on 02 June 2010 at the Arab League General Secretariat head quarters,

- After looking at the general secretariat memo,
- Has studied the required steps regarding the Israeli military attack and piracy conduct in international Mediterranean sea waters on the Freedom convoy which carried humanitarian material going to Gaza strip which lies under siege, and which led to the deliberate murder and fall of unarmed civilian victims and injured in this convoy, and all the participants of which were kidnapped using armed force,
- Considers the continuous Israeli occupation of Arab territories and insistence to change the demographic and geographic formation of the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem to be the basis for disruption and tension in the area,
- Decides that Israel's continuation, as the occupation force, to put Gaza Strip under siege and obstruct its reconstruction is a crime against humanity that should be immediately stopped using all legitimate means including resistance,
- Emphasizes that the continuity of some states to offer support to Israel despite its savage practices and violations against Palestinian people and those who try to offer to Palestinians necessary humanitarian help, is based on a big political mistake by giving Israel an immunity to not respect international law bases which is a precedent that threatens the entire international order,
- Emphasizes that these Israeli policies and practices that form state terrorism feeds terrorist inclinations in the Middle East,
- After discussions and listening to the speeches of the heads of delegations and the general secretary,

DECIDES

- 1- To condemn the intentional military attack that Israel conducted against the Freedom Convoy in the international waters, an issue that constitutes piracy and state terrorism and threat to the stability and security in the Mediterranean Sea, and a clear violation of international law that protects sailing in international waters, and related international humanitarian law concepts and principles.
- 2- To break the siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip and commit to deliver medical and food aid and necessary construction material for reconstruction and other required needs for the Palestinian people in the strip using all the means, and hold Israel internationally responsible for the obstruction of humanitarian aid and necessary requirements for reconstruction, and for not opening all the crossings for the movement of people and goods.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 20 MAR 2012 201004163

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- 3- To assign Lebanon, the Arab member in the United Nations Security Council, and the Arab group in New York to request holding a meeting for the Security Council, in coordination with Turkey, and friend countries and groups, to issue the required resolution condemning the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and compulsion of Israel to immediately lift this siege, and request holding the continued 10th session in the context of the UN General Assembly to counter the Israeli siege on Gaza Strip.
- 4- To commit to the resolutions of Sirte Summit and particularly resolution number 508 dated 28 March 2010 to stop all forms of normalization with Israel and commitment to the discussions in this regards, and in light of this continuous Israeli challenge and violation of all its commitments, the ministerial council decides to send a recommendation to their excellencies heads of states to implement the speech of Saudi King Abdallah at the Economic Summit in Kuwait in January 2010 that the Arab Peace Initiative will not stay on the table for long.
- 5- That Israel's continuation of its practices and the last of which was the criminal attack on unarmed civilians emphasize clearly Israel is not serious in reaching fair and comprehensive peace in the region and is committed to make the negotiations useless and in vain and doubts the credibility of assurances offered to the Palestinian side, and assign the Secretary General to direct a message to the US Administration in this regards.
- 6- To Coordinate the Arab steps with Turkey and other concerned sides to file cases to national and international specialized suing agencies, on top of which is the ICC regarding the Israeli siege imposed on Gaza Strip.
- 7- To ask Israel to immediately release the remaining kidnapped members of the Freedom Convoy and detained ships and relief material.
- 8- To welcome the Human Rights Council resolution regarding forming an independent fact finding committee to investigate the violations of international law in the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy and express appreciation for the countries that voted for the resolution and express resentment from the position of countries that voted against this resolution.
- 9- To welcome the positions of countries that took clear and strong procedures against the Israeli military attack and condemned it, and express resentment from the positions of some countries at the United Nations Security Council that obstructed the agreement to conduct an independent international investigation.
- 10- To call for coordination with all international rights and humanitarian organizations to actually and immediately begin to show all the sides of this case, including the legal and humanitarian dimensions, and target the world media to reveal this crime and show its consequences, and

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praise the Qatari pledge to cover all the special costs for this movement on the legal and media tracks.

- 11- To appreciate all the activists who participated in this noble humanitarian mission and bless the souls of the victim martyrs and express appreciation of the Arab League council and its support for Turkey's honorable position and international positions that expressed condemnation for this attack and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and their fair case.
- 12- To ask the Arab delegation participating in the Arab Turkish Cooperation Forum meetings to express the appreciation for Turkey's positions and offer the condolences for the families of the victims of the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy.
- 13- To ask the Secretary General to follow on the implementation of this resolution and keep the Arab League Council in continuous session.

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Logg, Cristina A

From: Witmer, Kami A
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:39 AM
To: Godfrey, Anthony F; Lee, Robert D
Subject: Yesterday's Spot reports -- in case you haven't yet seen them.

Categories: Working
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
SensitivityCode: Sensitive

SPOT REPORT No. 2
LATEST SITUATION ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA

Monday, May 31, 2010
 1200 EDT

NETANYAHU TO CURTAIL TRIP AND RETURN TO ISRAEL

(U) The Israeli Prime Minister is currently in Canada, but press report he will cancel his scheduled onward stop in Washington to return to Tel Aviv. (AP)

FLOTILLA SHIPS ENTERING PORT, CASUALTIES NOT YET IDENTIFIED

- (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv reports nine American citizens are in detention and consular staff hope to have access to them the morning of June 1. Israeli sources say two former U.S. diplomats detained for their participation in the flotilla will be deported from Ben Gurion Airport tonight. One Amciti is hospitalized with minor injuries and will be transferred to a deportation facility shortly. A total of 18 Amcitis are believed to have been part of the flotilla, seven are unaccounted for. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) Israeli defense officials say 10 to 14 civilians were killed or seriously injured, with an additional 30 wounded. Ten Israeli Navy personnel were wounded, one seriously. All casualties had been aboard the MAVI MARMARA and are now in Israeli hospitals. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) The CHALLENGER I is now in the port of Ashdod with Americans onboard, and the MAVI MARMARA is expected between 1700 and 1800 local time, with the rest arriving later in the evening. Passengers will have two options -- jail or deportation. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

TURKEY CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESPOND

- (SBU) Turkey is alleging a gross violation of international law, saying the raid occurred 64 nautical miles from the Gaza blockade area. The IDF contends a vessel may be boarded prior to entering an area under naval blockade, if there is reason to believe the vessel intends to breach it. (Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail, Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) Israeli Defense Minister Barak and Major General Dangot, Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, are in communication with officials from the Turkish Foreign and Defense Ministries. They discussed the extent to which rhetoric could be kept in check, the need for security cooperation, and the impact the status of wounded Israeli Arab Islamic leader Raed Salah could have on public reaction. (Ops/ConGen Jerusalem e-mail)
- (SBU) Turkish PM Erdogan cut his trip to Latin America short and will return to Turkey today. FM Davutoglu is in route to New York to request an emergency session of the UNSC today to discuss the incident. Acting PM Arinc ruled out sending Turkish naval forces to the region for the time being, and President Gul condemned the attack, but urged Turks to act with restraint. (Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)

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 DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2012 201004163

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- (SBU) Peaceful protesters gathered outside the U.S. Consulate in Adana (500 to 700 according to local guards, 4000 by Turkish National Police estimates) to lay a black wreath, then dispersed. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*
- (SBU) Embassy Ankara requested additional security for Israeli and American installations in Turkey, and reports the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has authorized the additional forces. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*

SPOT REPORT NO. 1
LATEST SITUATION ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA

Monday, May 31, 2010
0600 EDT

ISRAELI NAVY INTERCEPTS GAZA FLOTILLA, 15 ACTIVISTS KILLED

- (SBU) Nine of the 15 killed are reportedly Turkish citizens, according to press. In addition, dozens of activists and six Israeli commandos are reported injured. The wounded are being taken to hospitals in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa. *(Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail, France 24)*
- (SBU) There are currently no reports of wounded or killed American citizens. *(Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*
- (SBU) The incident occurred around 0430 local time May 31, when Israeli soldiers boarded the Turkish flagged ship "Blue Marmara," approximately 70 miles off Israel's coast. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*
- (U) Raed Salah, the head of the northern faction of the Islamic Movement, has been wounded in the incident and is undergoing surgery in an Israeli hospital, media report. *(Jerusalem Post)*

FLOTILLA HEADED TO ASHDOD; ISRAELI POLICE ON HIGH ALERT

- (U) The Israeli police are on their highest state of alert and have instituted several road blocks, including one in the Temple Mount area. *(YNet News)*

ISRAELI CONSULATE ISTANBUL SURROUNDED BY THOUSANDS

- (SBU) Consulate General Istanbul reports Turkish police are deployed around the Israeli Consulate and there are no reports of violence or injuries. At least 5000 protestors are marching from the consulate toward the city's main square, according to press. *(Ops/Consulate General Istanbul e-mail, AP)*
- (SBU) Consulate Adana issued a Warden Message May 31 advising American citizens of potential anti-U.S. and Israeli demonstrations. *(Ops/Consulate Adana e-mail)*

TURKEY "STRONGLY PROTESTS" INCIDENT; EU CALLS FOR INQUIRY

- (SBU) The Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling the incident "unacceptable" and demanding an "urgent explanation" from Israel, according to press. Embassy Ankara reports the Turkish MFA has summoned Israel's ambassador to Turkey but that Ambassador Levi has been unable to meet with Turkish officials due to a protest surrounding the Israeli Embassy. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail, AP)*
- (U) EU High Representative Ashton expressed her deep regret at the loss of life and violence and demanded a full inquiry. *(Reuters)*
- (U) Arab League Secretary General Moussa called for an emergency meeting June 1 to discuss Israel's "terrorist act." *(Reuters)*
- (U) President Abbas called for three days of mourning throughout the Palestinian Territories. *(Reuters)*

Drafted: JAMorgan
Dist: State (all bureaus), NSC, HSC, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, FBIS, NCTC, DHS

Approved: PSlaterry

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Kami Witmer

2

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J2

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(D)

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:37 AM
To: Jeffrey, James F; Howard, Jeremiah H; Arvey, Jason M; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Eppler, Dale B; Godfrey, Anthony F
Subject: FW: text of cable on IHH

Categories: Working
Classification: SECRET
SensitivityCode: Sensitive

Here is the text of the IHH cable -- already sent to EUR and NEA and NSC via e-mail.

I'm having SMART problems actually sending this as a cable, but IPC is working on it.

Douglas A. Silliman
 Deputy Chief of Mission
 US Embassy Ankara, Turkey
 90-312-455-5555 x7190

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET
Classified by: Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2035/06/01

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:33 PM
To: EUR-SE-DL; Brink, Bridget A.; 'esherwood-randall@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Bailly, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; McEldowney, Nancy E; Schlicher, Ronald L; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: text of cable on IHH

All,

We are having trouble with our SMART system so we will send you this text via e-mail. The cable will come out soon.

Doug

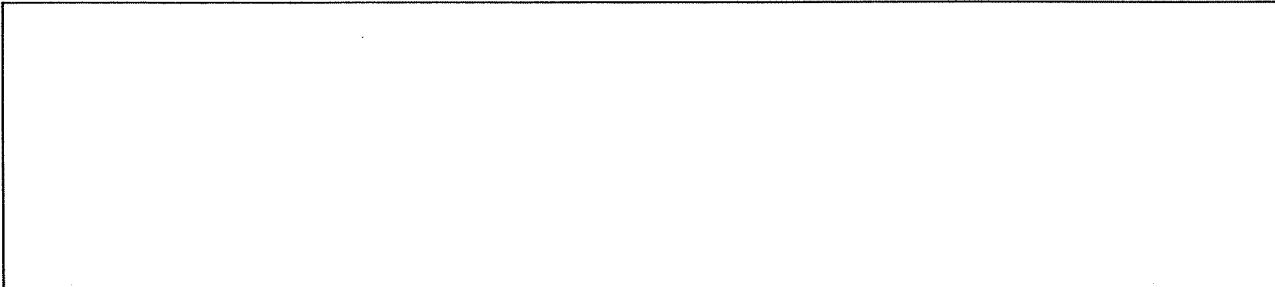
1. (SBU) Summary. The Foundation for Human Rights, Liberties and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), the charitable group which organized the aid flotilla to Gaza, has largely achieved its goal of drawing attention to itself and casting Israel into the role of an oppressor. The IHH has been on the rise for a decade, particularly gaining prominence in its defense first of Bosnians, then Chechens, and now Gazans. Israel designated the organization as a terrorist-supporter in 2008; the organization has had legal problems in the past related to allegations it provides financial and material support to terrorist organizations. End Summary.

2. (C) The IHH flotilla -- flagshipped by the Mavi Marmara, which was stormed by Israeli Defense Forces on May 31 -- achieved a greater success than it bargained for in portraying Israel in as negative a light as possible. The IHH told us before the flotilla set sail that it would either "win" by successfully landing in Gaza to distribute aid, or highlight Israel's intransigence by forming an "artificial island" off the Israeli coast, trying to dominate the world media at least until the World Cup began on July 11. (REF A) They said being boarded would make Israel look "ridiculous." [REDACTED]

B1

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Past Support of Terrorism?

4. (U) A 2006 report on 'Islamic charities' support of terrorist organizations written by American terrorism researcher Evan Kohlman and published by the Danish Institute for International Studies discusses details of the IHH's alleged support of terrorist organizations. Turkish authorities raided the Istanbul office in 1997, discovering arms, explosives, instructions for constructing improvised explosive devices, and jihad propaganda material. Documents uncovered in the raid indicated IHH members were either planning to join jihad or were actively facilitating traveling jihadists' efforts to go to Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya. The Istanbul office's phone records showed "repeated" telephone calls to what was alleged to be an al-Qa'ida guesthouse in Milan, Italy; to various Algerian terrorists in various places in Europe; and to Abd al-Qadr Mukhtari, a jihadist active in Bosnia during the Bosnia war. The report also quotes French authorities that Bulent Yildirim was personally involved in organizing jihadist facilitation.

5. (U) Following the 1997 raid on their Istanbul offices, the IHH took efforts to protect itself legally from Turkish scrutiny. It registered in Germany as a charitable organization making the bulk of its assets untouchable by Turkish authorities. Bulent Yildirim resigned from formal authority in the organization, although he remained its decision-making and administrative authority; for several years, his son Gokten was President. It appears Bulent Yildirim is now, once again, officially president. The IHH website is registered in Friesdorf, Germany, keeping it out of the authority of Turkish media monitors. The IHH is represented legally, at least in part, by Osman Karahan, an Istanbul lawyer who also defended the suspects in the 2003 Istanbul bombings and Lu'ay al-Saqa who was found guilty of plotting an attack on an Israeli cruise ship in Turkish waters. Karahan has, himself, been arrested on charges of aiding terrorist organizations.

6. (U) Regarding its ties to HAMAS, IHH has met with senior HAMAS officials in Turkey, Syria, and Gaza over the past three years. HAMAS members attended the launching of the Mavi Marmara out of Istanbul. IHH Deputy President Dede is in damage control mode concerning allegations that passengers on the flotilla attacked Israeli forces first, claiming in the press on May 31 that Israel might "place weapons" on the ship to create a justification for the attack and to paint IHH as a terrorist organization.

But Broadly Popular

7. (SBU) IHH's contact with and seeming support for terrorist organizations is not widely known in Turkish society. In the early 1990s, the organization was only prominent in religious circles. Its advertising and campaigns have always been anodyne, calling for donations to the oppressed people of various Muslim countries, but being vague on the details of who, exactly, would be handling funds and material upon arrival. As a result, the Turkish populace sees it as a supporter of Bosnians, Afghans, Uzbeks, Indonesians, Iraqis, and Palestinians, but is blind to the nuance that some of the groups actually receiving the money use at least part of the funds to perpetuate violent acts. This nuance is especially lost in the Gaza case, because most Turks -- religious and secular -- do not perceive HAMAS to be a terrorist organization.

8. (SBU) Throughout its existence, IHH has been close to the political religious movement in Turkey. Bulent Yildirim and other IHH staff were frequent guests at events held by the now defunct but religiously conservative Refah and Fazilet parties. Members of these two parties form the core of the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP). It is unlikely that most Turkish politicians are aware of the IHH's contacts with terrorist organizations (other than HAMAS), and would find such allegations incredible and offensive. It is a reasonable assumption that many AKP politicians have donated money to the IHH, assuming it to be a purely charitable organization, making investigations into allegations against the organization politically poisonous.

Comment

9. (SBU) The IHH appears to have won the PR battle over the flotilla. The Turkish populace is outraged by Israeli actions on the Mavi Marmara, and is staging anti-Israeli protests in Turkey's major cities. The government, the military, and the opposition parties have condemned the Israeli action. Even the respectable secular press is denouncing what it sees as Israeli aggression against innocent charitable workers. In the midst of it all, IHH's profile as a charitable organization

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defying perceived oppressors is at its highest. Messages coming out of Israel or Washington will meet a jaded public convinced Israel is the aggressor.

Douglas A. Silliman
Deputy Chief of Mission
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey
90-312-455-5555 x7190

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: **SECRET**
Classified by: Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2035/06/01

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J3

Logg, Cristina A

From: SMART Core [svcSMARTHBTSPrec@state.sgov.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2010 10:26 AM
To: Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; Brooks, Judith A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de OtaIvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; Hessler, Robert E; Jeffrey, James F; Guldo, Deborah L
Cc: tjsenecal@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Eppler, Dale B; Kolega, Alen; Roundy, Brian A; Ogle, Karen L.; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Klopp, Deborah A; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Miles, James W
Subject: JCG: CT COORDINATOR AMB. BENJAMIN'S DISCUSSIONS ON TURKEY AND REGIONAL SECURITY

Categories: Archival
Caption: SIPDIS
Classification: SECRET
DTG: 091408Z JUL 10
MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1569
Originator: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Precedence: 3.IMMEDIATE
SensitivityCode: Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), NR

SECRET
Sensitive



Action Office: POL_MIL, POL, AMB_JFY
Info Office: EAC, AMB_INFO

MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1569
Date/DTG: Jul 09, 2010 / 091408Z JUL 10
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MOPS, TU, IS
Captions: SIPDIS
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
 AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
 AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
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 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
Subject: JCG: CT COORDINATOR AMB. BENJAMIN'S DISCUSSIONS ON TURKEY AND REGIONAL SECURITY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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SECRET TEL AVIV 001569

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: DECL: 06/16/2020
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MOPS, TU, IS
SUBJECT: JCG: CT COORDINATOR AMB. BENJAMIN'S DISCUSSIONS ON
TURKEY AND REGIONAL SECURITY

Classified By: DCM Thomas Goldberger, reasons 1.4 (b),(d)

1. (S) Summary: The May 31 Gaza flotilla incident and [redacted] dominated discussion during S/CT Coordinator for Counterterrorism Amb. Daniel Benjamin's discussions with GOI officials on June 13 and 14. [redacted]

B1

[redacted]

NR

2. (SBU) On June 13 and 14, S/CT's Coordinator for Counterterrorism Amb. Daniel Benjamin met with a number of GOI officials, including NSC Deputy Chairman Vice Admiral (ret) Avriel Bar-Yosef, NSC Deputy Eran Lehrman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Intelligence Dan Meridor, and Mossad Deputy Director Rami Ben Barak. Amb. Benjamin led a U.S. delegation to participate in the U.S.-Israel Joint Counterterrorism Group (JCG); a read-out from the JCG and other bilateral meetings with GOI officials will be sent septel.

Turkey

[redacted]

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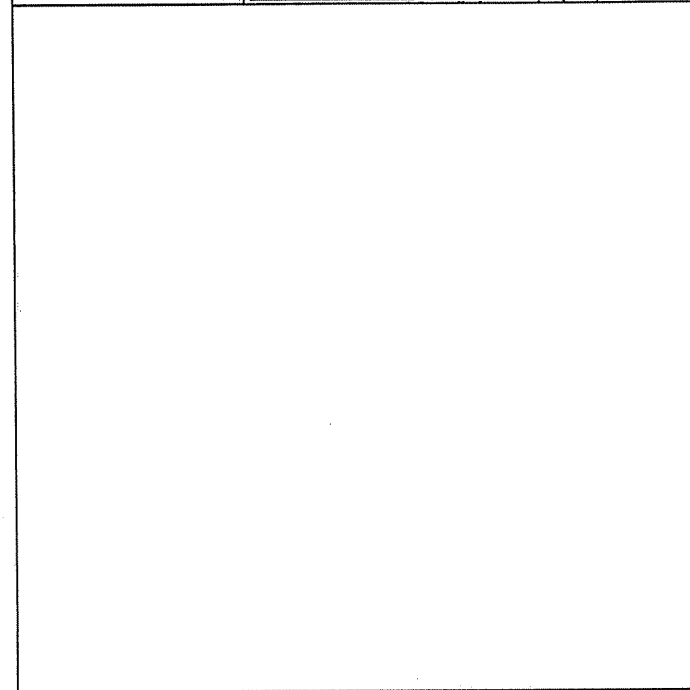
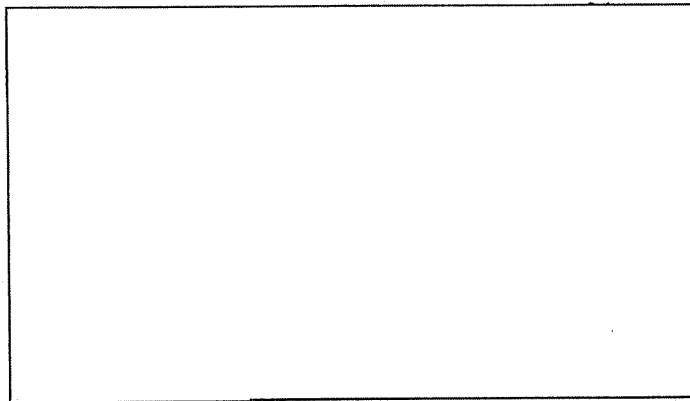
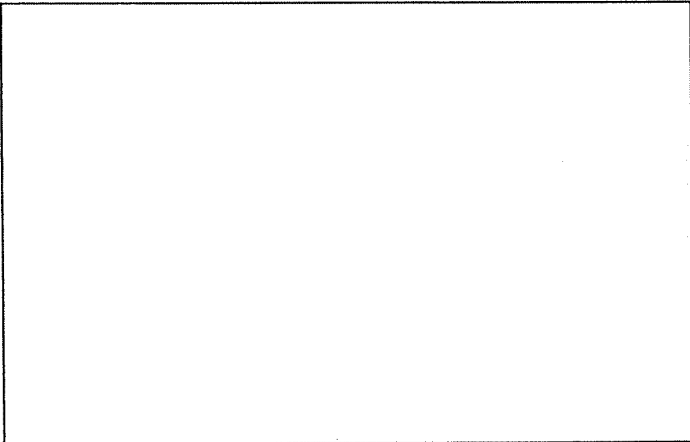
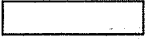
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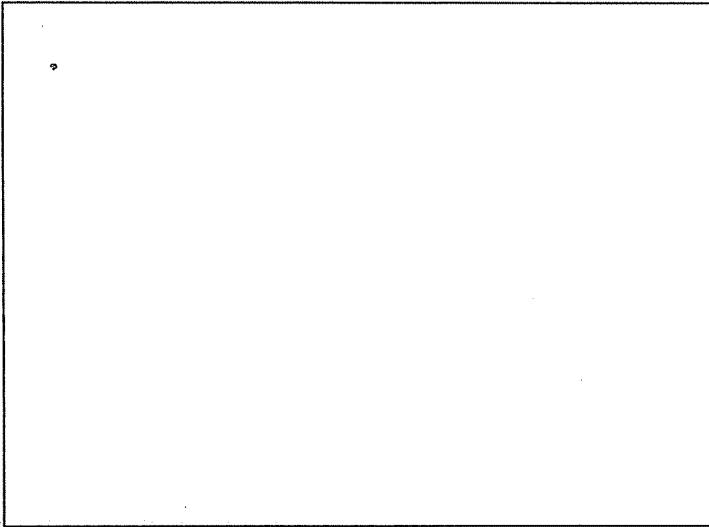
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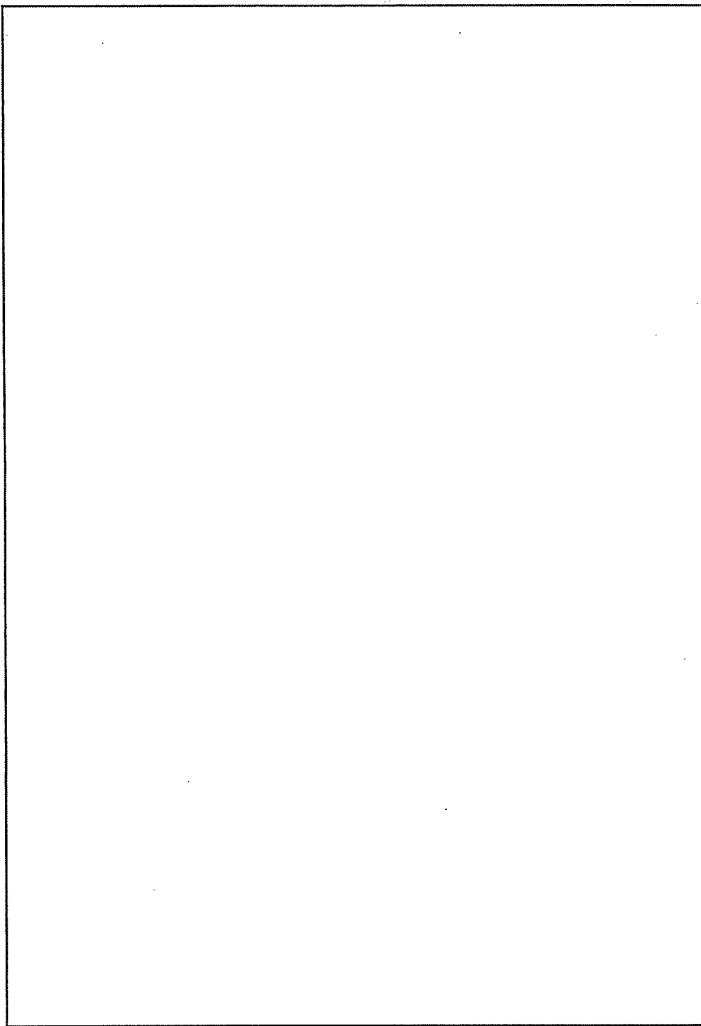
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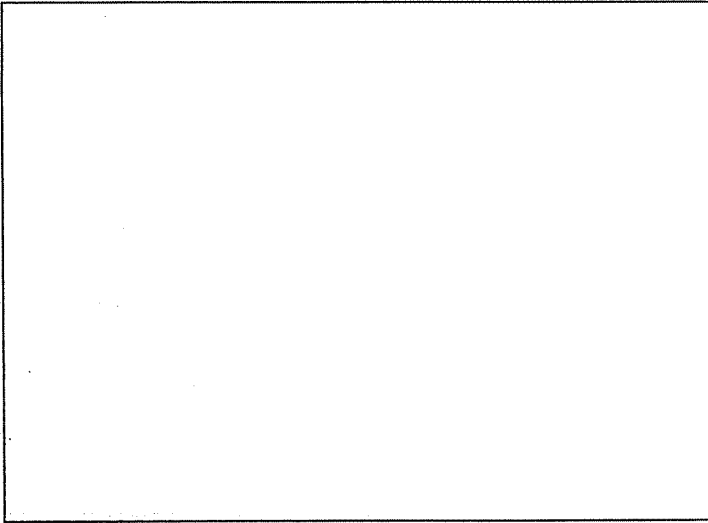
Iran/Hizballah



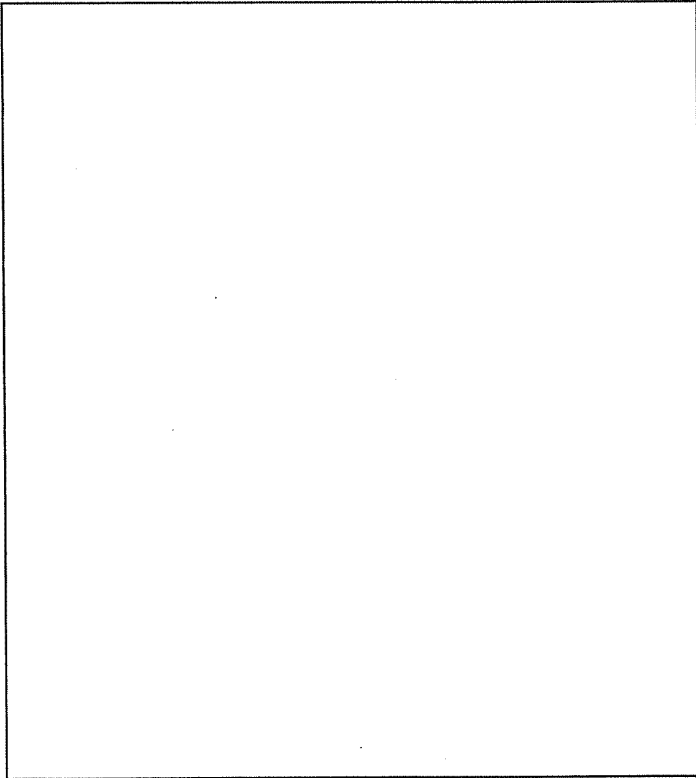
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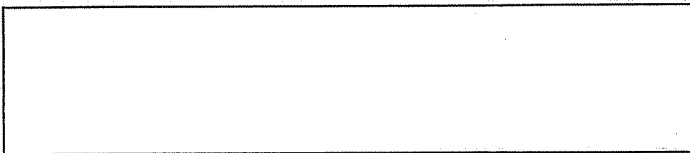
NR



Syria



Jordan/Iraq

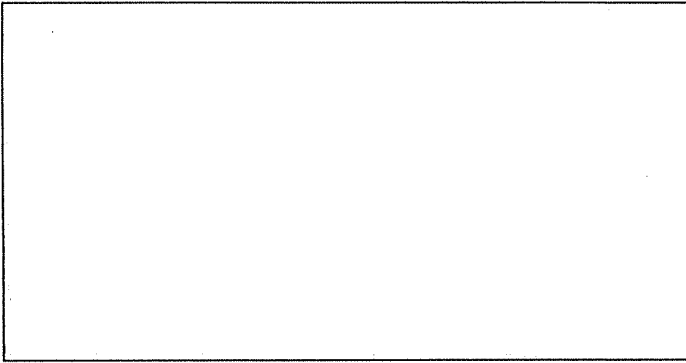


5

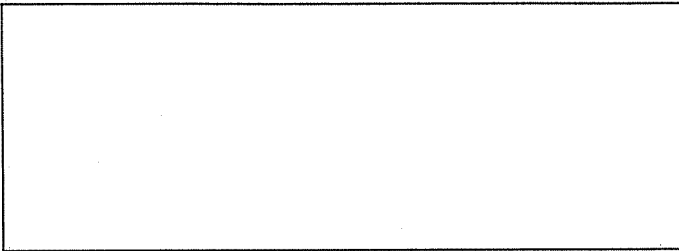
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NR



Egypt



CUNNINGHAM

Signature: CUNNINGHAM

Classified By: DCM Thomas Goldberger,

Reason: 1.4 (b),(d)

Declassify on: 06/16/2020

Info: WASHDC; SECDEF PRIORITY; HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY; NSC-WASHDC PRIORITY; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI; ZEN/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Attachments: metadata.dat

Action Post: AMEMBASSY ANKARA

Dissemination Rule: POL_MIL, EAC, POL, AMB_JFY_ACTION, AMB_INFO

SECRET
Sensitive

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Taylor, Victoria J
Sent: 8/18/2010 3:33:24 PM
To: svcSMARTCrossLow
Subject: FW: Mavi Marmara event

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Belmonte, Monica L
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 2:36 PM
To: Schneller, Rachel I; Lester, Raymond; Nash, Robert C; Reynolds, Nathaniel L; Galpern, Steve G; Schrank, Alexander D; Miller, Andrew P
Subject: FW: Mavi Marmara event

Rachel -- thanks for the readout! All -- of interest, from CFR's Mavi Marmara session today.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Rachel I. Schneller [mailto:RSchneller@cfre.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Belmonte, Monica L
Subject: Mavi Marmara event

Hi Monica,

You missed a nice event at the CFR today! Jeremy Shapiro attended though, so State was nicely represented. It was a smaller group-- maybe 15 people-- which made it smaller and more collegial. Your friend Henri Barkey was there, as was former US Amb. To Turkey Ross Wilson. Elliot Abrams too.

The speaker Yigal Schleifer, lives in Istanbul and has a blog: istanbulcalling.blogspot.com, that apparently is in high regard. He opened with a nice analogy between Turkish foreign policy and Turkish Airlines. Turkish Air is expanding, being privatized, and used to make Turkey/Istanbul a regional hub, in the same way that Turkish foreign policy is expanding and making Turkey a regional hub. In this vein, the Mavi Marmara incident was a "charter flight gone horribly wrong," rather than a crash.

Yigal put the Mavi Marmara incident into the context of Turkey-Israel relations, which the AKP has been trying to recalibrate since it was elected in 2002. Starting in 2003 with the Iraq War effort (seen in the Middle East as US being manipulated by Israel), Turkey did not want to be seen as "in cahoots" with the US and Israel. Then after trying to mediate between Israel and Syria, which resulted in Israel "scuttling" Turkey, there has been a near-complete breakdown in high-level relations between Israel and Turkey. Apparently Turkish diplomats were aware that the Mavi Marmara was going to be a lot of trouble but were powerless to stop it.

Israel-bashing has become such a crowd-pleaser in Turkey that Erdogan and Davutoglu could not have stopped the flotilla without incurring substantial domestic backlash. Gaza in particular is a flash-point; Yigal thinks for there to be a breakthrough on Turkey-Israel relations there will have to be a break through on Gaza.

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The Mavi Marmara can be seen as a victory for the "Islamist Right" in Turkey. The rally held in Taksim with the return of the 7 killed from the event was symbolically significant. Taksim is the heart of secular, urban elite, and almost no one gets to hold rallies there. Usually the Islamist Right, when it holds rallies, is only able to do so in the surrounding neighborhoods of Istanbul. Will be very difficult for Erdogan to not cede ground to the Islamists.

Problem is there was no "post-Mavi" game plan for these folks. They are not a credible opposition to the AKP; there is no credible opposition to the AKP, which ultimately Yigal thinks will lead to AKP becoming its own worst enemy.

As for results of the Mavi Marmara, the jury is still out. There is some talk of Israeli companies not getting tenders in Turkey, and some decline in Israel-Turkey tourism, but too early to see.

Rachel Schneller
International Affairs Fellow
Council on Foreign Relations
Tel: 202-509-8447
E-mail: rschneller@cfrr.org

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UNCLASSIFIED

J6

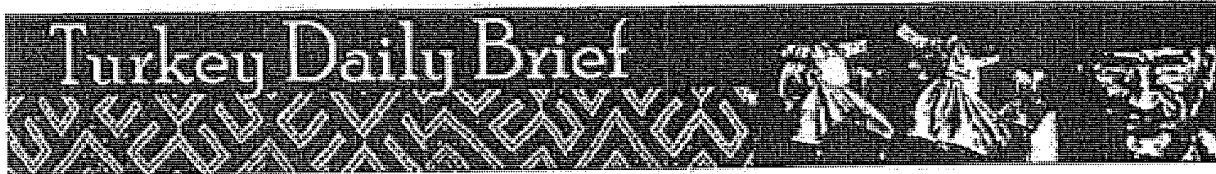
Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:15 AM
Subject: Turkey Daily Brief - April 26, 2011

Categories: Working
AttachmentsClassification: SECRET
Classification: SECRET

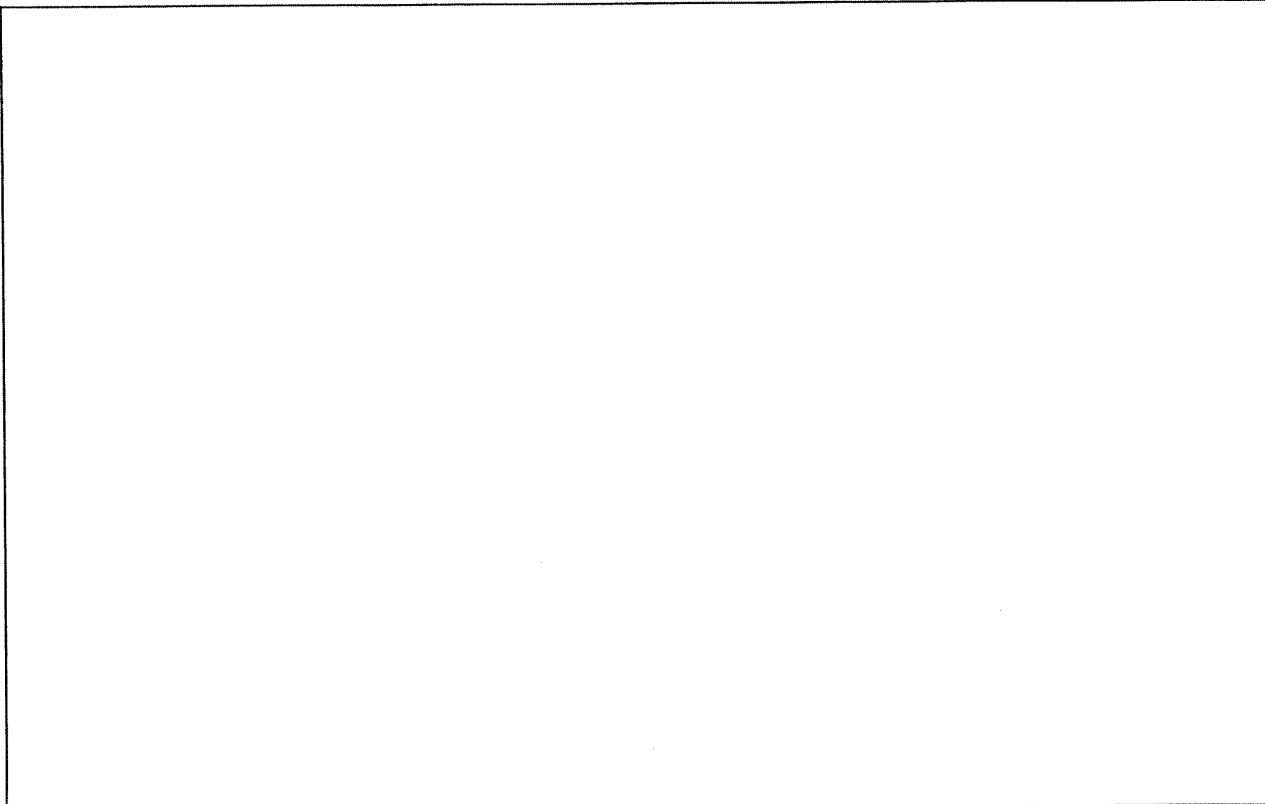


SECRET

April 26, 2011

(S) Anniversary Flotilla:

NR
B1
NR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1
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[Return to Top](#)

Israeli Embassy Pleaded Israel Not a Turkish Election Issue

(C)

B1, NR

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Anniversary Flotilla:

B1

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NR

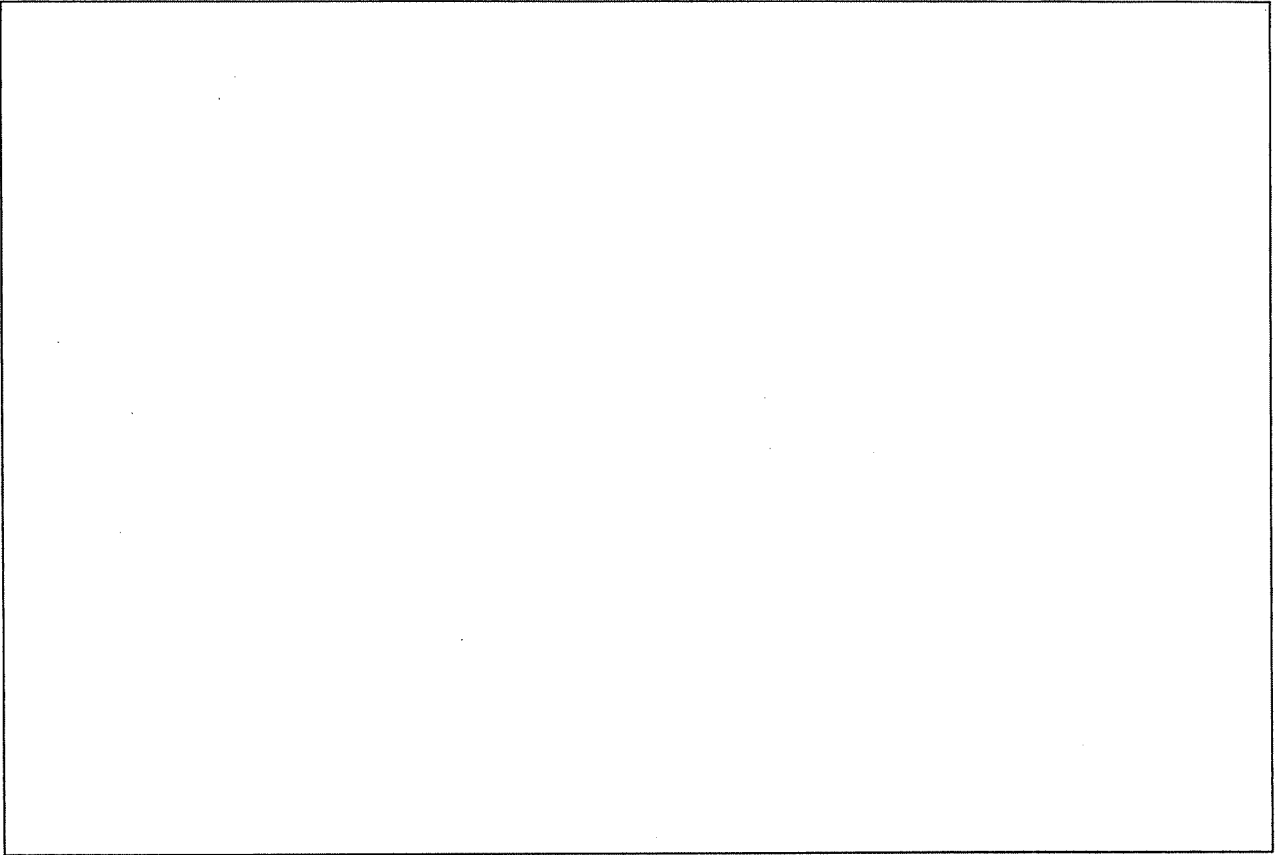
Media Highlights

[Return to Top](#) – [Read the Latest Media Reaction \(Ankara 576\)](#)

Upcoming Events

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NR



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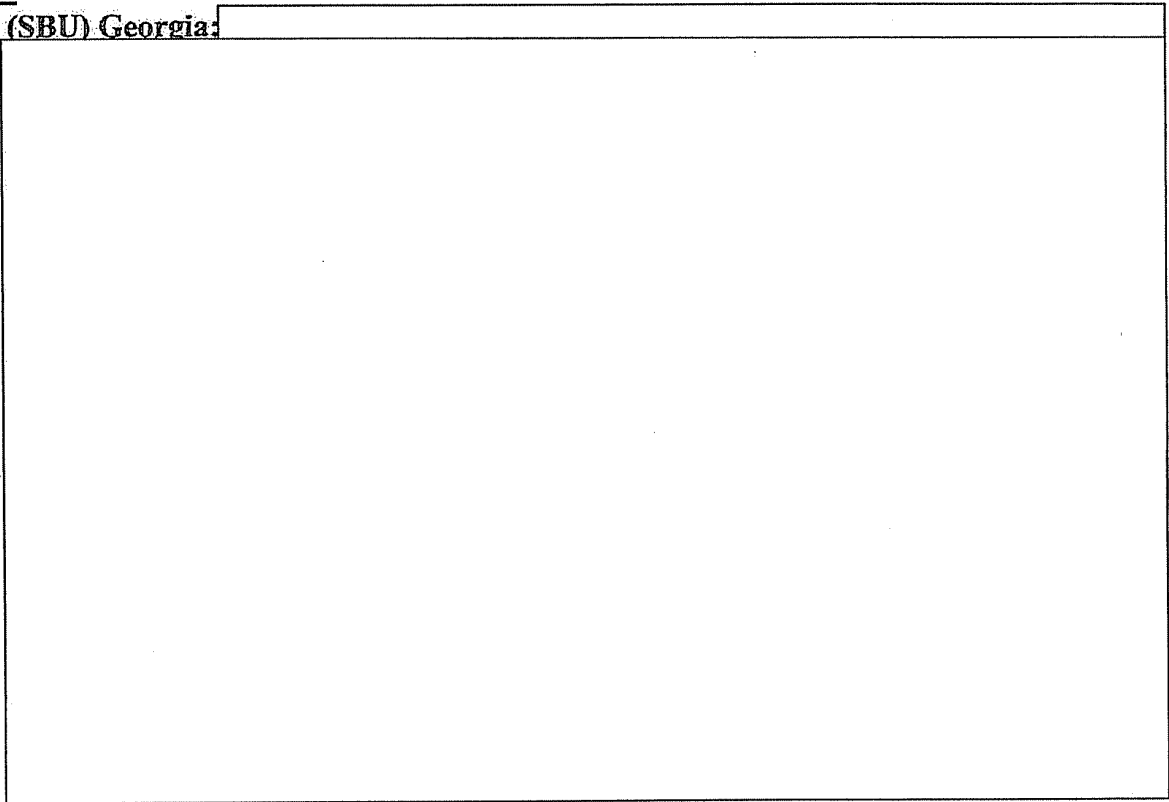
Logg, Cristina A NR

From: Norberg, Chad R
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 6:38 PM
To: EUR-Ambassadors-DL; EUR-DGM-DL; EUR-FO-DL; EUR-Directors-DL; EUR-DeskOfficers-DL
Cc: EUR-Staff Assistants-DL
Subject: (S) EUR Daily Activity Report for Wednesday, May 25th

**EUR Daily Activity Report
Wednesday, May 25, 2011**

CARC

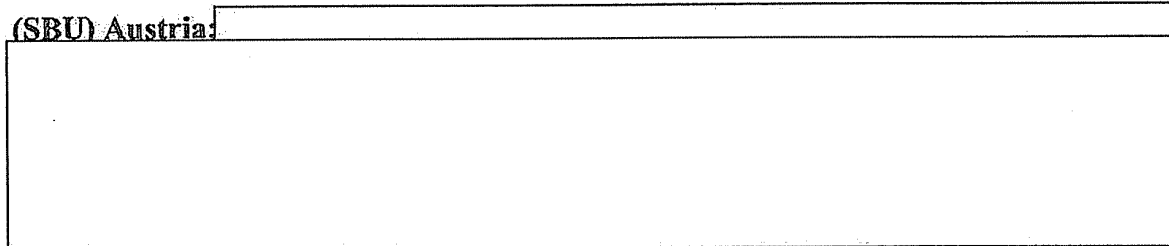
• (SBU) Georgia:



NR

CE

• (SBU) Austria:



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• (C) Austria:

[Redacted]

NR

• (U) Germany:

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• (U) Switzerland:

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ERA

• (SBU) EU

[Redacted]

NB

• (U) Finnish Parliament

[Redacted]

PPD

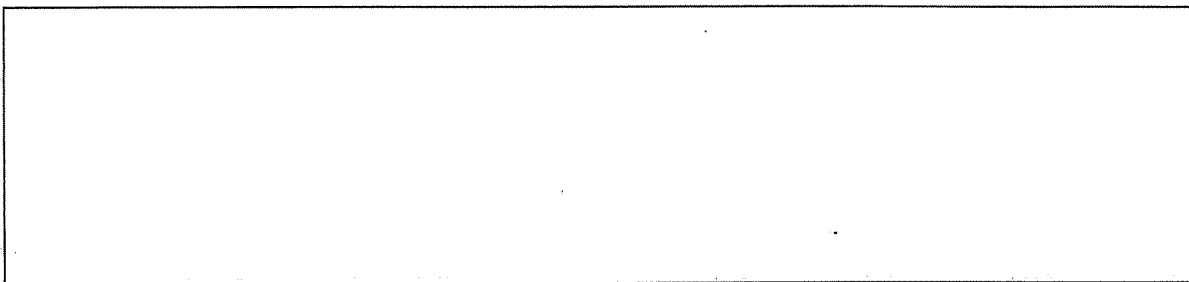
• (U) Poland:

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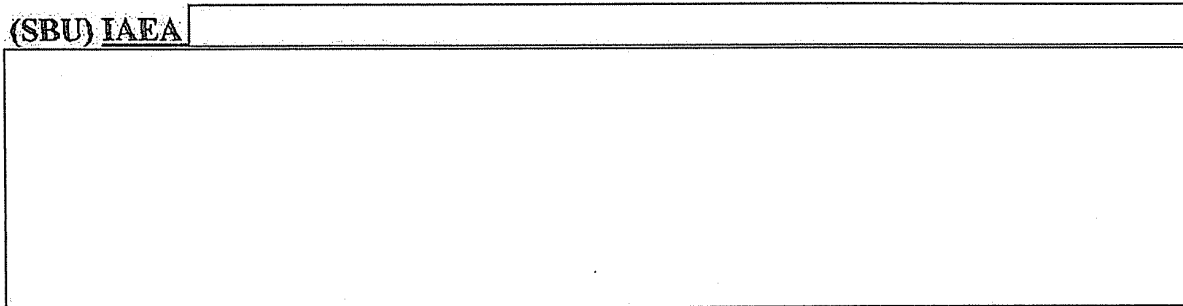
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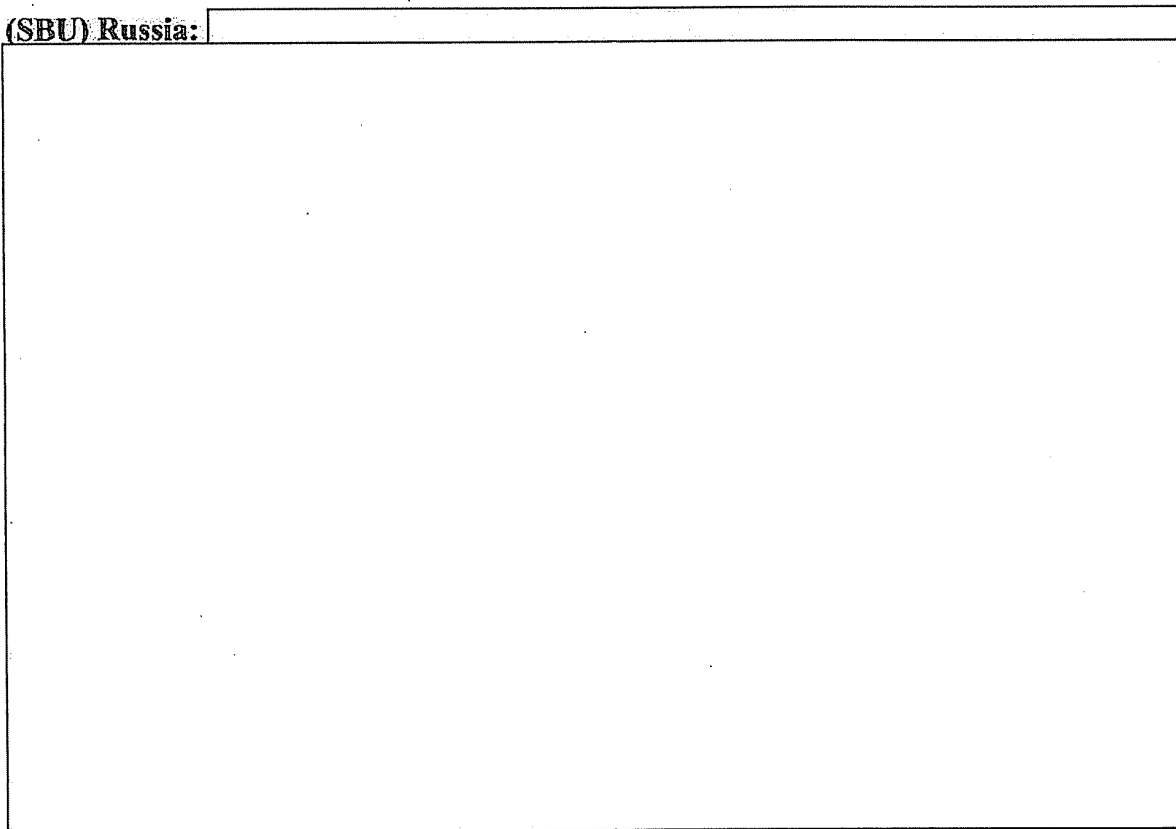


PRA

• (SBU) IAEA



• (SBU) Russia:



SCE

3
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◦ (SBU) Kosovo:

[Redacted]

NR

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◦ (U) Macedonia:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

◦ (SBU) Albania:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

SE

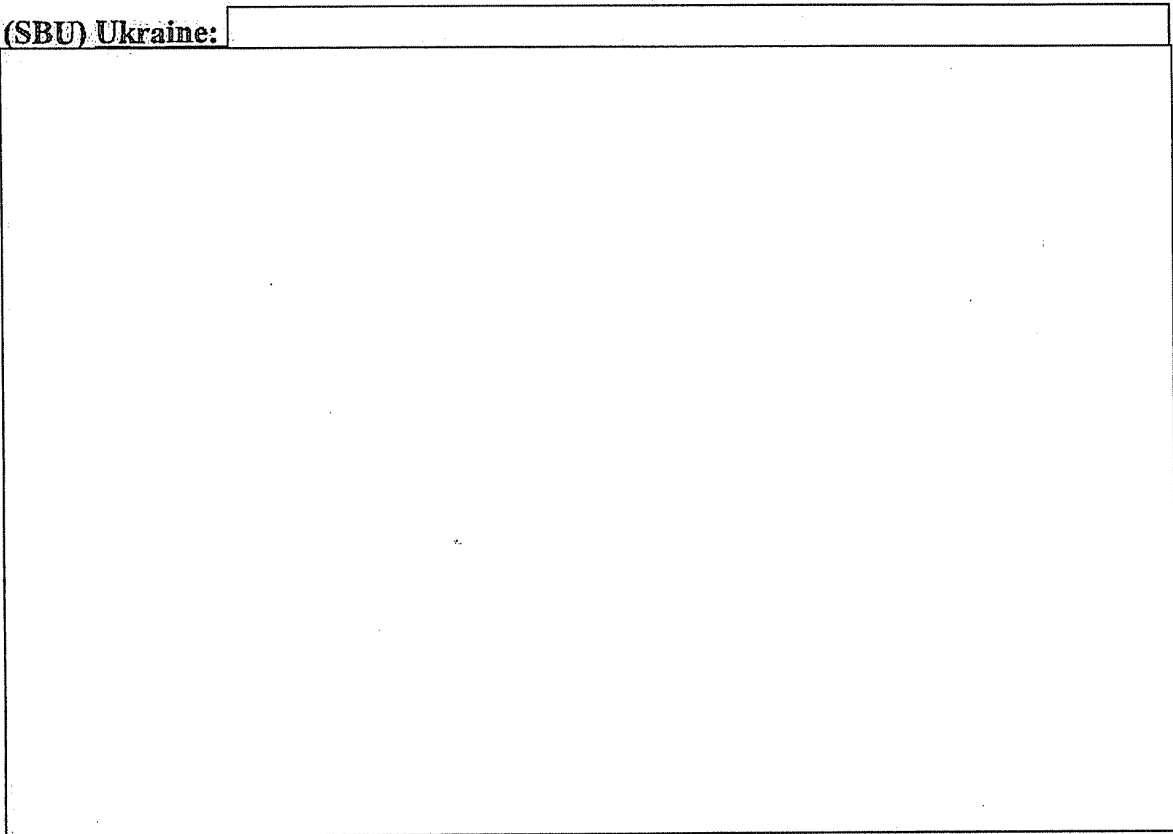
◦ (SBU) Turkey: IHH Recruiting for Second Gaza Flotilla: An IHH spokesman claimed on May 24 that the organization has received 500,000 applications to participate,

UNCLASSIFIED

and that 1,500 international activists in 15 vessels including the Mavi Marmara will sail the "last week of June." An IHH ship is also scheduled to sail to El Arish, Egypt, on the anniversary of the May 31 incident to deliver humanitarian assistance. Separately, IHH head Bulent Yildirim stated in a May 11 television interview that his goal was to solicit a million potential candidates, of whom a limited number would be chosen to participate in the flotilla. Yildirim also said that "even if we sacrifice martyrs for this cause, we will have justice on our side."

UMB

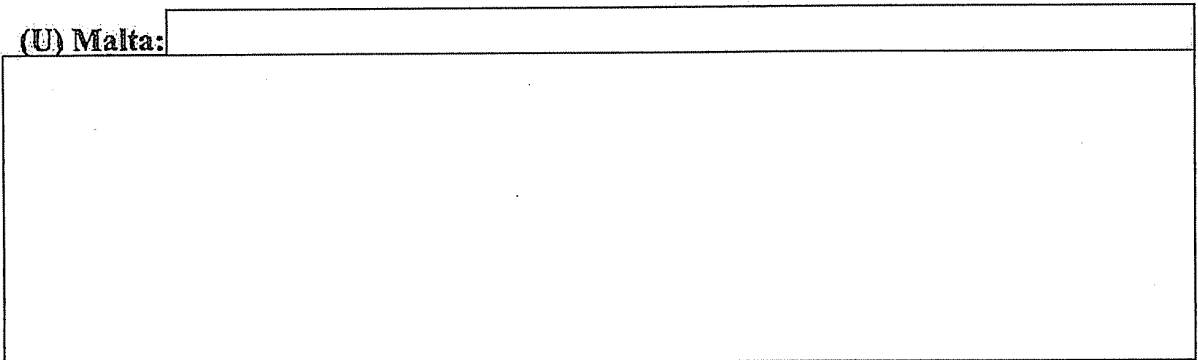
- (SBU) Ukraine:



NR

WE

- (U) Malta:



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NR

[Redacted]

NR

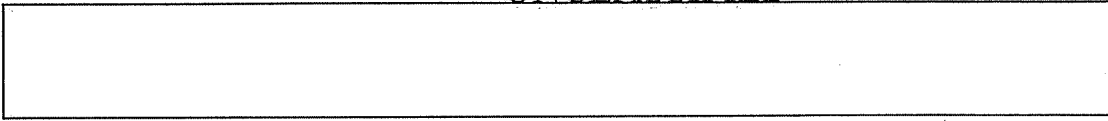
o (U) France:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



NR

7

UNCLASSIFIED

Logg, Cristina A

From: Kimbrell, Rebecca J
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 6:57 PM
To: EUR-Ambassadors-DL; EUR-DCM-DL; EUR-CG-DL; EUR-FO-DL; EUR-Directors-DL; EUR-DeskOfficers-DL; EUR-OMS-DL; EUR-Staff Assistants-DL
Subject: (C) EUR Daily Activity Report for Friday, June 17, 2011

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
SensitivityCode: Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

CONFIDENTIAL
DECL: 6/17/2021

**EUR Daily Activity Report
Friday, June 17, 2011**

CARC

- (SBU) Georgia:
-

NR

CE

- (SBU) Germany:
-

NB

- [Redacted]

- (U) Norway: [Redacted]

- (U) Sweden: [Redacted]

PGI

- (SBU) UN HRC [Redacted]

◦ (SBU) UN HRC

NR

[Redacted]

PPD

◦ (U) Balkans:

[Redacted]

RPM

◦

[Redacted]

NR

◦ (SBU) OUP Contributors

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

• (U) OECD

NR

[Redacted content]

• (SBU) OSCE

[Redacted content]

• (U) Norway

[Redacted content]

⁴
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[Redacted]

NR

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NR

• (SBU) OSCE:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

RUS

• (SBU)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5
UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

SCE

- (SBU) Serbia: [Redacted]

SE

- (SBU) Greece: [Redacted]

- (SBU) Turkey: Mavi Marmara Drops Out of Flotilla: IHH leader Bulent Yildirim announced June 17 that the Mavi Marmara would not participate in this year's flotilla "due to technical issues." IHH officials say their activists will seek to participate aboard European vessels instead.

UMB

- [Redacted]

NR

• (SBU) Ukraine:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

WE

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[Redacted]

B1

• (SBU) France:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

• (U) Malta:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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- (U) Netherlands:

[Redacted]

- (U) Portugal:

[Redacted]

- (U) Spain:

[Redacted]

- (U) Spain:

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

J15

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

From: SMART Core [svcsSMARTHBTSRctSPrec@state.sgov.gov] NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 3:41 PM
 To: Jones, Stacey L; Wentworth, Mark A; Brown, Kristina M; Hessler, Robert E; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Witmer, Kami A; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Tarry, George R; Baily, Jess L; Walston, Melissa L; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Joseph.babb@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Gibbs, Jennifer H; Hay, Andrew W; Kim, Yuri J; marion.shore@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Stafford, Edward G; Sullivan, Corene S
 Cc: Roe, Cherisa K
 Subject: Scenesetter for the December 1 U.S.-Israel Strategic Dialogue

Categories: Archival
 Classification: SECRET
 DTG: 232039Z NOV 11
 MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 1407
 Originator: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 Precedence: 5.ROUTINE

SECRET



Action Office: POL
 Info Office: AMB_INFO

MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 1407
 Date/DTG: Nov 23, 2011 / 232039Z NOV 11
 From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
 E.O.: 13526
 TAGS: PREL, IR, EG, KPAL, SY, TU, JO, IS
 Reference: A) 11 TEL AVIV 1357
 B) 11 TEL AVIV 1315
 C) 11 TEL AVIV 1301
 D) 11 TEL AVIV 1221
 E) 11 TEL AVIV 963
 Subject: Scenesetter for the December 1 U.S.-Israel Strategic Dialogue

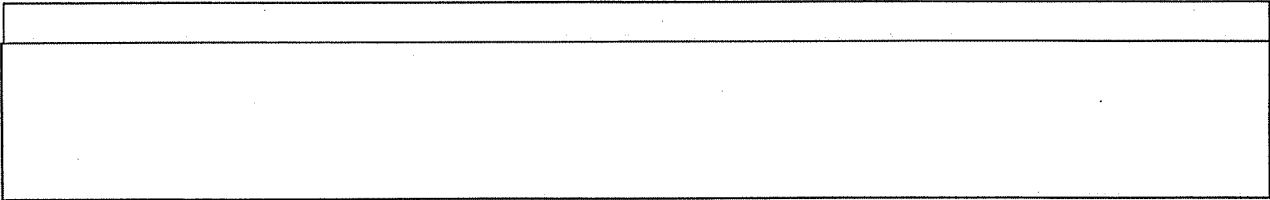
1. (S) Summary:

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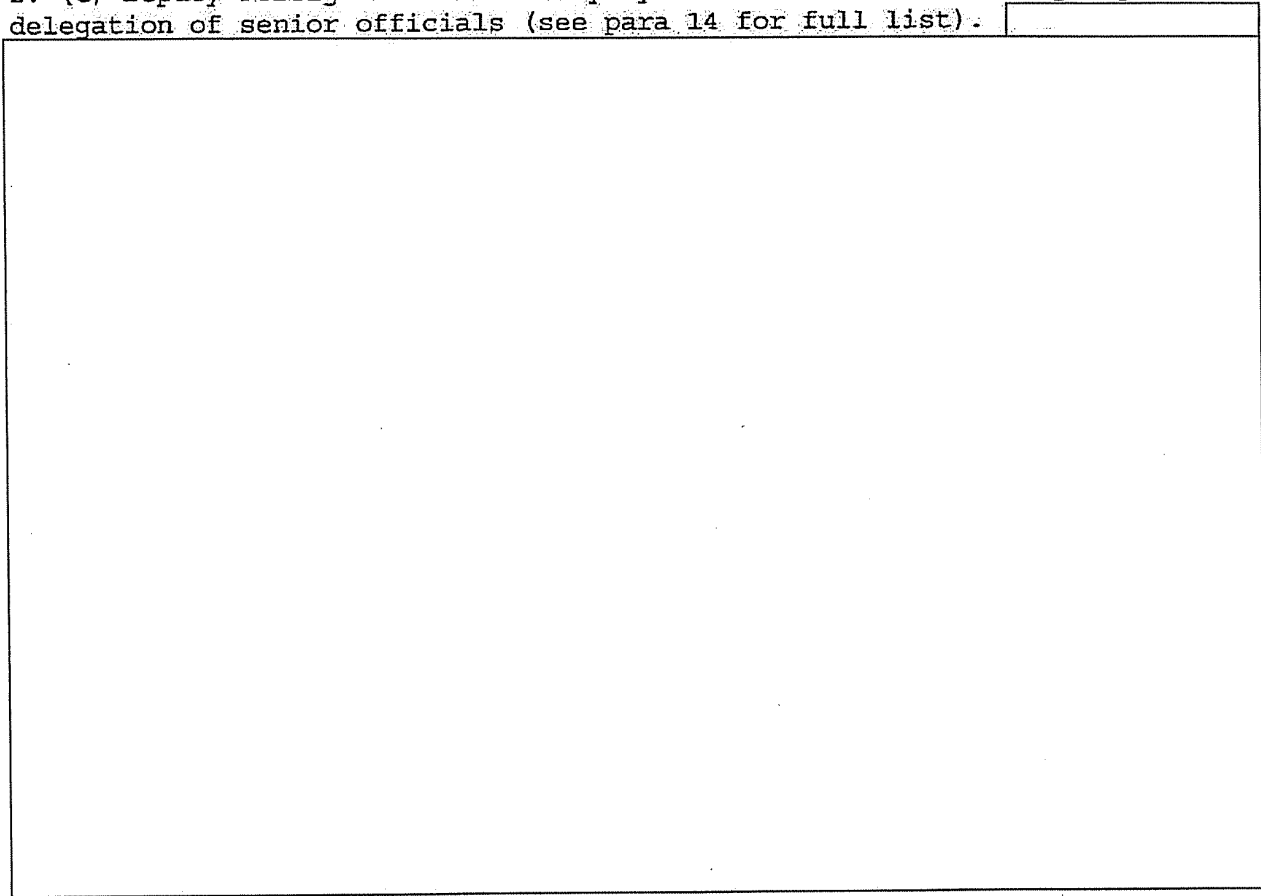
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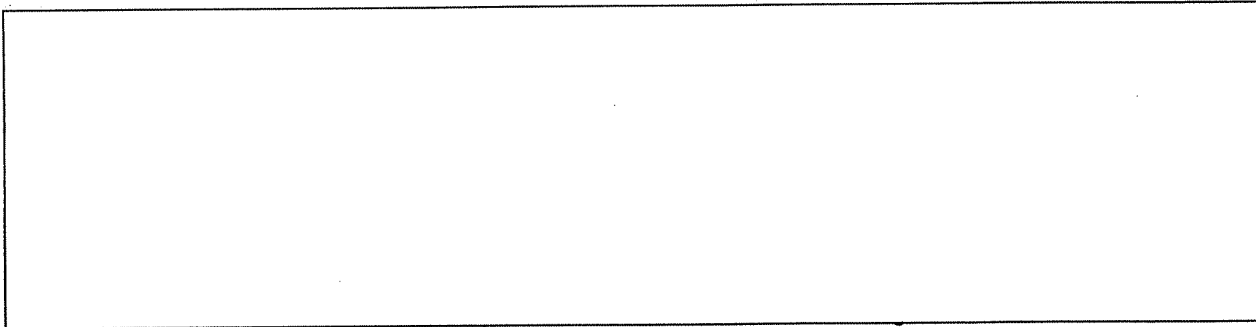
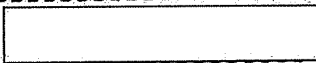
NR



2. (C) Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon will lead an interagency GOI delegation of senior officials (see para 14 for full list).



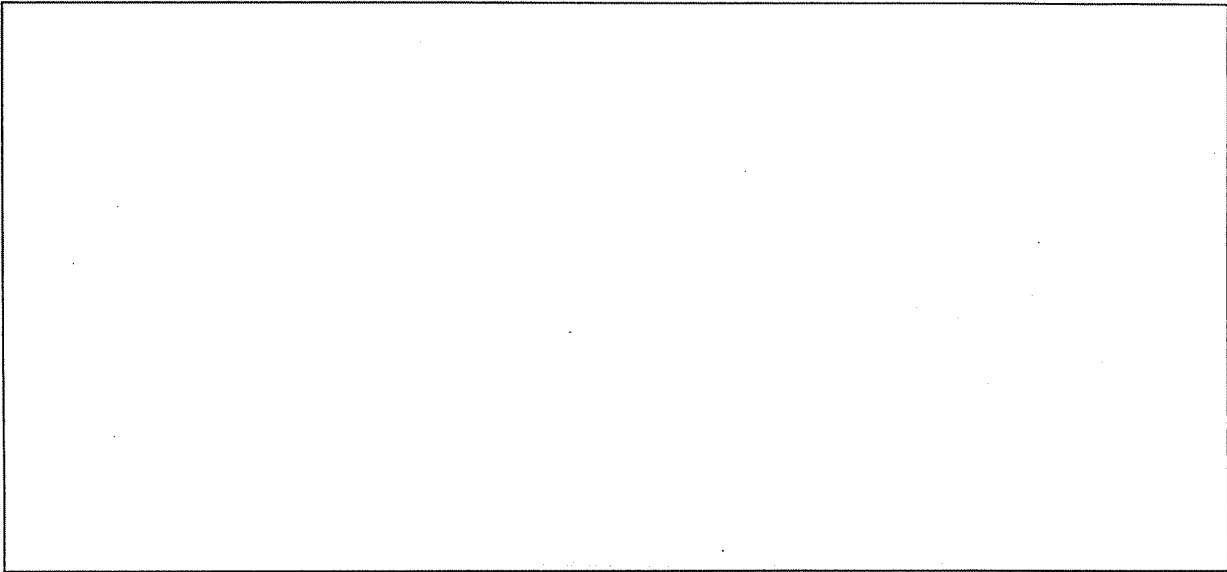
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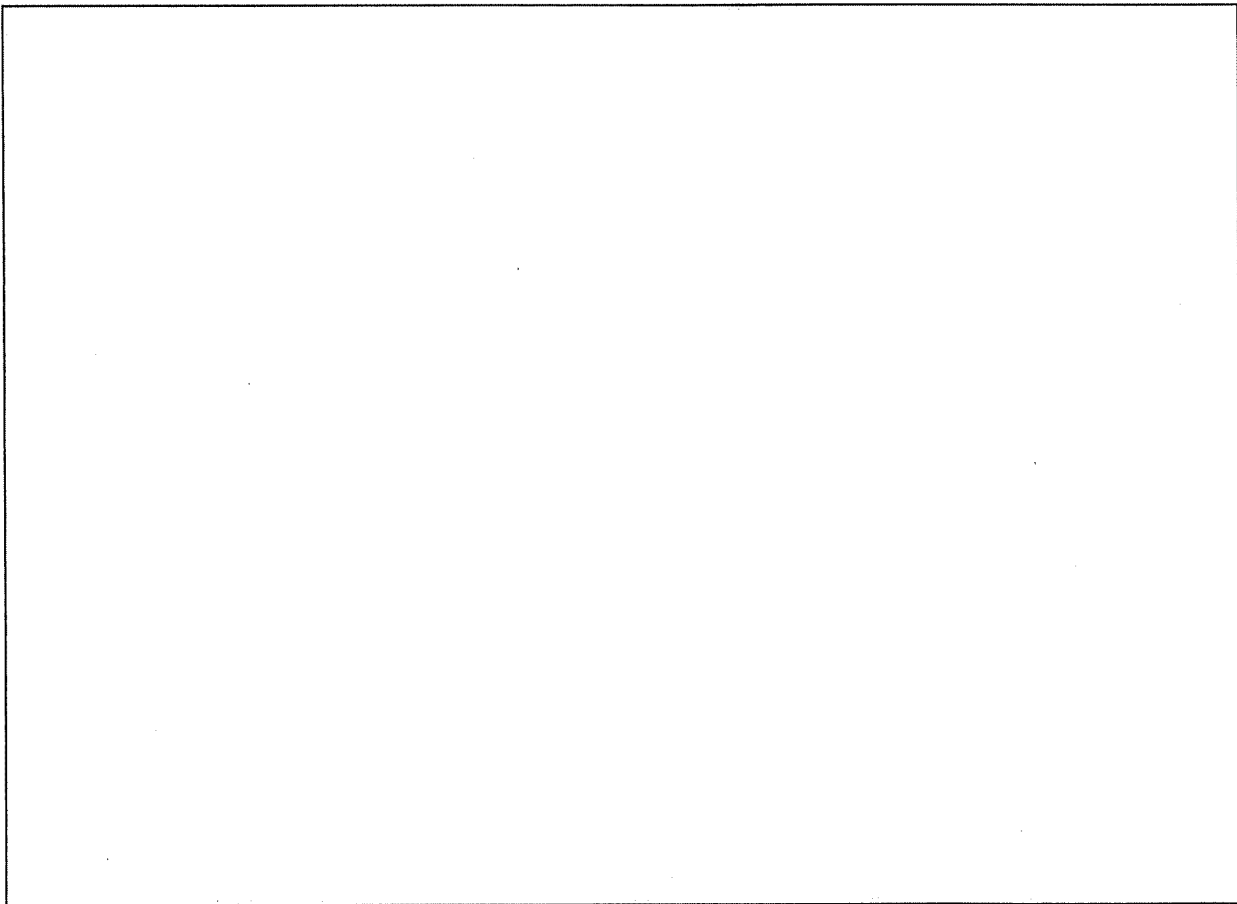
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NR



Egypt:



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[Redacted]

Syria:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Lebanon:

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Turkey:

[Redacted]

B1

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Iraq:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Jordan:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

GOI Delegation

14. (C)

[Redacted]

5
UNCLASSIFIED

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IDI Strategic Analysis Chief Col. Udi Avental

Signature: SHAPIRO

Classified By: Name: Daniel Shapiro, Title: Ambassador
Reason: 1.4 (a), (b), (c), (d)
Declassify On: 2036/11/23
Drafted By: TEL AVIV:Berns, David B
Cleared By: POL:Silverman, Robert J
EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR:Monosson, Danielle H
POL:Eussen, Matthew M
POL:Duwan, Gottlieb J
POL:Levin, Jan X
EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H
DAO:JHood/TCyril
POLRES
Approved By: EXEC:Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv)
Released By: TEL AVIV:Crippen, John
Info: WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE, ARAB
ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE
XMT: AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

Action Post:
Dissemination Rule: POL, AMB_INFO

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J18

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

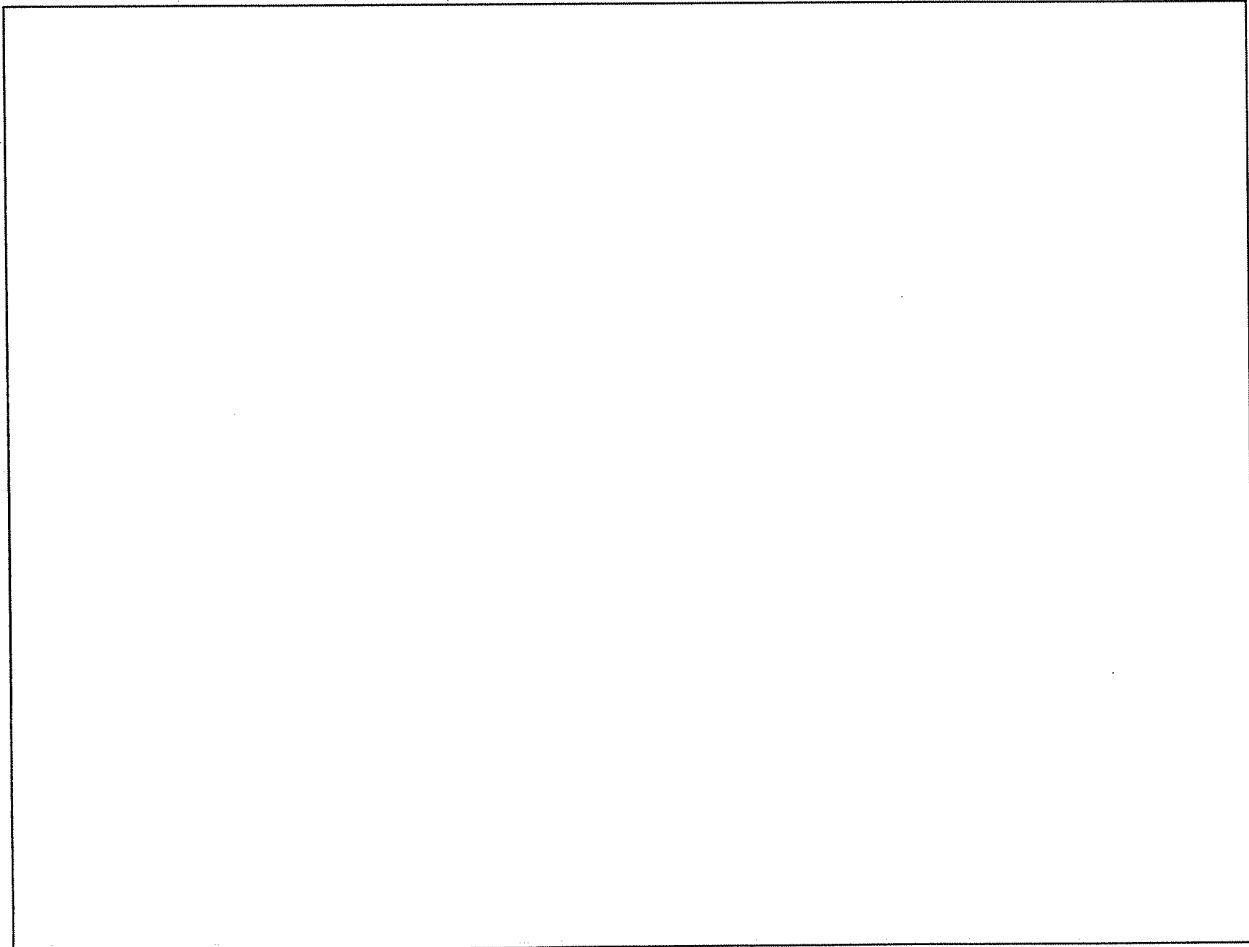
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), NR

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 9:36 AM
To: Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J; Godfrey, Anthony F; Litke, Sara L; Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Price, Adam P
Subject: The Israeli Embassy

NR.

Categories: Working
Classification: SECRET

SECRET

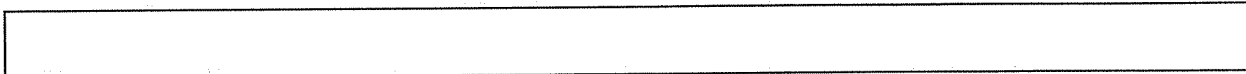


NR

Turkish Demands

(C) listing Turkey's demands arising from the May 31 Mavi Marmara interdiction:

B1

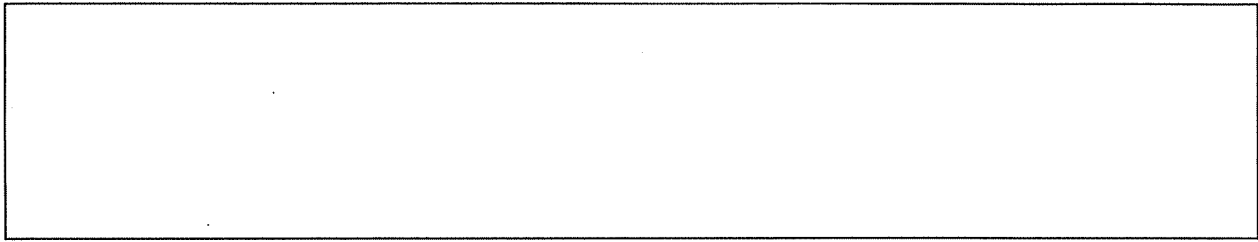


B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 MAR 2012 201004163

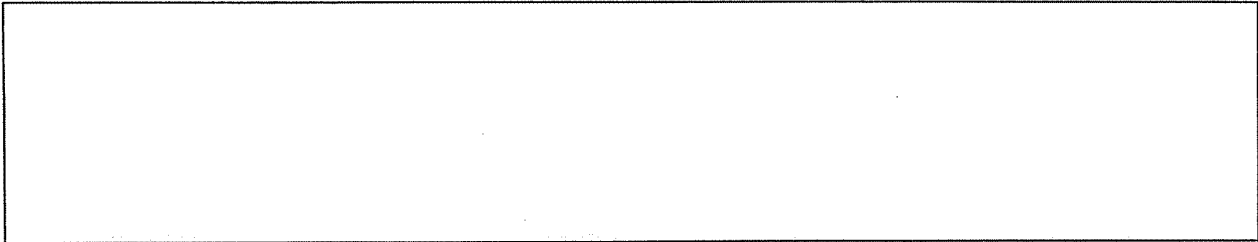
1
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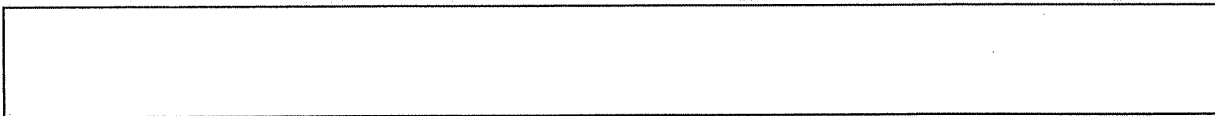
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Ties to Kurds



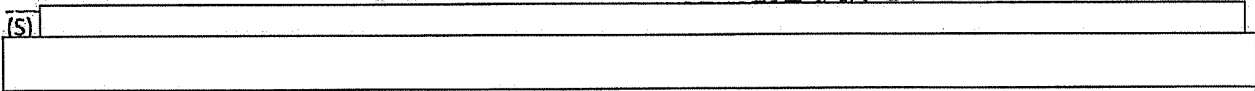
NR

IHH



NR

(S)



B1

Jeremiah Howard
Deputy Political Counselor
Embassy Ankara - Turkey
T: 90 312 457-7149
IVG: 295-7149

Classification: SECRET
Classified by: J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2020/06/28

2
UNCLASSIFIED

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 6:55 AM
Subject: (SE) Turkey Daily Brief - September 13, 2010

Categories: Working
AttachmentsClassification:

Classification: SECRET
SensitivityCode: Sensitive



SECRET

September 14, 2010

(C) Referendum Opens Turkey's Political Season

[Redacted]

(S) CJCS ADM Mullen September 3-4 Visit to Turkey

(C) Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

(C) [Redacted]

(U) Media Highlights:

[Redacted]

(U) Upcoming Events:

[Redacted]

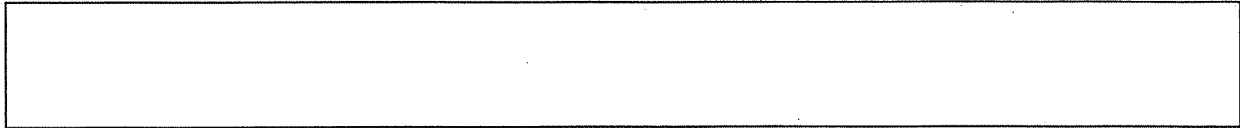
Referendum Opens Turkey's Political Season

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NR

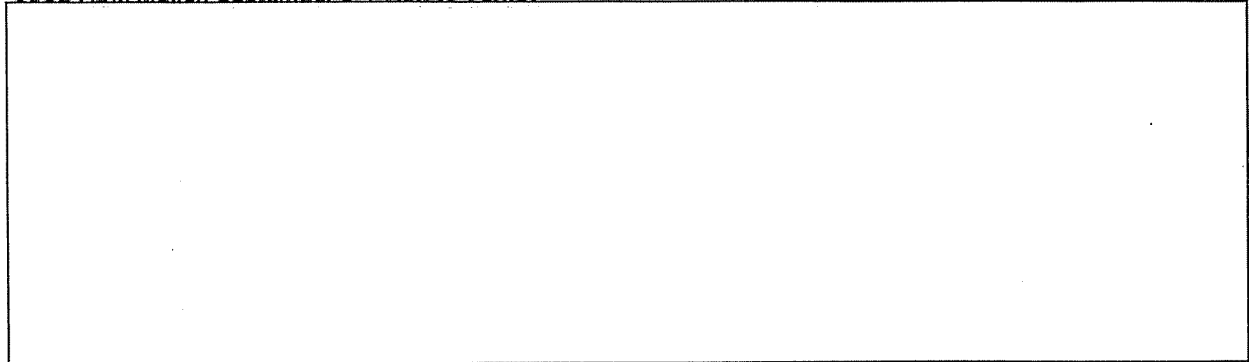
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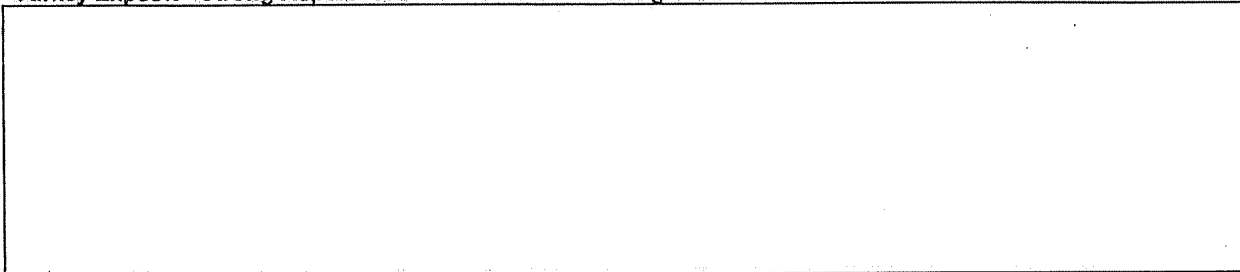
NR

C/ICS ADM Mullan September 3-4 Visit to Turkey



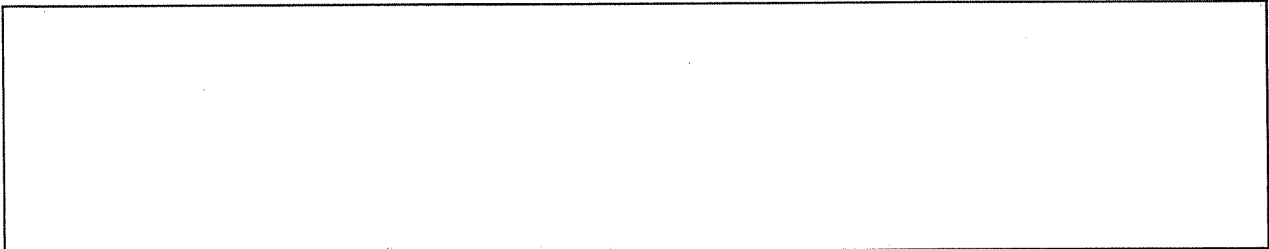
NR

Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council



B1

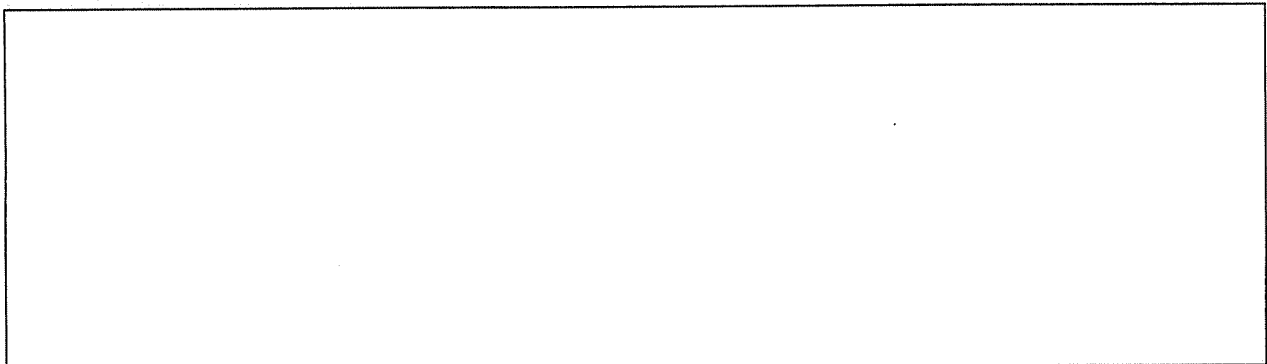
[Return to Top](#)



NR

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Media Highlights

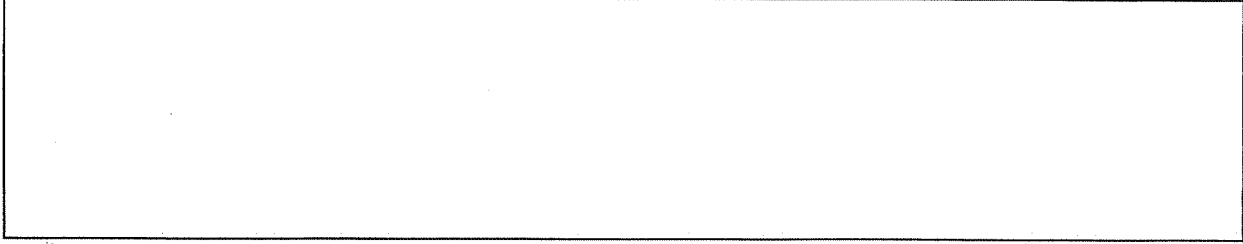


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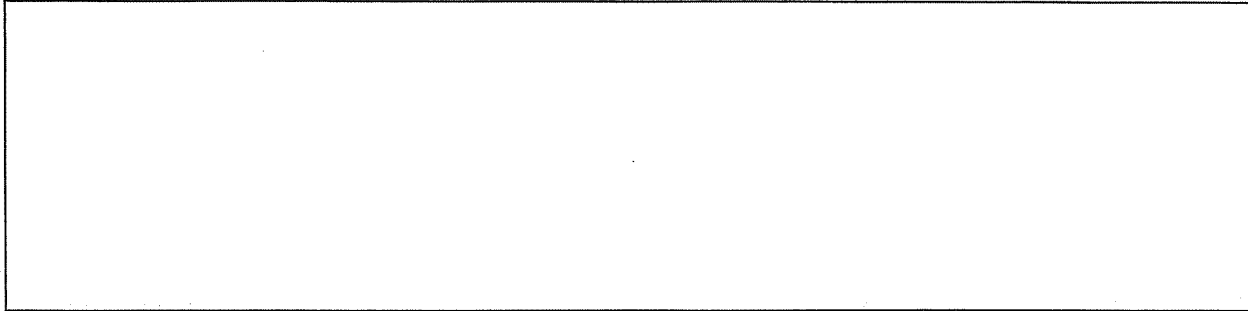
Upcoming Events



NR

[Return to Top](#)

Links to More Info on Turkey



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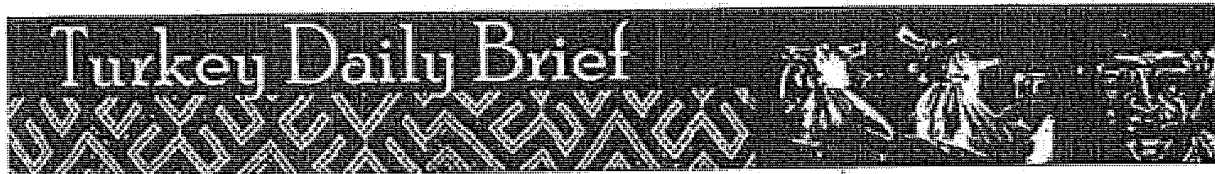
Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 7:17 AM
Subject: (S//NF) Turkey Daily Brief - May 9, 2011

Categories: Working
AttachmentsClassification: SECRET
Classification: SECRET//NOFORN



SECRET//NOFORN

May 9, 2011

NR

5/9 (SBU) [Redacted]
(C//REL UK) Mavi Marmara Anniversary [Redacted]
(S//NF) Additional Details on May 4 PKK Kastamonu Attack [Redacted]

B1

[Redacted]

NR

(U) Media Highlights: [Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

(U) Upcoming Events: [Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

[Return to Top](#)

Mavi Marmara Anniversary [Redacted]
(C//REL UK) The Turkish Islamist NGO IHH announced it is sending a single ship May 31, carrying humanitarian supplies, to El Arish, where the cargo will be transhipped to Gaza by truck through the Rafah border crossing. [Redacted]

B1

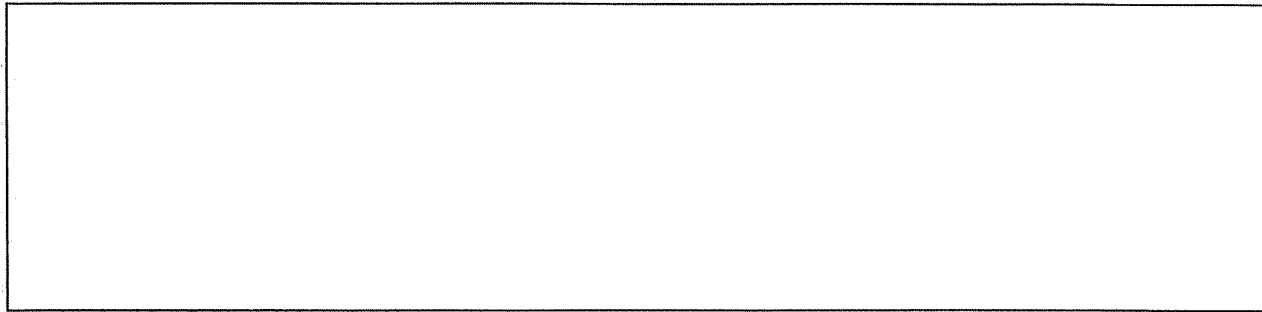
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[Return to Top](#)

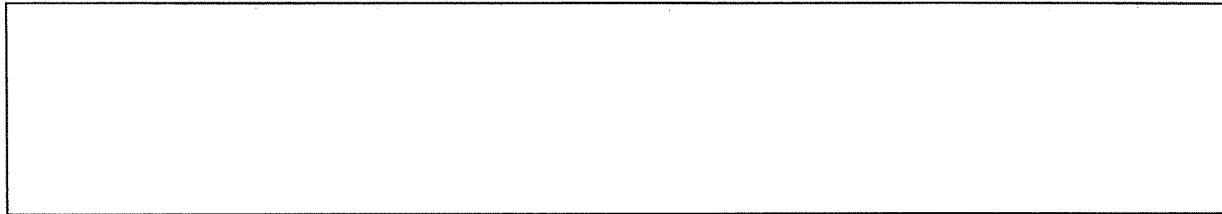
Additional Details on May 4 PKK Kastamonu Attack

NR

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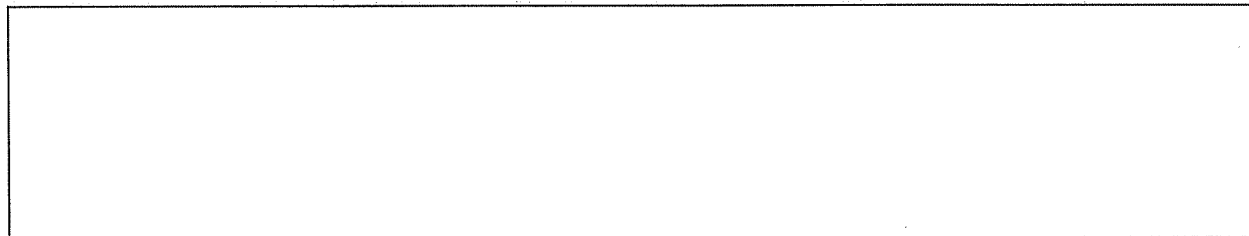


(U) Media Highlights



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(U) Upcoming Events



[Return to Top](#)

Links to More Info on Turkey

- Embassy Ankara's SIPRNet Website: [Embassy Ankara](#)
- Turkey Portal on Intellipedia: [Turkey Portal](#)
- Turkey Human Rights Portal on Intellipedia: [Turkey Human Rights Portal](#)
- Latest Biographies on Turkey's Leaders: [Turkey Bios](#)
- Turkey Daily Brief Archives: [TDB Blog](#)

Dear TDB Readers: As of November 29, 2010, per IO State 121496, the full text of classified Mission Turkey cables will no longer be posted by SIPDIS to the Net-Centric Diplomacy (NCD) community. Hyperlinks will be provided to the State Department's SMART Archive. For interagency colleagues who are interested in the full text of cables but can not access the SMART Archive, please contact Laura de Otalvaro and she will assist you.

Please direct inquiries or report problems to Laura de Otalvaro (deOtalvaroLH@state.gov).

Today's TDB Editor was Berna Keen, POL, Embassy Ankara.

Classified by Deputy POLCOUNS Jeremiah Howard, E.O. 13526, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).
DECL:05/08/2021

UNCLASSIFIED

134

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Kimbrell, Rebecca J
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2011 9:36 PM
To: EUR-Ambassadors-DL; EUR-DCM-DL; EUR-CG-DL; EUR-FO-DL; EUR-Directors-DL; EUR-Desk Officers-DL; EUR-OMS-DL; EUR-Staff Assistants-DL
Subject: (C/NF) EUR Daily Activity Report for Friday, September 9, 2011

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
SensitivityCode: Sensitive

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

DECL: 9/8/2021

EUR Daily Activity Report
Friday, September 9, 2011

CARC

- (SBU) Georgian Government

NR

CE

- (U) Austria's OMV

- (U) Bulgaria:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 2011004163

1
 UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

ERA

◦ [Redacted]

NR

◦ (SBU) EU [Redacted]

[Redacted]

NB

◦ (SBU) Norway [Redacted]

[Redacted]

◦ [Redacted]

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

NR

PPD

- (U) Plans for USG Outreach

[Redacted]

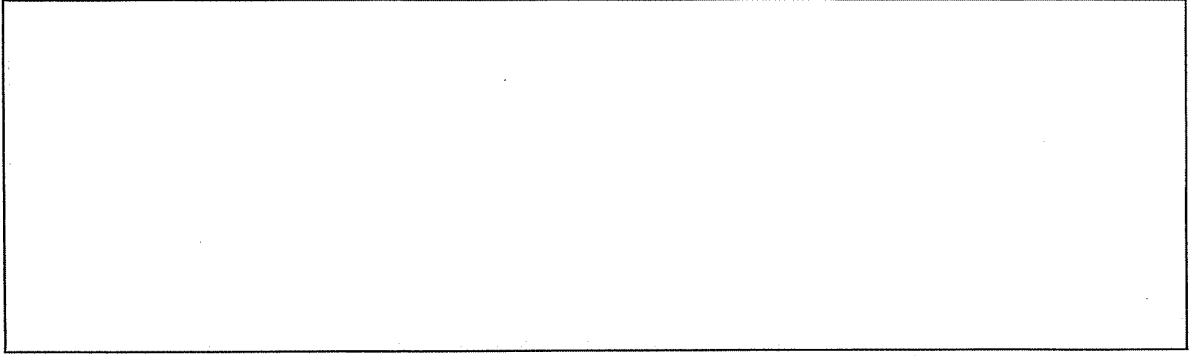
- (U) France:

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

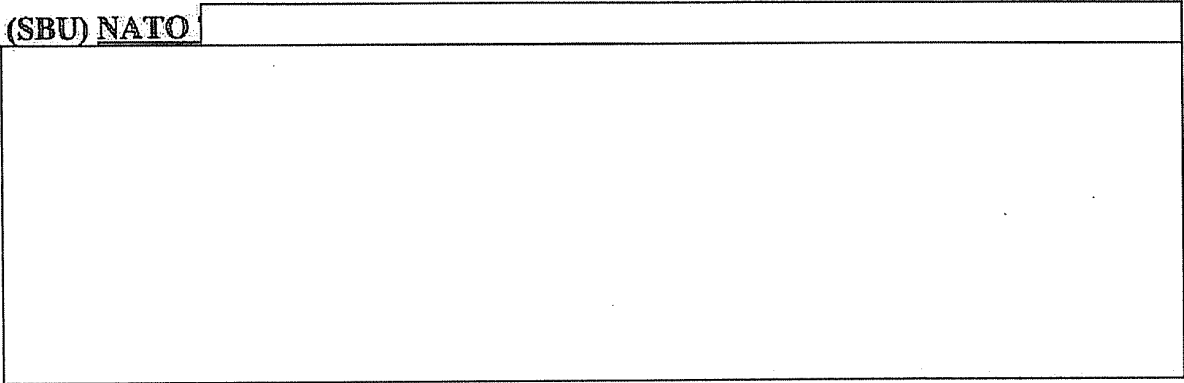
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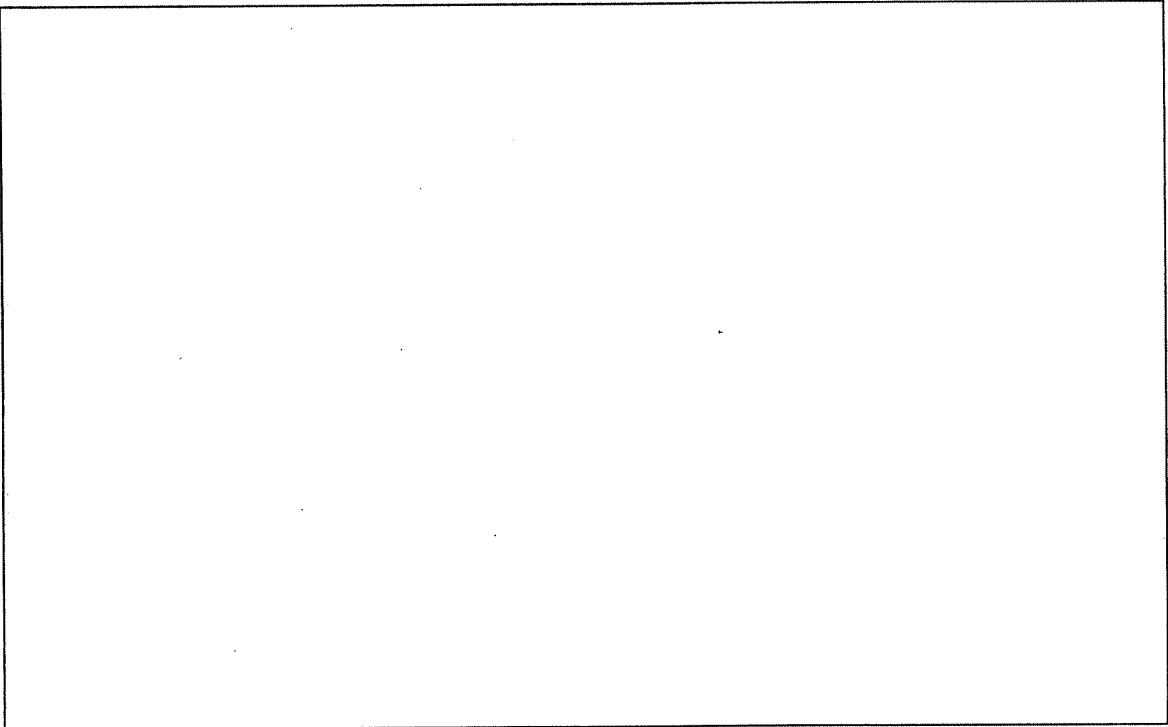


RPM

• (SBU) NATO



RUS



4
UNCLASSIFIED

SCE

- (U) Montenegro: [redacted]

NR

- (U) Serbia [redacted]

- (U) Croatia [redacted]

SE

- (C/NF) Turkey: Erdogan Says Turkish Navy will Protect Turkish Ships in Mediterranean: [redacted] PM Erdogan's remarks, as reported by Al Jazeera: "There is no doubt that the Turkish military ships are responsible to protect its own ships. The priority step is this. And there are humanitarian aids that we will make there. And those humanitarian assistances will not be attacked as it happened to Mavi Marmara." [redacted]

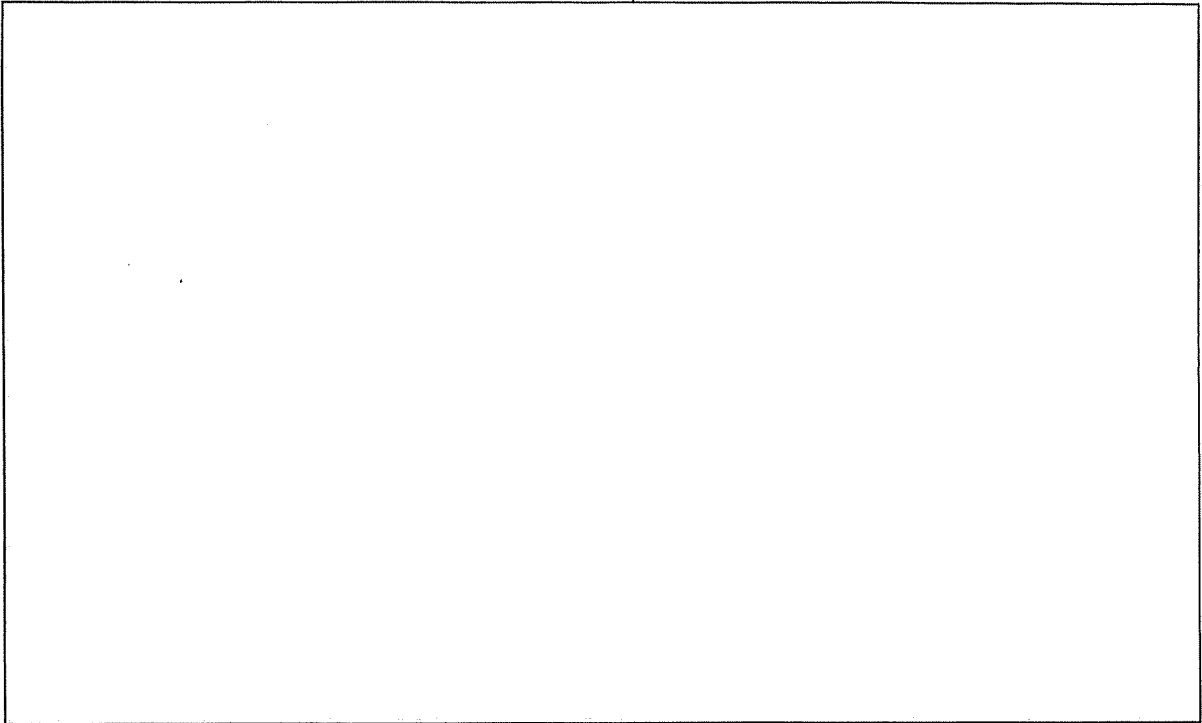
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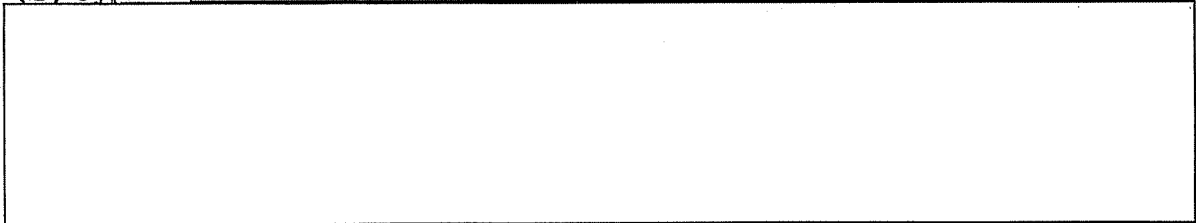
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NR

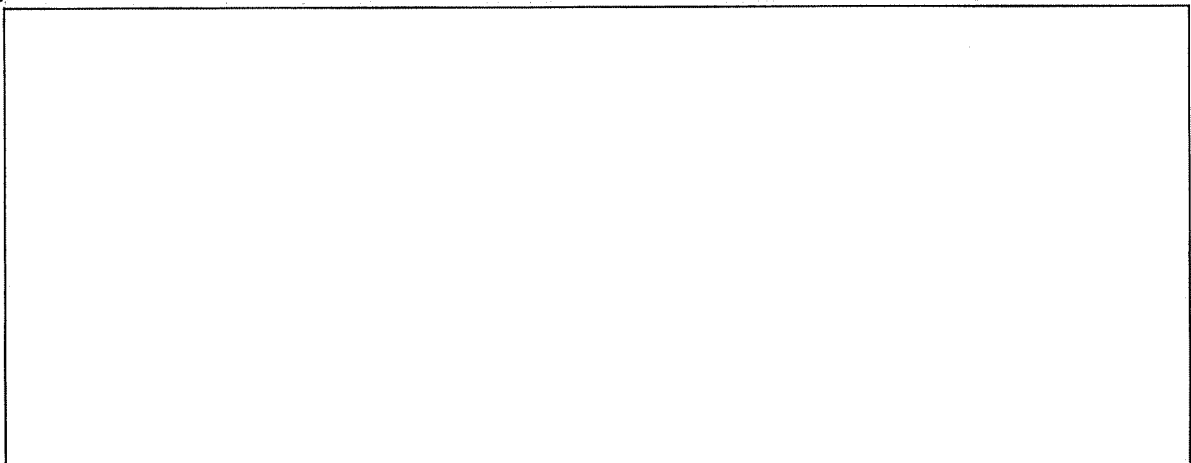


◦ (U) Cyprus:



UMB

◦



UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

WE

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

• (U) France:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

• (U) UK:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

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o [Redacted]

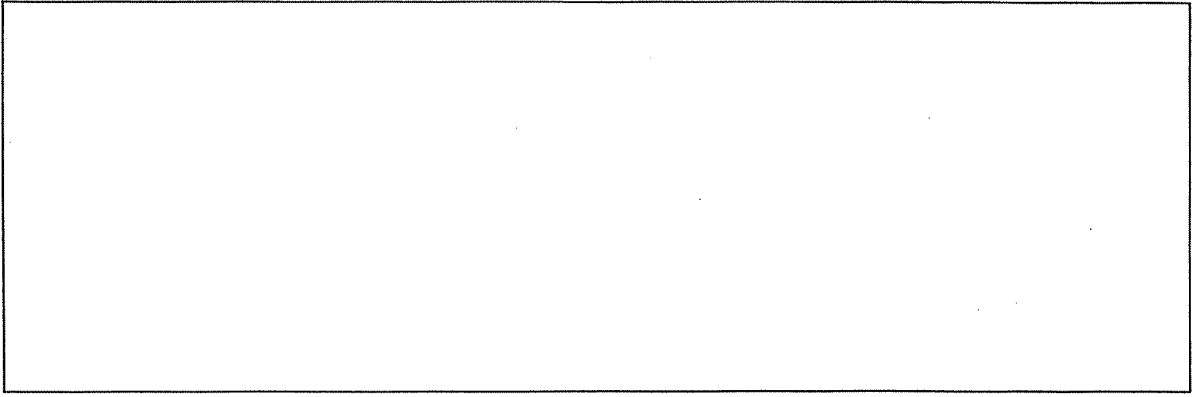
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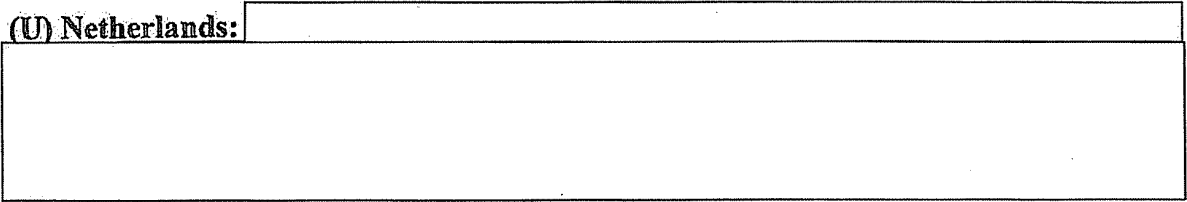
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UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NR



• (U) Netherlands:



Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

9
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01687

UNCLASSIFIED

J36

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE DELETED

NR
From: Kim, Yuri J
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2011 6:50 AM
To: Baily, Jess L; Kilner, Scott F
Cc: Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul)
Subject: RE: Coordination

AttachmentsClassification:

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
SensitivityCode: UNCLASSIFIED
SMARTCategory: Sensitive Working

[Redacted]

NR

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2011 10:35 AM
To: Kilner, Scott F; Kim, Yuri J
Cc: Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul)
Subject: RE: Coordination

[Redacted]

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Kilner, Scott F
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2011 10:32 AM
To: Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J
Cc: Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul)
Subject: Coordination

Jess, Yuri -

[Redacted]

Thanks,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Scott

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: SMART Core
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2011 05:35:24
To: Mitchell, Shamar P; Schwartz, Judith C (Istanbul); Lindenfeld, Seth J (Istanbul); Ashworth, Tonya R (Istanbul); Cross, Lisa T (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul); Scrivner, Kimberly K (Istanbul); McKay, Roland D; Ragan, Anthony D; ACCOUNT, TDY; Kim TDY, Yuri; Brookins, LauraM
Cc: Bidou, Susan M (Istanbul); Wong, Susan W (Istanbul); Faillace, Richard J (Istanbul); Donadieu, Noah A
Subject: Scenesetter for CODEL Burton Visit to Turkey

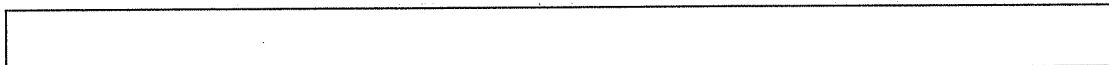
UNCLASSIFIED
SBU



Action Office: RSO, ECON, PAS, DCM
Info Office: CODEL

MRN: 11 ANKARA 1523
Date/DTG: Sep 22, 2011 / 221434Z SEP 11
From: AMEMBASSY ANKARA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, ECON, ETRD, OREP
Captions: CODEL, SENSITIVE
Subject: Scenesetter for CODEL Burton Visit to Turkey

1. (SBU)



NR

2
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

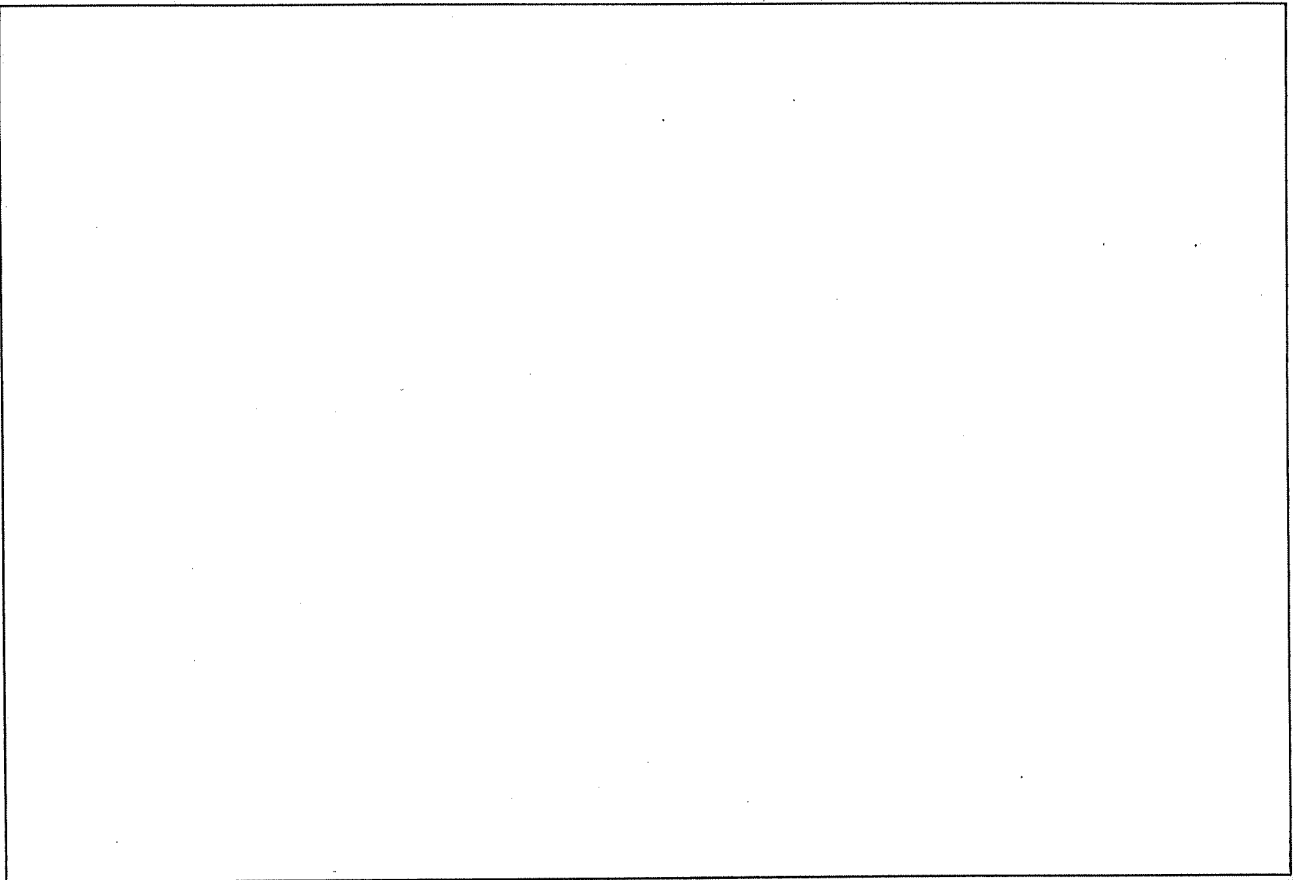
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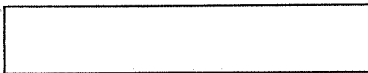
UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

**Israel**

9. (SBU) On May 31, 2010, a flotilla of ships, organized in part by a Turkish NGO, IHH, departed Turkey with the goal of breaking Israel's blockade of Gaza. Israel Defense Force (IDF) commandos fast-roped from helicopters onto the flagship, the Mavi Marmara, and immediately encountered violence from the passengers. The commandos responded with deadly force, killing eight Turks and one Turkish-American. The incident has gravely strained Turkish-Israeli relations. A several-months-long low-profile effort by senior Turkish and Israeli diplomats to hammer out an apology/compensation formula failed in early September, as the UN's Palmer Commission released a report that upheld the legality of the blockade and determined that the Government of Israel had used excessive and unreasonable force. Turkey has responded by (1) down-grading diplomatic relations, (2) suspending all military agreements, (3) declaring it will take measures to ensure the freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean, (4) requesting that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) examine the legality of the Gaza blockade, and (5) supporting all flotilla victims in pursuing lawsuits against Israel. Highly charged rhetoric from leaders on both sides has made rapprochement difficult, complicating our efforts to influence the course of the Arab Spring. We want them to put aside their dispute and work together with us in encouraging the Middle East towards democracy and prosperity.



UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

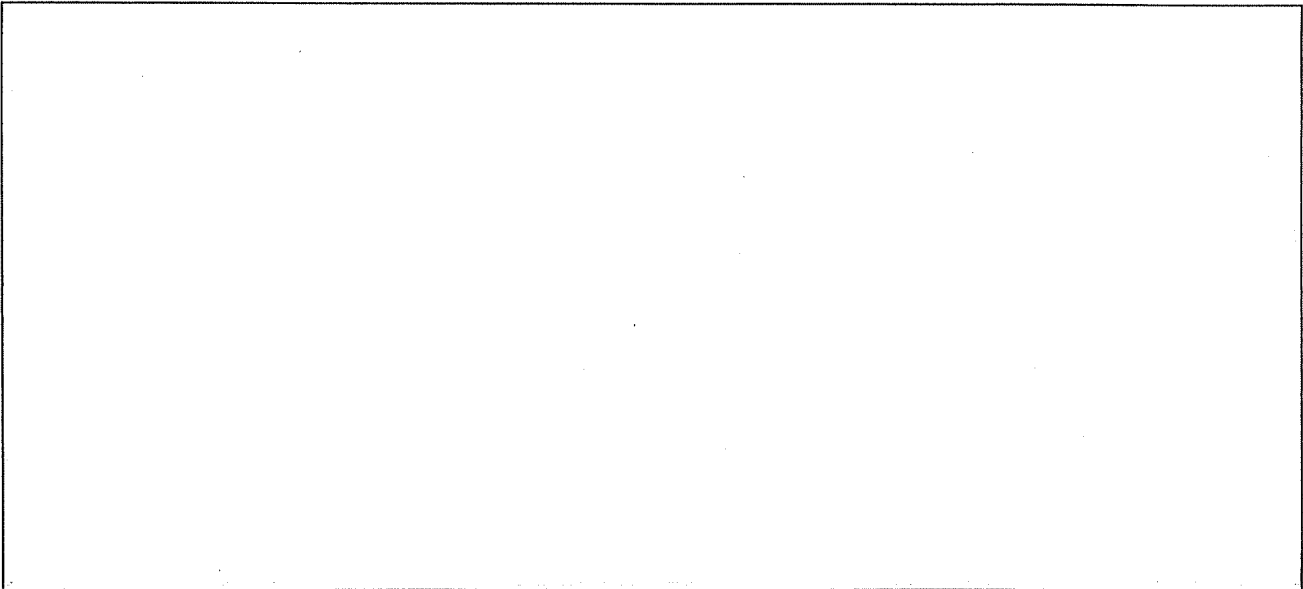
UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NR



Signature: Ricciardone

Drafted By: ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah
Cleared By: Kim, Yuri J
Baily, Jess L
POL:Dunn, Patrick M
PMA:Stafford, Edward G
ECON:Fernandes, Cheryl L
Approved By: EUR/SE:Ricciardone, Francis J
Released By: ANKARA:Kim, Yuri J
Info: ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE
Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:
Dissemination Rule: CODEL, RSO, ECON, PAS, DCM

UNCLASSIFIED
SBU

8
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

J37

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Kim, Yuri J
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2011 9:16 AM
To: Bijanki, Ashwin
Subject: FOR RELEASE: CODEL Burton and PM Erdogan Discuss Israel, Cyprus, CT, MD, Economy

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
SMART Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE
SMART Approver Name: Ricciardone, Francis J//EUR/SE//
SMART ArchiveOnly: No
SMART Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
SMART Classified By: Francis J. Ricciardone, AMB
State
Reason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)
SMART Clearer Names: Kim, Yuri J//
SMART Declassification: DECLASSIFY ON: 2021/09/29
SMART Draft Type: 3
SMART Drafter Computer Name: SANKARATS01
SMART Drafter IP: 172.18.196.46
SMART Drafter Name: Bijanki, Ashwin
SMART Drafter Org: ANKARA
SMART Drafter UserID: EUR/bijankia
SMART EONum: 12958
SMART Final: False
SMART Info: CIA WASHINGTON DC RUEAIIA; DIA WASHINGTON DC RHEFDIA; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC RHEHAAA; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE (D/F) (UN)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01696

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

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1. (C) SUMMARY: Reps. Dan Burton, Lynn Woolsey, Wally Herger, Virginia Foxx, Collin Peterson, and Steve King in an extended and lively meeting with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan

[Redacted]

NR

2. (C) Accompanied by the Ambassador, Reps. Dan Burton, Lynn Woolsey, Wally Herger, Virginia Foxx, Collin Peterson, and Steve King met PM Erdogan at the PM's official residence on the evening of September 27. Erdogan was accompanied by his daughter, Guldal Aksit, the head of the AKP women's wing, and Murat Ersoy, MFA Deputy Director General for the Americas. The PM

[Redacted]

Israel

3. (C)

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

6. (C) Erdogan said

[Redacted]

B1

[Redacted]

8. (C)

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

Missile Defense

[Redacted]

Cyprus

11. (C)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

12.

[Redacted]

Countering Terrorism

14.

[Redacted]

Economy

[Redacted]

Press Points

[Redacted]

17. (C) CODEL Burton did not have a chance to clear on this cable.

UNCLASSIFIED

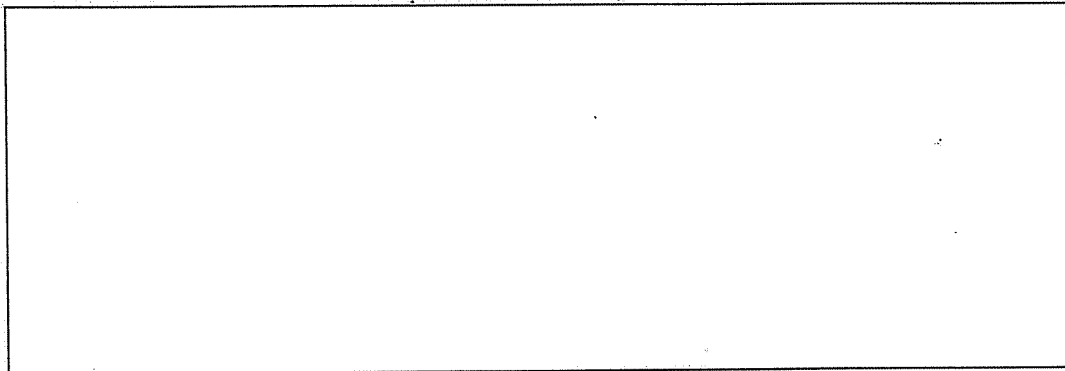
J43

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Sensitive

Page 1 of 2

RELEASED IN PART
B5

From: Godfrey, Anthony F
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 8:05 AM
To: Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: RE: FW: (CO) MFA BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT



B5

Anthony,

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 7:25 PM
To: Godfrey, Anthony F; Witmer, Kami A
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: FW: FW: (CO) MFA BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

Anthony,

Please look carefully at this and see how helpful it is to our efforts with the Turks.

Doug

Douglas A. Silliman
Deputy Chief of Mission
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey
90-312-455-5555 x7190

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Sensitive

Printed By: Witmer, Kami A
Page 1 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Sensitive

Page 2 of 2

Classified by: Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2035/06/03

From: Levin, Jan X
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 7:22 PM
To: NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: (CO) MFA BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

This just out of Embassy Tel Aviv. Thanks.

Jan Levin, A/PolCouns

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Sensitive

Printed By: Witmer, Kami A
Page 2 of 2

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01703

1. (C) SUMMARY: An October 25 Turkish press article alleged the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) interdicted the Gaza-bound humanitarian aid flotilla May 31 despite knowing the Turkish NGO organizer had agreed to divert the ships to the Egyptian port of Al Arish.

[Redacted]

SUMMARY.

[Redacted]

5. (U) Turkish media October 26 replayed the story. The "Hurriyet Daily News" quoted IHH chief Bulent Yildirim as saying the agreed upon "Al-Arish formula" had been relayed to the GoI May 28 when the MFA informed "James Jeffrey, the U.S. ambassador to Turkey, about this formula and Jeffrey then called James Cunningham, the U.S. ambassador to Tel Aviv, to convey the information. Israeli officials subsequently got in touch with Ankara."

6. (C) COMMENT:

[Redacted]

RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE DELETED
NR Ambassador Ricciardone Talking Points
For U/S Sinirlioglu

• Bahrain:

[Redacted]

NR

[Large redacted area]

- **Human Rights Council:** We are prepared to vote against the resolution you are proposing at the HRC in Geneva. Ambassador Tan demarched A/S Gordon on March 17, asking for U.S. support or at least abstention on a resolution Turkey drafted requesting follow up of the fact finding mission report. On March 21, the Council will consider a report from the High Commissioner on the Gaza flotilla issue. Turkey's resolution, which condemns Israel, is an effort to keep the issue alive in the HRC. The U.S. has consistently opposed HRC action on the flotilla issue. We continue to view the UN Secretary General's "Palmer Commission", which Turkey and Israel support, as the primary method for the international community to review this incident.

UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

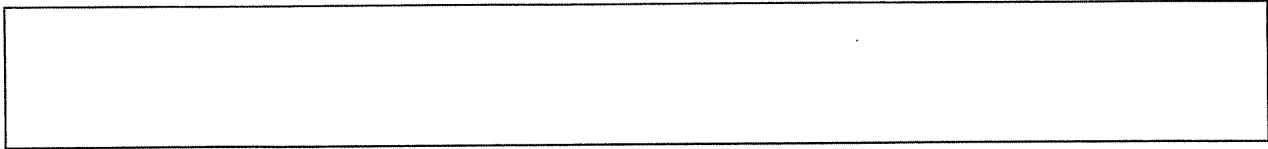
UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART ^{J51}

Logg, Cristina A

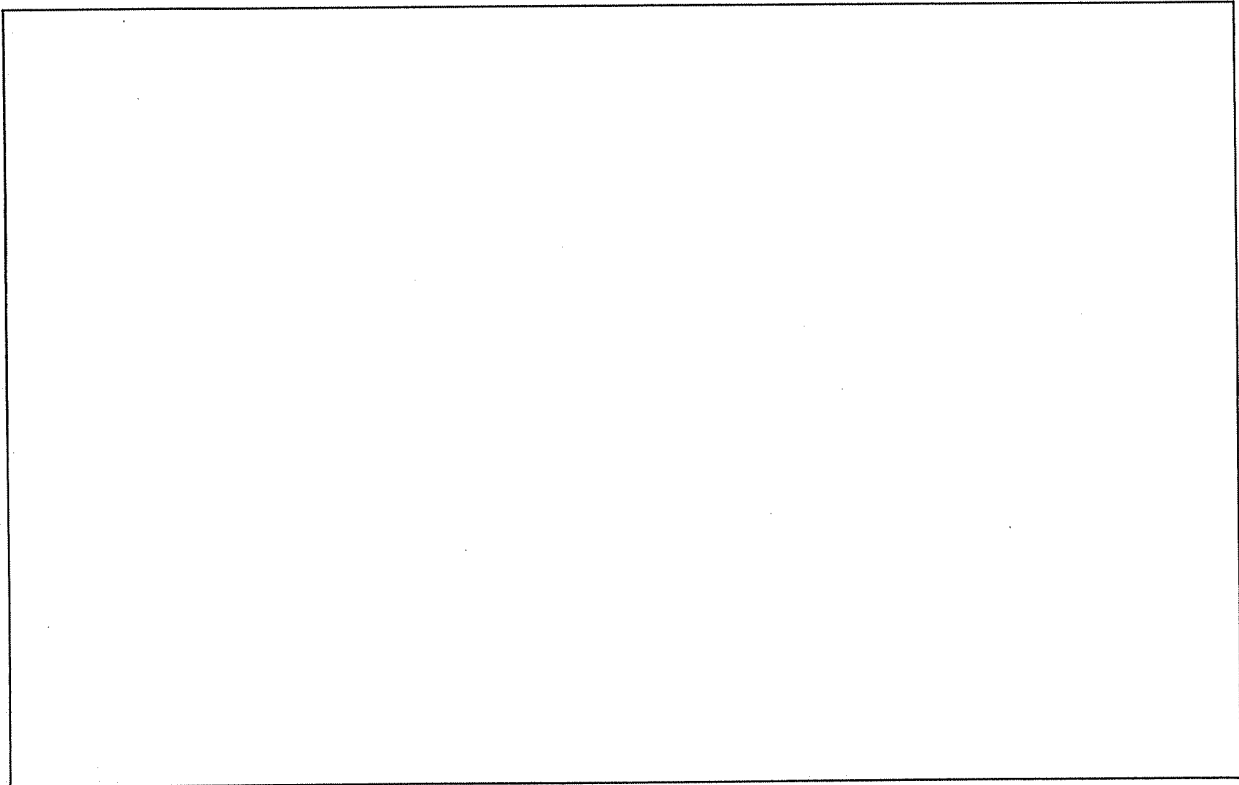
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(C)

From: Kim, Yuri J
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 6:28 AM
To: Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E; 'agodfrey@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; 'esherwood-randall@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Cretz, Gene A; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Silliman, Douglas A; Ricciardone, Francis J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Treiber, Laird D; Stafford, Edward G; Ford, Robert S; Hunter, Charles F (Baghdad); Wiltmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Cheryl
Subject: Davutoglu: Telcon w/S, re: Libya, Syria, Israel, etc.
Categories: Working

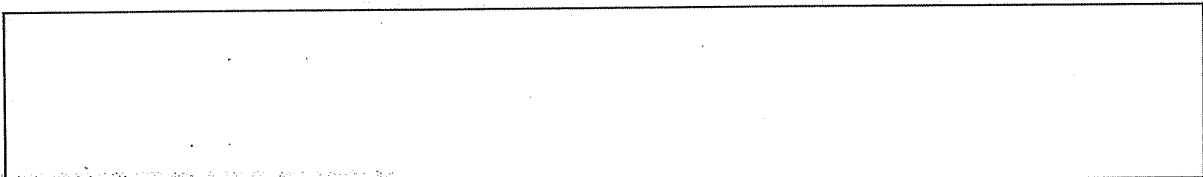


NR

LIBYA



ISRAEL



B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

B1

SYRIA:

o [Redacted]

NR

PALESTINE:

[Redacted]

ARMENIA/AZERBAIJAN/NK:

[Redacted]

HALKI:

[Redacted]

We'll get out front-channels on above later today.

Yuri

YURI KIM

Political Counselor
U.S. Embassy Ankara

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: Yuri Kim, Political Counselor, Embassy Ankara

Reason: 1.4(b); (d)

Declassify On: 2021/07/06

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART ¹⁵³

Logg, Cristina A

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Cunningham, James B
 Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 5:07 AM
 To: Walles, Jacob; Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; 'Ross, Dennis B.'; 'Steve Simon (SSimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov)'; Rubinstein, Daniel H; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Nossel, Suzanne F; Gordon, Philip H; Ricciardone, Francis J
 Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Levin, Jan X; Sutphin, Paul R
 Subject: Discussion with Netanyahu: Syria, Turkey

SECRET/NODIS

I had dinner with a cheerful and expansive Prime Minister at his residence June 26. He spent a considerable amount of time speculating about developments in the region.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

B1

Discussion of Negotiation issues in separate email.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 1 APR 2022
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

J69

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:03 PM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; O'Grady, Daniel J
Subject: FW: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

Categories: Working

Noted one small phrase from Sinirlioglu on the HRC/flotilla issue [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

B1

NR

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2021/03/19

From: Ricciardone, Francis J
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:04 AM
To: Riley, Robert J; SES-O_SWO-Only
Cc: Kaidanow, Tina S; Collins, Jeffrey S.; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Kenna, Lisa; LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov; Gordon, Philip H; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth; Daalder, Ivo H; Rivkin, Charles H; Allegrone, Kathleen H; Ford, Robert S; Schlicher, Ronald L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Smith, James B; Ziadeh, Susan L; Williams, Stephanie T; Shampaine, Nicole D
Subject: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

This is a resend to fix missing line in item # 3, in original outgoing.

SES-O pls pass EUR + S staff in Paris; also to U/S Burns @ OOB Saturday (Sinirlioglu asked for Burns' location so I expect he may try to phone today); NEA addrees pls pass to interested colleagues in bureau + at posts:

1. TU-FR-LY: [redacted]
[redacted]

NR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

2. Iran - Syria [Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

3. Flotilla @ HRC: Conveyed point verbatim from Riley email. [Redacted]

B1, B5

[Redacted]

4. Bahrain: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

Francis J. Ricciardone

US Ambassador

Ankara, Turkey

tel: +90 312 457 7280

after hours: +90 312 455 5555

From: Riley, Robert J
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:54 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J
Cc: Kaldanow, Tina S; Collins, Jeffrey S.; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Kenna, Lisa; LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov
Subject: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

<< File: 03 18 2011 TPs for Amb R with Turkey.docx >>

Ambassador,

2
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Here are the talking points I mentioned in my low side message. They cover: Bahrain; US "no" vote on Turkey flotilla res at HRC; [redacted] Paris summit:

B1, NR

On the Paris summit, [redacted]

NR

Thank you very much,

Bob

SECRET STATE-024631

NOFORN

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2036/03/17

TAGS: PARM, PREL, MCAP, ETT, MARR, MASS, IR, TU, SY

SUBJECT: (S) FOLLOW-UP DEMARCHE REGARDING [redacted]

NR

REF: A) 11 STATE 021810

B) 11 ANKARA 347

Classified by: Vann Van Diepen, Acting Assistant Secretary

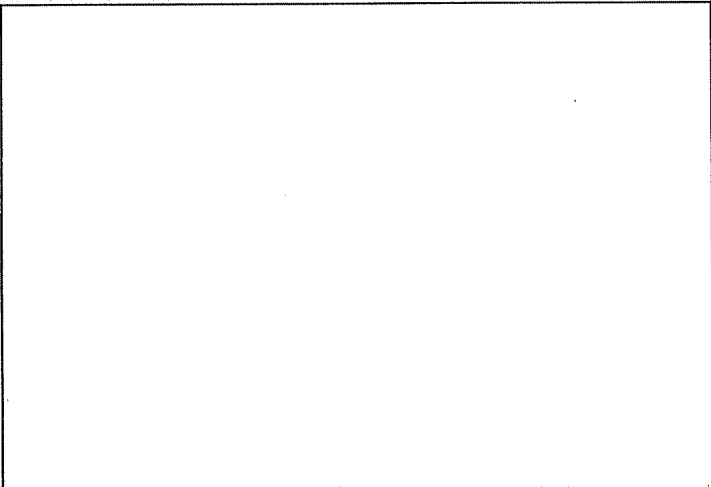
ISN, STATE

Reason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request for Embassy Ankara.

BACKGROUND:

NR



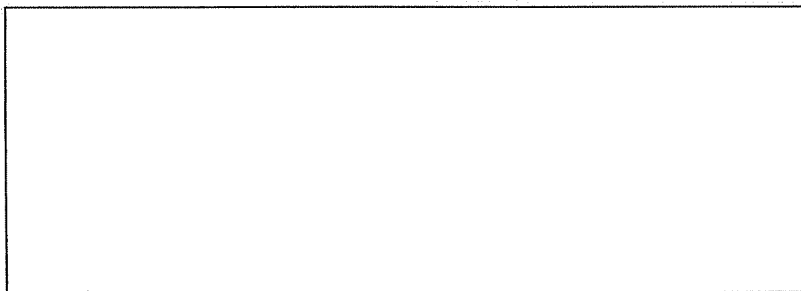
UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NR



CLINTON.

This document is SECRET when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: SECRET

Classified by: Robert J. Riley, Deputy Director, EUR/SE, State

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)

Declassify On: 2021/03/18

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: SECRET

Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.

Declassify On: 2021/03/19

5
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01714

UNCLASSIFIED

J71

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

From: Jaworski, Richard E
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 12:02 PM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J
Subject: FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

Categories: Working

Mr. Ambassador,

A May flotilla on the way that POL wants to flag for your attention.

Rich

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2021/03/24

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:45 AM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Anthony C; Jaworski, Richard E
Subject: RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:37 AM
To: Jaworski, Richard E; O'Grady, Daniel J
Cc: Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Anthony C
Subject: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

[Redacted]

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

B1



Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2021/03/24

From: SMART Core
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 05:54:36
Miles, Barbara J; Read, Anthony M; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Witmer, Kami A; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; Roundy, Brian A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Leary, Thomas M; Sanderson, Mary A; Mineo, Mark R; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Combs, James D; Walston, Melissa L;
To: Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Joseph.babb@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; karlo.jajliardo@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrienne M; Downs, Jeffrey J
Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Donelson, Lale ;
Cc: tjseecal@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; AFMichaelangelo@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; BJKlutzaritz@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; SLWeathers@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN
Subject: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

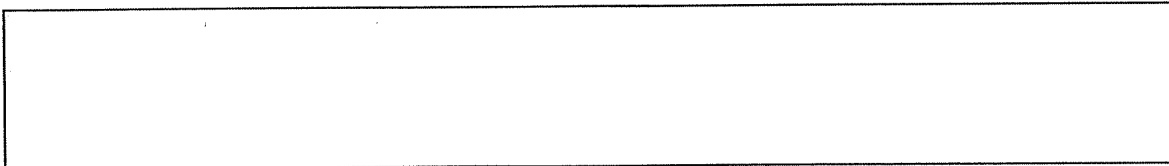
CONFIDENTIAL



Action Office: POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA
Info Office: CONS_INFO, AMB_INFO, DEA_INFO, EAC

MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 365
Date/DTG: Mar 23, 2011 / 231553Z MAR 11
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, TU, IS
Subject: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

2.



2
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

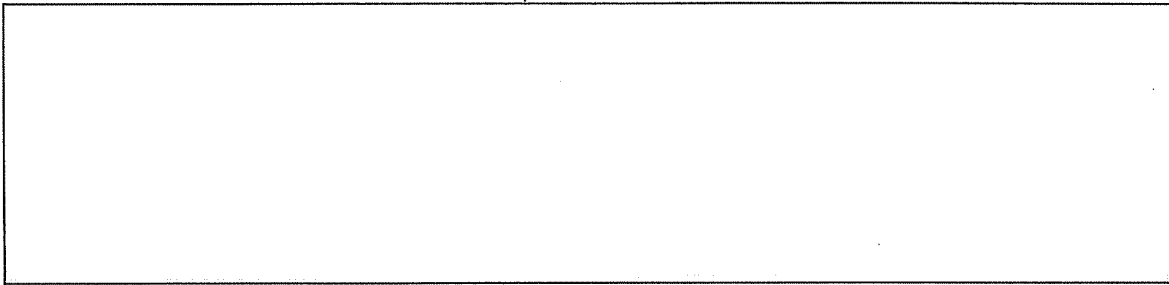
B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

6.



Signature: Cunningham

Classified By: Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: Deputy Chief of Mission
Office: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv
Agency: Dept of State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2021/03/23

Drafted By: TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

Cleared By: POL:Silverman, Robert J

Approved By: EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

Released By: TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

Info: ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE, USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: POL, RSO, CONS_INFO, LEGAT, AMB_INFO, ORA, DEA_INFO, EAC

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

J72

Logg, Cristina A

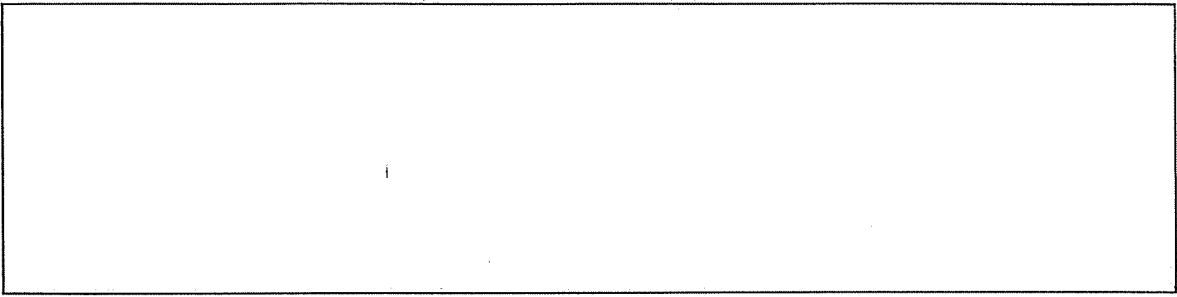
RELEASED IN PART

B5, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Cunningham, James B
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:13 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J
Cc: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J
Subject: FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

Categories: Working

1)

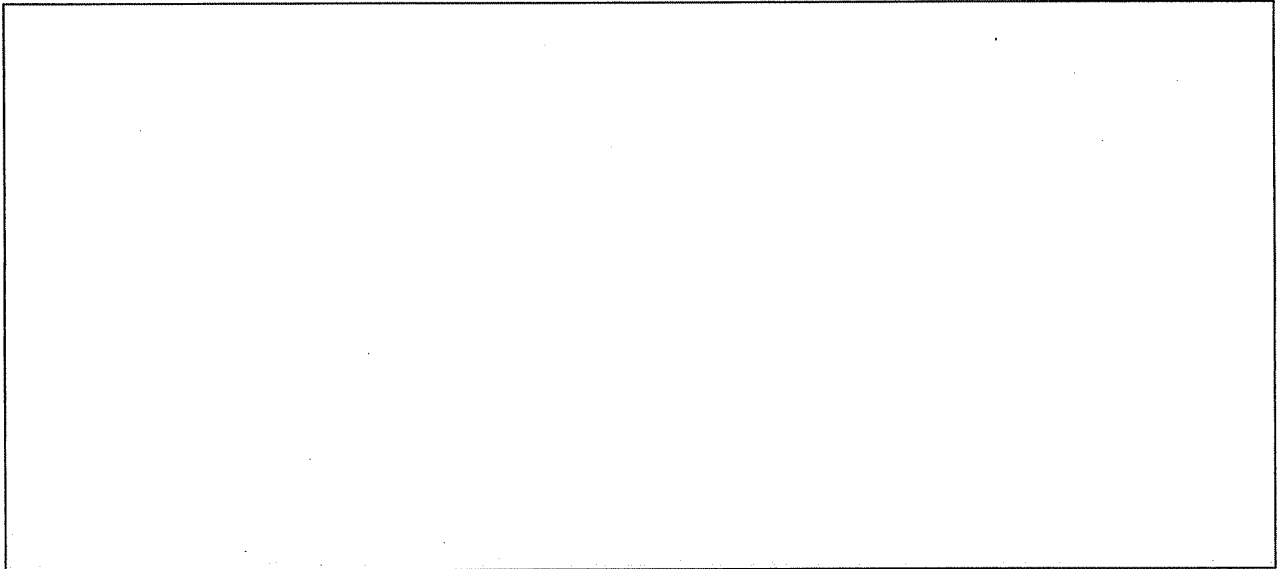


B5

From: Ricciardone, Francis J
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 8:00 PM
To: Cunningham, James B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

Jim,

B1, B5



Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone
US Ambassador
Ankara, Turkey

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1
UNCLASSIFIED

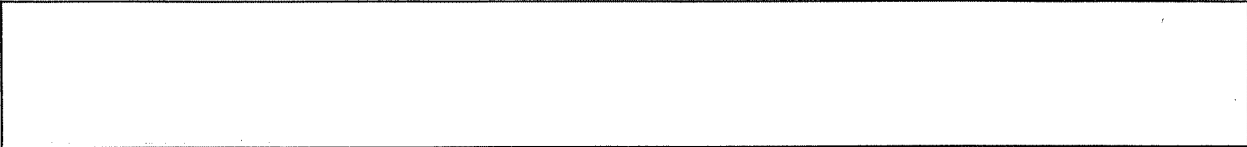
UNCLASSIFIED

tel: +90 312 457 7280
after hours: +90 312 455 5555

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Classified by: ricciardone, amb
Reason: 1.4(d)
Declassify On: 2021/03/25

From: Cunningham, James B
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

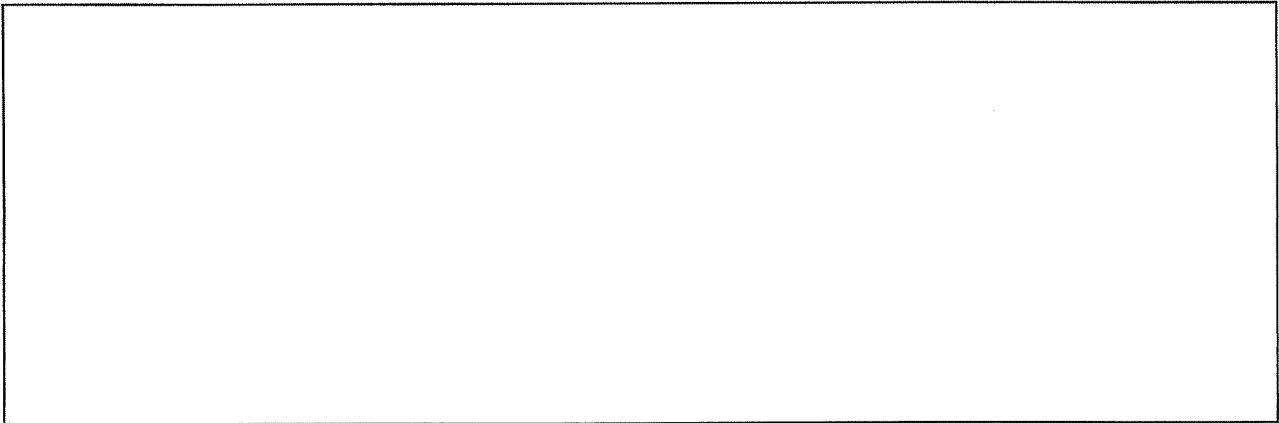


B5

From: Ricciardone, Francis J
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:29 PM
To: Cunningham, James B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

Jim, Jeff, Phil

B1, B5



Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone
US Ambassador
Ankara, Turkey

tel: +90 312 457 7280

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after hours: +90 312 455 5555

This document is SECRET when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET
Classified by: ricciardone, amb
Reason: 1.4b, d
Declassify On: 2021/03/24

From: SMART Core
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 05:54:36
Miles, Barbara J; Read, Anthony M; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Witmer, Kami A; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; Roundy, Brian A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Leary, Thomas M; Sanderson, Mary A; Mineo, Mark R; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Combs, James D; Walston, Melissa L;
To: Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Joseph.babb@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; karlo.jajliardo@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrienne M; Downs, Jeffrey J
Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Donelson, Lale ;
Cc: tjsenecal@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; AFMichaelangelo@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; BJKlutzaritz@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; SLWeathers@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN
Subject: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

CONFIDENTIAL



Action Office: POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA
Info Office: CONS_INFO, AMB_INFO, DEA_INFO, EAC

MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 365
Date/DTG: Mar 23, 2011 / 231553Z MAR 11
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, TU, IS
Subject: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

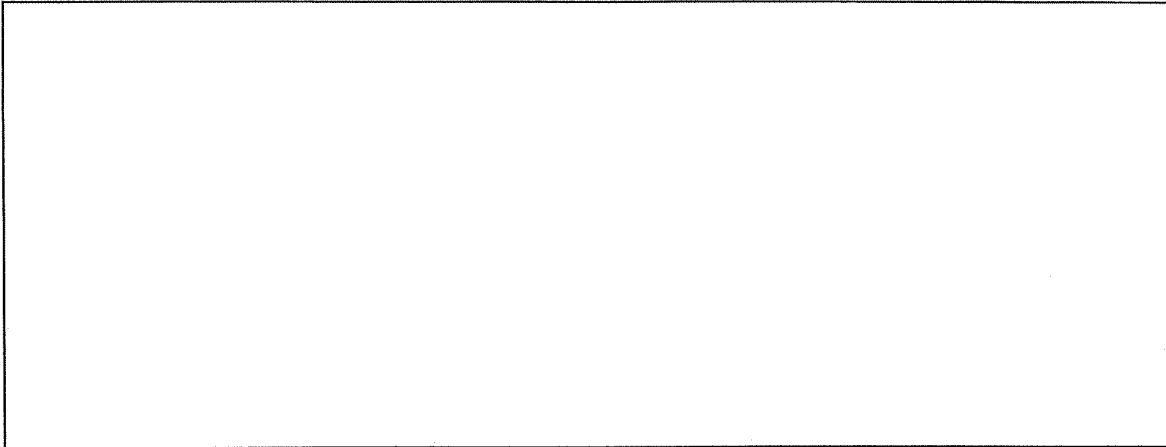
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

4.

5.



Signature: Cunningham

Classified By: Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: Deputy Chief of Mission
Office: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv
Agency: Dept of State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2021/03/23

Drafted By: TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

Cleared By: POL:Silverman, Robert J

Approved By: EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

Released By: TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

Info: ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; USUN NEW YORK; USMISSION *ROUTINE*

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: POL, RSO, CONS_INFO, LEGAT, AMB_INFO, ORA, DEA_INFO, EAC

CONFIDENTIAL

5

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01723

Turkey Bars Media from Covering Return of Flotilla Ships

1. (U) The Mavi Marmara, the IHH's flagship at the center of the May 31 Gaza flotilla raid, returned to the Turkish port of Iskenderun on August 7 with little fanfare. Local authorities imposed strict security measures for the Mavi Marmara's arrival and reportedly barred reporters from entering the port. All three ships belonging to the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), the Mavi Marmara, Defne Y, and Gazze, were towed into port after Israeli authorities released them on August 6.

2. (U) According to media reports, the Mavi Marmara appeared to be freshly painted. Huseyin Oruc, an IHH board member, claimed the Israelis repaired and painted the Mavi Marmara to conceal evidence. Oruc said more flotillas, which could include the Mavi Marmara, will set sail to Gaza if the embargo is not lifted by the end of the year.

3. (C)

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B1

UNCLASSIFIED

J77

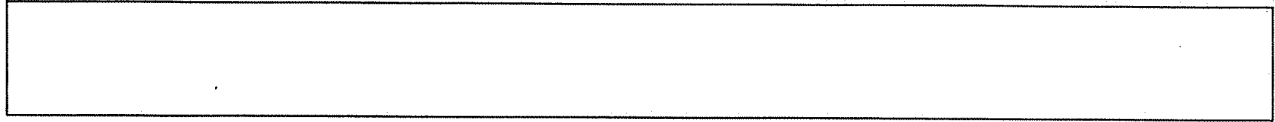
Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 6:32 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J
Subject: RE: Discussion of Turkey/prospective June Flotilla w/ Israeli DCM Arbell

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

Categories: Working



B1

Douglas A. Silliman
Deputy Chief of Mission
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey
90-312-455-5555 x7190

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
Classified by: Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2036/05/27

From: Ricciardone, Francis J
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Silliman, Douglas A
Subject: RE: Discussion of Turkey/prospective June Flotilla w/ Israeli DCM Arbell

Doug,
I don't recall any recent phone or in-person contact between S and Davutoglu, at least since the last Libya contact group in Rome (? If she was there?). have you seen or heard anything along lines Jake described below to the Israelis?

Francis J. Ricciardone
US Ambassador
Ankara, Turkey

tel: +90 312 457 7280
after hours: +90 312 455 5555

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN.

From: Sutphin, Paul R
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2011 10:10 PM
To: Burnett, David R; Cunningham, James B; Riley, Robert J; Kaidanow, Tina S; 'dshapiro@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Kumar,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Prem G.; 'ssimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; Silliman, Douglas A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Ricciardone, Francis J
Cc: Waller, Jacob; Buzbee, John R
Subject: Discussion of Turkey/prospective June Flotilla w/ Israeli DCM Arbell

NEA DAS Jake Waller discussed the likely mid-late June Gaza flotilla today with Israeli DCM Dan Arbell,

B1

Paul Sutphin

Director
NEA/IPA
tel: 202-647-3672
Fax: 202-736-4461
VIPEr: 202-647-1686

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET//NOFORN
Classified by: Paul R. Sutphin, Director, NEA/IPA, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2036/05/27

2
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01726

UNCLASSIFIED

J8)

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

From: Barks-Ruggles, Erica J
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 10:29 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J
Subject: RE: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S.Sinirlioglu

Got it Frank – thank you.

For you only - [Redacted]

B1, NR

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2021/03/19

From: Ricciardone, Francis J
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:03 AM
To: Riley, Robert J; SES-O_SWO-Only; Rice, Susan E (USUN); Barks-Ruggles, Erica J
Subject: RE: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S.Sinirlioglu

Susan, Erica

[Redacted]

NR

Francis J. Ricciardone
US Ambassador
Ankara, Turkey

tel: +90 312 457 7280
after hours: +90 312 455 5555

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2021/03/19

From: Ricciardone, Francis J
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 12:58 PM
To: Riley, Robert J; SES-O_SWO-Only
Cc: Kaidanow, Tina S; 'Collins, Jeffrey S.'; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; 'Kenna, Lisa'; 'LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; Gordon, Philip H; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth; Daalder, Ivo H; Rivkin, Charles H; Allegrone, Kathleen H; Ford, Robert S; Schlicher, Ronald L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Smith, James
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B; Ziadeh, Susan L; Williams, Stephanie T; Shampaine, Nicole D

Subject: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

C – entire text.

SES-O pls pass EUR + S staff in Paris; also to U/S Burns @ OOB Saturday (Sinirlioglu asked for Burns' location so I expect he may try to phone today); NEA addees pls pass to interested colleagues in bureau + at posts:

1. TU-FR-LY: [redacted]

NR

2. Iran – Syria [redacted]

NR

3. Flotilla @ HRC: Conveyed point verbatim from Riley email. [redacted]

B1, B5

4. Bahrain: [redacted]

NR

Francis J. Ricciardone

US Ambassador

UNCLASSIFIED

Ankara, Turkey

tel: +90 312 457 7280

after hours: +90 312 455 5555

From: Riley, Robert J
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:54 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J
Cc: Kaidanow, Tina S; 'Collins, Jeffrey S.'; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Kenna, Lisa; 'LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov'
Subject: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirdioglu

<< File: 03 18 2011 TPs for Amb R with Turkey.docx >>

Ambassador,

Here are the talking points I mentioned in my low side message. They cover: Bahrain; US "no" vote on Turkey flotilla.res.at HRC; [redacted] Paris summit.

B1, NR

On the Paris summit, [redacted]

NR

Thank you very much,

Bob

SECRET STATE 024631

NOFORN

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2036/03/17

TAGS: PARM, PREL, MCAP, ETT, MARR, MASS, IR, TU, SY

SUBJECT: (S) FOLLOW-UP DEMARCHE REGARDING [redacted]

NR

REF: A) 11 STATE 021810

B) 11 ANKARA 347

Classified by: Vann Van Diepen, Acting Assistant Secretary

ISN, STATE

Reason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request for Embassy Ankara.

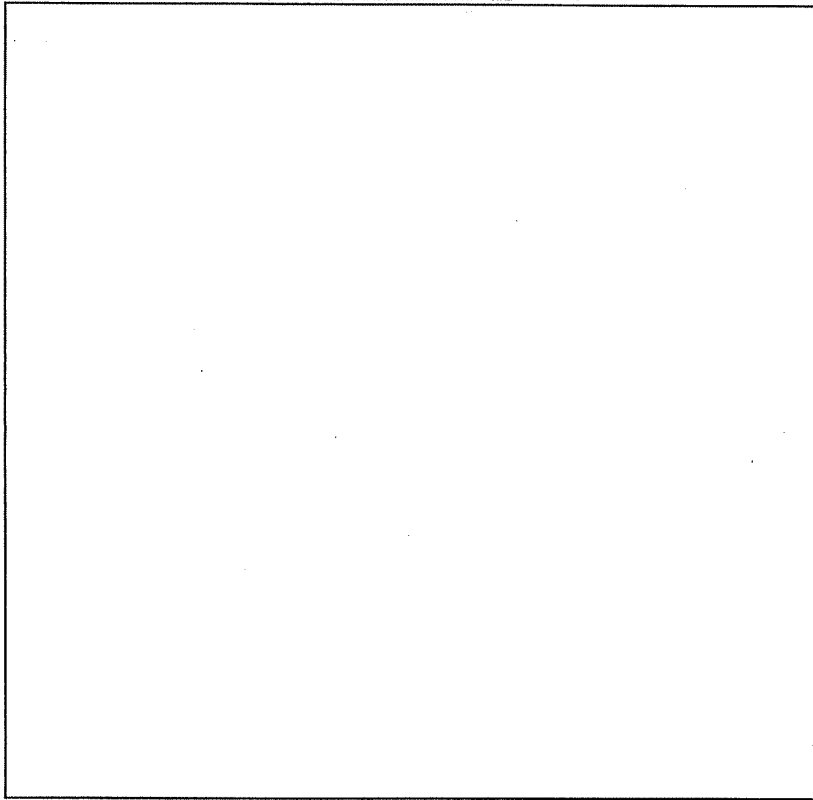
UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

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Sensitivity: Sensitive

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Classified by: Robert J. Riley, Deputy Director, EUR/SE, State

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)

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Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.

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Behind the Headlines: Turkel Commission publishes first part of report

23 Jan 2011

This background document has been prepared before the release of the Turkel Commission's Report. It is based on information made available over the past six months.



IDF soldiers assaulted by dozens of armed activists on the Mavi Marmara

Turkel Commission (23 January 2011):

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Government resolution no. 1796 of June 14, 2010, we respectfully submit to the Government a report on the following matters:

- a. The security circumstances in which the naval blockade on the Gaza Strip was imposed and whether the blockade complies with the rules of international law (paragraph 4a of the Government resolution).
- b. Whether the actions carried out by Israel to enforce the naval blockade on May 31, 2010, complied with the rules of international law (paragraph 4b of the Government resolution).
- c. The actions carried out by the organizers and participants of the flotilla and their identities (paragraph 4c of the Government resolution).

Concluding Remarks of Report Summary

Today, approximately five months after hearing the first testimonies, the Commission is completing this part of its work. After a journey full of obstacles and pitfalls, and after exhaustive investigations, inquiries, studies and discussions, here are our conclusions:

The naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip - in view of the security circumstances and Israel's efforts to comply with its humanitarian obligations - was legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

The actions carried out by Israel on May 31, 2010, to enforce the naval blockade had the regrettable consequences of the loss of human life and physical injuries. Nonetheless, and despite the limited number of uses of force for which we could not reach a conclusion, the actions taken were found to be legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Behind the Headlines

Israel was entitled under international law to board the *Mayi Marmara*. Maritime blockades are recognized by international law as legitimate, and may be enforced in international waters.

Israel is engaged in an ongoing armed conflict with Hamas, a terrorist organization which violently seized de facto control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist groups have launched more than ten thousand rockets at Israeli cities and towns. Israel has imposed a maritime blockade on the Hamas regime in order to prevent it from building up its military capabilities, smuggling terrorists and weapons and staging attacks from the sea.

Security considerations have likewise led Israel to impose a number of restrictions on the transfer of goods and supplies to Gaza via its land crossings. At the same time, Israel has continued to facilitate the import of hundreds of thousands of tons of food, medicine and other goods into Gaza, thereby ensuring that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population are met.



Hamas fighters prepare to launch rockets at Israel

International law recognizes maritime blockades as a legal and legitimate measure within the context of armed conflicts. A blockade may be enforced against breach. Article 98 of the San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea states "Merchant vessels believed on reasonable grounds to be breaching a blockade may be captured." Furthermore, "Merchant vessels which, after prior warning, clearly resist capture may be attacked" (see similarly art. 67a.)

The blockading party has the right under international law to stop ships which intend to evade the blockade, even if they have not yet entered the blockaded area. Ships may be stopped even if they are in international waters. The US Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations explains that an "attempted breach of blockade occurs from the time a vessel or aircraft leaves a port or airfield with the intention of evading the blockade."

International law requires that a blockade must "be applied impartially to the vessels of all States." (San Remo, art. 100). The blockading party may stop ships claiming to carry humanitarian aid. The duty to ensure that the humanitarian needs of a blockaded territory

are met, which Israel complies with, does not imply a duty to allow the passage of a particular ship.

Israel publicly declared the imposition of a maritime blockade on the Gaza Strip in full compliance with international law. It informed the flotilla ships of the blockade numerous times through diplomatic, media and maritime channels.

The flotilla's cargo was in no way essential for meeting Gaza's humanitarian needs. In any case, even if allowing a particular ship to enter the blockaded territory were essential to meeting the humanitarian needs of the civilian population, international law would still allow the blockading party to insist on inspecting the ship. It would also have the right to demand that the ship's cargo be distributed by a recognized neutral party. Such a security inspection could not be carried out at sea. Neither the Turkish IHH nor the Free Gaza Movement, the organizations which lead the flotilla, is a recognized neutral party.



Non-neutral parties- members of the Free Gaza Movement receive medals from Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh (center, first row)



IHH head Bulent Yildirim with Hamas Political Chief Khaled Mashaal

Israel took numerous steps to avoid the need to employ force while taking control of the Mavi Marmara.

Israel made numerous efforts to avoid employing force and had no desire to cause harm to civilians. It repeatedly communicated the following or similar messages to the flotilla activists both before and during their journey (video):

"Mavi Marmara, you are approaching an area of hostilities, which is under a naval blockade... The Israeli government supports delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian

population in Gaza Strip and invites you to enter Ashdod port. Delivery of supplies will be in accordance with the authorities' regulations...and under your observation, after which you can return to your home ports aboard the vessels on which you arrived."

The ships were also warned that if they proceeded, Israel would be forced to take all necessary steps to enforce its blockade.

No effective method currently exists for forcing a ship the size of the Marmara to change course without taking physical control. Attempts to block the ship's passage with other vessels or to disable its systems would have endangered the flotilla participants. Israel had no choice but to board the vessel.

The naval commandos were instructed to use the minimum force necessary to take control of the vessels, and to avoid lethal force unless necessary for self-defense in the event that their lives were in immediate danger.

Accordingly the first teams to land on the Marmara were equipped primarily with riot-control equipment such as tear gas and paintball guns.

Using similar methods, Israel had stopped a number of previous attempts to violate its blockade without having to resort to lethal force. Five out of the six ships in the May 2010 flotilla were brought under Israeli control without serious injury to flotilla participants or soldiers. Since the Marmara, the IDF has prevented several additional attempts to violate its blockade without the need to employ a significant degree of force. This indicates that the problem stemmed not from Israeli methods, but from the violent behavior of the flotilla activists.

Soldiers abseiling onto the ship from helicopters were assaulted immediately by dozens of activists wielding knives and clubs, who also seized four of the soldiers' firearms. Facing an immediate threat to their lives, the soldiers had no choice but to use force to repel the attack.



Activists making preparations to confront Israeli soldiers



Soldiers assaulted by dozens of armed activists

A number of the Marmara's passengers were members of hardcore Islamist groups. These activists openly declared their desire for a violent confrontation and their hope to die as shahids (martyrs).

While the majority of the flotilla passengers may well have been peaceful civilians, some (approx. 40-50) were hardcore extremists determined to violently attack the Israeli boarding party.

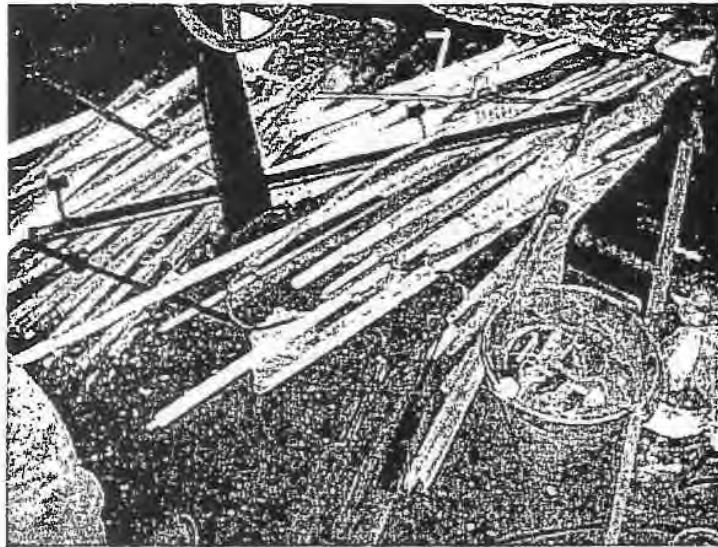
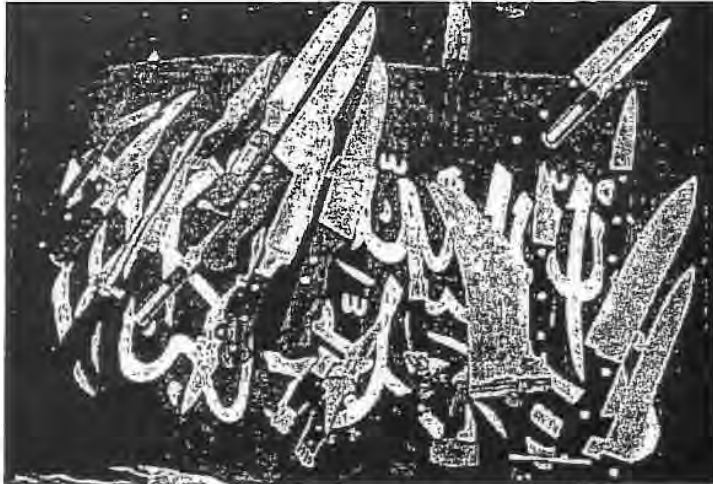
Many of the members of this group were affiliated with the Turkish Islamic organization IHH, which Western countries and terrorism experts have described as a supporter of terrorist groups including Hamas.

IHH head Bulent Yildirim declared on board the Marmara: "We're going to defeat the Israeli commandos... If you bring your soldiers here, we will throw you off the ship and you'll be humiliated in front of the whole world." During the voyage, IHH activists chanted songs celebrating the killing of Jews and openly declared their desire to die as shahids (martyrs) (view videos [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

Former U.S. Marine Kenneth O'Keefe, who took part in the assault on the soldiers, told the Haaretz newspaper ("Rough Passage", 24 Sept 2010) "I knew that if the Israelis boarded that ship, it would be a disaster... You have to be an idiot to board that ship and think it will be a ship of passive resistance."

This group of hardcore extremists took control of the ship prior to the IDF's boarding. According to the Chief Officer of the Marmara, they limited the movement of the other flotilla participants and carefully controlled entrance to certain parts of the ship.

These activists were equipped with commando knives, daggers, tear gas, gas masks, night vision goggles, and ballistic vests (view [here](#) and [here](#)) - objects not found on a humanitarian passenger ship.



Weapons used by the Marmara passengers (Photos: IDF Spokesperson)

Israeli soldiers employed a necessary and proportionate degree of force.

The first several Israeli commandos who boarded the Marmara were rushed by dozens of activists wielding knives, clubs, and chains. The first soldier to land was stabbed and thrown to the deck below. The second was shot in the stomach. Others suffered knife and gunshot wounds as well.

The attackers were able to take four of the soldiers' firearms. O'Keefe told the BBC that "myself and another brother descended on him [a wounded soldier] and the first thing I did was to go for his 9mm pistol." While O'Keefe claims that the gun was not used, two soldiers suffered gunshot wounds. Video released by the IDF records the commandos' surprise at being shot at with live fire.

Three soldiers from the first landing party were seriously wounded and taken by the activists to the ship's interior.

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Therefore the soldiers had no choice but to use limited and precise force against their attackers in self-defense.

Nearly all of those killed were IHH activists or members of affiliated Islamist groups, the very people who led the assault on the descending soldiers. About half had previously declared their hope to be martyrs.

Claims that soldiers summarily executed activists, or that they fired live ammunition indiscriminately from the air, are completely false.

Given that the soldiers were mobbed and intense hand-to-hand combat ensued, it is not surprising that a number of those shot were hit at close range. This does not in any way indicate that they were summarily executed, as the Report prepared for the UN Human Rights Council facetiously states.

The claim that activists were shot from the air is also unfounded; the commandos rappelling from helicopters required both hands to grasp the rope and could not have fired. The helicopters carrying the commandos were not equipped with firing systems, nor did they carry snipers who could have fired from the air.

Israel began its operation using stun grenades, paintball guns, and other crowd control equipment.

The timing and manner of the operation were a result of the complex situation and Israel's desire to avoid harm to civilians.

The early morning timing of Israel's boarding was the result of numerous factors. Given the expected time that it would take to board six ships carrying more than 700 flotilla participants, and the fact that the ships continued ahead at full speed, Israel decided to carry out the operation at a distance from the Israeli coast. Israel also allowed time to observe whether the ships would heed its numerous warnings to change course.

Once it became clear that boarding the ships would be necessary, Israel employed one of its most highly-trained and disciplined units, which had carried out several similar missions while avoiding the use of lethal force. The timing was likewise meant to contribute to a rapid and non-violent transfer of control.

As soon as the danger to the soldiers subsided, IDF medics attended to wounded activists. The flotilla participants were treated in a respectful manner while specially-trained units searched for additional weapons.

Immediately following the completion of the operation, IDF medics attended to the injured. Given the violent confrontation that had just taken place, the participants and ship were searched for additional weapons by soldiers specially trained in such procedures. Activists judged to constitute a potential threat were restrained, while the other flotilla passengers were not.

31 activists were airlifted from the ship directly to Israeli hospitals. Another 24 were transferred to Israeli medical facilities after docking in Ashdod. These activists were given professional medical care at six of Israel's leading hospitals.

The flotilla participants were processed in an orderly manner and offered the option of being quickly deported. Those who refused this offer were given access to medical care and diplomatic personnel while detained. Within a week, all foreign flotilla participants had departed.

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Israel prepared extensively to quickly and efficiently process the flotilla participants. Those in need of medical attention were taken to hospitals. The rest were registered in a specially erected reception center staffed by government officials and translators. In special cases, such as that of a mother with a one-year old baby, passengers were immediately sent back to their countries of origin.

The flotilla participants were then taken to the new 'Aileh' detention center in southern Israel. There they were held in open units where, other than during roll calls, they were free at all times to leave their rooms and congregate in common areas. They were provided with all their needs including medical care.

Flotilla participants willing to be deported were able to leave the country within a very short time of their arrival. The departure of those who refused was delayed by several days.

The activists were not held incommunicado. They were given access to the diplomatic officials of their home countries. Consular representatives from 26 countries, as well as 19 lawyers providing legal services, visited the flotilla participants. Participants were also provided with phone cards.

As the flotilla ships were still making their way to Ashdod, a petition was filed with Israel's Supreme Court which challenged the custody of the flotilla passengers by Israeli authorities. The Court held hearings on the matter within 48 hours and ultimately dismissed the petition.

While Israel could have begun prosecutions against those who had assaulted its soldiers, it decided to release all of the flotilla participants. Six days after the ships were brought to Ashdod, all of the foreign flotilla participants had left Israel.

The Mavi Marmara itself did not carry humanitarian aid. The limited amount of aid carried by the other ships included outdated and useless medicines.

The Mavi Marmara did not carry humanitarian aid. The humanitarian aid that was carried by three of the flotilla ships appears to have been carelessly packed, leading to some of it being damaged. The BBC's Jane Corbin found that two-thirds of the medicines aboard the flotilla "are out of date and useless."

Of the 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies which the flotilla claimed to be carrying, approximately 8,000 tons consisted of construction materials. Hamas uses such materials for building rockets, bunkers and launching sites. Therefore, while Israel regrets the difficulties that may be caused to Gaza's civilians, it can only allow the import of such materials in coordination with recognized international bodies.

Hamas initially refused to allow aid from the flotilla into Gaza. Israel made good on its promise to quickly prepare the aid for transfer. Hamas, however, apparently felt that the need was less pressing. An unnamed Gaza official told the Guardian, "Israel brought five truckloads of wheelchairs to the crossings, but Hamas turned them back."

Israel's import restrictions and blockade are legal under international law.

International law recognizes the right of a state to impose a naval blockade within the context of hostilities.

The blockade on Gaza has been imposed strictly for security reasons and is not aimed at harming the civilian population. These security considerations include the need to prevent the smuggling of terror operatives and military-use materials into and out of Gaza, and to

prevent terrorist attacks against Israeli towns and vessels.

With regard to Israel's restrictions on the transfer of goods into Gaza- such a policy is neither illegal nor considered collective punishment. This is indicated by the numerous examples from the international community (for example, the UN's 13-year sanctions against Iraq.) Although international law requires that Israel facilitate the transfer of humanitarian aid to Gaza, Israel has no obligation to engage in economic relations or maintain open borders with the territory.

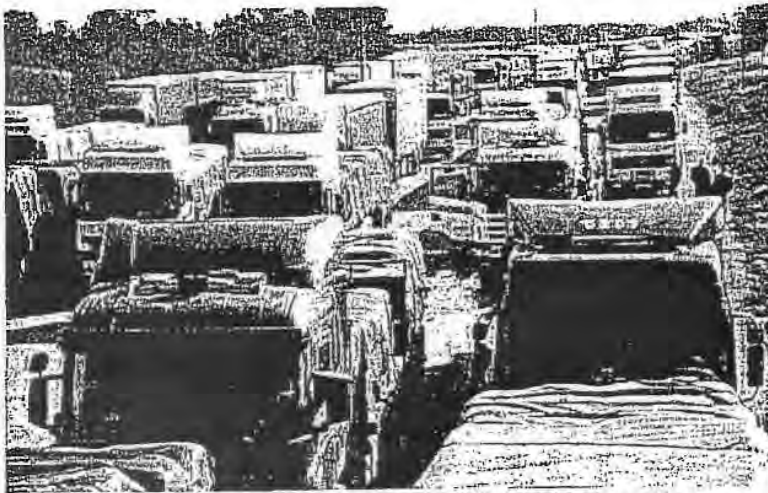
Israel has facilitated the transfer of well over a million tons of goods and supplies to Gaza, thereby more than ensuring that its humanitarian needs are met.

Despite the armed conflict with Hamas, Israel has gone far beyond the demands of international law in assisting Gaza's civilian population. Israel has provided or facilitated the transfer of over a million tons of humanitarian goods and supplies to the Gaza population. At no point has there been a humanitarian crisis in the territory.

From the end of the 2008-2009 Gaza War until approximately the time of the IHH flotilla, Israel facilitated the delivery to Gaza of 1,025,686 tons of aid, 49,610 tons of cooking gas and 136,097,330 liters of fuel. This aid includes wheat, meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, baby formula, seeds, clothes, school supplies, medical equipment, glass, wood and equipment for the flower industry.

Numerous indicators show that there is no humanitarian crisis or extreme hardship in Gaza. According to the CIA World Factbook, the projected life expectancy in Gaza is 73.68, greater than that in half of the world's countries, including many in Europe. The infant mortality rate in Gaza is 17.71 per 1000, lower than in the West Bank and in more than 50% of countries worldwide.

As explained, Israel has been forced to restrict the import of construction materials in order to prevent Hamas from using such materials for military purposes. However, Israel does facilitate the import of construction materials in coordination with recognized international agencies.



Truckloads of aid at the Gaza border crossing (Photo: IDF Spokesperson)



A Gaza market, September 2009 (Photo: Reuters)
(Video of daily life in Gaza)

Israel facilitates the transfer of medical supplies into Gaza and treats thousands of Gazans each year in Israeli hospitals.

In 2009, 4,883 tons of medical equipment and medicine were brought into the Strip, 10,544 patients and their companions left Gaza to receive treatment in Israeli hospitals (Israel also treats patients and trains doctors from the West Bank.)



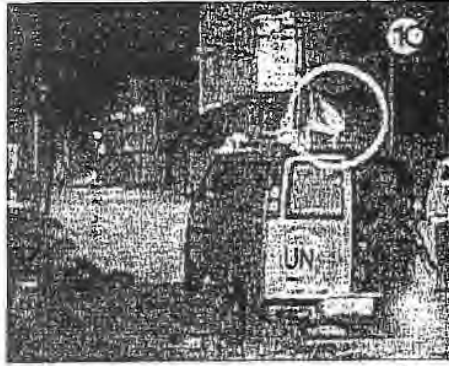
Gazan children with cancer enter Israel for treatment
(Photo: Rafael Ben-Ari/Chameleons Eye). View [video](#)
Video from Israeli hospital program for training Palestinian doctors

The medical corridor is maintained despite the fact that since 2005, Palestinians have used medical cooperation arrangements to carry out more than 20 terrorist attacks.

Hamas refuses to allow the International Red Cross or any other organization access to an Israeli soldier which it has been holding hostage since June 2006. This is a gross violation of his basic human rights.

Israel's restrictions are necessary in light of Hamas' repeated diversion of goods and supplies for its own purposes. Israel's border crossings have been attacked numerous times since Hamas' takeover of Gaza.

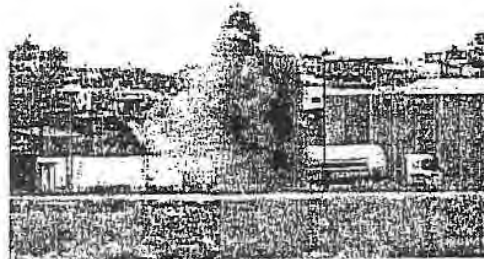
The Hamas regime's control of the Gaza Strip has enabled it to divert goods and supplies on numerous occasions in order to build its military and economic capabilities. For example in February 2009 UNRWA halted its import of goods into Gaza after Hamas repeatedly seized thousands of tons of aid from the UN agency. In August 2009 Hamas claimed to have seized three ambulances transferred from Israel to UNRWA (UNRWA officials issuing conflicting reports regarding the claim.) Palestinian officials have complained that Hamas commandeers fuel trucks coming from the Nahal Oz crossing for its own needs.



Video of Hamas using ambulances to transfer armed militants in Gaza
(Reuters, 2004)

The transfer of fuel to Gaza has been disrupted at times due to disputes between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. A UN official described this as a "Palestinian problem, made by Palestinians, and causing Palestinian suffering." Hamas has also repeatedly attacked the Nahal Oz fuel depot. Quartet envoy Tony Blair explained that "most people don't understand- that we're trying to urge Israel to get fuel into Gaza, and then the extremists come and kill the people bringing the fuel in. It's a crazy situation."

Since Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza, more than a dozen bombs and mortar attacks have been launched at the crossing points at which goods are transferred. Israeli servicemen and civilians have died in these attacks.



April 2008 mortar attack on the Nahal Oz fuel terminal at the Israeli-Gaza border,
in which two Israelis were killed. (Photo: Flash90)

Nevertheless, Israel has assisted in the export of several of Gaza's main commodities, such as strawberries and flowers, in accordance with security considerations.

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Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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No: 29, 23 January 2011, Press Statement by the National Inquiry and Investigation Commission Instituted Upon Israel's Attack on the International Humanitarian Aid Convoy

On 31 May 2010, Israeli armed forces attacked, on the high seas, a convoy brought together by aid volunteers from 37 countries and different faiths to deliver humanitarian relief material to the people in the Gaza Strip. Nine persons were killed and scores were wounded during the attack.

In order to shed light upon all aspects of the attack, Turkey established a National Inquiry and Investigation Commission composed of representatives from pertinent institutions. The UN Secretary-General also set up a Panel of Inquiry in accordance with the Presidential Statement adopted by the UN Security Council which held an emergency meeting on 1 June 2010 upon Turkey's request. Israel initiated, through a commission, its own national inquiry as well. Moreover, the UN Human Rights Council has mandated an International Fact-Finding Mission to establish the violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law in connection with the attack.

Heeding the UN's call for prompt consideration of the issue, our Commission has worked intensively and submitted its Interim Report to the UN Panel on 1 September 2010. Also respecting the confidentiality of the process, our Commission has refrained from disclosing its report to the public. In contrast, the Israeli side impeded the Panel's work by constantly delaying its own report, and has chosen to share it with the public even before submitting it to the UN Panel.

Our Commission, convened on 23 January 2011 to thoroughly evaluate these developments, has decided to share, at this stage, the following with the public in view of Israel's unconstructive attitude:

- Israel's so-called "maritime blockade" against the Gaza Strip is devoid of legal basis and legitimacy. Israel's attack which is an extension of this unlawful practice is, therefore, equally illegal.

Under international law, blockades are warfare methods applicable only in armed conflicts of "international" character. Israel is seen to avoid characterizing its armed conflict with Hamas as "international", while claiming reliance on the San Remo Manual, an important compendium of international law applicable to naval war, for its so-called blockade and related practices. Yet, the San Remo Manual, including its provisions relating to the establishment of blockades and the interception of vessels on the high seas, comprise legal rules applicable only to international armed conflicts. As long as Israel does not qualify its armed conflict with Hamas as international, it is estopped from relying any of its practices within the framework of this conflict on the San Remo

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/common/print.htm>

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The result is self-evident and requires no further explanation.

Basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, first and foremost the right to life, have been flagrantly violated, and these violations have continued massively up to the moment that the passengers left Israel. The report of the Fact-Finding Mission of the UN Human Rights Council vividly depicts Israel's violations and the violence it used.

Our Commission is surprised, appalled and dismayed that the national inquiry process in Israel has resulted in the exoneration of the Israeli armed forces despite all the facts that have also been confirmed by the International Fact-Finding Mission.

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Ahn, Michael

From: Guido, Deborah L
 Sent: Monday, November 01, 2010 3:13 PM
 To: Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-PAO-IO-DL; Ankara-POL-DL; Ankara-ECON-DL
 Subject: Gaza Flotilla Guidance - as cleared

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

On Friday, the final guidance was released – FYI

EUR Draft Press Guidance
October 29, 2010

Turkey: Gaza Flotilla

Q: Did the US have advanced notice that the Free Gaza Flotilla was in fact headed to Egypt and not Gaza?

- **The flotilla organizers consistently declared in public their intention to sail directly to Gaza.**

Q: Was there an agreement between the U.S., Israel and Turkey to get the flotilla to reroute to Al-Arish (Egypt)?

- **The United States encouraged direct contacts between Israel and Turkey prior to May 31, but was not involved in any negotiations between Turkey and Israel.**

If Asked:

Q: Can you confirm assertions by Turkish officials that the U.S. was informed by Turkey that the ships were going to Al-Arish?

- **We do not comment on the contents of diplomatic exchanges.**
- **We continue to regard the UN Secretary General’s panel as the primary method for the international community to review the incident. We again express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his efforts to establish this panel, and to the governments of Turkey and Israel for their constructive participation.**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Drafted:
EUR/Press Valerie O’Brien 7-8602

Cleared:

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EUR/FO: TKaidanow ok
EUR/SE: JBaily ok
NEA/IPA:PSutphin ok
NEA/Press:EVasquez ok
P: ABaez ok
D(S): D Duty ok
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The X Meeting with Turkish X
September 20-29th 2010 (NY/GENEVA/ANKARA)

Context

We welcomed UNSYG Ban's establishment of -- and Israel and Turkey's participation in -- a panel to receive and review the Israeli and Turkish investigations of the May 31 flotilla incident. We remain opposed to the HRC flotilla fact-finding mission (FFM), which is mandated to investigate possible Israeli violations of international law related to the incident and oppose a renewal of its mandate in the September session. [redacted]

B5



Key Objectives

- We recognize that the Government of Turkey takes the tragic May 31st incident seriously. [redacted] the USG shares its concern. [redacted]
[redacted]

- We appreciate Turkey's constructive and cooperative spirit in participating on the Secretary General's panel regarding the incident of May 31st. The United States believes that the UNSYG panel, which includes the participation of both Israel and Turkey, offers a balanced and credible channel to address these very serious issues.



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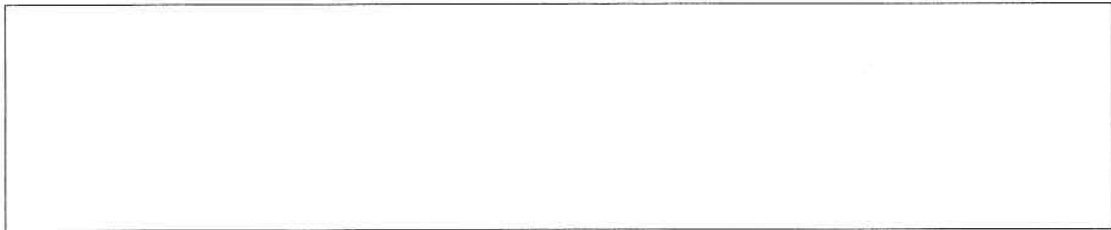
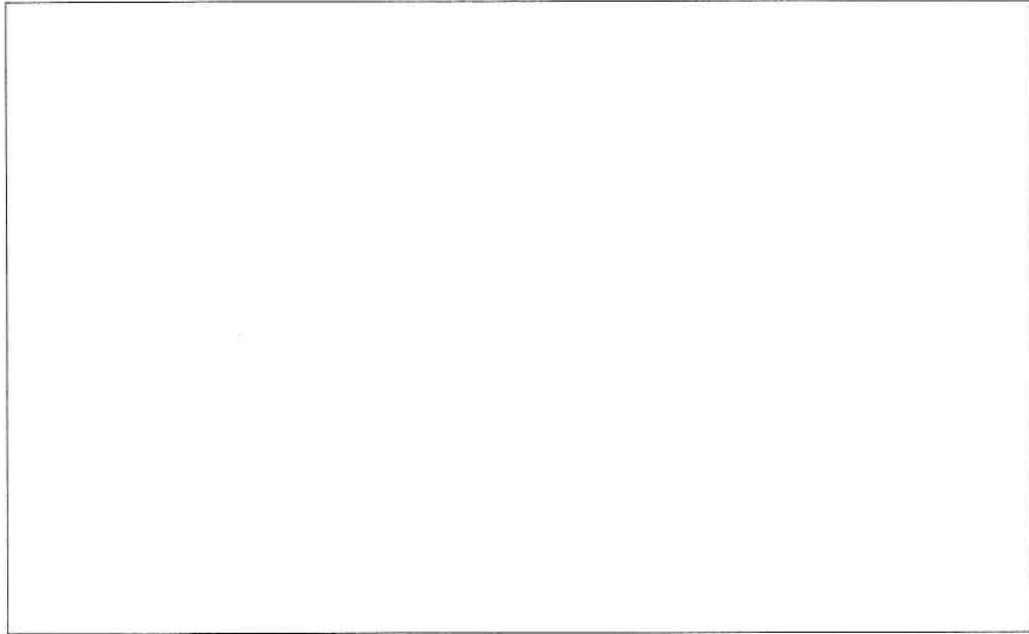
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A/HRC/RES/14/1

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Advance Edited Version

Distr.: General
23 June 2010

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Fourteenth session
Agenda item 1
Organizational and procedural matters

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council^a

14/1 The grave attacks by Israeli forces against the humanitarian boat convoy

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, of 12 August 1949,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, including humanitarian personnel,

Expressing grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in occupied Gaza,

Emphasizing the need to ensure the sustained and regular flow of goods and people into occupied Gaza, and welcoming the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid,


1. *Condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous attack by the Israeli forces against the humanitarian flotilla of ships, which resulted in the killing and injuring of many innocent civilians from different countries;*

2. *Deeply deplores the loss of life of innocent civilians, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families;*

^a The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its fourteenth session (A/HRC/14/37), chap. I.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

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Please recycle 

A/HRC/RES/14/1

3. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of detained and injured persons;
4. *Demands* that the occupying Power, Israel, immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands;
5. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to immediately lift the siege on occupied Gaza and other occupied territories;
6. *Also calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to ensure the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment, to the occupied Gaza Strip;
7. *Welcomes* the statements made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks;
8. *Decides* to dispatch an independent, international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance;
9. *Also decides* to authorize the President of the Council to appoint members to the above-mentioned fact-finding mission, who should report on their findings to the Council at its fifteenth session;
10. *Further decides* to remain seized of this matter.

10th meeting
2 June 2010

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 to 3, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Uruguay,

Against:

Italy, Netherlands, United States of America;

Abstaining:

Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.]

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TODAY'S ZAMAN

Kle

Turkey sets up own national inquiry team for flotilla raid

Soon after a UN probe of Israel's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla began on Tuesday, Ankara announced that it has established its own national commission for investigating the May 31 raid in order to draft a report to be introduced to the UN panel of inquiry.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry, in a written statement released late on Wednesday, recalled that a committee led by Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Interior Minister Beşir Atalay had already been established for investigating the May 31 attack by Israeli security forces on the Gaza humanitarian aid convoy -- which took place in international waters and ended with the killing of eight Turkish and one Turkish-American civilians.



"This time, upon the UN secretary-general's establishment of the inquiry panel, a National Investigation and Examination Commission has been established by the Prime Ministry for the purpose of investigating said attack and the treatment to which persons in the convoy had been exposed to and for preparing a report to be introduced to the UN Inquiry Panel within this framework," the ministry said.

In New York, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met on Tuesday with the four-member panel of inquiry into the May Gaza flotilla incident as they sat down to map out how they will conduct the investigation.

The panel -- comprising Chairperson Geoffrey Palmer, the former New Zealand prime minister, Vice Chair Alvaro Uribe, the former Colombian president, Israel's Joseph Cichanover and Turkey's Özdem Sanberk -- "will spend the coming days determining how they will undertake their task," according to information released by the UN Secretary-General's office.

Ban stressed during the meeting at UN headquarters in New York that the panelists "should seek the fullest cooperation of the national authorities" as they carry out their work, and that they should perform their mandate in line with the UN Security Council presidential statement issued following the flotilla incident on May 31. The first progress report from the panel is scheduled to be delivered to the secretary-general by Sept. 15.

Turkey's national commission will work under the coordination of the prime ministry with the participation of bureaucrats from the Foreign Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the Transportation Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs. For communication with the commission of UN officials and the UN inquiry panel, Ambassador Mithat Rende has been

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

appointed as "the contact point," the ministry said.

The number of members on the commission is not definite as of yet, Today's Zaman learned from diplomatic sources.

"It is envisaged that the National Investigation and Examination Commission will prepare its report via examining the incident in coordination with all related institutions and establishments," the ministry concluded.

Amidst debates over the scope of the mandate of the UN panel, UN sources said earlier this week that the panel is not designed to determine individual criminal responsibility, but to examine and identify the facts, circumstances and the context of the incident involving the flotilla, which had departed from Turkey and was bound for the Gaza Strip.

As part of that, the panel will receive and review the reports of national investigations into the incident and request clarifications and information as it needs from national authorities, according to the same sources.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Council's independent fact-finding mission of high-level experts that is inquiring into the same incident held its first meeting on Monday in Geneva. The mission is charged with determining whether any violation of international law, international humanitarian and human rights law has taken place. Its report is expected to be presented to the council's next session, slated for September.

Rende: an expert on maritime law

Ambassador Rende, who has been chosen as the contact point for communication between the UN and Ankara concerning the inquiries on the attack, is a distinguished expert of maritime law.

Rende currently holds the position of director general for economic affairs, including energy, water and environment at the Foreign Ministry. Prior to serving in this position, he was Turkey's ambassador to Qatar. From 1996-2000 he was counselor at the Turkish Embassy in London and deputy permanent representative of Turkey to the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO). At the IMO, Rende was responsible for negotiating issues related to maritime law. He then completed the post-graduate program at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London on security and international relations.

13.08.2010

News

TODAY'S ZAMAN

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Two-hour Israeli raid video presented in Turkey's UN report

SEVİL KÜÇÜKKOŞUM
ANKARA - Hürriyet Daily News
Thursday, September 2, 2010

Turkey presented video cassettes, passenger testimonies and its legal reasoning that Israel's raid on the Mavi Marmara was an offense in its report Thursday to the United Nations about the attack on the Gaza-bound aid ship.

"We gave the Turkish Foreign Ministry a two-hour video of the Israeli raid of the ship, recorded by an American citizen. The images show how our friends were killed by Israelis," Hüseyin Oruç, a council member of the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or İHH, told the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review on Thursday.

Turkey included the testimonies of 55 Mavi Marmara passengers and forensic opinions on the wounded passengers in its report.

Following Turkish Ambassador Mithat Rende's presentation of Turkey's report to the U.N. investigating committee in New York, sources said Turkey's initiatives regarding the issue would continue.

Eight Turks and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, which included the Mavi Marmara, May 31. Approximately 30 people were wounded in the attack; all of those killed were aboard the Mavi Marmara – a vessel owned by the İHH.

Activists claim the troops started firing as soon as they boarded the ship, while Israeli authorities say passengers attacked the commandos with steel rods and wooden staves as they were abseiling down from helicopters.

The U.N. Human Rights Council established an international fact-finding mission June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including humanitarian and human-rights law, following the attack on the flotilla.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Turkey, on the other hand, is demanding an apology from Israel and compensation for the families of the victims.

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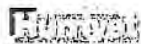
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K8



UN Gaza aid probe finds 'clear evidence' against Israel

GENEVA - Agence France-Presse
Thursday, September 23, 2010

A U.N. probe said Wednesday there was clear evidence to back prosecutions against Israel for killing and torture when its troops stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in May.

In a scathing report, it also threw out Israel's argument that the aid activists were violent, thereby justifying the decision by Israeli soldiers to open fire. The incident left nine Turkish nationals dead and drew global condemnation.

Saying some were victims of actions "consistent with... summary execution," the inquiry ordered by the U.N. Human Rights Council said Israel's military used "unnecessary violence."

These "constituted grave violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law," it said, adding there was "clear evidence to support prosecutions" of crimes including "willful killing; torture or inhuman treatment; and willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health."

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu hailed the U.N. report on Thursday, Anatolia news agency reported.

The report by the U.N. Human Rights Council "is extremely unbiased and based on sound evidence. We appreciate it," Davutoğlu was quoted by Anatolia as telling reporters in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. general assembly.

"It meets our expectations. I hope the Israeli side will ... from now on act within international law," he added.

Israel rejected the report as "biased" and "one-sided." "As expected of a democratic country, Israel has been - and still is - investigating the events of the Gaza flotilla," said a statement released by the Israeli foreign ministry late Wednesday night.

It added that its own committee of inquiry, which includes two international observers, was still at work and that Israel had also agreed to take part in an inquiry set up by the UN Secretary General. "The report... is as biased and as one sided as the body that has produced it," the statement said. "Israel... is of the opinion that the flotilla incident is amply and sufficiently investigated as it is. All additional dealing with this issue is superfluous and unproductive."

Israel has insisted that it acted in line with international law, arguing that it had the right to retaliate against ships attempting to breach its blockade of the impoverished Gaza Strip. However, the probe said Israel's enforcement of a blockade was itself unlawful, since Gaza was suffering from a humanitarian crisis on the day of the deadly raid.

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"For this reason alone, the blockade is unlawful and cannot be sustained in law. This is so regardless of the grounds on which it is sought to justify the legality of the blockade," said the report, which will be presented to the rights council on Monday.

It said even those activists who did not try to stop Israeli soldiers from boarding the aid ships "received injuries, including fatal injuries." "It is apparent that no effort was made to minimize injuries at certain states of the operation and that the use of live fire was done in an extensive and arbitrary manner," said the inquiry.

"The circumstances of the killing of at least six of the passengers were in a manner consistent with an extra-legal, arbitrary and summary execution," it added. "The conduct of the Israeli military and other personnel towards the flotilla passengers was not only disproportionate to the occasion but demonstrated levels of totally unnecessary and incredible violence," said the probe.

The fact-finding mission, chaired by Karl Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, had travelled to Turkey, Jordan and Britain to interview witnesses and officials for the probe.

Desmond de Silva, former chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal, and Shanthi Dairiam, as Malaysian human rights expert, are the other members of the panel.

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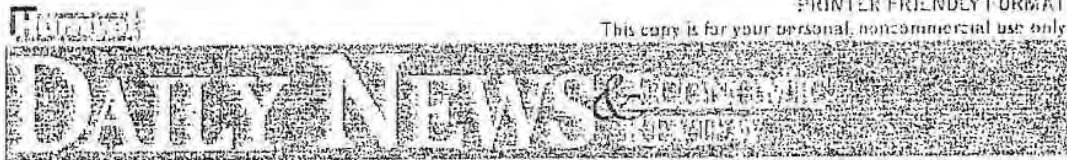
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Israel bracing for 'mother of all flotillas' to Gaza

TEL AVIV - From wire dispatches
Tuesday, September 7, 2010

Israel is bracing for what is being described by its military as the "mother of all flotillas," comprising up to 20 ships planning to set sail for the blockaded Gaza Strip, a report said Tuesday.

The flotilla is being organized by a coalition of nongovernmental organizations from Europe and the United States, including a group calling itself European Jews for a Just Peace, Israel's Jerusalem Post reported. The groups hope to set off within the coming months.

"We hope to have a broad coalition from European countries, and also maybe the United States," Dror Feiler, a Stockholm-based Israeli-Swedish musician and artist who is one of the organizers behind the flotilla plans, told the Post on Monday. "We would like it to be double the size of the last flotilla, with at least a dozen ships and more than a thousand people."

According to the newspaper, the Israeli military is closely tracking the planned flotilla and is preparing for a wide range of scenarios, including the possibility that due to the large number of ships, it will need to stop the vessels far from Israel's shores.

"The Israeli army can stop 12 or 50 ships if it wants," Feiler said. "[Nonetheless] there are so many ships since so many people want to get together to stop the siege, which is a collective punishment on the people of Gaza and is unacceptable."

The May 31 attack

The last flotilla aimed at breaking the Gaza blockade was stopped by Israeli commandos at the end of May. Nine activists, including eight pro-Palestinian Turks and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed during the May 31 attack, which reduced already-tense relations between Turkey and Israel to historic lows.

The coalition behind the new flotilla effort includes the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or IHH, and the Free Gaza Movement, which organized the flotilla stopped in May, the Post said.

The newspaper also reported Tuesday that the Israeli commission investigating the Gaza flotilla attack requested that the Israeli chief of staff's assistant, Col. Erez Weiner, give the court further information on the May 31 raid.

The Turkel Committee, headed by retired high court judge Yaakov Turkel, asked for electronic data and other materials that a committee headed by Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland analyzed when investigating the military aspect of the Gaza flotilla raid.

Turkel's probe also asked for explanations of the soldiers' behavior on the Mavi Marmara, the ship where

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Manual.

- Even if Israel's alleged blockade had not been lacking of legal basis to such an extent, it would still have been unlawful due to the manner in which it is enforced, since Israel has not met various requirements for a naval blockade to be accepted as lawful.

Furthermore, Israel's so-called blockade does not fulfill the requirements of "proportionality", "necessity" and "reasonableness" under international law. Having extended its restrictive policies towards the Gaza Strip far beyond what was required for its actual security needs, Israel has banned even daily consumer goods, none of which could constitute military contraband, in order to punish the civilian population. This clearly demonstrates the arbitrary nature of the so-called blockade.

International law prohibits blockades having aimed at starving the civilian population, or inflicting them with disproportionate damage. Given that numerous international organizations such as the UN Security Council, the UN Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Program, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Development Program, and the UN Relief and Works Agency have all described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as "dire", "unacceptable", "unsustainable" or "illegal", Israel's so-called blockade is clearly in violation of international law in this respect as well.

All personalities, including the high level officials of the Human Rights mechanism, who examined this issue have described the so-called Israeli blockade as collective punishment of civilians. With these practices, Israel has violated humanitarian law and in particular the prohibition of collective punishment.

All these clearly illustrate that Israel's so-called blockade and all practices thereunder are devoid of legitimacy and legal basis. Indeed, the Fact-Finding Mission mandated by the Human Rights Council with respect to the attack, has determined the "blockade" to be illegal and inferred therefrom that the interception of the humanitarian aid convoy by Israel and its subsequent detention of passengers and crew were unlawful.

- All the above show that Israel has violated the "Law of War" which it relies on with respect to the attack it carried out against the international aid convoy. Israel's attack on the international aid convoy also violates international peace time law which should in fact be applicable in this case. The freedom of navigation on the high seas and the principle of the Flag State's exclusive jurisdiction are fundamental rules of the Law of the Sea. Israel has flagrantly violated these rules by carrying out an attack, without any authority and jurisdiction, on the international aid convoy while it was sailing on the high seas.

- Israel's attack against the humanitarian aid convoy, which violated both wartime and peacetime international law, has also trampled all international principles, rules and norms with the manner in which it was conducted.

While it had the possibility of intercepting the convoy carrying unarmed civilians without causing bloodshed, Israel opted for a course which made loss of life inevitable. Instead of employing numerous established means of interdiction such as firing across the bow or disabling the rudder, Israel chose to first intimidate and terrorize the passengers, and then to raid the ships in the darkness with lethal force. While so doing, Israel imposed a total electronic blackout on the vessels so that the terror it anticipated would not be transmitted to the outside world.

While Israel should have re-assessed the situation upon the passengers' exercise of self-defense, and had ample time to do so, it chose, on the contrary, to attack with increased violence.

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Turkey says ready to help UN team, hopes Israel coop

Davutoglu said he hoped that Israeli party would also have cooperation with the UN missions.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu met with Sir Desmond de Silva, a member of the International Fact-Finding Mission of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council set up to examine the Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, in capital Ankara on Monday.

Officials from the Foreign Ministry said that Davutoglu and de Silva discussed the raid on Mavi Marmara ship and developments in the following period.

Officials quoted Davutoglu as saying that the stance to be assumed by international community was very important, because it would help the issue to be cleared up and also contribute to peace by showing that no country was superior to international law.

Davutoglu said that Turkey was ready to fully cooperate with UN commissions. "If you have any question, you can ask now. I am ready to share every information with you," he said in the meeting.

Davutoglu said he hoped that Israeli party would also have cooperation with the UN missions.

Members of the international mission are expected to hold a series of talks in Ankara, Istanbul and the southern town of Iskenderun till August 29.

As part of their visit, the delegation will come together with a national investigation commission, listen to those injured in the attack and the witnesses, and meet executives of Turkish ministries and institutions.

Committee members will also examine the "Mavi Marmara", "Defne Y" and "Gazze" aid ships.

Nine people, including eight Turkish and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on May 31. Around 30 people were wounded in the attack.

The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council set up the international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

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K11

UN team in Turkey to probe Israel aid flotilla attack - UPDATED

Members of an international fact-finding mission will pay a visit to Turkey to examine the Israeli attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

World Bulletin / News Desk

Members of an international fact-finding team established by the UN Human Rights Council began meeting with Turkish officials in Ankara on Monday as part of an investigation into an Israeli attack on an aid flotilla on May 31 that left nine activists dead.

Members of the UN panel met with President Abdullah Gul and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Monday and are due to travel to Istanbul and Iskenderun, where three Turkish ships that were part of the aid flotilla are currently docked, before completing their visit on Sunday, Aug. 29, according to a Foreign Ministry statement released late on Sunday.

The fact-finding mission is composed of British lawyer Desmond de Silva -- a former UN war crimes prosecutor -- Trinidadian judge Karl T. Hudson-Phillips and Malaysian women's rights advocate Mary Shanthi Dairiam. Its mandate is primarily to investigate whether Israel breached international humanitarian or human rights law.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the investigative team will meet with representatives from a national inquiry delegation set up by Turkey, hear witnesses of the Israeli raid, including those injured in the attack, and confer with officials from the Foreign Ministry and other relevant state institutions. The Foreign Ministry also pledged full cooperation with the UN panel, saying "all sorts of assistance and facilitation will be offered" to the team during its work.

Their final report on the May 31 raid, said the statement, "carries great importance in terms of shedding light on the facts about the incident."

The UN Human Rights Council's investigation into the Israeli raid, which took place in international waters, is separate from a higher-profile UN probe announced by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The 47-member council's probe was launched before Ban's announcement of the high-level panel earlier this month.

The president of the Geneva-based council, Sihasak Phuangketkeow, has dismissed claims that Ban's announcement made the Human Rights Council investigation superfluous, saying earlier this month that the fact-finding mission should proceed because there is a clear distinction between the missions and mandates of the two inquiries.

Israel has said it would work with Ban's panel, which is led by former New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer and outgoing Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and includes members from Turkey and Israel. But the Jewish state has previously refused to take part in council investigations. Sihasak said it would be "in the interest of Israel to do so."

Both teams are expected to publish their findings in September.

Israeli commandos trying to prevent activists from breaking its blockade of Gaza killed eight Turks and one Turkish-American during the raid on one of the flotilla's six vessels.

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8/24/2010

K12

TODAY'S ZAMAN

UN fact-finding team in Turkey for aid flotilla probe

Members of an international fact-finding team established by the UN Human Rights Council began meeting with Turkish officials in Ankara on Monday as part of an investigation into an Israeli attack on an aid flotilla on May 31 that left nine activists dead.

Members of the UN panel met with President Abdullah Gül and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu on Monday and are due to travel to İstanbul and İskenderun, where three Turkish ships that were part of the aid flotilla are currently docked, before completing their visit on Sunday, Aug. 29, according to a Foreign Ministry statement released late on Sunday.



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would be "in the interest of Israel to do so." Both teams are expected to publish their findings in September.

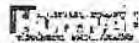
Israeli commandos trying to prevent activists from breaking its blockade of Gaza killed eight Turks and one Turkish-American during the raid on one of the flotilla's six vessels. Israel has said the soldiers acted in self-defense after being attacked as they boarded the Mavi Marmara, owned by a Turkish charity. Turkey, on the other hand, is demanding an apology from Israel and compensation for the families of the victims.

24.08.2010

News

TODAY'S ZAMAN

K13



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Int'l Gaza flotilla committee to visit Turkey

ANKARA – Anatolia News Agency
Monday, August 23, 2010

Members of an international fact-finding mission are scheduled to visit Turkey to examine evidence from Israel's attack in May on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry's statement said members of the independent mission would hold talks in Ankara, Istanbul and the southern town of Iskenderun till Aug. 29. Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu will receive the delegation in Ankara.

The delegation is expected to confer with a domestic Turkish investigation commission, hear testimony from witnesses of the attack, including those who were injured, and meet leaders from Turkish state ministries and institutions.

Members of the international mission will also examine the Mavi Marmara, Defne Y and Gazze aid ships. In its statement, the ministry said the report the international mission would prepare was of vital importance in revealing the facts of what happened during the attack.

Around 30 people were injured when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on May 31. Eight Turkish citizens and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent were killed.

The United Nations Human Rights Council set up the international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate the possibility that Israel violated international law – specifically international humanitarian and human rights law – when it attacked the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance supplies.

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R14

EU-US insensitive to Israel-killed activists disappoint Turkey

UN draft resolution was adopted by 30 votes against 1 vote (that belonged to USA). EU countries abstained at the voting.

Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that the United States objected and the European Union (EU) member countries abstained against the UN Human Rights Council's draft resolution regarding Israeli attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla.

The ministry released a statement and said report of the fact-finding mission established by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the raid in the international waters and its consequences which resulted in death of eight Turkish citizens and a U.S. citizen, was submitted to the Council on September 22.

The draft resolution, submitted to the council by Pakistan on behalf of the 57 OIC-member states, was adopted by 30 votes against 1 vote (that belonged to USA). EU countries abstained at the voting.

The statement said the UN Human Rights Council approved the report of the international fact-finding mission which was prepared in a professional and objective stance and adopted a draft resolution on September 29 pertaining to points on following of the report.

"Despite evident EU principles on human rights, EU member countries, whose citizens were evacuated by Turkey following Israeli raid, used abstained vote and the United States, whose citizen was killed in the attack, used negative vote. Turkey was disappointed and conveyed its sensitivity on the matter to EU and the United States."

The statement said, "assessments of the report that Israel's armed attack in the international waters was evidently illegal, that Israeli troops used excessive, unnecessary and unbelievable violence and the intervention seriously violated human rights law and rules of humanitarian law were important. Turkey expects all the related parties, mainly Israel, to draw necessary lesson from the assessments in question."

Nine people, including eight Turkish citizens and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters on May 31. Around 30 people were wounded in the attack.

The UN Human Rights Council set up an international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attack on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

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R15



Gaza flotilla: Statement by PM Netanyahu

31 May 2010

This regrettable incident was the result of an intentional provocation of forces which support Iran and its terrorist enclave, Hamas, in the Gaza Strip.



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

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[Translated from Hebrew]

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, 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 more, and this is why Israel must inspect the goods that come into Gaza. It's also a clear case 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 will 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 casings 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

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http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Speeches+by+Israeli+leaders/2010/Gaza_flotilla... 10/18/2010

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Date: 05/01/2012

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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.

Statement following meeting with Canadian PM Stephen Harper (31 May 2010):

Gaza has become a base for Hamas terrorists backed by Iran, from which they fire thousands of rockets into Israel. They're amassing thousands more rockets to fire at our cities, at our towns, at our children. Our policy is this: we try to let in all humanitarian goods into Gaza, all peaceful commodities - food, medicine and the like. What we want to prevent coming into Gaza are rockets, missiles, explosives and war materiel that could be used to attack our civilians.

This is an ongoing policy and it was the one that guided our action yesterday. We told the flotilla of ships, we said: "You can take all your cargo. Put it in our port of Ashdod. We'll just ferret out if there are any war materials and the rest will go through." We succeeded doing this peacefully with five of the six ships. The sixth ship, the largest, which had hundreds of people on it not only did not cooperate in this effort, they deliberately attacked the first soldiers that came on the ship. They were mobbed; they were clubbed; they were beaten; they were stabbed and there was even a report of gunfire.

Our soldiers had to defend themselves, defend their lives or they would have been killed, and regrettably, in this exchange at least ten people died. We regret this loss of life. We regret any of the violence that was there. I would like to wish speedy recovery to the wounded, including four of our own soldiers.

Our policy was and will continue to be that we will let humanitarian aid, any kinds of goods that are meant for peace to the civilian population in Gaza. We have no quarrel with the people of Gaza. We do have a conflict with the terrorist regime of Hamas, supported by Iran. We want to maintain a situation where we prevent weapons and raw materials from coming into Gaza. That is our main task.

B158

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:44 PM
To: Gordon, Philip H; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted] Silliman, Douglas A; Ross, Dennis B.
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

B6
B6

+ Dennis Ross

[redacted] did not commit on the timetable for release of those deemed suspects by the Attorney General. The number was unknown but was estimated at lower than 55 (clearly not all of these are Turks, however). The Israelis were clear with us that those under the AG's authority would only be released subject to legal proceedings, which they hoped would go quickly, but could not promise. Based on what [redacted] reported (directly after speaking with the PM), POTUS was able to tell Erdogan that the deportation process was beginning imminently and the Israelis intended it to proceed quickly, although some political and legal issues remained in some cases. He also asked for patience.

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

From: Gordon, Philip H [mailto:GordonPH@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:33 PM
To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.; Brink, Bridget A.; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J; Shapiro, Daniel B.
Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

[redacted] B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

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

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:14 PM
To: Gordon, Philip H; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted] Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

B6

[redacted] just called with the following:

- There are 673 total detainees from the Gaza flotilla.
- Of those, 118 will be deported via Jordan.
- 50 are being expelled via the airport, having signed a consent form.
- 120 others will be sent out via the airport "shortly."
- Israel is "hoping to make the deadline" for releasing Turks, with the deadline being the 11 a.m. Wednesday Turkish security council meeting.
- Three Lebanese are being deported directly via Ras Naqoura.
- 55 of various nationalities are wounded. The wounded are being treated as suspects in the attacks on the IDF by the Israelis. The Attorney General needs to rule on what to do

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

with these 55. Israelis may want to bring court cases against these, which argues against a quick release. But these are in the hands of the Attorney General.

Jeffrey Feltman
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209

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

From: Gordon, Philip H
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:35 PM
To: Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted]; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

B6

Davutolgu very clear today that they wanted all of the passengers out, unconditionally. If all not permitted to leave many others would refuse to leave. Important to get commitment on getting all out or big trouble ahead.

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

From: Cunningham, James B
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted]; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Subject: Re: MFA on cabinet meeting

B6

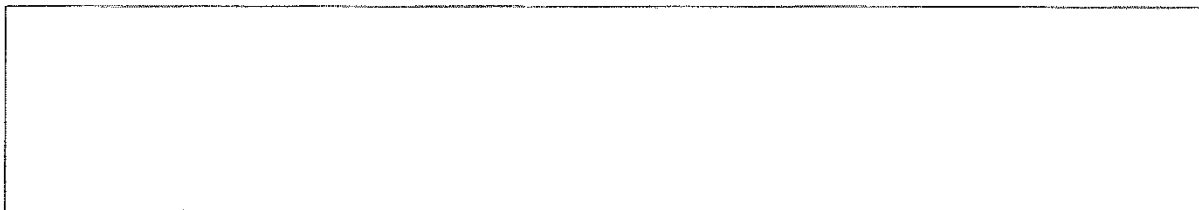
Mfa readout might not square with what [redacted] told me. I think they will try to find a way to get most of the turkish out soon, and all in the near future. [redacted] said [redacted] is tasked to get the deportations working. We'll follow to see if they can make it work. He said decision was to get the Turks back.
Sent from my BlackBerry

B6

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

From: Jeffrey, James F
To: Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Sent: Tue Jun 01 23:20:42 2010
Subject: Re: MFA on cabinet meeting

B5





B5

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

From: Sievers, Marc J

To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group

Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura

Sent: Tue Jun 01 23:08:22 2010

Subject: MFA on cabinet meeting

[Redacted] called me to update on deportation authority. Cabinet decided it has authority to expedite departure of all detainees not suspected of attacking Israeli military personnel. This apparently covers all those in detention in Beer Sheva. They will still be asked to sign release form, but oral request to leave Israel will be accepted.

B6

Cabinet decided, however, to support police request to detain for possible investigation and perhaps prosecution those who are suspected of attacking Israeli military. He said this means basically all the wounded currently in hospitals and a small number of those in Beer Sheva will be held at least for a few more days while Attorney General decides how to proceed, it's not clear yet whether they will put any of them on trial. I noted this would scuttle understanding reached with Turks about evacuating Turkish wounded. He said that was correct.

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

J73

Logg, Cristina A

From: Kim, Yuri J
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 1:37 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Ankara-EXEC
Subject: FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel [redacted] Syria; [redacted] NR
Turkey!

For AMB's read file pls.

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET//NOFORN
Derived From: Derived from previous message.
Declassify On: 2036/10/18

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 9:05 PM
To: Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J; Stafford, Edward G; Fernandes, Anthony C; Letvin, John C
Subject: Tel Aviv Cable: [redacted] Syria; [redacted] Turkey! NR

SECRET//NOFORN



MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 1221
Date/DTG: Oct 17, 2011 / 171210Z OCT 11
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PTER, MOPS, KISL, EG, TU, IS
Captions: NOFORN
Reference: A) 11 TEL AVIV 1207
Subject: NSS Senior Director Simon Engages the GOI on Egypt, Syria, Turkey

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

1. (S) Summary: On October 4, visiting NSS Senior Director Steven Simon told senior GOI interlocutors [redacted]

[Large redacted area]

	NR
	1.4(B)
	1.4(D)
	B1

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

2. (C)	NR
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Sinai Security

5. (S)

[Redacted] NR

Syria

6. (S) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Turkey

9. (S) [Redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

1.4(D)

B1

	NR

10. (U) NSS Senior Director Simon cleared this message.

Minimize considered.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

Signature: Shapiro

Classified By: Name: Daniel Shapiro, Title: Ambassador

Reason: 1.4 (a), (b), (d)

Declassify On: 2036/10/17

Drafted By: TEL AVIV:Berns, David B

Cleared By: POL:Eussen, Matthew M
EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR:Monosson, Danielle H

POL:Levin, Jan X

POL:Silverman, Robert J

EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

NSS:SSimon

DAO:TCyril

Approved By: EXEC:Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv)

Released By: TEL AVIV:Berns, David B

Info: WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:

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Classification: SECRET//NOFORN

Derived From: Derived from previous message.

Declassify On: 2036/10/17

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U3

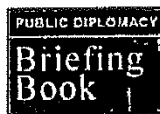
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June 22, 2011

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- [MENA Transition and Reform](#)
- [North Korea](#)
- [Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Sudan/Darfur](#)
- [Terrorism](#)
- [Detainees](#)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

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IRAQ

Iraq Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iraq Q&A

Have the U.S. and Iraq reached an agreement regarding the settlement of claims of U.S. victims of the Saddam Hussein regime?

- ✓ Efforts by the U.S. and Iraq to settle longstanding claims of U.S. nationals who were victims of the Saddam Hussein regime were brought to conclusion on June 21 in accordance with the U.S.-Iraq Claims Settlement Agreement that was signed on September 2, 2010. The settlement is designed to provide fair compensation for American nationals who were prisoners of war, hostages, and human shields during the first Gulf War and U.S. servicemen who were injured in the 1987 attack on the USS Stark, and to confirm Iraq’s immunity in U.S. courts in connection with such claims.
- ✓ The resolution of these claims is the product of several years of hard work and careful negotiations between the governments of the U.S. and Iraq. It represents a significant step in Iraq’s efforts to resolve outstanding claims arising from actions of the previous regime.
- ✓ The Department of State will now establish procedures through which eligible U.S. nationals will be able to apply for compensation for their claims. This may include the referral of some claims to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission for adjudication. (State Department press statement 06/21/11)

Could you comment on U.S. efforts to promote a better business environment in Iraq?

- ✓ The U.S. government believes strongly that expanding economic opportunity is as essential as building democratic institutions. In particular, it’s very important for people going through the changes that are sweeping the region to believe and to see that democracy delivers.

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- ✓ We see too few American companies alongside our soldiers and our diplomats. Iraqis are looking to rebuild every sector of their economy, not only their oil sector but agribusiness, transportation, housing, banking, and many others.
- ✓ There are still significant security challenges, bottlenecks in infrastructure, unclear regulations, and, unfortunately, corruption. But as our Iraqi colleagues will tell you, they are working hard to make it easier to do business in Iraq for Iraqis and foreign investors alike.
- ✓ Each company will make its own decisions about the costs and benefits, but we want to go on record unequivocally in encouraging American business to begin that process, and we will do everything we can to support you in it. Our embassies and consulates will be hubs that support commercial activity in every region of Iraq. The State Department will work hard to champion American companies. USAID, Treasury, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, OPIC, Ex-Im, and many other agencies have unique and proven experience that we can bring to the table.
- ✓ Ambassador Jeffrey is working hard to establish an American Chamber of Commerce in Iraq, which would be another powerful advocate.
- ✓ Ultimately these decisions are up to the Iraqi people: the leaders of the government, the leaders of industry, and, of course, Iraqi men and women who want that better future. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/03/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Doing Business in Iraq (06/03/11)

Can you provide details on the Department's plan to hire security contractors in Iraq?

- ✓ The safety of U.S. government personnel is of primary importance. For years, our diplomats have served admirably in challenging environments.
- ✓ In Iraq, we have operated successfully in multiple areas with Diplomatic Security (DS) personnel and private security contractors (PSCs) since 2004. We have high confidence that our capable security professionals will continue to provide a safe and secure platform to support U.S. foreign policy in Iraq.
- ✓ As the military draws down, the Department is implementing its civilian increase in Iraq. As the Department of Defense has done in Iraq, the Department will rely on the use of contractors for a multitude of functions. We use contractors in contingency operations to fill a surge capacity and when it is cost-efficient, as opposed to building up permanent, U.S. direct-hire staff.
- ✓ At most of our diplomatic facilities world-wide, the guard force staff is comprised of local nationals, and our diplomats live on the local economy. As the security environment improves, we will transition to a more traditional mode of operation.
- ✓ The Department takes contract oversight responsibilities seriously, and has worked to enhance oversight of PSCs. For the DS Worldwide Protective Services contract, DS has increased staffing to more than 200 direct-hire personnel to oversee the contract and its task orders, and to ensure contract compliance by approximately 5,100 contract employees currently expected to be working in Iraq after the transition.
- ✓ We are confident that, in close coordination and cooperation with the U.S. military and the Government of Iraq, we will carry out a successful transition beyond 2011 while maintaining security for our personnel.
- ✓ The U.S. and Iraq are rebalancing the relationship while we remain committed to a comprehensive partnership – based on the Strategic Framework Agreement – that will broaden the emphasis on political, economic, environmental, technological and cultural cooperation, while also expanding on success in the realm of security that was the focus of recent years. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

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IRAN

Iran Message

- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran’s leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **National Security Advisor Jones** – “Iran’s continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran’s continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iran Q&A

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Can you comment on reports of violence against Iranian protestors marking the second anniversary of the country’s contested election?

- ✓ We have seen reports that a heavier-than-usual number of security forces were deployed to break up protestors, and that they arrested many of them and used tear gas and batons to disperse them.
- ✓ We were also deeply saddened to learn of the death of jailed political activist and journalist Hoda Saber after a hunger-strike in protest of fellow activist Haleh Sahabi’s death on June 1. It is a stark reminder that, two years after the first large-scale crackdown on peaceful protestors in the region, the Iranian government has not changed tactics. It continues to jail, torture, and brutally repress those Iranian citizens who demand justice, accountability from their government, and their universal human rights.
- ✓ We again mourn all the victims of this repression, and express our deepest condolences to their families and friends. We call on the international community to renew our resolve to stand with citizens who yearn to be free and to exercise their universal rights. We stand join all people of

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conscience around the world in condemning the violence of these regimes. (Press Guidance, 06/13/11)

What is the U.S. response to UN Security Council's extension of the Iran Panel of Experts' mandate for another twelve months?

- ✓ The United States strongly supports the Iran Panel of Experts and we are pleased the Security Council voted to renew its mandate on June 9.
- ✓ UN sanctions panels are well-established and independent tools to improve implementation of UN sanctions. The Iran Panel of Experts has given the Council and its Iran Sanctions Committee independent, professional, seasoned advice on how to do just that.
- ✓ In light of Iran's ongoing noncompliance, and Iran's latest announcement that it intends to install centrifuges in Qom and to triple its production of nearly 20% low enriched uranium (LEU), the international community must come together urgently to strengthen enforcement of these sanctions.
- ✓ Full implementation of the provisions contained in the Council's resolutions will send a powerful signal to Iran's decision makers, as well as constrain Iran's ability to continue its proliferation sensitive activities.
- ✓ We hope the Security Council will release the Panel's final report soon so that other countries can benefit from the Panel's findings and recommendations. The Panel conducted excellent investigative work and we strongly support its findings. We commend the Panel's professionalism, methodological rigor and high standards. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

Could you comment on efforts to hold Iranian human rights abusers accountable?

- ✓ Nearly two years after Iran's brave citizens took to the streets, the struggle for civil liberties and fundamental rights continues. On June 9, the U.S. sanctioned three Iranian government entities complicit in the ongoing brutal repression – the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Basij Resistance Force, and Iran's Law Enforcement Forces (LEF) – as well as LEF Commander Ismail Ahmadi Moghadam.
- ✓ While Iran's leaders hypocritically applaud protesters abroad calling for self-determination, many of Iran's own citizens – including founding members of the revolution – are being held as political prisoners merely for holding views contrary to Iran's leaders. Iranians are being executed for crimes based on dubious charges and without the due process guaranteed under Iran's constitution. Religious and ethnic minorities are intimidated and imprisoned, while women's rights activists, human rights defenders, clerics, and labor leaders are targeted for retribution for seeking human rights for themselves and other Iranian citizens. By barring many of Iran's most accomplished artists, journalists, and academics from working, and forcing many to flee their homeland, the Iranian government restricts the space where free thought and expression can flourish.
- ✓ The United States stands with all Iranians who wish for a government that respects their human rights, their dignity and their freedom, and we call on the Iranian government to end its systematic human rights abuses and political hypocrisy. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/09/11)
- ✓ This action blocks, or freezes, the property and interests in property of designated persons or designated entities. U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions involving the persons or entities. All designees and members of designated entities are subject to a travel ban by.
- ✓ As we continue to collect additional information and evidence, and as new events unfold in Iran, we anticipate that additional individuals will be designated. (Press Guidance, 06/09/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Sanctions Against Iranian Human Rights Abusers (06/09/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**MIDDLE EAST PEACE****Israel/Palestine Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.” (05/19/11) [\(read transcript\)](#)
- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) [\(read transcript\)](#)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) [\(read transcript\)](#)

Israel/Palestine Q&A**What are U.S. expectations going forward for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process?**

- ✓ Last month, the President made a significant set of remarks on the region. They included a component on the pursuit of peace between Israelis and Arabs, which he described as a cornerstone of our approach to the region. The President acknowledged that expectations have gone unmet, but he also made clear that regional developments make a peace that ends the conflict and resolves all claims more urgent than ever.
- ✓ We are working with the parties in coordination with the international community and the Quartet to continue the difficult task of closing the gaps between the parties on how we proceed in a productive way. Our goal in this effort is to – now is to work with the parties toward negotiations on the basis of the President’s remarks. We are consulting the parties, the Quartet, Arab officials and other supporters on the best way to proceed.
- ✓ Our focus is on seeing how we can get over the current impasse and back to the negotiating table. This is a difficult task. The circumstances on the ground and the gaps between the parties are challenging.
- ✓ Ultimately, it is up to the Israelis and Palestinians to take action. As the President said, no peace can be imposed on them, but endless delay will not make the problem go away. The status quo is unsustainable and return to negotiations, in our view, is the only way forward. But they have to make the decisions on how to do so. (State Department press briefing, 06/21/11)

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Is the U.S. working with its allies to initiate a new effort to promote a peace plan?

- ✓ The United States and our international partners remain active with the parties, most recently continuing to consult the parties on ways to overcome the current impasse.
- ✓ The end goal has not changed: as President Obama said, we want to see a negotiated solution that resolves the core issues of the conflict and results in two states - a viable Palestine, and a secure Israel with secure and recognized borders for each state.
- ✓ We leave it to the Israeli and Palestinian governments to speak to their positions, but what is clear is that our efforts will continue. As part of those efforts, Acting Special Envoy for Middle East Peace David Hale and Special Assistant to the President Dennis Ross met in the region with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli negotiator Yitzhak Molho, and Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Special Envoy Hale also met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.
- ✓ Special Envoy Hale also met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh in Cyprus. Early this week he will meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Elaraby and the Head of Egyptian Intelligence Murad Muwafi in Cairo. The Quartet Envoys are also scheduled to meet in Brussels later this week.
- ✓ We appreciate High Representative Ashton's letter to Secretary Clinton. It is another illustration of the resolve of the U.S. and our partners to assist the parties in returning to the negotiating table and ultimately reaching a final agreement. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

What is the U.S. doing to prevent renewed clashes between flotillas headed for Gaza and Israeli security forces?

- ✓ Since the tragic events of last year's flotilla, we have consistently engaged with a broad range of governments, including Turkish, Israeli, and other governments.
- ✓ For the past year we have made clear that groups and individuals that seek to enter Gaza by sea are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that entail a risk to their safety. The U.S. Coast Guard issued a warning earlier this month informing mariners that "Previous attempts to enter Gaza by sea have resulted in violent incidents and the detention and deportation of those involved."
- ✓ Mechanisms are in place to transfer humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and they should be used by those seeking to provide assistance for the benefit of ordinary Gazans. We urge all those wishing to deliver goods to do so through established channels so their cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings into Gaza - to ensure that Israel's legitimate security needs are addressed even as the Palestinians' humanitarian needs are met.
- ✓ We will continue to make clear both publicly and in private meetings with states, NGOs, and others our concerns about the risks of attempting to sail directly to Gaza.
- ✓ We remain concerned for the people of Gaza and understand while many difficulties remain, life is much improved in Gaza. However, we recognize that more needs to be done to improve the access of goods and people going into and out of Gaza; we are working with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to this end. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

What is the U.S. position on Palestinian efforts to secure UN recognition as a state?

- ✓ We vehemently reject attempts to de-legitimize the state of Israel. As the President stated at the UN General Assembly, Israel's existence must not be a subject for debate, and efforts to chip away at Israel's legitimacy will only be met by the unshakeable opposition of the United States.
- ✓ The President has been clear that he supports two states for two peoples, and that it would be a mistake for the Palestinians to pursue a path for statehood at the UN rather than at the negotiating

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table with Israel. We have been frank that we reject counterproductive attempts to resolve permanent status issues at the UN.

- ✓ As the President said on May 19, "For Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations in September won't create an independent state." That is why we are focused on a negotiated outcome that will lead to the establishment of an independent, viable state of Palestine alongside a secure state of Israel.
- ✓ We have been steadfast in our determination to ensure that Israel is treated fairly, that its security is never in doubt, and that Israel has the same rights and responsibilities as all UN member states.
- ✓ We have opposed unbalanced, one-sided resolutions, at the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council, UNESCO, and elsewhere. We have opposed the deeply flawed and biased Goldstone Report, and voted against multiple resolutions on last year's flotilla incident at the Human Rights Council. On the Goldstone Report, we have been clear that we want to see UN action end in relation to the report. Regarding the flotilla issue, we have joined the Secretary-General in his call on Governments to use their respective influence to discourage future flotillas, and avoid unnecessary and unhelpful provocative actions that seek to bypass the effective mechanisms that exist to deliver goods and services to Gaza.
- ✓ Much work still needs to be done at the Human Rights Council. We continue to protest the egregious permanent agenda item on Israel. But we have managed to use every opportunity to shift the focus of the debate at the Council addressing the most serious human rights abusers, rather than unfairly singling out Israel.
- ✓ All these efforts demonstrate that our commitment to defend Israel throughout the UN system, both in countering biased anti-Israeli actions and in opposing those who seek platforms to expand anti-Israel efforts at the UN, remains strong.
- ✓ Israel wants to play a larger role globally, multilaterally and at the UN. It does not want to be viewed solely through the prism of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israelis understand that they not only have rights within the international system; they also have responsibilities, and they want to meet them. To that end, the United States is working with Israel to advance its positive multilateral engagement agenda, and move beyond the focus on contentious political and security issues, with the aim of addressing the issue of delegitimization and Israel's treatment at the UN.
- ✓ Looking ahead, we are committed to building on our efforts with Israel at the UN, including working with Israel to advance its positive global agenda, and continuing to oppose attempts to isolate and delegitimize Israel. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Brimmer, 06/15/11)

What is U.S. policy on Middle East peace as outlined by President Obama?

- ✓ A lasting peace will involve two states for two peoples: Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the state of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people, each state enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace.
- ✓ The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.
- ✓ Every state has the right to self-defense, and Israel must be able to defend itself – by itself – against any threat. Provisions must also be robust enough to prevent a resurgence of terrorism, to stop the infiltration of weapons, and to provide effective border security. The full and phased withdrawal of

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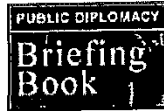
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Israeli military forces should be coordinated with the assumption of Palestinian security responsibility in a sovereign, non-militarized state.

- ✓ These steps alone will not resolve the conflict, because two wrenching and emotional issues will remain: the future of Jerusalem, and the fate of Palestinian refugees. But moving forward now on the basis of territory and security provides a foundation to resolve those two issues in a way that is just and fair, and that respects the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- ✓ For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations will not create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist.
- ✓ As for Israel, our friendship is rooted deeply in a shared history and shared values. Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakeable. But precisely because of our friendship, it's important that we tell the truth: the status quo is unsustainable, and Israel too must act boldly to advance a lasting peace. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)

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MENA TRANSITION AND REFORM**MENA Transition and Reform Message**

- ✓ **Assistant Secretary Posner** – “Our response to the upheaval in the Middle East has been rooted in a consistent set of principles: We have opposed the use of violence against peaceful protesters and supported the universal rights of free expression, assembly, and association and the right to participate in the affairs of the state. We have strongly condemned, including in multilateral fora, the killing, torture, and abuse of peaceful protestors. We have made clear our view that people’s legitimate demands and aspirations must be met by positive engagement from governments, in the form of meaningful political and economic reforms.” (05/05/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Uprisings across the region have exposed myths that for too long were used to justify a stagnant status quo. You know the myth that governments can hold on to power without responding to their people’s aspirations or respecting their rights; the myth that the only way to produce change in the region is through violence and conflict; and, most pernicious of all, the myth that Arabs do not share universal human aspirations for freedom, dignity, and opportunity.” (04/13/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Democratic change must grow from within. It cannot be implanted from the outside. And let me be among the first of many to say the West certainly does not have all of the answers. The first steps of change have come quickly and dramatically. It is, however, proving tragically difficult in Libya. In other nations, change is likely to be more deliberate and methodical. In all cases, the United States will support citizens and governments as they work for progress.” (02/28/11) ([read transcript](#))

MENA Transition and Reform Q&A**Could you provide an update on the situation in Syria?**

- ✓ Throughout the continuing violent crackdowns in Syria, President Assad has shown that he cares more about maintaining his own power than he does about his people.
- ✓ Approximately thirteen hundred Syrians have been killed since protests began with many thousands more detained and tortured. There must be an immediate end to violence by Syrian security forces, the immediate release of all political prisoners, and an end to the torture and abuse of those who remain in detention. The Assad regime must allow immediate unfettered access for international humanitarian agencies and international media.
- ✓ President Assad’s regime and its repression of the Syrian people are the sources of the instability we are currently witnessing in Syria. Assad’s actions are causing instability and putting Syria on a clear path to becoming a pariah state.
- ✓ The Syrian people are calling for a change on the ground and they will be the ones to judge whether President Assad is meeting their needs and expectations. As we have stressed, he can lead the transition already under way in Syria or he can get out of the way.
- ✓ The fact that the Syrian people continue to protest every week indicate that President Assad’s words are not enough and that they are losing patience with the mixed messages of the Syrian government. Mere announcements from President Assad on dialogue and timetables are not enough. There needs to be actual dialogue and it must be inclusive, credible, and comprehensive. Genuine reforms speedily implemented are the only way to achieve stability in Syria.
- ✓ We continue to work unilaterally, regionally, and internationally to try to build a broad-based approach increase pressure on Assad’s regime.

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- ✓ Bilaterally, the President has signed two new Executive Orders. He's designated President Assad under this authority as well as other regime officials. We're looking at how we can broaden these sanctions to increase the pressure.
- ✓ Regionally we are in contact with Arab League officials and bilateral partners in the region, including the Turkish government, to build on the pressure for Assad to lead the transition under way or get out of the way.
- ✓ On the international forum, we continue to take steps to pressure and isolate the Assad regime. Last week in Geneva, the United States joined over fifty UN members to deliver a forceful joint statement addressing the deteriorating human rights situation in Syria, calling for an end to the ongoing human rights violations committed by the Syrian authorities, and urging the Government of Syria to allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Office access to Syria to conduct their fact-finding mission. This fact finding mission was established during a special session of the HRC on Syria that the U.S. successfully lobbied for in April. We also successfully worked to lobby other delegations against Syria's hypocritical bid to join the Human Rights Council in May.
- ✓ We continue our efforts to use a broad-based international approach to support what the Syrian people are demanding. The Syrian people are in the lead and we are making every effort to support the Syrian people's demands.
- ✓ We are also looking into whether there are grounds for charges related to war crimes and whether referrals on that issue are appropriate. And we continue to evaluate possible additional economic sanctions, including with the oil and gas sector in Syria. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)
- ✓ Ambassador Ford traveled to northern Syria with a large group of other foreign ambassadors to personally witness the aftermath of the recent situation in Jisr Shughur. The group received briefings from senior Syrian military intelligence officers on the ground.
- ✓ Ambassador Ford's purpose was to gather information for U.S. policymakers, not to deliver a particular message.
- ✓ Ambassador Ford is not restricted to Damascus. Decisions regarding his movements outside Damascus are made based on U.S. security determinations. (Press Guidance, 06/21/11)

- What is the U.S. response to reports of Syrian citizens fleeing to Turkey due to violence?
- ✓ We condemn the government's use of violence on its people, and call on it to immediately cease all brutality and begin a transition to democracy. The Syrian government must respect the universal human rights and dignity of the Syrian people.
 - ✓ Press reports indicate that approximately 10,500 Syrians are sheltered in Turkish Red Crescent Society camps.
 - ✓ The Turkish government has stated that the border will remain open, and that Turkey will continue to allow individuals seeking protection to enter.
 - ✓ We commend the Government of Turkey's response in coordination with the Turkish Red Crescent Society to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced Syrians in Turkey.
 - ✓ The U.S. provides humanitarian assistance to refugees and asylum seekers worldwide through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including in Turkey. Should there be a request to assist in the humanitarian needs of displaced Syrians, the U.S. stands ready to help.
 - ✓ The Turkish government has not requested any support and notes that the Turkish Red Crescent Society is capable of assisting a large number of displaced Syrians, up to 30,000 people according to the Director of the Turkish Red Crescent Society.
 - ✓ We have not seen an uptick in the number of Syrian nationals seeking access to the U.S. refugee resettlement program. UNHCR/Turkey submitted for U.S. refugee resettlement consideration only five Syrians in 2010 and five in 2011. UNHCR views the current situation as one in which those

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crossing the border require only temporary protection and is not currently looking at resettlement as a protection option.

- ✓ We have no information regarding reports that Turkey is considering the creation of a border security zone on the Syrian side of the border to provide assistance to those fleeing violence. We refer you to the Government of Turkey for this information. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Could you provide an update on the situation in Yemen?

- ✓ Our position has not changed. An immediate, peaceful, and orderly transition is in the best interest of the Yemeni people. We urge all sides to engage in dialogue that peacefully moves Yemen forward.
- ✓ Ambassador Feierstein and embassy personnel in Sana'a continue to meet with a broad cross-section of Yemenis, including Acting President Al-Hadi and senior government officials, as well as members of the opposition.
- ✓ We continue to call for an immediate, nonviolent, and orderly transition that allows the democratic aspirations of the Yemeni people to be realized. Ultimately, the Yemeni people must decide the path Yemen takes toward a peaceful, unified, and stable future.
- ✓ The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a announced on June 19 the arrival of \$10 million worth of food aid in Yemen, provided by the American people through USAID to the World Food Program. The food items, including flour, beans, and vegetable oil, will contribute to the support of 416,000 people in Sa'adah and Harad in the Hajjah governorate.
- ✓ The 6,300 metric tons of food commodities will contribute to the World Food Program's "Emergency Food Assistance to Conflict-Affected Persons in Northern Yemen" operation -- a program intended to address the food security needs of some 300,000 internally displaced and over 100,000 war-affected persons in Yemen's northern governorates.
- ✓ So far this year, the U.S. Embassy has overseen the allocation of approximately \$35 million dollars to Yemen for emergency and humanitarian projects. In addition to food assistance, the United States is providing emergency medical support, shelter, and water and sanitation supplies to recipients throughout the country, including those recently displaced from Zinjibar, capital of the southern Abyan governorate, in partnership with local and international organizations. U.S. Embassy staff in Yemen is providing additional support as needed.
- ✓ We understand President Saleh remains in Saudi Arabia receiving medical treatment. We will not speculate on President Saleh's actions or condition or attempt to speak for the Yemeni people. We refer you to the Yemeni and Saudi governments for more details. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Can you confirm that the U.S. has sent a second shipment of non-lethal assistance to Libya?

- ✓ We have delivered a second shipment of non-lethal aid to Benghazi, Libya, which was requested by the Transitional National Council (TNC). These items are being provided to support the TNC's efforts to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas under threat of attack.
- ✓ The shipment consisted of uniforms, body armor, first-aid kits, tents, and related materials transferred from existing Department of Defense stocks.
- ✓ We are working closely with the TNC on a daily basis to assess additional assistance requirements. No decision to date has been made on future shipments. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

Can you provide an update on the situation in Libya?

- ✓ We note NATO's acknowledgement that a military missile site was the intended target of air strikes in Tripoli on June 19. However, as NATO reported, it appears that one weapon did not

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- strike the intended target and that there may have been a weapons system failure which may have caused a number of civilian casualties.
- ✓ As noted by the Transitional National Council (TNC) to partners and discussed at the Contact Group meetings in Doha, Rome, and Abu Dhabi, the TNC is facing serious financial difficulties. To support the TNC, the Contact Group agreed to fully establish a Temporary Financial Mechanism (TFM) at the June 9 meeting in Abu Dhabi.
 - ✓ We support the efforts of the Libya Contact Group to establish a TFM and a Libyan Information Exchange Mechanism (LIEM) that would facilitate much-needed financial contributions and other in-kind assistance to the TNC. We are strongly encouraging our international partners to assist the TNC directly or through one or both of these mechanisms.
 - ✓ Additionally, the United States is assessing and reviewing options for the types of assistance we could provide to the Libyan people. We are consulting directly with the opposition and our international partners about these matters.
 - ✓ The President has directed up to \$25 million in transfers of non-lethal items from U.S. government stocks to key partners in Libya such as the TNC, and the transportation of these items.
 - ✓ Again, we welcome the U.S. Senate Banking Committee announcement that it will advance a bill soon to allow President Obama to use some of the frozen assets of Muammar Qaddafi's government to be used to provide humanitarian relief to the Libyan people.
 - ✓ Under proposed legislation, this assistance could cover the costs of commodities and subsidies needed to maintain basic living conditions among the population – for example, access to water, sanitation, food, shelter, and health care. Frozen assets would not be used to offset the cost of our military action in Libya.
 - ✓ The question of recognition is one of many policy issues still under review and our envoy Chris Stevens and his team in Benghazi continue to cultivate relationships with TNC leadership as well as our efforts to more fully assess the capacity and needs of the TNC.
 - ✓ As Secretary Clinton said at the most recent Contact Group meeting in Abu Dhabi, the TNC is the legitimate and credible interlocutor for the Libyan people during this interim period. At the same time, it is clear that the Qadhafi regime has lost all legitimacy.
 - ✓ We have taken consistent steps to bolster the legitimacy of the TNC, including meetings of senior TNC officials with the Secretary and at the White House, allowing the TNC to open an office in Washington, and suspending the operations of the Qadhafi regime's embassy here. We have urged other countries to do the same.
 - ✓ We remain committed to working with those who are striving to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people and create a better future for Libya. It will be up to the people of Libya, to choose their new constitution, elect their new leaders, and write the next chapter in their history. (Press Guidance 06/20/11)

- Does the U.S. believe that reforms announced by the King of Morocco are sufficient?
- ✓ The U.S. welcomes the proposals outlined on June 17 by King Mohammed VI to transform Morocco's democratic development through constitutional, judicial and political reforms.
 - ✓ We fully support the aspirations of the Moroccan people and their efforts to further consolidate the rule of law, raise human rights standards, promote good governance, and work toward long-term constitutional reform that incorporates checks and balances. The people of Morocco are calling for the same basic changes others in the region have called for: a larger voice in how they are governed.
 - ✓ The United States values Morocco as a key strategic partner and we stand ready to work with the people and the government of Morocco as the government moves forward to fully implement key

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reforms and satisfy the legitimate democratic aspirations and rights of all Moroccans. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

- Does the U.S. believe that Bahrain has made progress in addressing demands of protestors? Bahrain is an important partner of the United States. We have a long-standing alliance based on shared political, economic and security interests. Both countries benefit from stability and prosperity in Bahrain, and from a society where all people are able to express their views peacefully and contribute to the political process.
- We welcome the announcement of the government's intention to begin a national dialogue on reform in Bahrain in July. The challenge will be to initiate a dialogue that involves representative leaders on all sides and to ensure that the dialogue addresses and begins to resolve divisive issues.
- We are mindful of the pressing need in Bahrain for everyone to begin an engagement that will start to rebuild tolerance, mutual respect and a process for navigating divisions. We understand the difficulty of this task, and we also know that no outsider can make it happen. It is for the Bahraini people to forge their own future.
- The U.S. and Bahrain face constantly evolving security challenges. President Obama and Secretary Clinton have made clear time and again that respect for human rights and pursuit of national security interests are not in conflict; to the contrary, they are best advanced in tandem.
- In recent months we have seen a clear link in this region between national stability and security and the ability of governments to meet the legitimate aspirations of their people, including the desire of people everywhere for dignity, justice, economic opportunity, universal human rights, and a voice in shaping their own future.
- We welcome the release of some detainees who were not charged, the restoration of some scholarships, and the reinstatement of a number of employees who were wrongfully dismissed from their jobs. We also welcome the announcement by the government that it will investigate deaths of people in custody, including one case where five prison guards are under investigation. The Government of Bahrain also has promised to investigate allegations of mistreatment of detainees in custody.
- On the other hand, we continue to receive reports about some students being expelled from universities and some workers being dismissed merely because they have exercised their political rights. We remain concerned about the continued detention of a number of Bahrainis who have neither been charged nor tried, about the treatment of those people in detention, and about reports that some have been subjected to physical abuse during interrogations. We urge Bahrain to abide by its commitments to transparent judicial proceedings conducted in full accordance with both local law and Bahrain's international legal obligations.
- Meaningful dialogue can only take place in a climate of respect for the freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly – principles articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of treaties that Bahrain has ratified. In the coming weeks, all parties here will need to create an appropriate environment for national dialogue, and all parties must participate to forge a just future for this country.
- Throughout the world, we have seen how media freedom raises public awareness, identifies problems, opens discussion, and brings problems to light so that corrective action can be taken. We note with concern the arrest and in some cases continued detention of some journalists. Mindful of the peril of misinformation and misuse of media that can exacerbate divisions within society, we urge all responsible parties in Bahrain to refrain from and denounce hateful speech, which can and often does lead to violence. In order to create positive conditions for national dialogue in Bahrain

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local media and social media must play a constructive role in reconciliation and cease from actions that are divisive or inciting. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 06/15/11)

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NORTH KOREA

North Korea Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

North Korea Q&A

What is the Administration’s response to the amendment to the FY 2012 agriculture spending bill that would prevent sending food aid to North Korea?

- ✓ It has been the United States’ longstanding position, through multiple administrations that the provision of humanitarian assistance is separate from political and security concerns.
- ✓ We have made no decision on providing food aid to North Korea.
- ✓ Any decision will be based on legitimate humanitarian needs, competing needs elsewhere, and our ability to ensure that aid is reliably reaching the people in need.
- ✓ We are analyzing the results of the field team’s assessment and are closely monitoring the food situation. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Can you provide any details regarding the recently blocked shipment from North Korea to Burma?

- ✓ There was a vessel that was suspected of carrying materials prohibited by the UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea bears responsibility to be fully transparent about shipments that may provide grounds for concern and to demonstrate that it is not transferring items prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ In this case, the U.S. did receive authorization from the flag state of a North Korean ship to inspect the ship’s cargo and requested that the ship permit such an inspection. The ship’s master denied permission for a consensual boarding and inspection of the ship’s cargo. We consulted closely with states in the region on our shared responsibilities to prevent this shipment. We talked directly with the North Koreans to stress the importance of not engaging in proliferation-related transfers. And we learned that the vessel changed course at sea, and we believe it returned to North Korea. (State Department [press briefing](#), 06/13/11)
- ✓ We have consistently raised our concerns and urged the international community to be vigilant about North Korea’s continued defiance of UN resolutions and to fully and transparently implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ We call on all states to be vigilant and transparent in their dealings with North Korea and to implement their obligations under UNSCRs 1718 and 1874. (Press Guidance, 06/13/11)

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Do the special economic zones established between China and North Korea violate sanctions?

- ✓ We urge all United Nations member states to fully implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874, which target North Korea's continued involvement in proliferation, nuclear weapons development, and luxury goods procurement.
- ✓ We urge transparency, extreme caution and vigilance in any business dealings with North Korea.
- ✓ The United States remains concerned about the welfare of the North Korean people.
- ✓ We encourage North Korea to take real steps to reform its economy for the benefit the North Korean people. (Press Guidance, 06/09/11)

Could you comment on the implementation of the North Korean Human Rights Act?

- ✓ Advancing human rights is a top U.S. priority in our North Korea policy and is among the primary factors that will determine if any long-term improvement between the U.S. and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be possible.
- ✓ The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 and its reauthorization in 2008 demonstrates Congress' commitment to ensuring that the well-being of the North Korean people remains an important foreign policy priority. This legislation created the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.
- ✓ Engaging with DPRK officials is a key requirement of the position of the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights. Ambassador King's recent trip was the first time the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct dialogue about ways North Korea can improve its human rights record.
- ✓ We have also encouraged our partners to include human rights in their North Korea policy. In addition to consulting with other governments, we met with organizations that deal with North Korea human rights issues – think tanks and academic institutions that analyze human rights issues; advocacy organizations that call attention to human right abuses; humanitarian assistance organizations that provide food, medical aid, and other assistance to the DPRK; educational, cultural, and scientific organizations that seek to engage the DPRK; churches and religious organizations; and Korean-American organizations that are interested in family reunions with relatives living in the DPRK.
- ✓ Between FY 2008-2011, the Department received \$9.5 million from the Economic Support Fund to promote rule of law and human rights, increase media freedom, and build civil society in North Korea. These funds also support efforts to build the capacity of the defector and NGO community in the South Korea to better advocate for improved conditions inside the DPRK.
- ✓ Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled 120 North Korean refugees and their families. We remain actively committed to ensuring that each North Korean refugee who is interested and eligible gains access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The U.S. remains deeply concerned about the plight of North Korean refugees and asylum seekers. Reports of the involuntary return of North Koreans from China to the DPRK, including victims of human trafficking, remain deeply disturbing, as these returnees often face serious consequences. We continue to urge China to adhere to its obligations as a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including by not expelling or forcibly returning North Koreans who should be protected under those treaties.
- ✓ To increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within the country, the U.S. government funds Korean-language broadcasting into North Korea by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and supports independent and defector-run broadcasts through the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

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AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Afghanistan and Pakistan Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.” (12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.” (03/28/10) ([read transcript](#))

Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A

Q: What is the U.S. response to Afghan President Karzai's assertion that the Taliban are the only force that can bring peace to Afghanistan?

A: The U.S. has been clear from the beginning that we stand by the sovereign government of Afghanistan, the Afghan people, and the Afghan leadership. There has never been a time when we considered the Taliban as a legitimate force in Afghanistan.

Q: How does the U.S. respond to reports that the Taliban are ready to negotiate with the U.S. and to accept a ceasefire?

A: The U.S. has been clear from the beginning that we stand by the sovereign government of Afghanistan, the Afghan people, and the Afghan leadership. There has never been a time when we considered the Taliban as a legitimate force in Afghanistan.

Q: How does the U.S. respond to reports that the Taliban are ready to negotiate with the U.S. and to accept a ceasefire?

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What is the Administration's response to a letter from 27 senators supporting an accelerated drawdown in Afghanistan?

- ✓ Our strategic objective in Afghanistan remains to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda. The successful operation against Osama bin Laden was a vital step towards achieving that strategic objective. But there is more work to be done to ensure that Afghanistan does not again become a safe haven for terrorists to launch attacks against the United States.
- ✓ As the President has stated, we are committed to begin a drawdown of our forces in Afghanistan in July, but the scope and pace of that drawdown has not yet been determined. The military surge secured significant gains in Afghanistan, but these gains are fragile and reversible.
- ✓ Transition, reconciliation, and reintegration are mutually reinforcing processes, all led by the Afghans. Our aim is to assist in achieving a responsible and irreversible transition of full Afghan responsibility by 2014. Sufficient governance and development must underpin sustainable transition, and the U.S. civilian mission in Afghanistan is shifting away from direct service delivery to focus more on capacity building.
- ✓ It is critical that we maintain our current momentum to ensure security gains are permanent; the transition of security responsibility to the Afghans is irreversible, and conditions for reconciliation progress. We will continue to work with our partners in pursuit of these goals. (Press Guidance, 06/16/11)

Can you explain the recent revision to the UN sanctions regime against terrorists in Afghanistan?

- ✓ The United States welcomes and strongly supports the UN Security Council action to strengthen the 1267 regime of international sanctions against terrorists. The updated 1267 sanctions regime reflects the current political circumstances in Afghanistan, which have changed considerably since the regime was originally initiated.
- ✓ The updated sanctions regime will split the 1267 regime into two, one focused on combating those associated with al Qaeda and another focused on Afghanistan. This will not change the fact that those designated for sanctions as Taliban or al Qaeda will continue to be designated. No individuals will be removed from the 1267 sanctions regime by this action.
- ✓ The resolution stresses the importance of a comprehensive political process to support reconciliation among all Afghans, and a political resolution of the conflict that splits the Taliban from al Qaeda. Specifically, the sanctions regime recognizes the need for insurgents to cut ties to international terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, renounce violence, and respect Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for women and persons belonging to minorities.
- ✓ We welcome the strong regional support for this resolution, from countries such as Russia, China, and India, which all have voiced support for Afghan-led reconciliation. We will also continue to push for more robust implementation of existing sanctions by all member states to make global sanctions more effective. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

What is the U.S. policy on the reconciliation of Taliban?

- ✓ We have consistently said that we support an Afghan-led reconciliation process, and that we would participate in that process.
- ✓ Over the past two years, we have laid out our red lines for the Taliban: They must renounce violence; they must abandon their alliance with al Qaeda; and they must abide by the constitution of Afghanistan. Those are necessary outcomes of any negotiation. This is the price for reaching a

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What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- ✓ President set out a clear goal: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, and prevent it from threatening America and our allies in the future.
- ✓ Al Qaeda and the Taliban, along with various associated groups, still maintain an alliance, based largely in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Taliban and al Qaeda are distinct groups with distinct aims, but they are both our adversaries and part of a syndicate of terror that must be broken.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ We are following a strategy with three mutually reinforcing tracks: a military offensive against al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban insurgents; a civilian campaign to bolster the governments, economies, and civil societies of Afghanistan and Pakistan to undercut the pull of the insurgency; and an intensified diplomatic push to bring the Afghan conflict to an end and chart a new and more secure future for the region.
- ✓ We have laid out unambiguous red lines for reconciliation with insurgents. They must renounce violence, abandon their alliance with al Qaeda, and abide by the constitution of Afghanistan.
- ✓ This summer, ISAF will begin a gradual, responsible transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces with the goal of removing all international combat troops by the end of 2014. As this transition moves forward, the Afghan people should remember that while the U.S. and our coalition partners may draw down our military forces over time, we are committed to a long-term strategic partnership with Afghanistan. We will continue to train, equip, and support Afghan security forces and do what we can to help the government improve the lives of its citizens.
- ✓ The shift in military momentum provides the Afghan government an opportunity to strengthen the competence of its people through economic development, fair enforcement of the rule of law, attacking corruption and the provision of basic services.
- ✓ From the beginning, we have recognized the fundamental connection between our war effort in Afghanistan and the extremists' safe havens and enablers in Pakistan. As a result of growing cooperation between our governments, militaries, and law enforcement agencies, and determined action by the Pakistani army, we have been able to dramatically expand our counterterrorism and intelligence efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan government needs to safeguard the rights of all Afghans, especially women and minorities. (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10) and (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 02/18/11) and (Remarks by Secretary Gates, 06/05/11)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused

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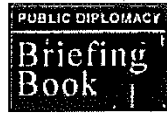
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on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))

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RUSSIA**Russia Message**

- ✓ **Defense Secretary Gates** – “This last year has seen remarkable progress in the U.S.-Russia relationship, a relationship that has evolved from focusing nearly exclusively on traditional global issues, primarily arms control, to our present collaboration at a working level on a range of matters affecting our defense ministries.” (03/22/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) ([read transcript](#))

Russia Q&A**How does the U.S. respond to Russia’s statement of displeasure regarding joint U.S.-Ukrainian naval exercises in the Black Sea?**

- ✓ Exercise Sea Breeze is an U.S.-Ukraine naval exercise that has taken place annually since 1997. The purpose of Exercise Sea Breeze is to strengthen maritime partnerships in the spirit of multinational cooperation.
- ✓ This year’s training exercise focuses on anti-piracy operations, including counter piracy training operations, non-combatant evacuation operations and search and seizure training. In addition, ground forces will conduct non-lethal weapons training designed to combat unlawful fishing, piracy, trafficking in persons, drugs and illegal weapons.
- ✓ Thirteen countries are participating in this year’s exercise. They include: Ukraine (co-host), the United States (co-host), Azerbaijan, Algeria, Belgium, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Macedonia, Moldova, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- ✓ We refer you to the Pentagon for further details about Sea Breeze. (Press Guidance, 06/15/11)

Why did NATO reject Russia’s proposal to participate in a European missile defense system?

- ✓ NATO Secretary General Rasmussen said that “NATO cannot outsource to non-members collective defense obligations which bind its members.”
- ✓ The U.S. and NATO have made clear that irrespective of how cooperation with Russia develops, the Alliance alone bears responsibility for defending NATO’s members.
- ✓ The U.S. is committed to discussing with Russia ways to strengthen security, confidence and predictability in the region and will continue with our dialogue in this pursuit.

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- ✓ When President Obama announced the European Phased and Adaptive Approach (EPAA) in September 2009, he welcomed Russian cooperation on missile defense, so that each country could develop a stronger defense of our common strategic interests.
- ✓ The goal is for NATO and Russia to jointly develop ways to collaborate on a system that will be better able to defend against the increasing threat posed by ballistic missiles. The U.S. and NATO vision for NATO-Russia ballistic missile defense cooperation comprises two independent, but coordinated, missile defense systems that would augment and enhance each other's system's performance.
- ✓ U.S. officials have consulted with Russian counterparts to provide policy and technical explanations for our vision of cooperation. These consultations illustrate that the EPAA missile defense system is not directed at Russia and will not pose a threat to Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent.
- ✓ Since the Lisbon Summit, the U.S. has maintained an active dialogue with Russia on ballistic missile defense (BMD) cooperation, both bilaterally and in the NATO-Russia Council context.
- ✓ While we believe BMD cooperation will be mutually beneficial, the President, Secretary Gates, and Secretary Clinton have made clear that we will not agree to any constraints or negotiated limitations on U.S. or NATO BMD systems or deployments.
- ✓ The U.S. and NATO have also offered to engage in transparency and confidence-building activities that would demonstrate U.S. and NATO missile defense programs are not directed against Russia.
- ✓ Following their May 26 meeting in Deauville, Presidents Obama and Medvedev committed to continue working together to lay the foundation for future cooperation in missile defense. The U.S. and NATO intend to continue working with Russia on proposals for missile defense cooperation. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

What is the U.S. assessment of the human rights situation in Russia?

- ✓ President Medvedev has set forth his vision of a democratic, modern and successful Russia governed by the rule of law. President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary Clinton have expressed their strong support for that same vision. The ability of Russian citizens to exercise their basic civil and political rights and access justice and due process will be key to realizing the Russia we all want to see.
- ✓ Despite these aspects of progress, we believe that continued limits and restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of the Russian people – rights guaranteed in international and Russian domestic law – are a larger problem for Russian citizens, businesses, and the government itself. We frequently raise these areas of concern with our Russian counterparts, both in public and in private.
- ✓ Progress has been more limited in the area of freedom of the press. We share the deep concerns expressed within Russia and across the international community over the murders of journalists known for their courageous work defending human rights and fighting corruption.
- ✓ There are still too many unsolved cases, and we continue to call for a full investigation into the unsolved murders of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, among others. We have also expressed our concern that the only judicial action to date in the murder of Natalia Estemirova has been the prosecution of Oleg Orlov for saying out loud what many people suspected to be the case. We welcome the convictions in the murder case of the human rights defenders Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova.
- ✓ In addition to effective prosecutions by the government, we hope the Russian media and independent Russian organizations and institutions will continue to scrutinize the Russian justice system, to support improvements and address challenges. For example, a representative from the Presidential Council on Human Rights recently indicated that the Council would find that the

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charges against Sergei Magnitsky had been fabricated, so it has now been established that he was unjustly imprisoned. Similarly, the court decision to deny the appeals of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev also reminds us of large issues regarding impartiality, due process and selective prosecution.

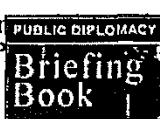
- ✓ Outside scrutiny of government actions and the follow-on dialogue with government are key to progress in many areas beyond criminal justice. We remain gravely concerned, about the extrajudicial killings, torture, and disappearances committed with impunity by the forces of Chechen President Kadyrov and others. We have urged Russia authorities to act upon the many decisions of the European Court of Human Rights addressing human rights abuses in the North Caucasus as a step towards restoring rule of law in the region.
- ✓ Finally, freedom of assembly – to gather together and share ideas and urge change – is another essential element to a stronger Russia that taps into the talent and creativity of the Russia people. Most recently, we were concerned about reports of intimidation and attacks by private security guards, police, and other parties on activists associated with the Khimki Forest campaign. In another concerning move, this month, for the sixth year in a row, Moscow authorities refused permission for an NGO to hold an LGBT parade/rally. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 05/27/11)

What are the next areas of emphasis for the continued reset of the U.S. relationship with Russia?

- ✓ The President Obama made it a priority to reset our relationship with Russia. We focused the reset on concrete outcomes that serve both countries' interests.
- ✓ Two years later, the benefits to both our countries – and to international security – are clear, including: the new Start Treaty that further limits strategic nuclear weapons, cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, collaboration on Afghanistan that facilitates the flow of soldiers and supplies, and the most stringent sanctions ever on Iran and North Korea for their pursuit of nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The next frontier in our relationship will be building stronger ties of trade and commerce that match the security cooperation we have achieved. Our trade and investment relationship is nowhere near where it could or should be. One way to realize the potential of that relationship is to bring Russia more fully into the international trading system. That is why we strongly support Russia's effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ WTO accession will enable Russia to deepen its trade relations with the U.S. and the world. It will give American companies greater and more predictable access to Russia's growing markets, expanding both U.S. exports and employment. Being a part of the WTO means that Russia will have to play by the rules or face enforcement actions.
- ✓ Once Russia does what is required to join the WTO, we will also work with Congress to terminate the application to Russia of the Jackson-Vanik amendment – a Cold War-era law that tied trade relations with Russia to Jewish emigration, but remains on the books.
- ✓ Russia's business and legal climate and backsliding on democracy will present serious obstacles. At the same time as we have increased our cooperation with the Russian government, our administration has spoken out on allegations of misconduct in the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and of the beating and detention of "Strategy 31" demonstrators – and we will continue to do so in defense of universal values. But real opposition parties, independent media, and impartial courts are also the best tools for fighting corruption – the biggest barrier to economic growth in Russia. (Op-Ed by Vice President Biden, 03/14/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**SUDAN/DARFUR****Sudan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “After decades of conflict, the images of millions of southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the world and another step forward in Africa’s long journey toward justice and democracy. Now, all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and outstanding disputes must be resolved peacefully. At the same time, there must be an end to attacks on civilians in Darfur and a definitive end to that conflict.” (02/07/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

Sudan Q&A**Could you comment on the recent agreement to withdraw troops from Abyei?**

- ✓ On June 20, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement signed an agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which will reduce tensions in Abyei and improve the security and humanitarian situation on the ground. These negotiations have not been easy. We commend both parties for resolving their differences peacefully after the outbreak of violence.
- ✓ We also thank the AU High-Level Implementation Panel and its chairman Thabo Mbeki, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles, and UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan Haile Menkerios for the important role each played in facilitating dialogue between the parties.
- ✓ The agreement is an important first step – but the real test of the parties’ commitment will be the full implementation of its provisions in the coming days. We will work within the UN Security Council to seek a resolution authorizing the agreed-upon interim security force to support the swift deployment of the Ethiopian peacekeepers. At the same time, we urge all parties to follow through on their commitment to withdraw their military forces and take steps to facilitate the return of the tens of thousands of people displaced by recent fighting.
- ✓ The United States is still concerned about on-going violence in Southern Kordofan and the resulting humanitarian crisis. We call on both sides to allow unfettered access for aid workers to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. We also urge Sudanese leaders in Addis Ababa to agree on an immediate cessation of hostilities. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/20/11)

Could you provide an update on the situation in the Southern Kordofan state of Sudan?

- ✓ The situation in Southern Kordofan is dire, with deeply disturbing reports of attacks based on ethnicity.
- ✓ The United States condemns all acts of violence, in particular the Sudanese Armed Forces’ aerial bombardment of civilians and harassment and intimidation of UN peacekeepers.

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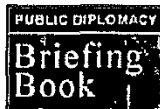
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- ✓ With a ceasefire in Southern Kordofan, alongside the agreement to deploy peacekeepers to Abyei, we can get the peace process back on track. But without these actions, the roadmap for better relations with the Government of Sudan cannot be carried forward, which will only deepen Sudan's isolation in the international community.
- ✓ Without a cease-fire and political negotiations, the people of Southern Kordofan cannot enjoy the right to have their political grievances addressed. The negotiations now under way in Addis Ababa demand the urgent commitment from both sides to peace and to the agreement for immediate help to those civilians caught up in this conflict. (Remarks by President Obama, 06/22/11)
- ✓ President Obama – “The Sudanese people have come too far, and sacrificed too much, to see their dreams of a better future slip from their grasp. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders to show the courage and vision that true leadership demands. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders, north and south, to choose peace.” (06/14/11) (read transcript)

Can you provide a readout from the President's meeting with Special Envoy for Sudan Lyman?

- ✓ On June 16, President Obama met with Ambassador Princeton Lyman, his Special Envoy for Sudan, to discuss the status of mediation efforts to end the political and humanitarian crisis in Abyei and the humanitarian crisis and violence in Southern Kordofan.
- ✓ The President expressed deep concern over the violence and the lack of humanitarian access, and he underscored the urgent need to get back to cooperative negotiations to enable full and timely implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including peaceful resolution of the future status of Abyei and the two areas.
- ✓ Ambassador Lyman updated the President on the recent meetings Secretary of State Clinton had with the parties during her trip to Africa. President Obama told Ambassador Lyman he is following the situation closely and gave his full support to Ambassador Lyman's work to press for a successful conclusion of the negotiations to achieve a withdrawal from Abyei and a cessation of hostilities across the region and to support the emergence of two viable states at peace.
- ✓ President Obama noted the important contributions towards peace made by Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and African Union Panel leader Thabo Mbeki.
- ✓ Special Envoy Lyman plans to return to the region this month to help translate political agreements into lasting and credible security arrangements. In a message to Sudan's leaders, the President said they must not throw away the opportunity to move toward the promise of greater peace and prosperity. (White House press statement, 06/16/11)

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TERRORISM

Terrorism Q&A

What is the U.S. response to the passage of two new Security Council resolutions on sanctions?

✓ The United States welcomes the passage on June 17 of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1988 and 1989. The resolutions mark a major step forward in the strengthening of the international sanctions regime against terrorists.

✓ Passage of UNSC Resolution 1988, which establishes the Afghanistan sanctions regime, is a tangible sign of support by the international community for Afghan reconciliation efforts. At the same time, the resolution contributes to ongoing efforts to combat the insurgency. The new regime will be an important tool to support the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to reconcile with insurgents who are willing cut ties to international terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, renounce violence, and respect Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for all Afghan women and men.

✓ Passage of UNSC Resolution 1989 represents the international community's continued commitment to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, on the heels of recent gains against al Qaeda's core leadership. We are pleased by the significant reforms the Council has made to further enhance the fairness and transparency of the 1267 Committee's listing and delisting processes. We hope that these enhancements to the regime will allow the Council, and the 1267 Committee, to turn its attention back to the business of ensuring that these sanctions are fully implemented.

✓ We welcome the strong international support for these resolutions from a diverse array of members of the Security Council – and especially the support of Afghanistan's neighbors and near neighbors. All countries in the region stand to benefit from a responsible political settlement of the Afghan conflict, and also an end to al Qaeda's safe havens and the exporting of extremism into their countries. These resolutions are another important step towards achieving these objectives.

✓ We will also continue to push for more robust implementation of existing sanctions by all member states to make global sanctions more effective. (State Department press statement, 06/17/11)

What are the State Department's counterterrorism priorities?

- ✓ **Reducing Recruitment.** The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) work of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism (S/CT) focuses on three main lines of effort that will reduce terrorist recruitment: delegitimizing the violent extremist narrative in order to diminish its "pull"; developing positive alternatives for youth vulnerable to radicalization to diminish the "push" effect of grievances and unmet expectations; and building partner capacity to carry out these activities. Key intents of CVE programming are to diminish the drivers of radicalization and demonstrably reduce the effectiveness of terrorist propaganda, thus leading to lowered numbers in recruitment.
- ✓ Successful CVE involves more than messaging, however, and we are working with the interagency to develop programs that address the upstream factors of radicalization in communities particularly susceptible to terrorist recruitment overseas.
- ✓ To be effective, CVE work needs to be driven by local needs, informed by local knowledge, and responsive to the immediate concerns of the community. CVE interventions will be highly focused and short-term and will be developed in cooperation with USAID and others in the interagency as well as with international partners. Ultimately, host governments are best positioned to execute truly sustainable CVE efforts.
- ✓ **Capacity Building.** One of the central challenges to our security is that weak states serve as breeding grounds for terrorism and instability. We need to build effective law enforcement capacity, fair and impartial justice and the rule of law, good governance in many places that have

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- never known this. Multiple U.S. Government agencies are mobilized in this effort: Justice, FBI, Treasury, USAID, and the Department of Homeland Security.
- ✓ One of our most effective capacity building programs is the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, the primary provider of U.S. Government antiterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement agencies of partner nations.
 - ✓ The number of active partner countries is decreasing to about 55 in an effort to ensure we are strategically focusing our resources on building partner CT capacity in the right places. The ATA program is most effective where countries have a combination of political will and basic law enforcement skills to be most receptive to the advanced training ATA provides. Through an emphasis on train-the-trainer courses, we are working with partner nations toward the goal of institutionalization and self-sustainment of capacities.
 - ✓ **Multilateral Engagement.** Building new and strengthening existing partnerships is a cornerstone of this Administration's counterterrorism policy. The U.S. cannot address the threat alone and the UN and other multilateral bodies have resources and expertise that we need to do a better job of leveraging. With our funding support and guidance, we are getting the UN and regional bodies to focus on practical projects that target critical issues and countries.
 - ✓ S/CT has been working to develop a new multilateral counterterrorism initiative, which we believe would not only be an important step forward but would address a significant gap in the international counterterrorism architecture: the lack of a central, reliable inter-governmental platform that allows policymakers and practitioners from different regions to engage on a sustained basis on various counterterrorism issues.
 - ✓ All of this work goes on in the context of vigorous diplomatic engagement. We have formal bilateral counterterrorism consultations with numerous countries. Among them are Australia, Canada, China, Israel, Egypt, Japan, Pakistan, Algeria, Russia, and India; these consultations have strengthened our counterterrorism partnerships so we can complement one another's efforts in pursuit of a comprehensive approach to our common challenges.
 - ✓ In conclusion, the threat is formidable but we are making some progress. Countering violent extremism, multilateral engagement, and building local capacity – through our various programs and with our Department and interagency partners – provide us with the tools to make lasting progress in our fight against terrorism. (Remarks by Coordinator Benjamin, 04/14/11)

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DETAINEES

Detainees Q&A

What is the Administration's position on the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ On March 7, the Secretary of Defense issued an order rescinding his prior suspension on the swearing and referring of new charges in the military commissions. New charges in military commissions had been suspended since the President announced his review of detainee policy.
- ✓ The Administration has successfully enacted key reforms, such as a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and a better system for handling classified information.
- ✓ There are certain Guantanamo detainees who have not been charged, convicted, or designated for transfer, but must continue to be detained because they in effect, remain at war with the U.S. On March 7, the President issued an Executive Order establishing a thorough process of periodic review for these detainees, so that any prolonged detention is carefully evaluated and justified.
- ✓ The periodic review established by this order will help to ensure that individuals who we have determined will be subject to long-term detention continue to be detained only when lawful and necessary to protect against a significant threat to the security of the U.S. If a final determination is made that a detainee no longer constitutes a significant threat to our security, the Secretaries of State and Defense are to identify a suitable transfer location outside the U.S., consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. and applicable law. No Guantanamo detainee will be released into the U.S.
- ✓ We are grateful to all of our allies and partners who have worked with the Administration to implement the transfers undertaken thus far in a secure and humane manner, especially those who have resettled detainees from third countries.
- ✓ In December, Congress enacted restrictions on the prosecution of Guantanamo detainees in Federal courts. The Administration opposes these restrictions as a dangerous and unprecedented challenge to Executive authority to select the most effective means available to bring terrorists to justice and safeguard our security.
- ✓ We will seek repeal of the restrictions imposed by Congress, so that we can move forward in the forum that is, in our judgment, most in line with our national security interests and the interests of justice.
- ✓ Because of the vital importance of the rule of law to the effectiveness and legitimacy of our national security policy, the Administration is announcing our support for two important components of the international legal framework that covers armed conflicts: Additional Protocol II and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
- ✓ Additional Protocol II, which contains detailed humane treatment standards and fair trial guarantees that apply in the context of non-international armed conflicts, was originally submitted to the Senate for approval by President Reagan in 1987. The Administration urges the Senate to act as soon as practicable on this Protocol. An extensive interagency review concluded that U.S. military practice is already consistent with the Protocol's provisions.
- ✓ Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which sets forth fundamental guarantees for persons in the hands of opposing forces in an international armed conflict, is similarly important to the international legal framework. Although the Administration continues to have significant concerns with Additional Protocol I, Article 75 is a provision of the treaty that is consistent with our current policies and practice and is one that the United States has historically supported.

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- ✓ Our adherence to these principles is also an important safeguard against the mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel. (Fact Sheet on New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy, 03/07/11)
- ✓ Since the beginning of this Administration, we have transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries.
- ✓ Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding transfer options for the remaining detainees so approved, as well as those ordered released by our courts.
- ✓ Today, 172 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. Since 2002, around 600 detainees have departed Guantanamo, including more than 500 during the prior administration. (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

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June 08, 2011

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

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IRAQ

Iraq Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iraq Q&A

- ✓ **Could you comment on U.S. efforts to promote a better business environment in Iraq?**
- ✓ The U.S. government believes strongly that expanding economic opportunity is as essential as building democratic institutions. In particular, it’s very important for people going through the changes that are sweeping the region to believe and to see that democracy delivers.
- ✓ We see too few American companies alongside our soldiers and our diplomats. Iraqis are looking to rebuild every sector of their economy, not only their oil sector but agribusiness, transportation, housing, banking, and many others.
- ✓ There are still significant security challenges, bottlenecks in infrastructure, unclear regulations, and, unfortunately, corruption. But as our Iraqi colleagues will tell you, they are working hard to make it easier to do business in Iraq for Iraqis and foreign investors alike.
- ✓ Each company will make its own decisions about the costs and benefits, but we want to go on record unequivocally in encouraging American business to begin that process, and we will do everything we can to support you in it. Our embassies and consulates will be hubs that support commercial activity in every region of Iraq. The State Department will work hard to champion American companies. USAID, Treasury, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, OPIC, Ex-Im, and many other agencies have unique and proven experience that we can bring to the table.
- ✓ Ambassador Jeffrey is working hard to establish an American Chamber of Commerce in Iraq, which would be another powerful advocate.
- ✓ Ultimately these decisions are up to the Iraqi people: the leaders of the government, the leaders of industry, and, of course, Iraqi men and women who want that better future. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/03/11)
- ✓ [Fact Sheet: Doing Business in Iraq \(06/03/11\)](#)

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What is the status of the transition in Iraq?

- ✓ The safety of U.S. government personnel is of primary importance, and we are balancing risk with the value of the mission.
- ✓ For years, our diplomats have served effectively in inhospitable environments. In Iraq, we have operated successfully in multiple areas with only Diplomatic Security since 2004. We have high confidence that our capable civilians will continue to meet the diplomatic and security challenges. This is true now and it will be true after the military completes its draw down.
- ✓ The Department of State is well aware of the challenges that still exist in Iraq. Our coordinated transition plan, developed with the military, is being implemented with these challenges in mind and is realistic in its approach.
- ✓ We are confident that, in close coordination and cooperation with the U.S. military and the Government of Iraq, we will carry out a successful transition beyond 2011 while maintaining security for our personnel.
- ✓ In addition, we continue to see progress in the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces, which are already in the lead on security, and judge that this progress will continue.
- ✓ The United States and Iraq are rebalancing the relationship while we remain committed to a comprehensive partnership – based on the Strategic Framework Agreement signed between our two countries – that will broaden the emphasis on political, economic, environmental, technological and cultural cooperation, while also expanding on success in the realm of security that was the focus of recent years. (Press Guidance, 05/17/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Strengthening Iraq (05/19/11)

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IRAN

Iran Message

- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran's leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **National Security Advisor Jones** – “Iran's continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran's continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iran Q&A

How does the U.S. respond to Iranian President Ahmadinejad's assertion that no incentives would persuade Iran to stop enrichment activities?

- ✓ We have asked Iran to enter into negotiations on its nuclear program with the international community, represented by the P5+1, in good faith and with sincerity. President Ahmadinejad's response is therefore disappointing but not surprising.
- ✓ Pursuant to four Chapter VII UN Security Council resolutions, Iran is under an obligation, without delay, to suspend all of its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development.
- ✓ Iran must also cooperate with the IAEA's investigation into its nuclear program and show transparency to the international community in order to resolve international concerns about the nature of Iran's nuclear program.
- ✓ We call on Iran to fully comply with its international nuclear obligations, including those to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. (Press Guidance, 06/07/11)

What is the U.S. reaction to the IAEA Director General's statement regarding the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program?

- ✓ The IAEA Director General's statement and latest report underscores Iran's continued refusal to comply with its international nuclear obligations and its sustained lack of cooperation with the IAEA on numerous issues, including the possible military dimensions to its nuclear program.
- ✓ Iran's continuing non-response to the critical questions that surround a possible military dimension to Iran's nuclear program is deeply troubling and reinforces the urgent need for Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA.
- ✓ The international community will continue to hold Iran accountable to its international nuclear obligations, including by increasing the international pressure on Iran.
- ✓ We call on Iran to comply fully with its international obligations and cooperate fully with the IAEA. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)

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What is the current status of international sanctions on Iran?

- ✓ Sanctions imposed by the Obama Administration are part of our dual-track strategy of engagement and pressure to address the challenges posed by Iran. Iran has so far not demonstrated a willingness to meet its international obligations or negotiate seriously on its nuclear program, and so we and our international partners have had no choice but to step up pressures in the hope that Iran will reconsider what's in its own best interest.
- ✓ The Administration's sanctions policies have already had a significant impact on Iran's energy sector. Five major oil companies have committed to terminate their involvement in Iran. Major suppliers of refined petroleum and energy traders have stopped sales of refined product to Iran. Jet fuel suppliers are now refusing to supply jet fuel to Iran Air at most destinations in Europe and Asia where Iran Air flies. And now the imposition of sanctions against seven companies under the amended Iran Sanctions Act will send a strong signal to companies around the world about the risks of doing business with Iran. (White House [press briefing](#), 05/24/11)
- ✓ We have emphasized from the start that what is at issue between Iran and the rest of the world is not its right to a peaceful nuclear program, but rather its decades-long failure to live up to the responsibilities that come with that right.
- ✓ We sought to create early opportunities for Iran to pursue a different path and to build confidence in its intentions. This was a serious demonstration of good faith and an investment in partnership with a growing coalition of countries profoundly concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ We will intensify the costs of continued non-compliance and show Iran that pursuit of a nuclear weapons program will make it less secure. In the meantime we will continue to reassure our friends and partners in the Gulf of our long-term commitment to their security.
- ✓ Sanctions and pressure are not an end in themselves. They are a complement, not a substitute, for the diplomatic solution to which we and our partners are still firmly committed. There is still time for diplomacy if Iran is prepared to engage in serious discussions. There is still room for a renewed effort to break down mistrust, and begin a careful, phased process of building confidence between Iran and the international community. (Statement by Undersecretary Burns, 12/01/10)
- ✓ [Fact Sheet: Holding Iran Accountable](#) (05/19/11)
- ✓ [Fact Sheet: Companies Reducing Energy-Related Business with Iran](#) (05/24/11)

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- ✓ Fact Sheet: Seven Companies Sanctioned Under the Amended Iran Sanctions Act (05/24/11)

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MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel/Palestine Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.” (05/19/11)(read transcript)
- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) (read transcript)

Israel/Palestine Q&A

What is the U.S. response to the burning of a mosque in the West Bank on June 7?

- ✓ The United States condemns the burning and vandalizing of a mosque in the West Bank village of Al-Mughayyir on June 7.
- ✓ This attack is the latest of several such acts of violence against West Bank mosques. These incidents have served to undermine efforts to promote a comprehensive peace in the region.
- ✓ We call on the Israeli government to investigate this attack and bring the perpetrators to justice and for calm from all parties. (State Department press statement, 06/07/11)

What is the U.S. response to the June 5 shootings on the Israeli-Syrian border?

- ✓ We are deeply troubled by attempts to cross the disengagement line on June 5 in the Golan Heights, resulting in injuries and the loss of life, and condemn the Syrian government's involvement in inciting these events.
- ✓ It is clear that such behavior will not distract attention from the Syrian government's ongoing repression of demonstrators.
- ✓ As we have said, Israel, like any sovereign nation, has a right to defend itself. We call for an end to the violence and for all sides to exercise restraint. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)

Is the U.S. working to prevent another incident between a flotilla to Gaza and Israeli forces?

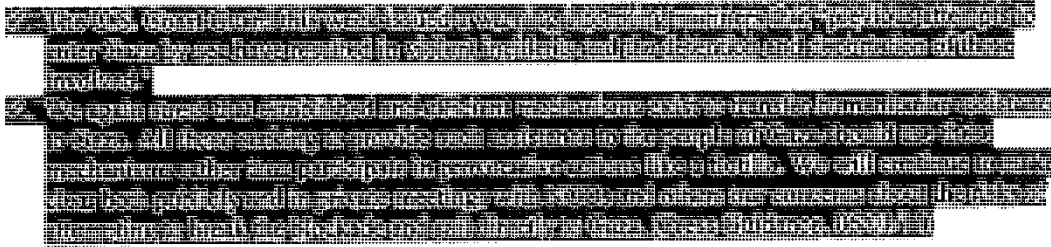
- ✓ For the past year we have made clear that groups and individuals that seek to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that entail a risk to their safety.

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What is U.S. policy on Middle East peace as outlined by President Obama?

- ✓ A lasting peace will involve two states for two peoples: Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the state of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people, each state enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace.
- ✓ The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.
- ✓ Every state has the right to self-defense, and Israel must be able to defend itself – by itself – against any threat. Provisions must also be robust enough to prevent a resurgence of terrorism, to stop the infiltration of weapons, and to provide effective border security. The full and phased withdrawal of Israeli military forces should be coordinated with the assumption of Palestinian security responsibility in a sovereign, non-militarized state.
- ✓ These steps alone will not resolve the conflict, because two wrenching and emotional issues will remain: the future of Jerusalem, and the fate of Palestinian refugees. But moving forward now on the basis of territory and security provides a foundation to resolve those two issues in a way that is just and fair, and that respects the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- ✓ For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations will not create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist.
- ✓ As for Israel, our friendship is rooted deeply in a shared history and shared values. Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakeable. But precisely because of our friendship, it's important that we tell the truth: the status quo is unsustainable, and Israel too must act boldly to advance a lasting peace. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)

Can you confirm that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have completed a reconciliation agreement?

- ✓ We understand Fatah and Hamas have reached a reconciliation agreement. What is important now is that the Palestinians ensure that implementation of the agreement advances the prospects of peace rather than undermines them.
- ✓ We understand the concerns of some members of Congress. As a new Palestinian government is formed, we will assess it based on its policies and will determine the implications for our assistance based on U.S. law.
- ✓ We are confident President Abbas remains committed to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of the state of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations between the parties.

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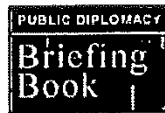
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- ✓ To play a constructive role in achieving peace, any interim Palestinian government formed in the period before elections must ensure its actions fully implement these principles. The U.S. stance toward such a government will be fully consistent with U.S. law.
- ✓ Hamas is well aware of what is at stake and our position is clear and unequivocal: to play a constructive role in achieving peace and building an independent Palestinian state, any Palestinian government must commit to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of the state of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations between the parties. Our position on Hamas has not changed; Hamas is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.
- ✓ We are speaking with President Abbas and his government as part of our ongoing consultations on these issues. We will continue to seek information on the details of the agreement and to consult with the parties about these issues. We refer you to the Palestinians for the details of the agreement. (Press Guidance, 05/09/11)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We’ve made it very clear that we cannot support any government that consists of Hamas unless and until Hamas adopts the Quartet principles.” ([read transcript](#)) (05/05/11)

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MENA TRANSITION AND REFORM**MENA Transition and Reform Message**

- ✓ **Assistant Secretary Posner** – “Our response to the upheaval in the Middle East has been rooted in a consistent set of principles: We have opposed the use of violence against peaceful protesters and supported the universal rights of free expression, assembly, and association and the right to participate in the affairs of the state. We have strongly condemned, including in multilateral fora, the killing, torture, and abuse of peaceful protesters. We have made clear our view that people’s legitimate demands and aspirations must be met by positive engagement from governments, in the form of meaningful political and economic reforms.” (05/05/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Uprisings across the region have exposed myths that for too long were used to justify a stagnant status quo. You know the myth that governments can hold on to power without responding to their people’s aspirations or respecting their rights; the myth that the only way to produce change in the region is through violence and conflict; and, most pernicious of all, the myth that Arabs do not share universal human aspirations for freedom, dignity, and opportunity.” (04/13/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Democratic change must grow from within. It cannot be implanted from the outside. And let me be among the first of many to say the West certainly does not have all of the answers. The first steps of change have come quickly and dramatically. It is, however, proving tragically difficult in Libya. In other nations, change is likely to be more deliberate and methodical. In all cases, the United States will support citizens and governments as they work for progress.” (02/28/11) ([read transcript](#))

MENA Transition and Reform Q&A

- ✓ **Could you provide an update on the situation in Yemen?**
We are aware that President Saleh is currently in Saudi Arabia receiving medical treatment. The civilian government remains in power in Yemen with the Vice President currently serving as the acting President in accordance with Yemen’s constitution.
- ✓ **We will not speculate on President Saleh’s actions or condition. The situation remains volatile and we refer you to the Yemen and Saudi governments for more details.**
- ✓ **Ambassador Feirstein and other Embassy personnel continue to meet with a broad cross section of the Yemeni population, including Vice President Hadi, to better assess the current situation and steps moving forward.**
- ✓ **The United States continues to call for a peaceful and orderly transition immediately, consistent with Yemen’s constitutional processes. Our position has not changed and we continue to believe an immediate transition is in the best interest of the Yemeni people.**
- ✓ **The instability and lack of security in Yemen cannot be fully addressed until the aspirations of the Yemeni people are realized. We will continue to consult and coordinate with our friends and partners on Yemen, including the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.**
- ✓ **Sana’a has been relatively quiet since June 4, with clashes taking place in other cities throughout Yemen. We understand the airport is open and functioning with respect to scheduled flights. We continue to monitor the volatile situation in Yemen.**
- ✓ **The violence on June 5 further adds to the instability and lack of security in Yemen. We condemn this violence in the strongest terms and call on all sides to cease violence and exercise maximum restraint moving forward.**

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- ✓ The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a remains open for emergency services. Routine consular services have been suspended. We remain on ordered departure.
- ✓ We have seen reports of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) activities in south Yemen and we continue to gather facts to paint a clearer picture of the situation on the ground in Yemen. It is clear that AQAP remains a major threat to the U.S. homeland, as well as to Yemen's stability and that of the region. We continue to do everything in our power to ensure we address that threat.
- ✓ AQAP takes advantage of the lack of security and poor governance in regions of Yemen that suffer from ongoing internal conflicts, resource challenges, insufficient delivery of services, and ineffective security architecture.
- ✓ Counterterrorism cooperation is in Yemen's interest as well as the interest of the U.S. While the current situation in Yemen is volatile, our shared interest with the Yemeni government in fighting terrorism, particularly defeating AQAP, does not rely solely on one individual; we expect that any Yemeni successor government will be a solid counterterrorism partner. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Transition and Reform in Yemen (05/19/11)

What is the U.S. response to the shutdown of Internet service in Syria?

- ✓ The U.S. is deeply concerned by reports that Internet service has been shut down across Syria.
- ✓ We condemn in the strongest terms any effort to suppress the Syrian people's exercise of their rights to free expression, assembly, and association. This includes intimidation or violence against peaceful protestors and restrictions on the Internet and connection technologies.
- ✓ Even in the face of significant obstacles, the Syrian people will find a way to make their voices heard.
- ✓ The United States stands for universal rights and believes that all governments, including the Syrian government, must respect them. (Press Guidance 06/06/11)
- ✓ On May 16, the White House released the International Strategy for Cyberspace, which noted that "states should not arbitrarily deprive or disrupt individuals' access to the Internet or other networked technologies." We condemn such shutdowns in the strongest terms. (Statement by Secretary Clinton, 06/04/11)

Can you provide an update on the situation in Syria?

- ✓ As Secretary Clinton said, the torture and murder of Hamza Ali al-Khateeb – a 13 year-old boy – symbolizes the total collapse of any effort by the Syrian government to work with and listen to their own people. We condemn this barbaric violence to a child and call on the Syrian government to immediately cease all brutality and begin a transition to real democracy.
- ✓ It is increasingly clear that empowered publics throughout the region are making clear their demand to see an end to the kind of government brutality that leads to the torture and death of a child, as well as an overall end to governance by coercion and not consent.
- ✓ The Syrian government must respect the human rights and dignity of the Syrian people. As we have said, President Assad can either lead the transition currently underway in Syria or get out of the way. Secretary Clinton recently said that the legitimacy that is necessary for anyone to expect change to occur under this current government is, if not gone, nearly run out.
- ✓ Although Ambassador Ford has regularly met with Syrian government officials throughout his tenure in Damascus, the Syrian government has refused his most recent requests for meetings with Syrian officials. Ambassador Ford continues to meet with a variety of Syrians to explain our views and to urge that they develop and work for a vision for Syria that allows freedom of expression, the right to be free from fear of arrest or torture, and the right for peaceful marches, and a real political transition process.

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Can you provide an update on the situation in Libya?

- ✓ We welcome the decision by NATO allies to extend the mandate of Operation Unified Protector for 90 days beyond June 27. This decision sends a clear message that NATO, and the entire international community, stands with the people of Libya. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)
- ✓ The President has made very clear what we want to see. The attacks on civilians must stop. President Qadhafi must stop his troops' advance, pull them back from areas they have forcibly entered, and establish water, electricity, and gas supplies to all areas. Humanitarian assistance must be allowed to reach the people of Libya. These terms are nonnegotiable.
- ✓ We also note the numerous ceasefire pledges President Qadhafi has made since the crisis began, only to flagrantly violate them each time. Any political process would have to be broad-based and inclusive and lead to a transition that reflects the will of the Libyan people and the departure of President Qadhafi from power and Libya.
- ✓ Our decision to provide non-lethal U.S. government assistance to Libya was based on our assessment of the needs of the Transitional National Council (TNC) at that time as well as international appeals and in keeping with U.S. law.
- ✓ The immediate focus of any vesting action by the President would be approximately \$200 million that is composed of cash held in the United States in the name of the Government of Libya-related entities.
- ✓ The abysmal human rights record of the Qadhafi regime means assistance to Libya is provided on the basis of a notwithstanding or other special authorities. (Press Guidance, 05/31/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Transition and Reform in Libya (05/19/11)

Is the U.S. encouraged by recent developments in Bahrain?

- ✓ Lifting the state of emergency marks the beginning of a process that will unfold in the weeks and months ahead. We will work cooperatively with the government in taking additional steps to restore confidence and restore human rights as the process moves forward.
- ✓ We welcome the King's May 31 announcement that a comprehensive and unconditional dialogue will begin in July.
- ✓ We trust that lifting the state of emergency, in conjunction with the King's announcement about the resumption of dialogue and other steps the government has taken, will help to foster an atmosphere in which dialogue can take place and respect for human rights can be fostered.
- ✓ In the coming weeks, the Bahraini government should focus on creating a positive environment for reconciliation and credible political dialogue, as well as addressing human rights concerns. Leadership is needed from all sides to make such a dialogue possible.
- ✓ We recognize that the Bahraini government has the sovereign right to ask for the deployment of Gulf Cooperation Council forces. That said, we continue to emphasize that there is no security solution to the political problems facing Bahrain; there must be a credible political process that addresses the legitimate concerns of all Bahrainis. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Democratic Reform in Bahrain (05/19/11)

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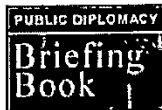
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What is the U.S. response to the recent events in the Middle East and North Africa?

- ✓ The nations of the Middle East and North Africa won their independence long ago, but in too many places their people did not. In too many countries, power has been concentrated in the hands of a few. In too many countries, a citizen has no honest judiciary to hear his case; no independent media to give him voice; no credible political party to represent his views; no free and fair election where he could choose his leader.
- ✓ The events of the past six months show us that strategies of repression and strategies of diversion will not work anymore. Through the moral force of nonviolence, the people of the region have achieved more change in six months than terrorists have accomplished in decades.
- ✓ The question before us is what role America will play as this story unfolds. For decades, the U.S. has pursued a set of core interests in the region: countering terrorism and stopping the spread of nuclear weapons; securing the free flow of commerce and safe-guarding the security of the region; standing up for Israel's security and pursuing Arab-Israeli peace.
- ✓ We will continue to do these things, with the firm belief that America's interests are not hostile to people's hopes; they're essential to them. Yet we must acknowledge that a strategy based solely upon the narrow pursuit of these interests will not fill an empty stomach or allow someone to speak their mind. Moreover, failure to speak to the broader aspirations of ordinary people will only feed the suspicion that has festered for years that the United States pursues our interests at their expense.
- ✓ We face a historic opportunity. We have the chance to show that America values the dignity of the street vendor in Tunisia more than the raw power of the dictator. There must be no doubt that the United States of America welcomes change that advances self-determination and opportunity.
- ✓ Not every country will follow our particular form of representative democracy, and there will be times when our short-term interests don't align perfectly with our long-term vision for the region. But we can, and we will, speak out for a set of core principles – principles that have guided our response to the events over the past six months: 1) the U.S. opposes the use of violence and repression against the people of the region; 2) the U.S. supports a set of universal rights, which include free speech, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of religion, equality for men and women under the rule of law, and the right to choose your own leaders; and 3) we support political and economic reform in the Middle East and North Africa that can meet the legitimate aspirations of ordinary people throughout the region.
- ✓ It will be the policy of the United States to promote reform across the region, and to support transitions to democracy. That effort begins in Egypt and Tunisia, where the stakes are high. But our support must also extend to nations where transitions have yet to take place. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: A "Moment of Opportunity" in the Middle East and North Africa (05/19/11)

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NORTH KOREA

North Korea Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

North Korea Q&A

Could you comment on the implementation of the North Korean Human Rights Act?

- ✓ Advancing human rights is a top U.S. priority in our North Korea policy and is among the primary factors that will determine if any long-term improvement between the U.S. and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be possible.
- ✓ The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 and its reauthorization in 2008 demonstrates Congress’ commitment to ensuring that the well-being of the North Korean people remains an important foreign policy priority. This legislation created the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.
- ✓ Engaging with DPRK officials is a key requirement of the position of the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights. Ambassador King’s recent trip was the first time the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct dialogue about ways North Korea can improve its human rights record.
- ✓ We have also encouraged our partners to include human rights in their North Korea policy. In addition to consulting with other governments, we met with organizations that deal with North Korea human rights issues – think tanks and academic institutions that analyze human rights issues; advocacy organizations that call attention to human right abuses; humanitarian assistance organizations that provide food, medical aid, and other assistance to the DPRK; educational, cultural, and scientific organizations that seek to engage the DPRK; churches and religious organizations; and Korean-American organizations that are interested in family reunions with relatives living in the DPRK.
- ✓ Between FY 2008-2011, the Department received \$9.5 million from the Economic Support Fund to promote rule of law and human rights, increase media freedom, and build civil society in North Korea. These funds also support efforts to build the capacity of the defector and NGO community in the South Korea to better advocate for improved conditions inside the DPRK.
- ✓ Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled 120 North Korean refugees and their families. We remain actively committed to ensuring that each North Korean refugee who is interested and eligible gains access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The U.S. remains deeply concerned about the plight of North Korean refugees and asylum seekers. Reports of the involuntary return of North Koreans from China to the DPRK, including victims of human trafficking, remain deeply

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disturbing, as these returnees often face serious consequences. We continue to urge China to adhere to its obligations as a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including by not expelling or forcibly returning North Koreans who should be protected under those treaties.

- ✓ To increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within the country, the U.S. government funds Korean-language broadcasting into North Korea by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and supports independent and defector-run broadcasts through the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. The BBG continues to explore avenues to expand broadcast capability into North Korea, and the Department of State is exploring opportunities using new media to reach North Koreans. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

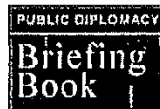
Did Ambassador King discuss human rights with North Korean officials while he was there?

- ✓ Ambassador King had discussions on human rights issues with DPRK officials in North Korea.
- ✓ The United States remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the DPRK. Human rights are a top U.S. priority.
- ✓ This is a significant first step toward substantive discussions on human rights concerns. This was the first time the United States' Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct discussion on how North Korea can improve its human rights record. We welcome a continued dialogue with the DPRK on human rights issues. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)

What were the findings of the U.S. food assistance assessment team in North Korea?

- ✓ The field team of food security experts conducted assessments throughout the country and remained in North Korea until June 2. We will evaluate their findings after their mission before making any decision to provide assistance.
- ✓ Special Envoy for North Korea Human Rights Robert King and USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Jon Brause met with First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan, Vice Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, and Director General for North American Affairs Ri Gun in Pyongyang, North Korea.
- ✓ Ambassador King and Deputy Assistant Administrator Brause discussed monitoring terms necessary to assure that if the United States provides humanitarian aid to the DPRK, it will reach those for whom it is intended.
- ✓ The United States remains concerned about the well-being of the North Korean people. (Press Guidance, 05/31/11)
- ✓ The U.S. government's policy on the provision of food assistance is based on three factors: 1) the level of need in a given country; 2) competing needs in other countries; and 3) our ability to ensure that aid is reliably reaching the people in need. This policy is consistent with our long-standing goal of providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of countries around the world where there are legitimate humanitarian needs. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN****Afghanistan and Pakistan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.”
(12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.”
(05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.”
(03/28/10) ([read transcript](#))

Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A**Can you provide any information on the efforts to reintegrate Afghan insurgents?**

- ✓ The Afghan government is actively reaching out to insurgents who may wish to re-enter society and are willing to renounce violence, break with al Qaeda, and abide by Afghanistan’s laws and Constitution, including provisions that protect the rights of all Afghan men and women, and we are supporting those efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) is still a relatively new program, and was unveiled as a concept in July 2010. There have been some obstacles to overcome, and some structures to support APRP are still standing up. To date, 1,267 re-integreees have enrolled in the program and additional insurgents are currently in negotiations with the government. Thirty-three Provincial Peace Councils have been established and seven more are standing up.
- ✓ The Afghan government is in the lead in this program and we are working closely with them to support their efforts.
- ✓ It is not true that the reintegration process has been hampered by a lack of funding. Foreign assistance funding for reintegration is pending a certification by the Secretary of State as required by Section 1004(d) of the FY10 Supplemental Appropriations Act.
- ✓ To date, the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act provided authority for a \$50 million transfer from the Department of Defense (DoD) Commanders’ Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds to support stability operations – which include reintegration activities. To make this transfer, the DoD transferred \$50 million in CERP funds to USAID.

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- ✓ USAID used its existing agreement with the World Bank to put the money toward community recovery programs via the World Bank's Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). These funds benefit local communities, as well as ex-combatants, by improving basic services, providing more technical and vocational training, and initiating other vital development projects. Community recovery is a key aspect of the APRP.
- ✓ The U.S. government, through the DoD, also has the authority to utilize up to \$50 million in Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds to support further the Government of Afghanistan's reintegration efforts in the field. (Press Guidance, 05/20/11)

Can you confirm reports that the U.S. is considering changes to its policy on drone strikes in Pakistan?

- ✓ We cannot comment on that report, but our continued cooperation with Pakistan is the best way forward against the shared threat posed by insurgents
- ✓ Our partnership with Pakistan is about ensuring a brighter and safer future for both the Pakistani people and the American people. One way we do this by fighting the brutal extremists that threaten all of us
- ✓ We are working closely with Pakistan to the find common ground towards achieving our shared goal of defeating insurgents. And we will continue to work closely together in the face of this common threat to ensure the safety of our people today and in to the future. (Press Guidance 06/06/11)

What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- ✓ President set out a clear goal: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, and prevent it from threatening America and our allies in the future.
- ✓ Al Qaeda and the Taliban, along with various associated groups, still maintain an alliance, based largely in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Taliban and al Qaeda are distinct groups with distinct aims, but they are both our adversaries and part of a syndicate of terror that must be broken.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ We are following a strategy with three mutually reinforcing tracks: a military offensive against al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban insurgents; a civilian campaign to bolster the governments, economies, and civil societies of Afghanistan and Pakistan to undercut the pull of the insurgency; and an intensified diplomatic push to bring the Afghan conflict to an end and chart a new and more secure future for the region.
- ✓ We have laid out unambiguous red lines for reconciliation with insurgents. They must renounce violence, abandon their alliance with al Qaeda, and abide by the constitution of Afghanistan.
- ✓ This summer, ISAF will begin a gradual, responsible transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces with the goal of removing all international combat troops by the end of 2014. As this transition moves forward, the Afghan people should remember that while the U.S. and our coalition partners may draw down our military forces over time, we are committed to a long-term strategic partnership with Afghanistan. We will continue to train, equip, and support Afghan security forces and do what we can to help the government improve the lives of its citizens.

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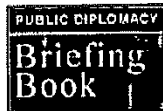
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- ✓ The shift in military momentum provides the Afghan government an opportunity to strengthen the competence of its people through economic development, fair enforcement of the rule of law, attacking corruption and the provision of basic services.
- ✓ From the beginning, we have recognized the fundamental connection between our war effort in Afghanistan and the extremists' safe havens and enablers in Pakistan. As a result of growing cooperation between our governments, militaries, and law enforcement agencies, and determined action by the Pakistani army, we have been able to dramatically expand our counterterrorism and intelligence efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan government needs to safeguard the rights of all Afghans, especially women and minorities. (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10) and (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 02/18/11) and (Remarks by Secretary Gates, 06/05/11)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) (read transcript)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**RUSSIA****Russia Message**

- ✓ **Defense Secretary Gates** – “This last year has seen remarkable progress in the U.S.-Russia relationship, a relationship that has evolved from focusing nearly exclusively on traditional global issues, primarily arms control, to our present collaboration at a working level on a range of matters affecting our defense ministries.” (03/22/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) ([read transcript](#))

Russia Q&A**What is the U.S. assessment of the human rights situation in Russia?**

- ✓ President Medvedev has set forth his vision of a democratic, modern and successful Russia governed by the rule of law. President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary Clinton have expressed their strong support for that same vision. The ability of Russian citizens to exercise their basic civil and political rights and access justice and due process will be key to realizing the Russia we all want to see.
- ✓ Despite these aspects of progress, we believe that continued limits and restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of the Russian people – rights guaranteed in international and Russian domestic law – are a larger problem for Russian citizens, businesses, and the government itself. We frequently raise these areas of concern with our Russian counterparts, both in public and in private.
- ✓ Progress has been more limited in the area of freedom of the press. We share the deep concerns expressed within Russia and across the international community over the murders of journalists known for their courageous work defending human rights and fighting corruption.
- ✓ There are still too many unsolved cases, and we continue to call for a full investigation into the unsolved murders of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, among others. We have also expressed our concern that the only judicial action to date in the murder of Natalia Estemirova has been the prosecution of Oleg Orlov for saying out loud what many people suspected to be the case. We welcome the convictions in the murder case of the human rights defenders Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova.
- ✓ In addition to effective prosecutions by the government, we hope the Russian media and independent Russian organizations and institutions will continue to scrutinize the Russian justice system, to support improvements and address challenges. For example, a representative from the

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Presidential Council on Human Rights recently indicated that the Council would find that the charges against Sergei Magnitsky had been fabricated, so it has now been established that he was unjustly imprisoned. Similarly, the court decision to deny the appeals of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev also reminds us of large issues regarding impartiality, due process and selective prosecution.

- ✓ Outside scrutiny of government actions and the follow-on dialogue with government are key to progress in many areas beyond criminal justice. We remain gravely concerned, about the extrajudicial killings, torture, and disappearances committed with impunity by the forces of Chechen President Kadyrov and others. We have urged Russia authorities to act upon the many decisions of the European Court of Human Rights addressing human rights abuses in the North Caucasus as a step towards restoring rule of law in the region.
- ✓ Finally, freedom of assembly – to gather together and share ideas and urge change – is another essential element to a stronger Russia that taps into the talent and creativity of the Russia people. Most recently, we were concerned about reports of intimidation and attacks by private security guards, police, and other parties on activists associated with the Khimki Forest campaign. In another concerning move, this month, for the sixth year in a row, Moscow authorities refused permission for an NGO to hold an LGBT parade/rally. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 05/27/11)

What is the status of our negotiations with Russia on missile defense?

- ✓ Our discussions are ongoing. Under Secretary Ellen Tauscher departed for Moscow on May 18 to continue talks on missile defense cooperation with her Russian counterpart Sergey Ryabkov beginning May 19. The Under Secretary has been leading these talks with her Russian counterpart.
- ✓ Our missile defenses are not directed at Russia nor do they threaten Russia's strategic deterrent.
- ✓ We believe that cooperation is the best way for Russia to gain confidence that U.S. and NATO missile defenses are not directed at it.
- ✓ President Obama has been clear that the United States will not accept any limits or constraints on its missile defense programs, including those with NATO.
- ✓ Our vision for missile defense cooperation between NATO and Russia is two independent but coordinated systems whereby NATO is responsible for the defense of NATO and Russia is responsible for the defense of Russian. (Press Guidance, 05/18/11)

What are the next areas of emphasis for the continued reset of the U.S. relationship with Russia?

- ✓ The President Obama made it a priority to reset our relationship with Russia. We focused the reset on concrete outcomes that serve both countries' interests.
- ✓ Two years later, the benefits to both our countries – and to international security – are clear, including: the new Start Treaty that further limits strategic nuclear weapons, cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, collaboration on Afghanistan that facilitates the flow of soldiers and supplies, and the most stringent sanctions ever on Iran and North Korea for their pursuit of nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The next frontier in our relationship will be building stronger ties of trade and commerce that match the security cooperation we have achieved. Our trade and investment relationship is nowhere near where it could or should be. One way to realize the potential of that relationship is to bring Russia more fully into the international trading system. That is why we strongly support Russia's effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ WTO accession will enable Russia to deepen its trade relations with the U.S. and the world. It will give American companies greater and more predictable access to Russia's growing markets,

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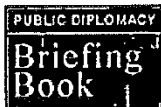
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expanding both U.S. exports and employment. Being a part of the WTO means that Russia will have to play by the rules or face enforcement actions.

- ✓ Once Russia does what is required to join the WTO, we will also work with Congress to terminate the application to Russia of the Jackson-Vanik amendment – a Cold War-era law that tied trade relations with Russia to Jewish emigration, but remains on the books.
- ✓ Russia's business and legal climate and backsliding on democracy will present serious obstacles. At the same time as we have increased our cooperation with the Russian government, our administration has spoken out on allegations of misconduct in the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and of the beating and detention of "Strategy 31" demonstrators – and we will continue to do so in defense of universal values. But real opposition parties, independent media, and impartial courts are also the best tools for fighting corruption – the biggest barrier to economic growth in Russia.
- ✓ Russians and Americans inside and outside of government have worked hard to overcome decades of mistrust, to identify common ground, and to foster a more secure and more prosperous future for both countries. (Op-Ed by Vice President Biden, 03/14/11)

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SUDAN/DARFUR

Sudan Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “After decades of conflict, the images of millions of southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the world and another step forward in Africa’s long journey toward justice and democracy. Now, all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and outstanding disputes must be resolved peacefully. At the same time, there must be an end to attacks on civilians in Darfur and a definitive end to that conflict.” (02/07/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

Sudan Q&A

- ✓ **Is the U.S. concerned about escalating violence in the Southern Kordofan state of Sudan?**
The United States is deeply troubled by reports of violent clashes between military units in Southern Kordofan state in Sudan. Such violent acts not only result in the loss of innocent lives, but they further throw into jeopardy the peace that both sides had worked so hard to build.
- ✓ **We call for an immediate halt to all military actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations on future political and security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and neighboring Blue Nile state.**
- ✓ **Both parties to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) must maintain their commitment to the security arrangements in that agreement and work expeditiously to conclude new arrangements to govern their post-CPA relationship. The parties must make good on their commitment to the Sudanese people and the international community to stay on the path of peace.**
- ✓ **We call on Sudanese leaders from these areas to meet immediately to resolve these issues peacefully and expeditiously, and to refrain from further actions that could cause further violence and human suffering by destabilizing Southern Kordofan or Blue Nile. We also call on Sudanese leaders to provide the United Nations Mission in Sudan the full and unimpeded access required to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access, and contribute to efforts to maintain the fragile peace between Sudan’s north and south. (State Department press statement, 06/07/11)**

What did the U.S. and the rest of the UN Security Council decide with regard to the Abyei region of Sudan?

- ✓ **The UN Security Council (UNSC) expresses grave concern about the ongoing violence and rapidly deteriorating situation in Abyei. The UNSC strongly condemns the Government of Sudan’s taking and continued maintenance of military control over the Abyei area and the resulting displacement of tens of thousands of residents of Abyei.**
- ✓ **The Council calls on the Sudanese Armed Forces to ensure an immediate halt to all looting, burning, and illegal resettlement. The Council stresses that all those responsible for violations of**

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international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as those who ordered those acts, will be held accountable.

✓ The continued military operations of the Government of Sudan and militia activities in Abyei constitute a serious violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Kadugli agreements.

✓ The Council expresses grave concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the area and praises the efforts of the humanitarian community to deliver emergency assistance, including food, health care, shelter and water, to those affected by the conflict, despite continued insecurity in the region and despite severe limitations on access.

✓ The UNSC calls on all parties to respect humanitarian principles and allow all humanitarian personnel timely and unfettered access to vulnerable individuals and communities affected by the fighting.

✓ The Security Council strongly condemns all attacks against the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which are criminal acts against a UN mission and its personnel and which threaten to undermine the commitment of the parties to avoid a return to war.

✓ The Security Council recalls the commitments made by Vice-President Ali Osman Taha and First Vice-President Salva Kiir that both parties shall remove any unconditional claims to Abyei in their draft national constitutions, and urges the parties to avoid inflammatory rhetoric. (UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Sudan, 06/04/11)

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TERRORISM

Terrorism Q&A

What is the U.S. response to Pakistan's formation of a committee to investigate Osama bin Laden's presence there?

- ✓ Both U.S. and Pakistan officials have acknowledged that there must have been some sort of support network for bin Laden inside of Pakistan. However, both Secretary Clinton and Secretary Gates have said there is absolutely no evidence that anyone at the highest levels of the Pakistani Government knew that Osama bin Laden was living in Abbottabad.
- ✓ We share with the Government of Pakistan a profound interest in finding out what kinds of support networks bin Laden might have had. We also believe Pakistan shares the importance we place on a credible investigation.
- ✓ We refer you to the Pakistani government for any information about the committee. (Press Guidance: 06/01/11)

Could you comment on the operation that led to the death of Osama bin Laden?

- ✓ On May 1, the U.S. has conducted an operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al Qaeda, and a terrorist who is responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children.
- ✓ For over two decades, bin Laden has been al Qaeda's leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat al Qaeda.
- ✓ Yet his death does not mark the end of our effort. There is no doubt that al Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must – and we will – remain vigilant at home and abroad.
- ✓ As we do, we must also reaffirm that the United States is not – and never will be – at war with Islam. Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader; he was a mass murderer of Muslims.
- ✓ It is important to note that our counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped lead us to bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding. Indeed, bin Laden had declared war against Pakistan as well, and ordered attacks against the Pakistani people.
- ✓ We will be relentless in defense of our citizens and our friends and allies. We will be true to the values that make us who we are. And we can say to those families who have lost loved ones to al Qaeda's terror: justice has been done. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/01/11)
- ✓ In the wake of this major counterterrorism success, the intelligence community remains squarely focused on the safety of the American people. We will sustain intense pressure on al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Al Qaeda is damaged by bin Laden's death, but the group remains dangerous. (Department of Defense press statement, 05/07/11)
- ✓ Secretary Clinton – “All over the world we will press forward, bolstering our partnerships, strengthening our networks, investing in a positive vision of peace and progress, and relentlessly pursuing the murderers who target innocent people. The fight continues, and we will never waver.” (read transcript) (05/02/11)

What are the State Department's counterterrorism priorities?

- ✓ **Reducing Recruitment.** The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) work of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism (S/CT) focuses on three main lines of effort that will reduce terrorist recruitment: delegitimizing the violent extremist narrative in order to diminish its "pull"; developing positive alternatives for youth vulnerable to radicalization to diminish the "push" effect of grievances and unmet expectations; and building partner capacity to carry out these activities.

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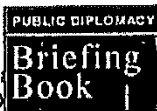
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- Key intents of CVE programming are to diminish the drivers of radicalization and demonstrably reduce the effectiveness of terrorist propaganda, thus leading to lowered numbers in recruitment.
- ✓ Successful CVE involves more than messaging, however, and we are working with the interagency to develop programs that address the upstream factors of radicalization in communities particularly susceptible to terrorist recruitment overseas.
 - ✓ To be effective, CVE work needs to be driven by local needs, informed by local knowledge, and responsive to the immediate concerns of the community. CVE interventions will be highly focused and short-term and will be developed in cooperation with USAID and others in the interagency as well as with international partners. Ultimately, host governments are best positioned to execute truly sustainable CVE efforts.
 - ✓ **Capacity Building.** One of the central challenges to our security is that weak states serve as breeding grounds for terrorism and instability. We need to build effective law enforcement capacity, fair and impartial justice and the rule of law, good governance in many places that have never known this. Multiple U.S. Government agencies are mobilized in this effort: Justice, FBI, Treasury, USAID, and the Department of Homeland Security.
 - ✓ One of our most effective capacity building programs is the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, the primary provider of U.S. Government antiterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement agencies of partner nations.
 - ✓ The number of active partner countries is decreasing to about 55 in an effort to ensure we are strategically focusing our resources on building partner CT capacity in the right places. The ATA program is most effective where countries have a combination of political will and basic law enforcement skills to be most receptive to the advanced training ATA provides. Through an emphasis on train-the-trainer courses, we are working with partner nations toward the goal of institutionalization and self-sustainment of capacities.
 - ✓ **Multilateral Engagement.** Building new and strengthening existing partnerships is a cornerstone of this Administration's counterterrorism policy. The U.S. cannot address the threat alone and the UN and other multilateral bodies have resources and expertise that we need to do a better job of leveraging. With our funding support and guidance, we are getting the UN and regional bodies to focus on practical projects that target critical issues and countries.
 - ✓ S/CT has been working to develop a new multilateral counterterrorism initiative, which we believe would not only be an important step forward but would address a significant gap in the international counterterrorism architecture: the lack of a central, reliable inter-governmental platform that allows policymakers and practitioners from different regions to engage on a sustained basis on various counterterrorism issues.
 - ✓ All of this work goes on in the context of vigorous diplomatic engagement. We have formal bilateral counterterrorism consultations with numerous countries. Among them are Australia, Canada, China, Israel, Egypt, Japan, Pakistan, Algeria, Russia, and India; these consultations have strengthened our counterterrorism partnerships so we can complement one another's efforts in pursuit of a comprehensive approach to our common challenges.
 - ✓ In conclusion, the threat is formidable but we are making some progress. Countering violent extremism, multilateral engagement, and building local capacity – through our various programs and with our Department and interagency partners – provide us with the tools to make lasting progress in our fight against terrorism. (Remarks by Coordinator Benjamin, 04/14/11)

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DETAINEES

Detainees Q&A

Has the U.S. lost track of Guantanamo detainees sent to the Middle East and North Africa?

- ✓ This Administration has worked comprehensively to keep track of and mitigate the threat, if any, posed by former Guantanamo detainees, and will continue to do so. However, efforts to monitor and coordinate with other countries on post-transfer activities of former Guantanamo detainees are not a matter we discuss publicly.
- ✓ Post-transfer monitoring of detainees by receiving countries has varied. We continue to have excellent exchanges with some countries. However, this Administration suspended transfers to Yemen more than a year ago and has subsequently not transferred any detainees to Yemen unless ordered released by U.S. federal courts.
- ✓ In this Administration, every decision to transfer a detainee to a foreign country was based on unanimous approval by all agencies involved in the Task Force after a full assessment of intelligence and threat information. This includes the Departments of Defense, State, Justice, Homeland Security, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- ✓ The previous Administration transferred 25 detainees to countries cited in the recent *Wall Street Journal* article – Egypt (2), Tunisia (2), Libya (2), Bahrain (5), and Yemen (14), and 120 detainees to Saudi Arabia. This Administration has not transferred any detainees to Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, or Bahrain, and transferred three detainees to Saudi Arabia and eight to Yemen (including 2 ordered released by federal courts). (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

What is the Administration's position on the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ On March 7, the Secretary of Defense issued an order rescinding his prior suspension on the swearing and referring of new charges in the military commissions. New charges in military commissions had been suspended since the President announced his review of detainee policy.
- ✓ The Administration has successfully enacted key reforms, such as a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and a better system for handling classified information.
- ✓ There are certain Guantanamo detainees who have not been charged, convicted, or designated for transfer, but must continue to be detained because they in effect, remain at war with the U.S. On March 7, the President issued an Executive Order establishing a thorough process of periodic review for these detainees, so that any prolonged detention is carefully evaluated and justified.
- ✓ The periodic review established by this order will help to ensure that individuals who we have determined will be subject to long-term detention continue to be detained only when lawful and necessary to protect against a significant threat to the security of the U.S. If a final determination is made that a detainee no longer constitutes a significant threat to our security, the Secretaries of State and Defense are to identify a suitable transfer location outside the U.S., consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. and applicable law. No Guantanamo detainee will be released into the U.S.
- ✓ We are grateful to all of our allies and partners who have worked with the Administration to implement the transfers undertaken thus far in a secure and humane manner, especially those who have resettled detainees from third countries.
- ✓ In December, Congress enacted restrictions on the prosecution of Guantanamo detainees in Federal courts. The Administration opposes these restrictions as a dangerous and unprecedented challenge

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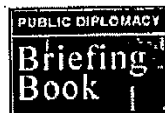
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- to Executive authority to select the most effective means available to bring terrorists to justice and safeguard our security.
- ✓ We will seek repeal of the restrictions imposed by Congress, so that we can move forward in the forum that is, in our judgment, most in line with our national security interests and the interests of justice.
 - ✓ Because of the vital importance of the rule of law to the effectiveness and legitimacy of our national security policy, the Administration is announcing our support for two important components of the international legal framework that covers armed conflicts: Additional Protocol II and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
 - ✓ Additional Protocol II, which contains detailed humane treatment standards and fair trial guarantees that apply in the context of non-international armed conflicts, was originally submitted to the Senate for approval by President Reagan in 1987. The Administration urges the Senate to act as soon as practicable on this Protocol. An extensive interagency review concluded that U.S. military practice is already consistent with the Protocol's provisions.
 - ✓ Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which sets forth fundamental guarantees for persons in the hands of opposing forces in an international armed conflict, is similarly important to the international legal framework. Although the Administration continues to have significant concerns with Additional Protocol I, Article 75 is a provision of the treaty that is consistent with our current policies and practice and is one that the United States has historically supported.
 - ✓ Our adherence to these principles is also an important safeguard against the mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel. (Fact Sheet on New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy, 03/07/11)
 - ✓ Since the beginning of this Administration, we have transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries.
 - ✓ Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding transfer options for the remaining detainees so approved, as well as those ordered released by our courts.
 - ✓ Today, 172 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. Since 2002, around 600 detainees have departed Guantanamo, including more than 500 during the prior administration. (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

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IRAQ

Iraq Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iraq Q&A

What is the U.S. reaction to continuing terrorist attacks in Iraq, particularly in Baghdad?

The United States strongly condemns terrorist attacks in Iraq, which have caused significant civilian casualties, injuries, and displacement of innocent people. The United States remains committed to the security and stability of Iraq and will continue to work with the Iraqi government to address these threats.

The attacks on January 30 in Baghdad were especially reprehensible and represent a direct challenge to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. The United States strongly condemns these attacks and will continue to work with the Iraqi government to address these threats.

What is the U.S. reaction to the formation of a new Iraqi government?

The successful formation of a new government in Iraq is a significant milestone. The United States congratulates the new Iraqi government and Prime Minister Maliki on the formation of a national partnership government. This is a victory for the democratic political process, national unity, and a decisive repudiation of violence.

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- What is the U.S. reaction to the formation of a new Iraqi government?**
- ✓ We congratulate the new Iraqi government and Prime Minister Maliki on the formation of a national partnership government. This is a victory for the democratic political process, national unity, and a decisive repudiation of violence.
 - ✓ Iraq’s parliament has approved a broadly inclusive government reflecting the results of the election and the will of the Iraqi people. All of Iraq’s ethnic and sectarian communities are represented in a meaningful way.

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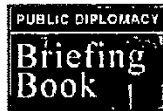
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- ✓ The National Council on Higher Policy is an important part of the agreement that was struck to bring this government together and we have supported the creation of this Council.
- ✓ The political blocs have agreed that Ayad Allawi will be the President of the Council and we expect to see action in Parliament in the near future to legally enshrine the Council as part of the new government.
- ✓ The U.S. has been playing an active but patient and supporting role. We supported the Iraqi elections, we supported the Iraqi government formation process, and we support the outcome.
- ✓ With this significant accomplishment now behind them, Iraqi political leaders should move forward expeditiously on an agenda that will meet the needs and expectations of the Iraqi people.
- ✓ We support women's rights in Iraq and believe women should be represented in the Iraqi government. Iraq has had a good record in this area. (Press Guidance, 12/22/10)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I congratulate Iraq's political leaders, the members of the Council of Representatives, and the Iraqi people on the formation of a new government of national partnership." (12/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – "The formation of this government is a milestone in the emergence of the new Iraq. It constitutes a resounding rejection of the extremists who sought to derail the democratic process and sow discord among Iraqis. Iraq is a great nation with a promising future, and we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the new government to help our Iraqi friends build on what they have already achieved." (12/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

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IRAN

Iran Message

- ✓ Secretary Clinton – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran's leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ National Security Advisor Jones – “Iran’s continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran’s continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) (read transcript)

Iran Q&A

Can you comment on the reported hanging of two members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq for broadcasting the 2009 Iranian election protests?

✓ We are aware of reports of the hanging of Jafar Kazemi and Mohammad Haj Aghaei in Iran on January 24.

✓ Secretary Clinton expressed our concern about the fate of these two men in August 2010, urging a halt to their executions for exercising their right to free expression after the June 2009 elections.

✓ We condemn their execution and continue to call on Iran to follow due process as required by its own constitution and to adhere to its obligations under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

Is the U.S. considering additional sanctions on Iran in light of the disappointing Istanbul talks?

✓ The Iranian nuclear issue remains an urgent challenge for all of us. Iran is going to continue to face pressure unless and until it seriously addresses the international community's concerns about its nuclear program.

✓ As Lady Ashton stressed in Istanbul, the U.S. and its P5+1 partners remain committed to pursuing a diplomatic solution. The door remains open, and the choice is Iran's to make.

✓ We will certainly continue to consult with and work closely with our P5+1 partners on next steps based on our continuing dual track approach of engagement and pressure.

✓ We are continually evaluating the effectiveness of our strategy, including our approach on the pressure track. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

What does the U.S. expect from the Hong Kong government following the designation of 20 entities based in Hong Kong as contributors to Iranian proliferation efforts?

✓ As part of its dual-track strategy toward Iran, the Administration encourages all governments to adopt strong measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1929, which imposes sanctions on Iran for non-compliance with its international nuclear obligations.

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What is the current status of international sanctions on Iran?

- ✓ We have emphasized from the start that what is at issue between Iran and the rest of the world is not its right to a peaceful nuclear program, but rather its decades-long failure to live up to the responsibilities that come with that right.
- ✓ We sought to create early opportunities for Iran to pursue a different path and to build confidence in its intentions. This was a serious demonstration of good faith and an investment in partnership with a growing coalition of countries profoundly concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ UN Security Council Resolution 1929 broke important new ground in curbing arms transfers to Iran; targeting the central role of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran's proliferation efforts; banning for the first time all Iranian activities related to ballistic missiles that could deliver a nuclear weapon; sharply limiting Iran's ability to use the international financial system to fund and facilitate nuclear and missile proliferation; and for the first time highlighting formally potential links between Iran's energy sector and its nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ A week after passage of 1929, the EU announced by far its most sweeping collection of measures against Iran. Canada, Australia, Norway, Japan, and South Korea have followed the EU's example.
- ✓ When the President signed into law the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA) in early July, the Administration and Congress sent an unmistakable signal of American resolve and purpose, expanding significantly the scope of our domestic sanctions and maximizing the impact of new multilateral measures.
- ✓ Faced with new international concerns, and the choice between doing business with Iran and doing business with America, more and more foreign companies are pulling out of the Iranian market.
- ✓ We also emphasize that we take very seriously CISADA's provisions regarding human rights concerns in Iran.
- ✓ We will intensify the costs of continued non-compliance and show Iran that pursuit of a nuclear weapons program will make it less secure. In the meantime we will continue to reassure our friends and partners in the Gulf of our long-term commitment to their security.
- ✓ Sanctions and pressure are not an end in themselves. They are a complement, not a substitute, for the diplomatic solution to which we and our partners are still firmly committed. There is still time for diplomacy if Iran is prepared to engage in serious discussions. There is still room for a renewed effort to break down mistrust, and begin a careful, phased process of building confidence between Iran and the international community. (Statement by Undersecretary Burns, 12/01/10)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**MIDDLE EAST****Israel/Palestine Message**

- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States can be a partner in solving the problem, but ultimately the parties involved are going to have to make a decision that the prosperity and security of their people is best served by negotiations and compromise, and we can’t force them to make those difficult decisions. What we can do is to provide them a framework and a forum and the support for such an outcome to be achieved.” (06/05/09) ([read transcript](#))

Israel/Palestine Q&A

What is the U.S. reaction to the Turkel Commission report, which appears to clear Israel of wrongdoing for the 2010 Gaza flotilla incident?

- ✓ This is the first part of a two-part report; it is an important step forward in the overall investigative process regarding the Mavi Marmara flotilla investigation, and as such we welcome it. We understand the second half of the report will be released in the coming months.
- ✓ The process undertaken by the UN Secretary General continues. Israel is submitting part one of its report and will later submit its full report to the UN Secretary General’s panel.
- ✓ We look forward to the process continuing at the UN, which will give the international community the opportunity to fully review the circumstances surrounding the incident. We again express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his efforts to establish the panel, and to the governments of Turkey and Israel for their constructive participation in it.
- ✓ Immediately following the May 31 incidents, we noted the importance of a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation into these events. We continue to hold that view and believe we must resist the tendency to reach conclusions without the opportunity for a full examination of the facts and perspectives from all sides. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

What is the U.S. reaction to Al-Jazeera’s release of alleged negotiations documents related to Middle East peace efforts?

- ✓ These are not U.S. documents. We cannot vouch for their veracity.
- ✓ We do not plan to comment on any particular document.
- ✓ None of this changes our understanding of what is at stake and what needs to be done. A framework agreement that resolves the core issues remains possible and necessary.

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What is U.S. policy regarding the Middle East peace process?

- ✓ Over recent months, Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas have met face to face multiple times. These were meaningful talks that yielded new clarity about the gaps that must be bridged. Significantly, both sides decided to pursue a framework agreement that would establish the fundamental compromises on all permanent status issues and pave the way for a final peace treaty.
- ✓ The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Arab neighbors is a source of tension and an obstacle to prosperity and opportunity for all the people of the region. Continuing conflict also strengthens the hands of extremists and rejectionists across the region while sapping the support of those open to coexistence and cooperation.
- ✓ America's commitment to Israel's security and its future is rock solid and unwavering, and that will not change. The Obama Administration has reaffirmed this commitment.
- ✓ The lack of peace and the occupation that began in 1967 continue to deprive the Palestinian people of dignity and self-determination. This is unacceptable and unsustainable.
- ✓ We will deepen our strong commitment to supporting the state-building work of the Palestinian Authority and continue to urge the states of the region to develop the content of the Arab Peace Initiative and to work toward implementing its vision. The Arab states have a pivotal role to play in ending the conflict.
- ✓ The differences between the two sides are real and they are persistent. But the way to get there is by engaging, in good faith, with the full complexities of the core issues and by working to narrow the gaps between the two sides.
- ✓ On borders and security, the parties must agree to a single line drawn on a map that divides Israel from Palestine and to an outcome that implements the two-state solution with permanent Palestinian borders.
- ✓ The status of refugees is a difficult and emotional issue, but there must be a just and permanent solution that meets the needs of both sides.
- ✓ The fate of existing settlements is an issue that must be dealt with by the parties along with the other final status issues. The position of the U.S. on settlements has not changed and will not change. We do not accept the legitimacy of continued settlement activity.
- ✓ There will surely be no peace without an agreement on Jerusalem.
- ✓ Palestinians must appreciate Israel's legitimate security concerns. And Israelis must accept the legitimate territorial aspirations of the Palestinian people. Ignoring the other side's needs is, in the end, self-defeating.
- ✓ To demonstrate their commitment to peace, all parties should avoid actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations or undermine good faith efforts to resolve final status issues.
- ✓ A just and lasting peace will transform the region. Israelis will finally be able to live in security, at peace with their neighbors, and confident in their future. Palestinians will at last have the dignity and justice they deserve with a state of their own and the freedom to chart their own destiny. Across the Middle East, moderates and advocates of peace and coexistence will be strengthened, while old arguments will be drained of their venom and the rejectionists and extremists will be exposed and marginalized. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 12/10/10)

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NORTH KOREA

North Korea Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

North Korea Q&A

Q: How does the U.S. view North Korea's nuclear program?
A: The U.S. is concerned about North Korea's nuclear program because it poses a direct threat to the security of the Asia-Pacific region and the U.S. homeland. We are committed to a two-track approach of being open to engagement with North Korea on denuclearization, while calling for full and transparent implementation of UNSCRs 1718 and 1874. We will continue to work with our allies and partners to ensure we send a clear and unified message to North Korea that leads to concrete progress. (Press Guidance, 01/12/11)

Q: How is the U.S. responding to the reports on North Korea's uranium enrichment program?
A: We have long suspected North Korea of having this kind of capability, and we have regularly raised it with them directly and with our partners. We will continue to consult closely with our allies and partners.

Does the State Department agree with Defense Secretary Gates' assessment that North Korea will be a direct threat to the U.S. in five years?

- ✓ We share the view that North Korea continues to present one of the most enduring challenges to the Asia-Pacific region's security and prosperity.
- ✓ We continue to employ our two-track approach of being open to engagement with North Korea on denuclearization, while calling for full and transparent implementation of UNSCRs 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ Ambassador Bosworth had consultations with senior officials in Seoul, Beijing, and Tokyo on recent developments and next steps on the Korean Peninsula.
- ✓ We will continue close coordination and consultation with our allies and partners in the Six-Party process to ensure we send a clear and unified message to North Korea that leads to concrete progress. (Press Guidance, 01/12/11)

How is the U.S. responding to the reports on North Korea's uranium enrichment program?

- ✓ We have long suspected North Korea of having this kind of capability, and we have regularly raised it with them directly and with our partners. We will continue to consult closely with our allies and partners.

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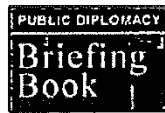
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- ✓ We regard this development with great seriousness. We believe that the North Koreans are in violation of a substantial number of international agreements that they have entered into and are in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.
- ✓ We continue our coordination of moves designed to lead eventually to the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. The situation does not, however, in our view call for a reassessment of our entire strategy toward the DPRK and its nuclear programs.
- ✓ We call on North Korea to take concrete, irreversible steps toward fulfillment of the 2005 Joint Statement; comply with international law, including UNSCRs 1718 and 1874; cease provocative behaviors; and take steps to improve relations with its neighbors. (Remarks by Ambassador Bosworth, 11/22/10 and 11/23/10) and (Press Guidance, 11/24/10 and 12/14/10)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN****Afghanistan and Pakistan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.”
(12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.”
(05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.”
(03/28/10) ([read transcript](#))

Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A**Can you provide an update on the seating of Afghanistan’s parliament?**

- ✓ The United States welcomes the understanding reached between the Parliament and President Karzai to inaugurate the National Assembly on January 26.
- ✓ After a healthy and constructive debate between Afghan institutions, the outcome ultimately reached demonstrates respect for democratic governance and for the separation of powers set forth in the Afghan Constitution. The outcome of these discussions also recognizes the importance of the timely seating of the nation’s parliamentarians so they can begin their vital work of serving the Afghan people.
- ✓ Ambassador Eikenberry plans to attend the opening of the National Assembly, along with other members of the international community.
- ✓ While the United States welcomes this outcome, we will continue to closely monitor this situation. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the executive, legislative and judicial branches carry out their respective functions under Afghan law. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

Can you confirm that the Afghan government is planning to ban more security contractors?

- ✓ The United States fully supports effective implementation of Presidential Decree 62 to dissolve private security contractors (PSCs) and transition more control over security to the Afghan government. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul is working closely with the Ministry of Interior and other representatives from the international community to develop the way forward for implementation.

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- ✓ We have welcomed the Ministry of Interior's recent statements that PSCs will be permitted to continue providing security for diplomatic work, international organizations, and military installations. We also welcome their statements that current security for development contracts can continue until the end of their contracts.
- ✓ There are, however, a number of very complicated questions still to work through as we move towards implementation. These questions are being worked through together, with the shared goals in mind of increasing Afghan security, strengthening Afghan sovereignty and leadership, and ensuring the continued delivery of international development assistance.
- ✓ We will continue working in the weeks and months ahead to ensure that development workers are safe and project sites have adequate security. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

Is the U.S. concerned by a recent UN report that warns of the potential for increased poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2011?

- ✓ As the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes, increased opium prices in Afghanistan are affected by increased pressure on drug traffickers by the Afghan government, law enforcement, and the international forces that support their efforts, as well as a crop disease that lowered the amount of opium entering the market last year.
- ✓ We remain concerned about the possible impact of higher opium prices in Afghanistan, but remain committed to strengthening agricultural development and drug interdiction support to Afghanistan.
- ✓ Our efforts to fight Afghanistan's drug trade remain a top priority. Agricultural development and drug interdiction remain the cornerstones of U.S. counternarcotics assistance to the Afghan government.
- ✓ U.S. assistance also supports counternarcotics public information, building the capacity of key counternarcotics ministries, rule of law, and demand reduction and drug treatment activities.
- ✓ The U.S. also commends the work of the Afghan Ministry of Counternarcotics and the Counternarcotics Police of Afghanistan to introduce risk to drug traffickers, insurgents, and farmers that disobey the rule of law. This naturally drives prices up as the drug market becomes more competitive.
- ✓ We also look forward to UNODC's upcoming Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, which will help us to better understand – and respond to – likely opium poppy planting trends in 2011. The United States has funded and commissioned these studies to better inform our programs in Afghanistan. (Press Guidance, 01/20/11)

What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- ✓ The core goal of the U.S. strategy in the Afghanistan and Pakistan theater remains to disrupt, dismantle, and eventually defeat al Qaeda in the region and to prevent its return to either country.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ In Afghanistan, the surge in coalition military and civilian resources, along with an expanded special operations forces targeting campaign and expanded local security measures at the village level, has reduced overall Taliban influence and arrested the momentum they had achieved in recent years in key parts of the country, although these gains remain fragile and reversible.
- ✓ In July 2011, we will begin a responsible transition to an Afghan security lead by reducing our combat troop levels. The size and pace of our troop reductions will depend upon a careful assessment of conditions on the ground, and the capacity of ANSF to sustain security gains.

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- ✓ We also remain relentlessly focused on Pakistan-based al Qaeda because of the strategic nature of the threat posed by its leadership, and in particular the group's continued pursuit of large-scale, catastrophic anti-Western attacks and its influence on global terrorism.
- ✓ In Pakistan, we are laying the foundation for a strategic partnership based on mutual respect and trust, through increased dialogue, improved cooperation, and enhanced exchange and assistance programs. We must support the Government of Pakistan's efforts to strengthen its economy, improve governance and security, and respond to the development needs of the Pakistani people.
- ✓ In 2011, we will intensify our regional diplomacy to enable a political process to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, to include Afghan-led reconciliation, taking advantage of the momentum created by the recent security gains and the international consensus gained in Lisbon. (Press Guidance, 05/10 – 06/16/10) and (White House fact sheet, 05/27/10) and (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10)
- ✓ President Obama – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ Secretary Clinton – "President Obama has said that we will begin a responsible, conditions-based transition to Afghan security leadership in July 2011. Toward this end, the Afghan Government, working with NATO, has developed a broad framework for the process that will help create conditions for transition, province by province, district by district, so the Afghan security forces can assume full responsibility for security in the transitioned areas." (07/20/10) (read transcript)

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RUSSIA

Russia Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) (read transcript)

Russia Q&A

What is the U.S. reaction to the January 24 bombing in Moscow’s Domodedovo Airport?

- ✓ The United States stands in solidarity with Russia in the face of today’s appalling terrorist attack. We extend our condolences to the people of the Russian Federation and, especially, to those injured and to the families of the dead from today’s tragic bombing.
- ✓ The United States stands ready to support the Russian government in their investigation of the attack if so requested, and will continue to cooperate with Russia in the struggle against violent extremism around the world.
- ✓ The United States condemns terrorism and all forms of violence against the innocent, wherever it occurs. We will continue to work with the international community to combat violent extremism that threatens peace-loving people everywhere. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)
- ✓ At this time, the Government of Russia has not requested assistance. We remain ready to help to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist act. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

What is the U.S. response to the Russian Duma’s approval of the New START Treaty?

- ✓ We welcome the news that the Duma passed a law approving ratification of the New START Treaty on January 25.
- ✓ Russia’s upper house, the Federation Council, must also pass the law approving ratification of the Treaty. The Federation Council is expected to vote on January 26.
- ✓ We look forward to bringing the Treaty into force, delivering the benefits of New START to global security. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

What are the U.S. priorities for future arms control talks with Russia?

- ✓ With the New START Treaty taking each side down to 1,550 strategic warheads, we are at the point where it is hard to envisage further strategic reductions without reducing the large number of tactical nuclear weapons, which are not constrained.

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- ✓ Negotiation with the Russians on tactical weapons will include some difficult issues. First, there is a large numerical disparity between the U.S. and Russian tactical arsenals. By unclassified accounts, the Russians have anywhere from three to eight times as many tactical nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Second, over the last 10 to 15 years Russians military doctrine has placed much more weight on tactical nuclear forces, because they see these weapons as necessary to offset what they regard as conventional force disadvantages vis-à-vis NATO and China.
- ✓ Third, verification is difficult because you probably will not be talking about limiting the delivery systems, whose primary missions are conventional. So you're talking about limiting actual warheads and perhaps even designing schemes where inspectors might have to go into storage bunkers and count weapons.
- ✓ Russian President Medvedev recently said that either we come to an agreement on missile defense, or there will be a resumption of the arms race. The primary Russian concern is not the system which currently protects the U.S. from limited numbers of ballistic missile launches, but rather the European Phased Adaptive Approach policy, which is a policy to create a missile defense shield over all of Europe.
- ✓ The Obama Administration has done a lot through the presidential bilateral working group at the NATO-Russia Council to explain that these systems will not threaten Russia's ICBM force.
- ✓ There can be an agreement about joint threat assessments. There can also be a shared early warning of all ballistic missile launches. There can also potentially be cooperation on shared radars, which includes integrating some of the Russian radar capabilities in southern Russia into the U.S. phased adaptive approach missile defense system for Europe. (Remarks on U.S.-Russia Nuclear Cooperation, 01/13/11)

What is the State Department's reaction to the ratification of the New START Treaty?

- ✓ On December 22, the Senate voted 71-26 to approve the Resolution of Advice and Consent to ratification of the New START Treaty. The New START Treaty strengthens American national security and is an important step forward in President Obama's foreign policy agenda.
- ✓ Just as was the case during the recent U.S. Senate debate over the Treaty, Russia's ratification process can be expected to reflect various viewpoints both for and against the Treaty. Such debate is a natural and necessary part of the legislative process.
- ✓ We welcome the recent positive statements by Russian leaders, including President Medvedev, Prime Minister Putin, Foreign Minister Lavrov, and leading Russian lawmakers, encouraging prompt approval by the Russian legislative bodies, the Duma and the Federation Council.
- ✓ Ratification of this treaty will strengthen American leadership on nonproliferation issues, reinforce our relationship with Russia, and promises to make our country safer.
- ✓ New START is the most extensive nuclear arms control agreement in nearly two decades. It reduces by 30% the maximum limit of strategic nuclear warheads that the United States and Russia can deploy, while allowing the U.S. to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent.
- ✓ It puts into effect a verification regime to track Russia's strategic nuclear weapons, which will include placing U.S. inspectors on the ground, access we have not had since the original START treaty expired over a year ago.
- ✓ New START will include up-to-date exchanges of information on numbers, locations, and technical characteristics of weapons systems and facilities that are subject to the Treaty.
- ✓ From the beginning, this Administration has made it a priority to exercise American leadership in reducing the threats of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. Once this Treaty enters into force we will put the world's two largest nuclear arsenals on more stable, predictable footing. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

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- ✓ New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges -- from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists. And this treaty will enhance our leadership to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and seek the peace of a world without them.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))

What are U.S. expectations regarding its relationship with Russia going forward?

- ✓ We hope that the relationship between Russia and the U.S. – and between Russia and NATO and Europe – will continue to improve. These relationships are in a much better place than they were several years ago, certainly before this Administration took office.
- ✓ The NATO-Russia relationship had not been moving forward as practically and positively as the U.S.-Russia relationship until recently, but at Lisbon NATO and Russia agreed on a joint assessment of 21st century security challenges, agreed to resume theater missile defense cooperation, and agreed to cooperate more broadly on missile defense in the future.
- ✓ We have already said in many other contexts that we believe the U.S.-Russia relationship is on increasingly solid ground as we continue to find areas of cooperation, be they in nuclear nonproliferation or the economic area or Afghanistan.
- ✓ We will continue to work with this. We obviously still have some differences and we’re clear about our differences as well. At the OSCE summit we had a significant difference over the question of Georgia and other unresolved conflicts, but we are expressing them frankly, and believe that in the long run the U.S. and Russia and Russia and Europe have so many common interests that we are and should be partners. ([Briefing by Assistant Secretary Gordon, 12/07/10](#))

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[\(back to top\)](#)**SUDAN/DARFUR****Sudan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Two paths lay ahead: one path taken by those who flout their responsibilities and for whom there must be consequences – more pressure and deeper isolation. The other path is taken by leaders who fulfill their obligations, and which would lead to improved relations between the United States and Sudan, including supporting agricultural development for all Sudanese, expanding trade and investment, and exchanging ambassadors, and eventually, working to lift sanctions – if Sudanese leaders fulfill their obligations.” (09/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the civil war must be fully implemented. The referenda on self-determination scheduled for January 9th must take place – peacefully and on time, the will of the people of South Sudan and the region of Abyei must be respected, regardless of the outcome.” (09/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

Sudan Q&A**Is the U.S. satisfied with how the Southern Sudanese referendum was conducted?**

- ✓ The completion of a peaceful, orderly Southern Sudan referendum marks a significant achievement for the Sudanese people and a historic step toward full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).
- ✓ The U.S. commends the millions of Southern Sudanese people who participated in this historic process, and applauds both northern and southern leaders for creating conditions that allowed voters to cast their ballots freely and without fear, intimidation, or coercion. The successful vote was also a credit to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau, and more than 40 countries and international organizations.
- ✓ We welcome the positive statements issued in recent days by international observer missions from the African Union, Arab League, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, European Union, and the Carter Center.
- ✓ As we await the official results of the referendum, we reaffirm our commitment to remain a steadfast partner to both parties as they continue to work toward full implementation of the CPA and to develop their post-CPA relationship. The parties have an opportunity to forge a durable peace between the North and the South, and to build positive relationships with the international community. We hope they will seize this moment, and the U.S. supports their efforts to ensure a peaceful, more prosperous future for all Sudanese. ([Statement](#) by Secretary Clinton, 01/17/10)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The past week has given the world renewed faith in the prospect of a peaceful, prosperous future for all of the Sudanese people – a future that the American people long to see in Sudan” (01/17/11) ([read transcript](#))

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What is the U.S. assessment of Southern Sudan's capacity to govern itself should it gain independence?

- ✓ The Government of Southern Sudan has made remarkable progress since its establishment in 2005. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, Southern Sudan requires significant capacity building to develop the legal, justice, banking, and other basic governance systems essential to the welfare of the southern Sudanese people.
- ✓ The United States has been a committed partner to southern leaders helping to build this capacity since prior to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and will continue this partnership after the referendum.
- ✓ The U.S. continues to support projects in Southern Sudan dedicated to improving access to health care, education, clean water, and sanitation; improving infrastructure; boosting agricultural productivity and trade; expanding opportunities for women and ending gender-based violence; and helping local governments improve their ability to manage resources and meet citizens' needs.
- ✓ We are examining our own posture in Southern Sudan. We are also engaging with states in the region, members of the Sudan Contact Group, and international institutions, like the UN, World Bank, and IMF, to ensure that our efforts to south are coordinated and effective.
- ✓ We call upon the leaders of the south to prepare to govern responsibly, no matter the outcome of the referendum. In particular, we urge Government of Southern Sudan leaders to proactively address any evidence of corruption at any level of government.
- ✓ We welcome recent efforts by the Government of Southern Sudan to promote political reconciliation and inclusiveness among all political parties, and we encourage continued efforts in this direction for the sake of peace. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

What does the U.S. believe is the way forward on Abyei given that an on-time referendum will not happen?

- ✓ Despite lengthy discussion, the parties were unable to agree on the composition of the Abyei Arca Referendum Commission, which is responsible for determining criteria for Abyei referendum voter eligibility. As such, it was not possible to hold the Abyei referendum as scheduled on January 9.
- ✓ The AU High-Level Implementation Panel has put forward proposals on the political resolution of Abyei's status to the parties and elevated the issue to President Bashir and Vice President Kiir. We urge the parties to continue to engage seriously in discussions to break the impasse and reach agreement on a way forward.
- ✓ We fully expect they will resume their talks immediately after the conclusion of the Southern Sudan referendum and resolve the issue before the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) interim period in July.
- ✓ We believe it is possible for the parties to reach a solution for Abyei that addresses the deeply held aspirations, needs, and rights of all communities in the region, consistent with the CPA's Abyei Protocol and the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- ✓ We urge the parties to make a clear public statement that calls on local communities to maintain calm and refrain from any inflammatory unilateral actions, and that commits the parties to resolve the Abyei issue after the referendum. We urge both parties to do everything in their power – including by cooperating with UNMIS – to maintain peace in the area. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

Can you provide an update on the current situation in Darfur?

- ✓ The Obama Administration is as equally committed to resolving the Darfur conflict as it is to full and timely implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The appointment of

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Ambassador Dane Smith comes at a crucial time in Sudan's history that requires high level attention on both Darfur and North-South issues.

- ✓ The United States has long supported on-going international efforts to reach a durable peace in Darfur. Appointing a Senior Advisor expands on that work in an effort to re-energize the UN-AU-led peace process, and improve security and humanitarian access.
- ✓ We have consistently called on the Government of Sudan to cease aerial bombardments. It is essential that these kinds of attacks end, and we call on all parties to the Darfur conflict to recommit to an immediate ceasefire.
- ✓ We also call on the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to refrain from any action that may raise tensions or provoke the spread of violence.
- ✓ We continue to express concern regarding such abuses, which have included the arrests of opposition leaders, journalists, and other peaceful demonstrators. The U.S. reminds the Sudan of its obligation to respect human rights, including freedom of assembly. (Press Guidance, 12/14/10)

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TERRORISM

Terrorism Q&A

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What actions has the Department of State taken in the year since the 2009 December 25 bombing attempt?

- ✓ The Department has worked closely with our interagency partners to strengthen the U.S. Government's Watch Listing Guidance to make it more flexible and responsive to emerging threats.
- ✓ During 2010 the Department designated al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Furthermore, the Department designated AQAP and its senior leaders, Nasir al-Wahishi and deputy leader Said al-Shihri, as well as operational leaders Fahd al-Quso and Qasim al-Rimi as Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. The U.S. government has also designated Anwar al-Aulaqi under E.O. 13224, and the U.S. spearheaded the listing of AQAP and its senior leaders in the UN Security Council 1267 (al Qaeda/Taliban) Sanctions Committee.
- ✓ The consequences of these domestic designations include prohibitions against the provision of material support or resources to AQAP; the freezing of all property and interests in property of the organization that are in the United States, or come within the United States, or the control of U.S. persons; and travel restrictions.
- ✓ Since the President's ordered security review, individuals have been added to the terrorist screening database, no fly, and selectee lists to counter the specific vulnerabilities observed on December 25, 2009. The number of visa revocations has increased substantially as a result.
- ✓ Since 2001, we have revoked over 57,000 visas for a variety of reasons, including over 2,800 for suspected links to terrorism. We use our revocation authority actively as we run our data against updated watch list information provided by our partner agencies.
- ✓ We worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security to develop a fully automated process to prevent a person with a revoked visa from boarding an aircraft, even if the visa has not been physically cancelled.
- ✓ We have strengthened our own internal watch listing process (known as "Visa Viper") to improve the manner in which names are added and the information that is provided. (Press Guidance, 12/23/10)

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DETAINEES

Detainees Q&A

What is the State Department's response to recent Congressional action barring the movement of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the U.S.?

- ✓ We are aware of the Guantanamo provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress on December 26.
- ✓ We are closely looking at the Guantanamo provisions to determine how this will impact the transfer of detainees to foreign governments, but we remain determined to continue the difficult work required to close Guantanamo.
- ✓ As the President has said, "One of the most powerful tools we have to keep the American people safe is not providing al Qaeda and jihadists recruiting tools for fledgling terrorists." Closing Guantanamo will remove a major recruiting tool for al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, while also living up to our values, ideals, and principles.
- ✓ Many friends and allies have joined our efforts to close the detention facility, and we continue to engage with additional foreign partners in pursuit of the detention facility's closure.
- ✓ Today, 173 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. (Press Guidance, 12/27/10)

Is the U.S. still committed to closing Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ President Obama remains committed to closing the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay, which has served as a recruiting tool for al Qaeda.
- ✓ The Administration has instituted the most comprehensive review process ever applied to detainees at Guantanamo, with significant improvements including halting the "stove-piping" of classified intelligence and for the first time compiling in a single repository the best information available relating to Guantanamo detainees.
- ✓ The Administration has made remarkable progress working with our friends and allies to resettle many detainees in third countries. Since the beginning of this Administration, the U.S. has transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries. Today, 173 detainees remain at Guantanamo.
- ✓ The list of countries resettling detainees continues to grow, and we are encouraged by the assistance of the international community who continues to support this Administration's closure effort. Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding repatriation and resettlement options for detainees approved for transfer. (Press Guidance, 01/22/11 and 01/06/11) and (White House [fact sheet](#), 05/27/10)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – "In one of his first acts as president, President Obama directed that the detention facility at Guantanamo be closed, recognizing that Guantanamo had become a symbol of the wrong way to make America more secure. Now, we had hoped that this task would be completed within a year. That has proven impossible. But we will close Guantanamo. And we will close it in a way that is both responsible and consistent with basic standards of justice. Our progress has been slow because this is difficult. It depends in part on the willingness of other nations to take in detainees, and we are very grateful to those nations that have already done so, and we ask others to please considering doing so, in order to help us expedite the closing of Guantanamo." (02/14/10) ([read transcript](#))

The content contained here is also available on the PD Briefing Book site.

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(back to top)

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**Climate Change Q&A****Could you explain the purpose of the ongoing Ninth Session of UN Forum on Forests?**

- ✓ Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development Daniel Reifsnyder will lead the U.S. delegation to the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF9) in New York which takes place from January 23 to February 3.
- ✓ The delegation will include officials and experts from the Department of State, U.S. Forest Service, USAID, and the National Association of State Foresters. Deputy Assistant Secretary Reifsnyder will also moderate a ministerial-level roundtable discussion on "Forests and Rio+20" during the High-Level Segment.
- ✓ The UNFF9 meetings will officially launch 2011 as the International Year of Forests, with the theme "Celebrating Forests for People." The theme for the UNFF9 meetings will be "Forests for People, Livelihoods, and Poverty Eradication." The meetings provide the opportunity for governments to discuss the cultural and social values of forests, governance, and enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders.
- ✓ The U.S. will highlight its forest-related activities and initiatives over the course of the two weeks, including a January 31 side event on "Urban Greening in America." This event will feature experts from the private sector and government to discuss city and state-level greening initiatives.
- ✓ USAID spends \$110 million annually in developing countries in support of the UNFF 9 themes of community forest management and improved livelihoods. Forest-related issues have been a priority on the international policy and political agendas since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The UN Forum on Forests was established in October 2000 to promote and strengthen long-term commitments to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. (State Department press statement, 01/25/11)

What was accomplished at the recent climate talks in Cancun?

- ✓ On November 29, the U.S. joined the nations of the world in Cancun for a new round of talks aimed at mobilizing common action to meet the shared global challenge of climate change.
- ✓ The meeting resulted in the Cancun Agreement, a set of balanced international decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which represent meaningful progress in our global response to climate change.
- ✓ This result was fundamentally consistent with U.S. objectives. Throughout the year, our strategic vision was to consolidate and elaborate on the progress made last year in Copenhagen and to have the outcome fully endorsed by all the nations to the Climate Treaty.
- ✓ The Cancun Agreement advances each of the core elements of the Copenhagen Accord. Specifically, it anchors the accord's mitigation pledges by both developed and developing countries in a parallel manner. It outlines a system of transparency with substantial detail and content, including international consultations and analysis; that was the negotiated phrase from the Copenhagen Accord. This will provide confidence that a country's pledges are being carried out and help the world keep track of the track that we're on in terms of reducing emissions.
- ✓ The agreement in Cancun also launches a new Green Climate Fund with a process for setting it up; creates a framework to reduce deforestation in developing countries; establishes a so-called technology mechanism, which will include a new technology executive committee and a climate

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22

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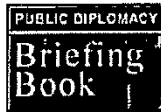
technology center and network; and sets up a framework and committee to promote international cooperation and action on adaptation.

- ✓ The Cancun Agreement represents a balanced and significant step forward. The United States will continue to work with our friends and partners to keep the world focused on this urgent challenge and to continue building on this progress. (Statement by Secretary Clinton, 12/11/10) and (Briefing by Special Envoy Stern)

How does the U.S. intend to address global climate change?

- ✓ President Obama has made it clear that we must take bold action to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, address the growing threat of global warming challenges, and to create clean energy jobs and technologies. The Administration has already taken unprecedented steps to address these problems - through Recovery Act investments in clean energy, through tough new fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, and through many other actions.
- ✓ The President remains committed to the broad clean energy vision that he has put forward, and the Administration will continue to use the tools that we have to make progress. We will continue to work with Congress to achieve the comprehensive legislation that the President has called for.
- ✓ Moreover, the U.S. is not backing away from the commitments made during international climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. As the administration works with Congress to pass comprehensive legislation, we will use the administrative authorities we have to reduce emissions.
- ✓ The U.S. will continue to work with partners around the world to build on the progress made in Copenhagen and Cancun toward meeting the climate and clean energy challenge. (Press Guidance, 07/23/10)

The content contained here is also available on the PD Briefing Book site.



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Current Intelligence Product



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Author: OSINT – Open Source Intelligence (CCJ2-JOWO)

On Tuesday, one of the owners of the Amalthea said that the crew would unload its humanitarian goods at El-Arish if refused permission to reach Gaza.

"If this is the only option put forward by the Israeli authorities, we will choose to sail to the port of El-Arish and transfer the assistance by ground to Gaza," Greek businessman Aleksei Angeolopoulos said in an interview with the London based Arabic newspaper Asharq Alawsat.

Angeolopoulos said the ship was "carrying humanitarian aid and food and there are no weapons or prohibited materials, as claimed by Israel."

He added, "If Israel wants, the Israeli navy is invited to board the ship and to search it so that they can see with their own eyes that it is only carrying food and allow it to continue to the port of Gaza."

A spokesman in the Prime Minister's Office said that if indeed the ship was carrying only civilian cargo, there should be no problem with it docking at the Ashdod port.

"We will guarantee that all civilian goods will be allowed in[to Gaza]," the official said.

However, the information put out by the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday painted a picture of a vessel that was interested in far more than just the delivery of rice and corn oil. The packet sent by email included a link to an Al-Jazeera report from Saturday in which a Moroccan volunteer on the ship said, "We as Muslims are not afraid of death. On the contrary, we love martyrdom."

The packet included a reminder that Libya's involvement in terrorism was "something well-known."

Everyone remembers the Lockerbie tragedy, where 270 people were killed when a Pan Am plane exploded [over] southern Scotland in 1988. An international investigation found a direct link between the Libyan government and the terrorist incident, and it even extradited two suspects for planning the attack."

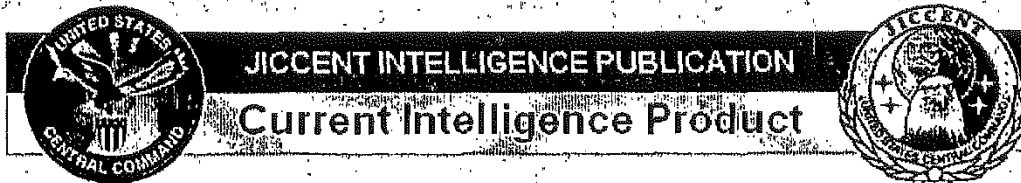
The information included reference to Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal's view of the blockade busting ships as an important brick in bringing about Israel's delegitimization.

"Breaking the siege is a priority, and we must compel it by all means, including new flotillas which will be organized in the coming weeks and months, with the help of Allah," Mashaal said in a speech in Damascus on June 28.

"I call on the Arab and Muslim people and other lovers of freedom in the world to multiply the number of participants," he said.

"Together with us, all freedom loving people around the world have begun to understand how much of a curse Israel is to the world, to its security and interests, and to what extent it is a heavy burden on the interests of both West and East."

The information sent out by the Prime Minister's Office also included the cabinet decision last month to ease restrictions on what is allowed into Gaza, the Quartet's positive reaction to this step, and statements



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Author: OSINT – Open Source Intelligence (CCJ2-JOWO)

from the US State Department and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton expressing concern about further ships.

The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, meanwhile, has recommended to the IDF that for public diplomacy reasons, it would be preferable to commandeer the ship once it enters Israel's territorial waters, though intercepting it out of that 20-km. zone would be legal if it were clear that the ship was headed for Gaza.

A similar recommendation was made prior to the May flotilla's arrival, but that recommendation – according to government sources – was not heeded because of operational reasons. The IDF's argument in May, according to the sources, was that since that flotilla included six ships, the navy would need sufficient time to commandeer all of them and, as a result, needed to begin the job outside the country's territorial waters.

12 July 2010

Jerusalem Post

Bishara reportedly meets Gaddafi

Committee debates suspending former MK's pension benefits.

Former MK Dr. Azmi Bishara (Balad) was reported on Sunday to have arrived Saturday night in Libya for a meeting with Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

The two were said to have discussed issues pertaining to the Arab world and the Palestinian struggle.

While Bishara was reportedly in Libya, the Knesset's Ministerial Committee for Legislation approved a bill on Sunday that would suspend his government pension benefits.

The proposed bill will suspend any pension or salary payments normally due to Knesset members if they are under investigation or indicted for a felony, punishable by five years imprisonment or more, committed during their tenure, and they seek to evade justice by refusing to appear before a court or investigators.

Knesset and former Knesset members' payments would only be reinstated upon their appearance in court or compliance with the investigator's requests.

The passing of the bill, commonly known as the "Bishara Law," would strip former MK Bishara (Balad) of the pension payments he currently receives while living outside Israel.

Bishara was under investigation for allegedly aiding Hezbollah while serving as an Israeli MK when he fled the country in 2007.

The bill was sponsored by MK Yariv Levin (Likud) and MK Yisrael Hasson (Kadima).

"I want to end this situation where betraying the State of Israel has become a profitable business that supports the traitor Bishara to the tune of thousands of shekels a month," said Levin.

The bill will now have to be brought to a vote in front of the entire Knesset before it can become law.

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B6

452

Law, Rosemary C

From: [redacted] B6
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 5:43 AM B3 OTHER
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Flotilla reports
Categories: Working

Hi, Todd: Please plan on having a [redacted] 3 p.m. debrief on last night's SVTS. 3rd floor conf room.
[redacted] and I have access to your IIRs and continue to read them with keen interest. B3 OTHER
B6

Thanks,
[redacted] B3 OTHER
B6

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: [redacted] B3 OTHER
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 12:19 PM B6
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Flotilla reports

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Sir,
Below are titles of [redacted] reports on the Finch and flotillas -- let us know if you are interested in any of the B3 OTHER
can forward you the full text. Also, if you would like we can have [redacted]
[redacted] Please let us know when we need to support further VTCs or other meetings on this topic.


FINCH info--
[redacted] M/V FINCH, single blockade runner, is navigating toward Gaza on 23 May 2011 with intent B3 OTHER
penetrate Gazan waters.
[redacted] Unsuccessful attempt by M/V FINCH to enter Gaza on 16 May 2011, details on Israeli Navy deterrence
efforts B3 OTHER

Flotilla efforts-
[redacted] Possible Turkish escort to the Gaza Flotilla while Turkish-Israeli Relations Remain Strained
Israel Lessons Learned During Boarding of MAVI MARMARA, Preparation for Free Gaza Flotilla II
Israel implements new tactics and equipment to disable propulsion system of ships in Gaza Flotilla

V/R
[redacted] B3 OTHER

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

B3 OTHER



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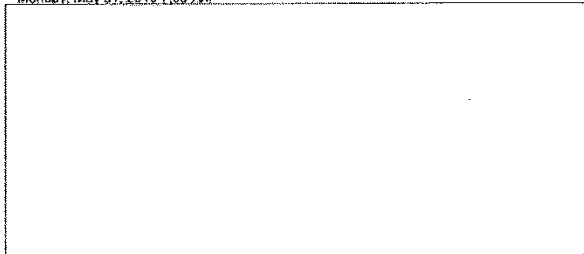
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

W16

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Dayton, Win (Istanbul)
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 7:08 AM
To:



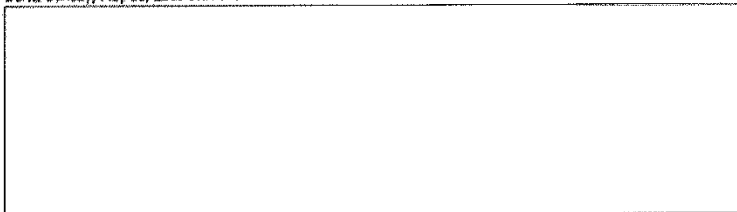
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

B3 OTHER

Turkish television (quoting Israeli media) is reporting 10 dead and more wounded in the Israeli Defense Forces' interception and boarding of the flotilla. Film clips purporting to be from the flotilla depict chaotic scenes from the deck of one ship and apparent wounded civilians. We are trying to contact IHH reps in Istanbul for comment, including on status of US citizens on board.

Turkish TV is showing a live feed of a crowd of hundreds in front of the Israeli consulate in Istanbul. Earlier reports indicated some stone throwing there but current videos show a peaceful crowd with Palestinian flags and a bullhorn or two.

From: Marwaha, Brianna C
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 9:02 PM



Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

B3 OTHER

Hi All - please see the below e-mail from [redacted] I am able to respond intelligently regarding the assistance to American Citizens if they are detained...however, if they are U.S. owned boats, does NEA or DDO know what we can expect will happen with their property?

B6

Thanks,
Brianna
CA/DCS Weekly Duty Officer

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

From: Macris, Gregory P
To: CA-Staffers Mailbox; CA-OCS-Duty-Principals; Harwaha, Brienne C; Scott, Pamela F
Sent: Sun May 30 13:13:02 2010
Subject: FW: Assistance for American Humanitarians

CA colleagues -- hoping you could take a crack at responding. Greg Macris, SWO

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 1:02 PM
To: Operations Center
Subject: Assistance for American Humanitarians

B6

State Department Operations Center:

This morning I offered a prayer in my Baptist Church for the safe landing of the humanitarian flotilla bringing needed goods to the refugees in Gaza. Several of my Baptist colleagues asked how our State Department would aid of American citizens on American-owned boats should the Israeli armed forces make arrests and/or seize property. I called (202) 647-4000 for answers and the operator suggest I email you for prompt answers.

Because we are following the event by the hour, your prompt response is appreciated.

[redacted]
First Baptist Church
Hamilton NY

B6

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 7:04 AM

B3 OTHER

[redacted]

B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: Free Gaza update Sunday

Recirculating update below from USDAO Tel Aviv to this list. Also adding some additional US military addresses.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 6:24 AM

B3 OTHER

Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.

[redacted]

B3 OTHER

B3 OTHER

From: Goodman, Ian A
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:22 AM
 To: Reisser, Wesley J; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberg, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toti, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zerobavely, Sandra S; Schiereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Magg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogile, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amary A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Siliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

I've added my contact numbers, in case I need to be reached.

Ian Goodman
 EUR/SE
 C: 413-530-1358
 BB: 202-486-2407

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:05 AM
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberg, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toti, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zerobavely, Sandra S; Schiereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Magg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogile, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amary A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Siliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

Also, please note that weekend POCs are listed in the spreadsheet as well. I will be out of town and only reachable via State Ops; Karlene Frelch and Jeff Glauque will be in town and also can be reached with any NEA related concerns.
 Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:29 AM
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberg, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toti, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett,

David R; Barsh, Desirée A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zerobaveby, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera Y; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finer, Frank J; Greene, David J; Hanning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Magg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Diworth, Alison E; Osman, Amey A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H
Subject: One More Free Gaza Update

Everyone – Here is one last update as we move into the holiday weekend. Emb. Tel Aviv is standing by and the duty officers in DC have been briefed in and are on this message. I have once again pasted the link to the spreadsheet, which is now as updated as possible. It has a link to press guidance as well for your reference. Thanks to all for your assistance on this big effort!

Wes

<http://one.state.sbu/sites/ips/Shared%20Documents/Free%20Gaza%20May%202010.xlsx>

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer – NEA/IFA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2847
Fax (202) 735-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

Law, Rosemary C

N6

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM
To: Frelich, Karlene H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza
Attachments: 052410-Israel-Palestinians - Israel Blockade of Gaza.docx

From: Frelich, Karlene H
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Can you send me the press guidance too? Thanks.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Cc: Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. L has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

From: Frowick, George H
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J
Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlattelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy, Deborah A
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoni flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US-flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLU, LLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen, [redacted] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citizen [redacted]

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

From: Netos, Eleftherios E
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM
To: Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlattelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa

S

Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Goodman, Ilan A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:10 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarfatelli, Adam W
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:08 PM
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ilan A; Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

FYI – Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J
Subject: Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

ONI and Sixth Fleet are ver confident that the boats are not legitimately US flagged.

R/
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Reisser, Wesley J
To: Schlereth, Frank G
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Sent: Thu May 27 18:16:56 2010
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank – Does the Israeli Navy have any more info beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.

Wes

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:00 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B5

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on.

Thanks,
Kevin

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin

Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A

Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered.

Wes

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes – it is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

Thanks,
Kevin

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to “break the Israeli blockade.” The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend, board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out if the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S.

The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered).

Thanks!
Wes

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy –
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attaché
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
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To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hananla, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S
Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be departed and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

N7

From: Parker, Andrew C
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Sievers, Marc J; Richter, Kim B
Cc: Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Levin, Jan; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Usher, William R; Hoyer, Kurt J; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Frowick, George H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Thanks for the ship manifests. Tel Aviv consular section is ready to respond as required over the long weekend. Officer and LES volunteers met this afternoon to share information and coordinate our response. If Amcits are brought to the Port of Ashdod and then disbursed to the airport or detention facilities in Beersheva or elsewhere, we will visit them as soon as allowed. We will do our best to have contact with all Amcits who land at Ashdod, though access to dual nationals may be more difficult. We will stand by for reports from the Naval attaché, media and other sources and will arrange visits to Amcits through the MFA Operations Center, which is coordinating access to foreign nationals.

Points of contact:
ACS chief Elisa Greene
greenee@state.gov
+972-57-420-6715

and

Andrew C. Parker
Consul General
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv
Tel. +972-3-519-7671
Cell +972-54-324-4153
Fax +972-3-519-0315
parkerac@state.gov

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 3:26 PM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Cc: Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. L has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

From: Frowick, George H
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J
Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Sciaratelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Deborah A

Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoni flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLU, LLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen, [redacted] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citizB6
[redacted]

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Netos, Eleftherios E

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM

To: Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A

Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S

Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Goodman, Ian A

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:10 PM

To: Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A

Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W

Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:08 PM

To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ilan A; Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

FYI – Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J
Subject: Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

ONI and Sixth Fleet are ver confident that the boats are not legitimately US flagged.

R/
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Reisser, Wesley J
To: Schlereth, Frank G
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Sent: Thu May 27 18:16:56 2010
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank – Does the Israeli Navy have any more info beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.

Wes

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

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Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on.

B5

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,
Kevin

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

[Redacted]

Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered.

[Redacted]

Wes

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Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM
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Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered).



B5

Thanks!

Wes

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Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
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Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
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Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

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RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

Law, Rosemary C

N8

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Cc: Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza
Attachments: Scanned Lists

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Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarletelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy, Deborah A
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

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Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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Desk Officer - NEA/PA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
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Fax (202) 736-4461

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RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

Law, Rosemary C

N14

From: Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 7:40 PM
To: Connelly, Maura; Dolan, JoAnn; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Giaque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Frelch, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

This email was sent from a wireless Blackberry device.

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958

From: Connelly, Maura
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M
Sent: Sat May 29 18:38:02 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

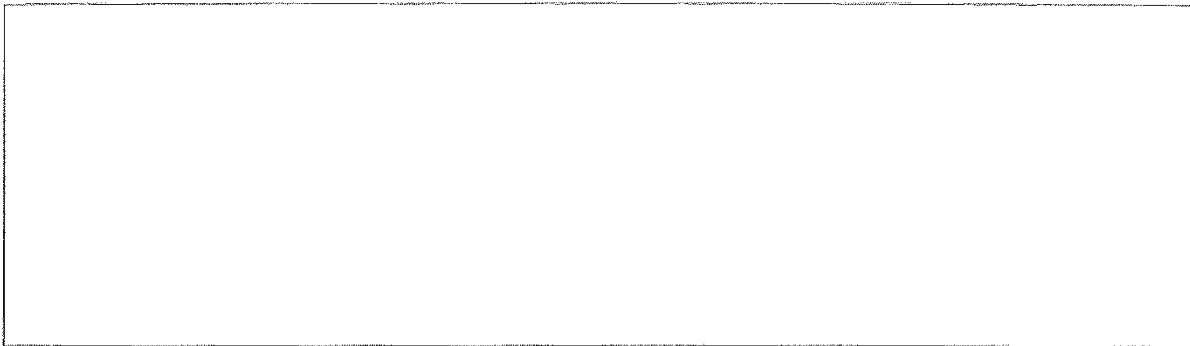
From: Dolan, JoAnn
To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M
Sent: Sat May 29 16:49:48 2010
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

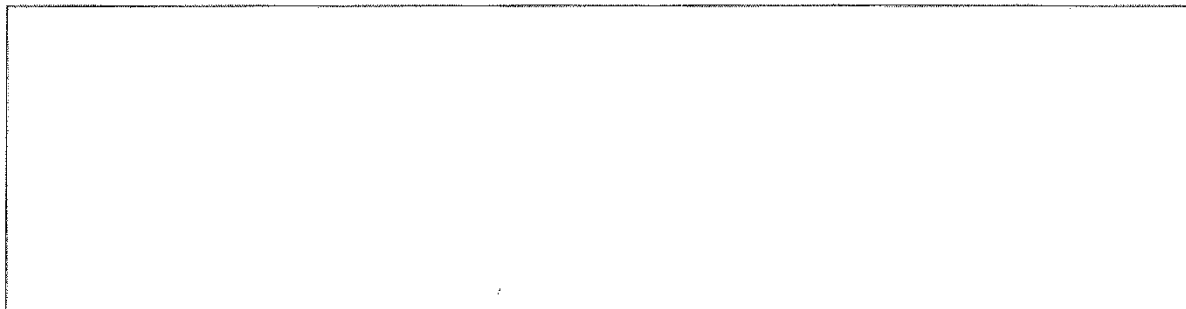
B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer



From: Sindle, James M
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 12:19 PM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6



B5

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]
Sent: Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6



B5

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.
LCDR Frank Schiereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schierethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Baumert, Kevin A
To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL;
Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

B5

[redacted]

From: Sindle, James M
To: Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura
Sent: Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Redacted]

From: Baumert, Kevin A
To: 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,
Kevin
LQES

From: Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>
To: Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Redacted]

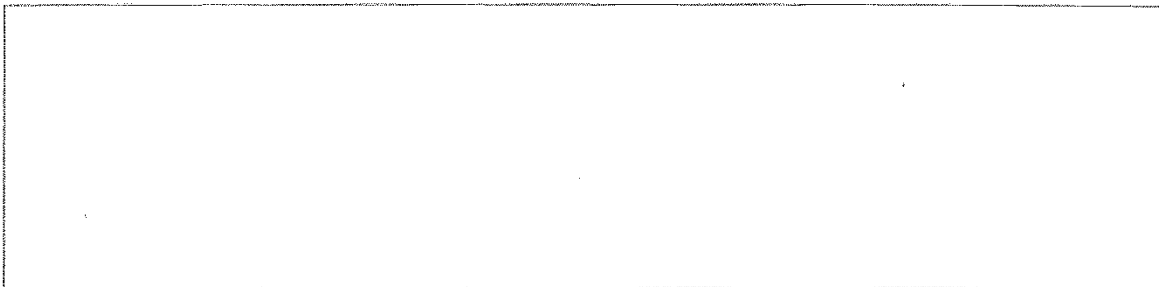
B5

From: Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Subject: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI
Importance: High

B6

[Redacted]

B5



Clearances requested:

State/L

OSD

NSC

J-5

State/NEA

State/EUR

State/CA

State/P

State/D(S)

Jim Sindle

Pol-Mil Officer

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov

Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

NIS

Law, Rosemary C

From: Schlereth, Frank G
 Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 6:24 AM
 To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]
 Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.

R/
 LCDR Frank Schlereth
 Assistant Naval Attache
 USDAO Tel Aviv
 E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
 Office: 972-03-519-7486
 Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Sindle, James M
 To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]
 Sent: Sat May 29 19:18:45 2010
 Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Large redacted area]

B5

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
 To: Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

<Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

B6

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]

Sent: Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010

Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[redacted] B5

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

From: Schlereth, Frank G

Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM

To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; 'Alan [redacted]

B6

[redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

[redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.

LCDR Frank Schlereth

Assistant Naval Attache

USDAO Tel Aviv

E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov

Office: 972-03-519-7486

Cell: 972-50-645-2288

From: Baumert, Kevin A

To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]

B6

'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]

Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[redacted] B5

[redacted]

From: Sindle, James M
To: Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura
Sent: Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

From: Baumert, Kevin A
To: 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

Thanks,
Kevin
L/OES

From: Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>
To: Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

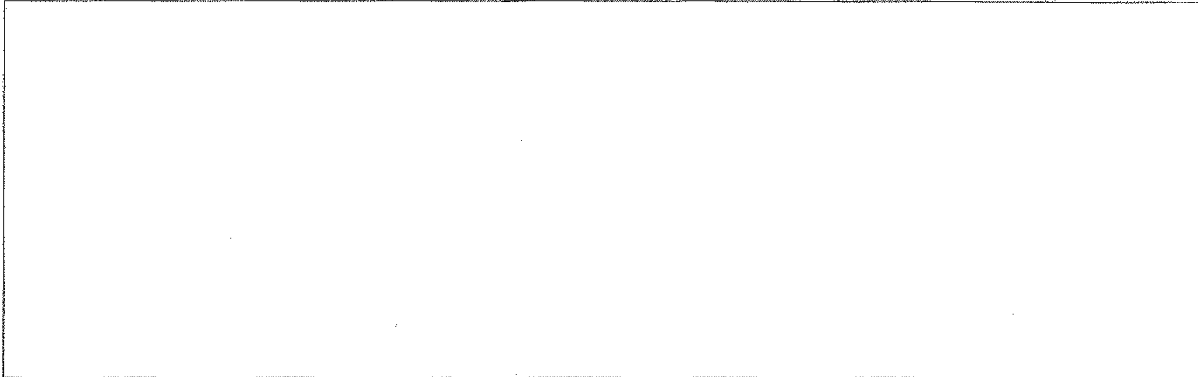
B5

From: Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana,

B6

Gautam A; Sims, [redacted]; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.;
Aquirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J.; Schlereth, Frank G.; Baumert, Kevin A.; Hickey, Mary E.; Schwartz, Jonathan B;
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan,
JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Subject: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI
Importance: High

B6



B5

Clearances requested:

State/L
OSD
NSC
J-5
State/NEA
State/EUR
State/CA
State/P
State/D(S)

Jim Sindle
Pol-Mil Officer
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART B5,B3 OTHER,B6

Law, Rosemary C

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Grubb, Jason B
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 5:43 AM
To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Rejsser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Rudman, Mara; Waters, John R; Pelton, Erin; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan
Subject: FW: Flotilla Update

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:41 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]; Foggo, James G. RDML
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Gentlemen,

First vessels are currently arriving in Ashdod. No access granted to US Embassy at this time. Hour of phone call with the Chairman is now being discussed.

V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attaché
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:38 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Joe -- thanks.
John, Mike, Gerry -- FYI.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Harry

VADM Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN
Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet
Commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO Joint Force Maritime Component Commander
EUROPE

B6
B3 OTHER

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:55 AM
To: SchlerethFG@state.gov; [redacted]; [redacted]
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; PicaTM@state.gov; MurphyMP@state.gov;
[redacted]; GrubbJB@state.gov; CNE-CNA-C6F IWO; Dumont, Mike J. SES
EUCOM
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Thanks Frank. Will call Moses shortly.

VR, JER

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>
To: [redacted]
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M <PicaTM@state.gov>;
Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted] Grubb, Jason B
<GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]
Sent: Mon May 31 10:48:56 2010
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Gentlemen,

IDF reporting that 2 pistols were taken from boarding IDF forces and found on two "violent" activists after apparently firing on soldiers. Magazines of the pistols were found emptied. FYI. IDF COS will speak via phone with Chairman at 1330L (Israeli Time) to personally update him. IDF is providing a briefing to the foreign attaché community at the same time. Will keep all updated of any additional details.

V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attaché
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>
To: [redacted]
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]
Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]
Sent: Mon May 31 09:13:24 2010
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Formal statement from IDF-

May 31st, 2010 IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

Early this morning, IDF Naval Forces intercepted six ships attempting to break the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. This happened after numerous warnings from Israel and the Israel Navy that were issued prior to the action. The Israel Navy requested the ships to redirect toward Ashdod where they would be able to unload their aid material which would then be transferred over land after undergoing security inspections. During the intercept of the ships, the demonstrators onboard attacked the IDF Naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally one of the weapons used was grabbed from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons in advance for this specific purpose. As a result of this life-threatening and violent activity, naval forces employed riot dispersal means, including live fire. According to initial reports, these events resulted in over ten deaths among the demonstrators and numerous injured, in addition, more than four naval personnel were injured, some from gunfire and some from various other weapons. Two of the soldiers are moderately wounded and the remainder sustained light injuries. All of the injured, Israelis and foreigners are currently being evacuated by helicopter to hospitals in Israel. Reports from IDF forces on the scene are that it seems as if part of the participants onboard the ships were planning to lynch the forces. The events are ongoing, and information will be updated as soon as possible. Israeli Naval commander, Vice Admiral Eliezer Marom is overseeing the events. In the coming hours, the ships will be directed to the Ashdod port, while IDF naval forces will perform security checks in order to identify the people on board the ships and their equipment. The IDF Spokesman conveys that this event is currently unfolding and further details will be provided as soon as possible. This IDF naval operation was carried out under orders from the political leadership to halt the flotilla from reaching the Gaza Strip and breaching the naval blockade. The interception of the flotilla followed numerous warnings given to the organizers of the flotilla before leaving their ports as well as while sailing towards the Gaza Strip. In these warnings, it was made clear to the organizers that they could dock in the Ashdod sea port and unload the equipment they are carrying in order to deliver it to the Gaza Strip in an orderly manner, following the appropriate security checks. Upon expressing their unwillingness to cooperate and arrive at the port, it was decided to board the ships and lead them to Ashdod. IDF naval personnel encountered severe violence, including use of weaponry prepared in advance in order to attack and to harm them. The forces operated in adherence with operational commands and took all necessary actions in order to avoid violence, but to no avail. LCDR Frank Schlereth Assistant Naval Attache USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

B6
B3 OTHER

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

From: [redacted]
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Rocco, Michael A. BGen <Michael.Rocco@eucom.mil>; Gardner, John D.
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted]
[redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]
Sent: Mon May 31 10:01:17 2010
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

B5

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>
To: [redacted]
[redacted]

B6

Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>;
Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]

B6 .
B3 OTHER

Sent: Mon May 31 08:59:10 2010
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Israel Navy has confirmed to me that vessels are going to Ashdod despite some reports indicating Haifa.

V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

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

From: [redacted]
To: Schlereth, Frank G; [redacted]
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted]
[redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; [redacted]
[redacted]

Sent: Mon May 31 07:17:58 2010
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Thanks Frank. Please keep us posted.

VR, JER

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Col Richard J. Burgess; [redacted] Pica, Tolan M
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]
Sievers, Marc J <SieversMJ@state.gov>; Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]
Sent: Mon May 31 06:13:15 2010
Subject: Flotilla Update

As of 0700L (Israeli Time), the IDF has informed me that the operation involving the flotilla has been underway for approx 2.5 hours. The Israeli forces were met in a "violent" manner. No confirmation of press reports of injured and killed. Expected formal IDF response should be released soon.

V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J;
[REDACTED] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy,
Michael P; [REDACTED] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb,
Jason B

Sent: Mon May 31 00:14:26 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

The Israel Navy is monitoring and "escorting" the flotilla at this time. As they travel further south, additional steps will be taken to have them arrive in Ashdod.

V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J;
[REDACTED] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy,

Michael P; Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Sun May 30 16:17:09 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

As of 1550L, the Israel Navy assesses the Flotilla is headed south. They expect to intercede in the morning hours of Monday 31 May.

V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

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

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED] Schlereth, Frank G; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J

Sent: Sun May 30 14:22:55 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Looping the BWC in.

R/s
Badfinger

B6
B3 OTHER

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

From: [redacted]
To: 'SchlerethFG@state.gov' <SchlerethFG@state.gov>; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Sent: Sun May 30 12:26:20 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Thanks Frank... Jack Gardner

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Sent: Sun May 30 12:23:17 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Sir,
Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine
flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to
head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.
V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

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

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Sat May 29 23:11:40 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

DCOM - responded on NIPR. This is a report from the Israelis. Have received NO confirmation
from any US source that the vessels have indeed re-flagged. Disussed with Moses and Frank
Schlereth, and they will continue to update us as they get new information. For now, we have
policy guidance on how we are to proceed, and COS has issued clear guidance to CNE on what
actions they must take in the event of a distress call.

Will keep you posted as we learn more.

VR, Joe

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

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
'schlerethfg@state.gov' <schlerethfg@state.gov>
Sent: Sat May 29 21:33:16 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Charlie/ Joe - did we confirm this is true ... Not US flagged? Didn't see anything on SIPR.
Jack

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

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] J.
'schlerethfg@state.gov' <schlerethfg@state.gov> B6
Sent: Sat May 29 12:30:21 2010 B3 OTHER
Subject: FW: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Chief- FYI. It appears that those 2 vessels that had been flying US flags are no longer flying them. One is flying a Greek flag and the other the St Vincent and Grenada flag. Reported by the Israeli Navy.

Will keep you posted as we learn more.

[redacted]

Deputy Director, JS Plans & Policy
U.S. European Command

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G [mailto:SchlerethFG@state.gov]
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 11:36 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov; Reisser, Wesley J;
Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana,
Gautam A; [redacted]
Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov; Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov; [redacted] Hickey,
Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth,
Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K;
Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.

LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Baumert, Kevin A
To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>;
Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted]
[redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]
'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'
<Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E;
Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle;
Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Moock, David
JL; [Redacted] B3 OTHER
Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M
To: Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>;
Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'
<Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E;
Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle;
Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura
Sent: Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Baumert, Kevin A
To: 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M;
Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'
<Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E;
Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle

B6
B3 OTHER

Sent: Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>
To: Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem
G. <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A;
Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

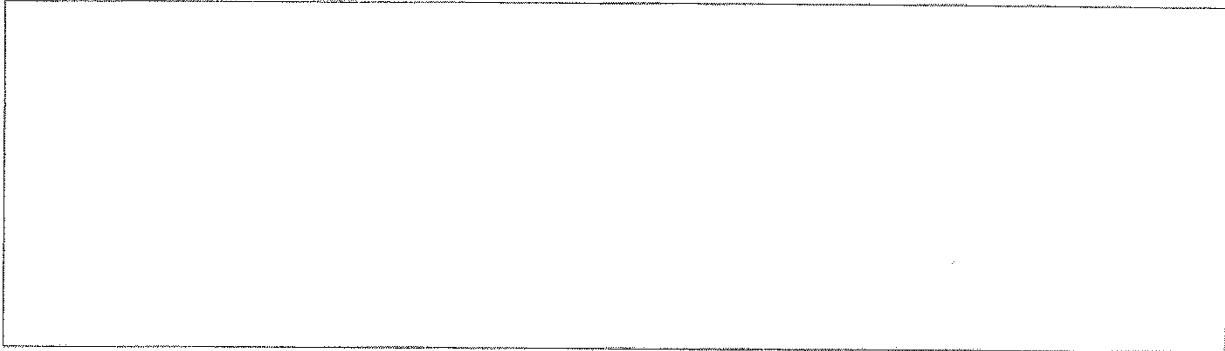
B5

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Lynn, [Redacted]
Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J;
Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B;
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J;
Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Subject: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI
Importance: High

[Redacted]

B5



Clearances requested:

State/L

OSD

NSC

J-5

State/NEA

State/EUR

State/CA

State/P

State/D(S)

Jim Sindle

Pol-Mil Officer

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov

Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-547-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART B5, B3 OTHER, B6

Law, Rosemary C

B6
B3 OTHER

N18

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 5:12 PM
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Connelly, Maura; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov; Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

The Israel Navy is monitoring and "escorting" the flotilla at this time. As they travel further south, additional steps will be taken to have them arrive in Ashdod.

R/
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Dolan, JoAnn
To: Connelly, Maura; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M
Sent: Sun May 30 01:56:21 2010
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Large redacted area]

From: Connelly, Maura
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 6:38 PM
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Clifton M

B5

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Dolan, JoAnn

To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]

[Redacted] 'Daniel_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shalpro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted] Johnson, Clifton M

Sent: Sat May 29 16:49:48 2010

Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M

Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 12:19 PM

To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]

[Redacted] 'Daniel_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]

[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted]
Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
[Redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]
Sent: Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
[Redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-646-2298

From: Baumert, Kevin A
To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
[Redacted] 'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL;

B6

'Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil' <Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil>
Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M
To: Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura
Sent: Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6
B3 OTHER

From: Baumert, Kevin A
To: 'Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]
'Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle
Sent: Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,
Kevin
L/OES

From: Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio_L_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>
To: Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Lynn, Eric CIV OSD POLICY [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]; Shapiro, Daniel B.
B6
B3 OTHER

<Daniel_B_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem_G_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle

B6

Sent: Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010

B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[redacted]

B6

From: Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]

B3 OTHER

Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM

To: Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.;

Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B;

JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan,

Subject: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Importance: High

[Large redacted area]

B5

Clearances requested:

- State/L
- OSD
- NSC
- J-5
- State/NEA
- State/EUR
- State/CA
- State/P
- State/D(S)

Jim Sindle
Pol-Mil Officer
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART
B5, B6

NZZ

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:04 PM
 To: Burgess, Richard J; Sindle, James M; Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreia; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

B6

I have added Stephen Pomper and Alexandra Perina who are handling for L/PM and are in the best position to coordinate with DOD lawyers.

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

From: Burgess, Richard J
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:59 PM
 To: Sindle, James M; Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreia; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Jim, all

FYI, when Frank Schlereth and I met with IDF J5 this afternoon, and then with some of his staff afterwards, it was clear to them (their opinion) that they had legal authority to intercept an inbound force in international waters whose "stated intentions" and demonstrated actions were to attempt to break a blockade which is in place via a recognized interim agreement.

Richard J. "Moses" Burgess, Col, USAF
 US Senior Defense Official, Defense and Air Attache to Israel US Defense Attache Office
 71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, Israel, 63903
 Work: +972-3-519-7333
 Cell: +972-50-523-2542

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

From: Sindle, James M
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:53 PM
 To: Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreia; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J;

1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S;
[redacted] JCS J5 AO'; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson,
Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

B6

According to attachment and in several statements, GOI believes that they are in armed
conflict with Hamas in Gaza and have the right to enforce blockade, including interdicting
ships in international waters that intend to break that blockade. [redacted]

B5

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

From: Gordon, Philip H
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:35 PM
To: Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center;
Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese,
Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey
D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy,
Michael P; Clay, Andrea; 'elizabeth_d_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov';
McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M;
Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Isr Amb Oren told D-Steinberg that Israel would release/deport all the people forthwith. Did
not address plans for the ships.

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

From: Jeffrey, James F
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J;
Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,
John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara
(Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay,
Andrea; 'elizabeth_d_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth_d_sherwood-
randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Gordon, Philip H;
McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M;
Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; Rice, Susan E (USUN)
Sent: Mon May 31 13:27:49 2010
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Aside from stressing as Amb Tan did to Phil Gordon need for Am 'condemnation' of Israel
Mercan-who can speak usually better for AKP leadership and Erdogan than MFA, Told Codel
Delahunt and me that of particular importance for Turks is immediate release of Turkish ships
and all personnel. He asserted and we need to look at, that under international law
enforcing a blockade does not convey the right to seize people/property. [redacted]

B5

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Schlereth, Frank G; Clay, Andreia
Sent: Mon May 31 19:27:09 2010
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

All,

The DATT and I met with the IDF J5 MG Amir Eshel. The majority of the conversation involved details already provided via multiple sources. Additional highlights below -

- MG Eshel stressed link between IHH organization and Muslim Brotherhood. Clear action on part of individuals on MAVI MARMARA to incite violence. Beat first wave of soldiers who arrived on board via Fast Rope. Several Rhibs and 3 Blackhawks were used in action against MAVI MARMARA. Took approximately an hour for INF forces (Flotilla 13(Navy Seals)) to gain control of the vessel. All 6 boats were boarded at approximately the same time(0400-0500L) in international waters. Violence isolated to MAVI MARMARA. Medical attention rendered to all injured.
- As of 1700L 3-4 of the vessels are in port Ashdod. MAVI MARAMRA to arrive soon.
- All IDF forces are monitoring for reaction, but currently no heightened activity on borders or in Gaza. Some minor incidents involving Israeli Arabs within Israel (stone throwing). Israeli Arab protests and strike expected tomorrow. IDF continuing to monitor situation to determine reactions.
- Several meetings and conversations with Turkish officials have taken place. There is concern for safety of Israeli representatives in Turkey.
- Air exercise that has been taking place in Crete with Greeks has been stopped by the Greeks and the IAF assets have been asked to leave.
- GOI and IDF focused on getting the facts out. Multiple video clips depicting violence against IDF forces being released. They will review the operation internally.
- No decision on reaction to any additional vessels that may attempt to head to Gaza.
- We are awaiting response on CHALLENGER I Flag and any status of AMCITs.
- At this time, unclear if any riot related gas, etc was used.

V/R,
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attaché
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

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

From: Murphy, Michael P
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 4:37 PM
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese,

Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Hale, David M
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

Ma'am, Sir,

Notes from briefing by BG Yossi Heymann, Deputy J-5 at 1400 31 May 2010.

BG Heymann-

"There was a significant event this morning, we don't have all the details, and we are still in the event. We will continue to update you."

BG Heymann then moved to a prepared, written statement beginning with the assertion that the Gaza Strip is ruled by a hostile enemy, HAMAS, that does not recognize the State of Israel. HAMAS encourages and executes hostile activity against Israel and is currently holding an Israeli citizen, Gilad Shalit, against international convention.

The naval blockade was established prevent smuggling that supports terrorist activity.

The Free Gaza flotilla was organized by the Turkish IHH which is belligerent towards Israel and supports the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel tried different avenues to prevent the flotilla from launching to include communications with the ships' owning countries and companies to no avail. Israel expressed willingness to transfer any non-contraband supplies via established land procedures and Israel continues to look for ways to ameliorate the human conditions in Gaza. Israel assesses that there is no Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza.

When the organizers of the flotilla showed no desire to divert to Ashdod when requested by the Government of Israel (GoI), the GoI made the decision to board the ships in strict accordance with international law and with a desire to minimize damage to the ships and injury to passengers.

Boarding of the ships.

During boarding of the ship Mavi Marmara, Israel Navy (INF) Personnel encountered "severe physical violence" including knives, clubs and firearms. 1 INF weapon was seized by passengers. Due to a clear and present danger to INF personnel, the INF initiated contact using riot control systems (NFI) then transitioned to live fire. The injured in the event, both Israeli and foreign, have been transferred to "4-5 hospitals."

Short term future actions.

Provision of Medical attention to the wounded.

Non-contraband supplies, after inspection and processing, will be transferred to Gaza.

An IDF investigation will be initiated.

The GoI continues to see HAMAS as a terrorist group. (Note: this seemed out of place in the context of the current topic of the briefing).

Israel is taking action to prevent escalation of the situation.

Israel will "respond heavily" to any entity seeking to provoke escalation.

Legal Aspects

BG Heymann indicated that a separate briefing would be provided on the legal aspects of the operation. This was the attachment provided on LCDR Schlereth's earlier summary. A copy is attached as well to this email.

Questions from the assembled group.

What are the nationalities of the casualties?

No information yet, should have details in "a few hours." This information will be transmitted via "diplomatic" channels, not military.

Where are the ships?

2 ships are at Ashdod, to include the Challenger I (as of 1415). The Challenger has US citizens, European citizens and at least one Israeli citizen. The Mavi Marmara should arrive to Ashdod between 1700-1800.

What will happen to passengers?

Passengers will have 2 options. Accept immediate extradition or be jailed by Israeli authorities. By "tonight," all personal details should be known.

Any information on nationalities?

Information will be passed to the Ambassador.

What time and where did boarding occur?

Between 0500-0600, 70 NM from Israel in international waters. All 6 ships were boarded. Only on the Mavi Marmara was serious violence encountered. One other minor incident occurred on a second ship. All casualties were on the Mavi Marmara.

Was permission granted to board the ships?

Unknown at this time.

What weapons were encountered?

One INF sailor was seriously wounded by rifle or pistol fire. 2 pistols were seized from dead passengers. One INF weapon was seized by the passengers during boarding.

What international reaction has occurred?

HAMAS has declared 3 days of mourning. Turkey has recalled its Ambassador. Israeli Ambassador to Turkey was summoned to the Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and was passed a "serious message."

BG Heymann spoke with UNIFIL, and MFO to coordinate for de-escalation efforts in Lebanon and Egypt.

The INF assesses that there were Jordanians on the ships, but no details were given. If there are Syrian or Lebanese citizens on the ships, then they will be transferred via the Red Cross and UN to their respective countries.

The MoD and IDF sent messages to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Arab Community to not escalate the situation. At least one Palestinian passenger may have been wounded.

BG Heymann pointed out that there has been no US reaction as of yet.

Casualties?

10-14 passengers severely wounded or killed, all on the Mavi Marmara. A total of 30 passengers now at 4-5 Israeli hospitals.

10 INF wounded, 1 seriously, one moderately

Why were the ships boarded in international waters?

BG Heymann started by saying the organizers were warned that the GoI would respond to any provocation and the Free Gaze flotilla was meant only as a provocation. He then said he would not get into operational details, but the INF intercepted at 70 NM in accordance with international law as the flotilla made it clear that its intention was to violate the Israeli exclusion zone.

Did the INF know what was on board?

Only through press accounts, but INF assessed contraband items such as concrete, and iron.

Intentions for the ships?

The ships will remain at Ashdod until further notice.

Very Respectfully,

LTC Michael Murphy
Acting Army Attaché

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

From: Schlereth, Frank G

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:08 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Schlereth, Frank G

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

I have spoken with LTC Mike Murphy, USDAO, who attended a briefing given by BG Yossi Heymann. Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific Highlights

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

LTC Murphy will write a formal summary upon his return to the Embassy. DATT and I will attend briefing with J5 at 1700L.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth

Assistant Naval Attaché

US Defense Attaché Office

US Embassy, Tel Aviv

Tel: 972 3 519 7486

Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

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

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D

Cc: 'Dennis_B._Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from Gen. Dangot, the COGAT, who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am.

Dangot reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning he and Barak made the following calls/contacts:
--Turkish FM and MoD (Barak); Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh (Dangot). He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

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

From: Cunningham, James B
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM
To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D
Cc: 'Dennis_B._Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.

Sent from my BlackBerry

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

From: Levin, Jan
To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010
Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. Assaf Orion, Dir. Of Dept of Strategic Coordination, briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.

-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.

-- Col. Orion told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.

-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B5, B6

N47

Law, Rosemary C

From: Sindle, James M
 Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:35 PM
 To: Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Knopf, Payton L; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)
 Cc: Baumert, Kevin A; Maggi, Robert W; Maxwell, Raymond D; EUR-SE-DAR-DL; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan
 Subject: DoD Contacting Gaza Flotilla Ships
 Importance: High

According to the below email from DoD's National Military Command Center (their version of OPS), DoD DID NOT/NOT deliver the maritime warning to U.S. vessels on Friday, May 30 before the Israeli boarding. Furthermore, DoD does not believe that they have equities in contacting U.S. vessels.

Jim Sindle

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

From: NJOIC POLICY JCS J-5 JCS J-3
 Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:13 PM
 To: [redacted]
 Cc: [redacted] NJOIC POLICY JCS J-5 JCS J-3; [redacted]
 AD
 Subject: Contacting Gaza Flotilla Ships

B6

B3 OTHER

B3 OTHER

B6

[redacted] Follow-up to your phonecon with the Battle Capt a few minutes ago. BLUF: Recommend the tasker to contact US ships participating in the Gaza Flotilla be directed to State Dept. (They don't know what they are talking about here because we never got this bounced back to us.)

- Over the weekend, NJOIC attempted to comply with J5 instruction to contact US flagged/owned vessels participating in the Gaza Flotilla to forward the NSS approved message regarding Israeli sovereignty and shipping to Gaza, despite the lack of Joint Staff or OSD equities in the matter.

[redacted] They could broadcast a general notice to all mariners.

B5

B5

- USCG had difficulty verifying Challenger I and II identity and ownership (many ships by that name). They had no success in contacting the parent company (in Delaware) of the suspected vessels.

- EUCOM was contacted, and EUCOM Chief of Staff determined that this was an Israeli Law Enforcement issue - not a DoD lane - and that even so, [redacted]

B5

- NJOIC concluded, based on Open Source Internet sites reporting on the Free Gaza Flotilla, that all ships involved were well aware of the purpose and risks involved in approaching Israeli naval boundaries.

At this point, NJOIC recommends against DoD being responsible for contact with potential US vessels still involved with the Free Gaza movement. [redacted]

B5

V/R,
NJOIC Policy Desk - Pentagon

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

National Joint Operations Intelligence Center (NJOIC)



B6

RELEASED IN PART B6

Law, Rosemary C

N33

From: Sindle, James M
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 11:46 AM
To: NEA-IPA-DL; Tel Aviv POL Section
Subject: FW: NOTMAR on Gaza
Attachments: GazaNotice.pdf; GazaHYDROLANT.pdf

Categories: Working

Colleagues,

Attached is the USCG Notice to Mariners regarding the Gaza flotilla that went out yesterday. (Paul: I've already sent separately to NEA/PPD).

V/R,
Jim Sindle

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

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

From: Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil [mailto:Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 7:36 AM
To: Sindle, James M
Cc: Kumar, Prem G.; Connors, Timothy CDR; [redacted] Cook, Pauline F CAPT;
Christensen, Eric CAPT; Sollosi, Mike
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Mr. Sindle:

The Gaza notice has been published in all Coast Guard Local Notices to Mariners (LNM) except the 11th District (California). I expect the 11th District's LNM to be published today. A copy of the notice as it appeared in the 8th District's (Gulf of Mex) LNM is attached. The notice also appears on the Coast Guard's Navigation Center website (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>).

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) has issued the notice as a NAVAREA IV (Atlantic), NAVAREA XII (Pacific), HYDROLANT, and HYDROPAC warning. A copy of the HYDROLANT warning is attached.

V/R,
Frank Parker
Commandant (CG-5531)
Office of Navigation Systems

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)
US COAST GUARD
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.l@uscg.smil.mil
Tel: (202) 372-1551
Fax: (202) 372-1992

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

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 4:50 PM
To: Parker, Frank; Connors, Timothy CDR; [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT;
Christensen, Eric CAPT; Sollosi, Mike
Cc: Kumar, Prem G.
Subject: FW: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

USCG Colleagues:

I just wanted to follow-up and find out what the status was on the Gaza flotilla NOTMAR going out. Any updates?

Thanks,

Jim Sindle

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

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

From: Sindle, James M
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 7:45 AM
To: 'Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil'; 'Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil'
Cc: [REDACTED] 'Pauline.F.Cook@uscg.mil'; 'Eric.P.Christensen@uscg.mil';
'Mike.M.Sollosi@uscg.mil'
Subject: Re: NOTMAR on Gaza

Colleagus,

State will release a press statement in early June shortly before the flotillas prepare to leave. But it seemed understood at the IPC that USCG was going to get the cleared NOTMAR out in April (the IPC was APR 4). Several principals, including SecState, have already referenced it as already being transmitted. Anything that USCG can do to expedite this would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Jim Sindle
NEA/IPA

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

From: Parker, Frank [mailto:Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 12:07 PM
To: Connors, Timothy CDR <Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil>
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT
<Pauline.F.Cook@uscg.mil>; Christensen, Eric CAPT <Eric.P.Christensen@uscg.mil>; Sindle, James M; Sollosi, Mike <Mike.M.Sollosi@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

CDR:

There is a process in place to issue these types of notices. I have attached a 2-page extract from our Aids to Nav Admin Manual (COMDTINST M16500.7A). I do not mind sending the notice to NGA and the Districts, but I don't want to step on any toes at State or NGA.

Frank Parker
Commandant (CG-5531)
Office of Navigation Systems

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)
US COAST GUARD
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.1@uscg.smil.mil
Tel: (202) 372-1551
Fax: (202) 372-1992

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

From: Connors, Timothy CDR
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 11:46 AM
To: Parker, Frank; SindleJM@state.gov
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT; Christensen, Eric CAPT; Connors, Timothy CDR
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Frank,

Attached is the final version of the notice that cleared through State and here in the building. I wasn't at the IPC, so I'm not certain what MARAD has planned. I think State has already issued a warning on the issue, and the language of the notice is synchronized with the State warning. Included Jim Sindle on this e-mail to confirm that.

V/R,

TPC

CDR Tim Connors
Chief, Operations Law Group
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)
Office: (202) 372-3798
Cell: (202) 441-4971
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

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

From: Parker, Frank
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 7:27 AM
To: Connors, Timothy CDR
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT; Christensen, Eric CAPT
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

Cdr Connors:

I haven't seen a copy of the notice, but I can push one through to the districts and NGA. Do you know whether MARAD is going to issue anything? Should the notice go through State and be issued as a Special Warning?

Frank Parker
Commandant (CG-5531)
Office of Navigation Systems

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)
US COAST GUARD
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580

WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.l@uscg.smil.mil
Tel: (202) 372-1551
Fax: (202) 372-1992

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

From: Christensen, Eric CAPT
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 7:20 AM
To: Connors, Timothy CDR
Cc: [redacted] Parker, Frank; Cook, Pauline F CAPT
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Tim,

Frank Parker in CG-553 was the coordinator for the release of the Japan radiation advisory, so he can assist here also. If we have a text to go out please pass to Frank.

Eric P. Christensen
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
CG-543

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

From: Connors, Timothy CDR
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:51 PM
To: Christensen, Eric CAPT
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: NOTMAR on Gaza

Sir,

Appears as if there was some disconnect on the NOTAM. Not sure who would send the NOTAM, but it appears as if it has cleared and is ready to go.

V/r

TPC

CDR Tim Connors
Chief, Operations Law Group
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)
Office: (202) 372-3798
Cell: (202) 441-4971
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

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

From: prvs=1174c06b8=Prem_G._Kumar@nss.eop.gov
[mailto:prvs=1174c06b8=Prem_G._Kumar@nss.eop.gov] On Behalf Of Kumar, Prem G.
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:42 PM
To: Connors, Timothy CDR; SindleJM@state.gov; [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR;
Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

Can we release it now? We at NSS thought it would go out per the IPC several weeks ago.

Thanks,

Prem G. Kumar
Director for Israeli and Palestinian Affairs National Security Council
Tel: 202-456-9121
Fax: 202-456-9120
Email: pkumar@nsc.eop.gov

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

From: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil [mailto:Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:30 PM
To: SindleJM@state.gov; [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Kumar, Prem G.
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Jim,

Our understanding is that the request from NSS never came.

Thanks

Tim Connors

CDR Tim Connors
Chief, Operations Law Group
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)
Office: (202) 372-3798
Cell: (202) 441-4971
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

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

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:27 PM
To: [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Connors, Timothy CDR; Kumar, Prem G.
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

[redacted]
Why wasn't the NOTMAR sent out? I understand that it was supposed to have been sent out in response to a request by the NSS.

Thanks,

Jim Sindle
Pol-Mil Officer
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs U.S. Department of State
Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov
202-647-4386 (office)

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:24 PM
To: Sindle, James M; Polizzotto, Susan; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Connors, Timothy CDR
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Mr. Sindle,

The latest on this is that it has not been sent out.

Very respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Operations Law Group
Commandant (CG-09412)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second St., SW Stop 7121
Washington, DC 20593-7121

[REDACTED]

(NCC for duty matters 24/7) 202-372-2100

[REDACTED]

NOTICE: This e-mail communication is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain unclassified confidential and/or privileged information. Any unauthorized disclosure, copying or dissemination of this communication is prohibited. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure can result in civil or criminal penalties. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by e-mail and delete all copies received.

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

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A; [REDACTED]
Subject: NOTMAR on Gaza
Importance: High

Colleagues:

Does anyone know if this NOTMAR has gone out yet? If so, when was it sent out and can I please get a final version?

Thanks,

Jim Sindle
Pol-Mil Officer
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

N58

Law, Rosemary C

From: Netos, Eleftherios E
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 5:34 PM
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Subject: FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus.

To reduce confusion, please note the following information based on reporting from Embassy Nicosia and USCG contacts with Cypriot port authorities:

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger II has suffered extensive damages and is on the ground in Limassol. It arrived in Cyprus after showing ingress of water and will remain out of the water for at least a month.

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger III (formerly, the Greek-flagged Dimitris K) is in the water at Limassol new port, but without crew or passengers and is chained to the pier by port and marine police.

--Both vessels are U.S.-flagged. The Challenger II had previously been Greek-owned, flagged in Honduras and known as the Nitta II. The Challenger III, had previously been the Cyprus-flagged and owned Dimitris K.

--Cypriot port authorities in Limassol have told Embassy Nicosia they do not intend to let any vessel depart to participate in the flotilla.

Terry Netos
Cyprus Desk Officer
U.S. Department of State
Bureau of European Affairs/Office of Southern Europe
Tel.: +1-202-647-6760
Fax: +1-202-647-5087

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

P2

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

NotesTele (3).txt

Jeffrey G Giauque 05/13/2010 09:22:38 AM From DB/Inbox: Jeffrey G Giauque

Cable
Text:

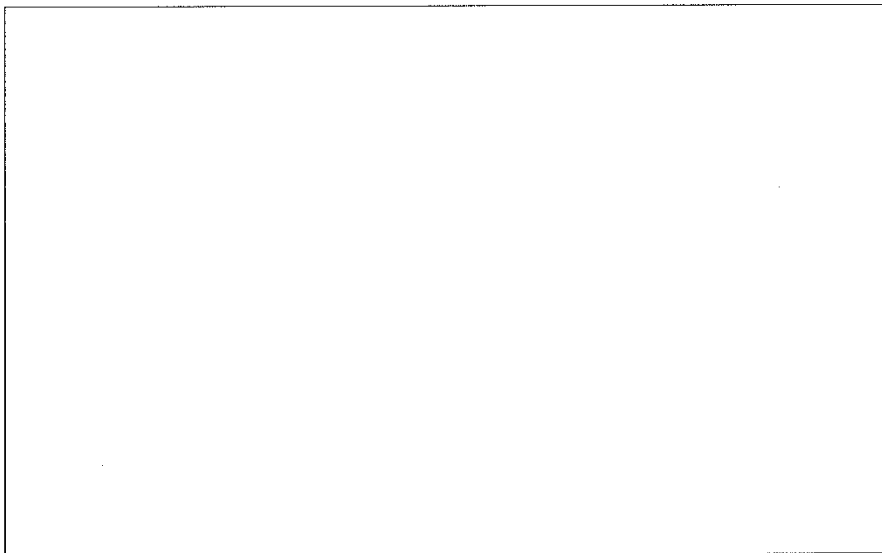
CONFIDENTIAL
TELEGRAM

May 13, 2010

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE
Action: NEA
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV (TEL AVIV 1086 - IMMEDIATE)
TAGS: KWBG, PHUM, PREL, IS, TU
Captions: SIPDIS
Subject: ISRAELI OFFICIALS PLAN TO BLOCK "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA
Ref: A. ANKARA 680 B. ANKARA 565

Classified By: A/DCM Marc Sievers. Reasons 1.4(b)(d)

1. (SBU) The self-proclaimed "Free Gaza Movement" is planning to run a flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian supplies to Gaza in an effort to "break the blockade" of Gaza (reftels). The group's website says that the "Freedom Flotilla" is the result of a collaboration between the Turkish human rights organization IHH, European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, the Perdana Global Peace organization from Malaysia, the Greek and Swedish Ship to Gaza campaigns, and the International Coalition for Lifting the Siege on Gaza. The ships are tentatively scheduled to approach Gaza on or about May 25.



1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Page 1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NotesTele (3).txt



1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

CUNNINGHAM

Additional Addressees:
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

CC:
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
NSC WASHDC
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

Distribution:

TED6981
ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	EUR-00
	VCI-00	DIAS-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00
	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	SAS-00	FA-00	/000W				

-----60C5ED 131029Z /02

O 130814Z MAY 10
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6891
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 001086

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/2020
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, KWBG, TU, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI OFFICIALS PLAN TO BLOCK "FREE GAZA"
FLOTILLA

REF: A. ANKARA 680
B. ANKARA 565

End Cable Text

Jeffrey G Giauque 05/13/2010 09:22:38 AM From DB/Inbox: Jeffrey G Giauque

NotesTele (3).txt

Recipient/Profile Information

Cable Recipients:

Daniel H Aaron
Nisha M Abraham
Abraham Abu-Ghannam
Casey L Addis
Michael Adler
Faiza Ali
Christopher M Alkhoury
Wael N Alzayat
David Amini
Matthew Amitrano
Gary L Anderson
Amy Norris
Sophia T Ansari
Alice Armitage
Peter J Auger
Anthony J Babin
Jessica Baker
David Benze
Jeremy R Berndt
Matthew H Blong
Catherine Bourgeois
Wendy Brayer
Laura Breslin
Gloria Brokaw
Jillian L Burns
Jennifer Butte-Dahl
Kristin B Cairns
Stephen J Carrig
Marcus E Cary
Elisa Catalano
William Cavness
Douglas A Chamberlain
Rina Chatterji
Farah N Chery-Medor
Brenda Chinn
Michelle E Cloud
Donald B Cofman
Lea M Coley
Daniel E Collier
NEAFONEA2 COMMON
Common NEAFO
Maura Connelly
Sara Crowe
Lakiya Culley
Juliana C Darwiche
Joshua Davis
Carlos DeJuana
Alboino Deulus
Terri P Diggs
Peter Dixon
Alexander M Djerassi
Melissa Dorsey
Calvin E Dubose
Stephen Epstein
Faye Fagg
Jeffrey Feltman
John Fleming
Maura Forno
Annie L Freeman
Karlene H Frelich
Cornelia Garner

NotesTele (3).txt

Kelly M Georgens
Jeffrey G Giauque
Ida Giusti
Thomas Goldberger
Thomas Gramaglia
Meghan Gregonis
Sandra Grigola
Brian M Grimm
Stephanie L Hallett
Joshua M Harris
Brent R Hartley
Molly E Hayes
Amy S Heath
Carlos Hernandorena
Dolores A Hicks
Margaret A Hillmann
Sirlu P Hill
Thomas Hill
Frederic C Hof
Martin Hohe
Lavenia Holland
Sara Horner
Peter M Howard
Gloria K Hubbard
William D Huggins
Adnan I Hurreh
Maria C Huscilowitc
Colleen E Hyland
Matt Irwin
Julia I Jacoby
Catherine B Jazynka
Sandra L Johnson
Kali C Jones
Patricia K Kabra
Heather Kalmbach
Carleen G kaurin
Ambreen S Kayani
Matt Keene
Lisa Kenna
Charles Kiamie
Andrew Kim
Sahar Khoury-Kincannon
Payton Knopf
Lisa A Langevin
Andrew Lentz
Lee Lohman
Andrew T MacDonald
Shaun Mandelkorn
Melissa A Mangold
Brianna C Marwaha
Amit Mathur
Raymond D Maxwell
Iris Mayo
Helen-Mary B McGovern
Jennifer McIntyre
Denise M McKinney
Hermentia I McLaurin
Robert Means
Aysa M Miller
Benjamin J Mills
Farid A Mohamed
Marie Moser
Michael J Murphy

NotesTele (3).txt

Margaret Nardi
Jeremy Nice
John D Nordlander
Alexis S Olive
John W Osborne
Michelle Paison
John B Parker
Cheryl L Parker
Jessica Patterson
Bryan P Payne
Lucinda Petersen
Palmer Y Phillips
Michael B Philpy
Aaron D Pina
Gina Pinzino
Allison N Poole
Heidi M Ramsay
Roopa Rangaswamy
Michael A Ratney
Wesley J Reisser
Justin E Reynolds
Leshawnda V Riley
Matthew Root
Douglas B Rose
Falana Salley
Janet A Sanderson
Mark S Sarfati
Julie L Sawyer
Gina E Scarsella
Miriam Schwedt
Joseph Scovitch
Nicole Shampaine
Jill R Shaunfield
Margaret Sheppard
James M Sindle
Maria Sisk
Mona B Skardon
Stephen T Smith
Debra SmokerAli
James V Soriano
Steven M Soucek
Marta Sparago
Linda Specht
Madelyn E Spirnak
Edward Stafford
Olwyn Staples
Marita X Starr
Andrew Steinfeld
Matthew Stephenson
James P Stover
Rebecca Struwe
Rebecca L Struwe
Cassie C Sullivan
Elizabeth Sullivan
Paul R Sutphin
Erica Thibault
Mary C Thompson
Heather A Townsend
Lindsay Treworgy
Jason H Ullner
Adam Vaccaro
Joshua Volz
Rajeev M Wadhvani

NotesTele (3).txt

Brittany C Wagner
Danika L Walters
Jonathan T Ward
Patricia Weaver
Christopher wells
Anne Wennerstrom
Matthew B West
Cory D Wilcox
Mark J Wildermuth
Tamara C Wittes
Joshua W Yaphe
Raouf N Youssef LMDS Profiles/office symbols:

NEA_ALL_A1
NEA_ARP_A1
NEA_ARP_A2
NEA_ENA_A1
NEA_EX_A1
NEA_EX_A3
NEA_HR_A1
NEA_IRAQ_A2
NEA_MEPI_A1
NEA_MEPI_A2
NEA_NEAFO_A1
NEA_PMO_A1
NEA_PMO_A2
NEA_PPD_A1
NEA_RA_A1
NEA_SAPAB_A1

Cablexpress Folders:
NEA/FO

NEA/IAI
CIA/IAI
CIA/NEA
DIA/IAI
DIA/NEA
MILITARY
NEAPOSTS
NEA/IAICTAGS
NEA/P
NEA/PPR
NEA/SA/EX
PMO
MILITARYcatch

RELEASED IN FULL

P5

Logg, Cristina A

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 4:44 AM
To: Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J
Subject: Going to visit IHH today at 1:15. Do you have any questions?

Categories: Working

Hi Jerry and Michael,

I will be leaving today at 1:15 to have an introductory meeting with IHH at their office.

Please let me know if you have any specific questions you would like me to ask them. I plan to ask about the flotilla and the Amcits who are planning to join.

Cheers,

Sal

Salvatore Amodeo
Senior Political Officer/Deputy Pol-Econ Section Chief
U.S. Consulate General Istanbul
(90) 212-335-9389

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

Logg, Cristina A

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 10:03 AM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J
Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Istanbul Pol Econ - DL; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)
Subject: Meeting with IHH President in Istanbul HQ
Categories: Working

I just met with IHH President F. Bulent Yildirim and English speaking Huseyin Oruc who is a member of the IHH Administrative Board.

Below are the highlights of the notes of my meeting. Please let me know if you would like to incorporate them into your next cable or if you think there is enough new info to warrant a separate cable sent from Istanbul.

Flotilla Update:

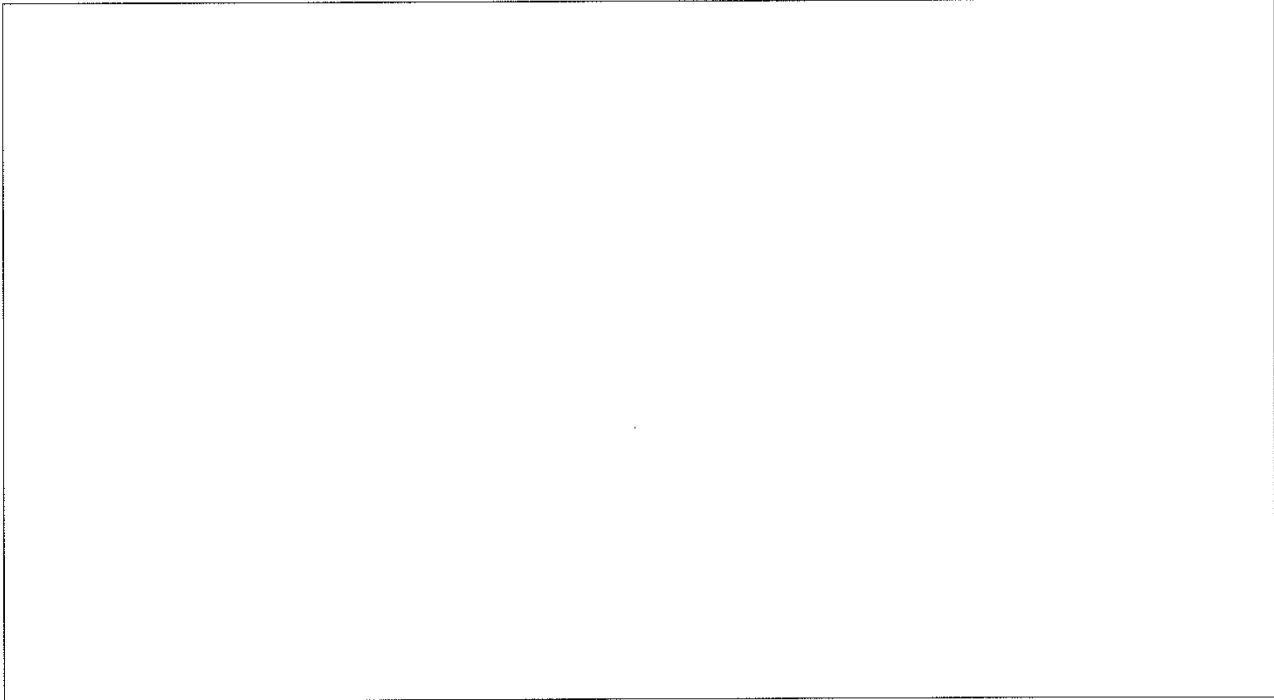
- The IHH passenger ship that will participate in the flotilla will depart Istanbul this Saturday May 22 at 11:00.
- It will then sail to Antalya where it will pick up additional passengers and depart on May 25.
- As many as 10 Amcits may board the passenger boat in Istanbul and other Amcits may board in Antalya. However, they said they are not sure how many will actually show up.
- The passenger ship as well as 2 cargo ships, which will leave from Mersin, will rendezvous near Cyprus with six other ships from Europe and then attempt to break the blockade.
- "We will not stop" said Yildirim when asked what the flotilla planned to do if the Israeli's planned to enforce its blockade.
- Composition of Cargo – Construction materials to build 12 apartments, play ground equipment, medical equipment, 120 different types of medicine, generators.
- Yildirim said the passenger ship and cargo will be open for inspection by diplomatic community to show that they are not shipping arms.
- Media will broad cast live interaction with IDF.
- IHH web site will provide updates on the status of the Flotilla.

IHH President called on the USG to:

- Call on Israel to end its blockage on Gaza

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

- Speak out against Israel if they "behave like pirates" and attempt to board the ships of the flotilla or use force against it.
- Support their campaign to bring an end to the embargo.



NR

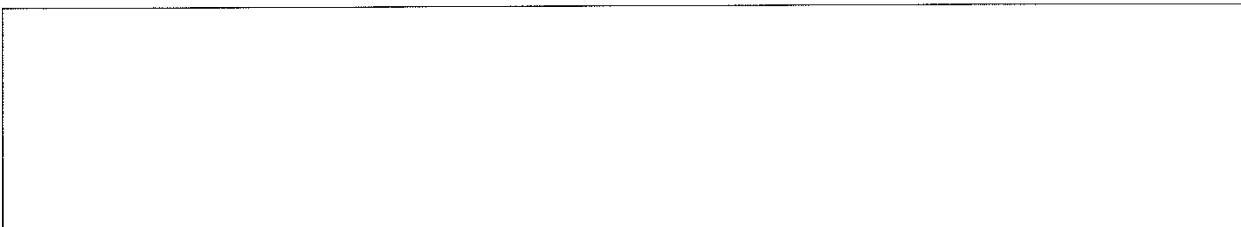
From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 2:00 PM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)
Cc: Ahn, Michael; O'Grady, Daniel J
Subject: RE: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Go for it, Sal. We meet with them here. .

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 12:23 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)
Cc: Ahn, Michael; O'Grady, Daniel J
Subject: RE: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Hi Jerry,



1.4(D)
B1
B5

Please advise.

Thanks,

Sal

This document is SECRET when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

Classification: SECRET

Classified by: Salvatore Amodeo, Deputy Pol/Econ Chief, State

Reason: 1.4(d)

Declassify On: 2020/05/14

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 9:22 AM
To: Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Cc: Ahn, Michael
Subject: FW: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Win, Sal: We think the Gaza flotilla focus may shift to IHH headquarters in Istanbul. --Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED
From: Marsh, Denise M
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 7:20 PM
To: Taylor, Victoria J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Also – per your emails last week, any update on this will be greatly appreciated. This might have come up as well in the S-Dav call today.

Cheers,

Denise

From: Taylor, Victoria J
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 11:47 AM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael
Cc: Marsh, Denise M
Subject: FW: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv
Importance: High

In case you haven't see these cables from Tel Aviv.

From: Giauque, Jeffrey G
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:31 AM
To: Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D
Subject: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv
Importance: High

A couple of cables that I wanted to flag for you all on what we have coming our way the week after next.

<< File: (CO) TEL AVIV 1086 >> << File: (SE) HOTRWASHIN 5121421 >>

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (d)

Declassify On: 2020/05/14

RELEASED IN PART B5,NR

P7

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 10:38 AM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ahn, Michael
Cc: Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Istanbul Pol Econ - DL; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)
Subject: RE: Meeting with IHH President in Istanbul HQ
Categories: Working

Sal:

This is worth a cable.

B5

Please include the same addressees that we had listed in our last cable on the flotilla.

Thank you.

-- Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 5:03 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J
Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Istanbul Pol Econ - DL; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)
Subject: Meeting with IHH President in Istanbul HQ

I just met with IHH President F. Bulent Yildirm and English speaking Huseyin Oruc who is a member of the IHH Administrative Board.

Below are the highlights of the notes of my meeting. Please let me know if you would like to incorporate them into your next cable or if you think there is enough new info to warrant a separate cable sent from Istanbul.

Flotilla Update:

- The IHH passenger ship that will participate in the flotilla will depart Istanbul this Saturday May 22 at 11:00.
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- As many as 10 Amcits may board the passenger boat in Istanbul and other Amcits may board in Antalya. However, they said they are not sure how many will actually show up.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

- The passenger ship as well as 2 cargo ships, which will leave from Mersin, will rendezvous near Cyprus with six other ships from Europe and then attempt to break the blockade.
- "We will not stop" said Yildirim when asked what the flotilla planned to do if the Israeli's planned to enforce its blockade.
- Composition of Cargo – Construction materials to build 12 apartments, play ground equipment, medical equipment, 120 different types of medicine, generators.
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- Media will broad cast live interaction with IDF.
- IHH web site will provide updates on the status of the Flotilla.

IHH President called on the USG to:

- Call on Israel to end its blockage on Gaza
- Speak out against Israel if they "behave like pirates" and attempt to board the ships of the flotilla or use force against it.
- Support their campaign to bring an end to the embargo.

NR

From: Howard, Jeremiah H

Logg, Cristina A

From: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:47 AM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: FW: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

Categories: Working

I don't understand, they are on the distribution. See bottom.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/01

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:28 PM
To: de Otalvaro, Laura H; Ahn, Michael
Subject: FW: FW: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:51 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: FW: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

Please put Istanbul on all of these Gaza-related cables.

I just sent it to Sharon and Win by e-mail.

Thanks,

Doug

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/01

From: SMART Core
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 03:1:18
To: Pistana, Robert ; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M;

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Hessler, Robert E

Cc: [redacted]@dca.usdoj.sgov.gov; Eppler, Dale B; Kolega, Alen; Roundy, Brian A; Deblauw, Kim J; B7(C)
Hamilton, Elizabeth H

Subject: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

CONFIDENTIAL



Action Office: POL
Info Office: EAC

MRN: 10 ANKARA 779
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 011159Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY ANKARA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MOPS, TU, IS
Captions: SIPDIS
Reference: A) 10 ISTANBUL 195
B) 10 ISTANBUL 199
C) 10 ANKARA 772
D) 10 ANKARA 774
E) 10 ANKARA 776
F) 10 ANKARA 778
G) 10 ANKARA 777

Pass Line: 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
Subject: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

1. (C) [redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

3. (SBU) The Israel Defense Force's boarding and seizure of the six-ship Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla May 31 remains the almost exclusive focus of media reporting and GoT public statements. According to Turkish contacts the Turkish casualties – as many as nine deaths according to the Turkish and international press – were confined to Turkish-registered Mavi Marmaris. The Turkish MFA estimated a total of 560 passengers on board that ship, 353 of those Turkish. MFA claims 33 Algerians, 31 Jordanians, 28 British nationals, between 10-20 passengers from Malaysia, Indonesia and Kuwait, respectively, and three AMCI's were also on board. The Mavi Marmaris and five other ships in the flotilla have been diverted to Ashdod. [Redacted]

B6

[Redacted] told visiting CODEL Delahunt that the GoT is determined to have its citizens and the Turkish ships returned quickly to Turkey. One complicating factor, according to [Redacted] is the refusal of many of the Turkish activists to return voluntarily to Turkey; Israel has offered voluntary return to 100 of them who have refused; 200 more were to be offered voluntary return but Turkey feared they would also refuse. Meanwhile, [Redacted] continued, the Israelis were interrogating those refusing, 'treating them like terrorists or criminals.' We infer the activists' hope to continue their protest of the Gaza embargo and their pursuit of media publicity by remaining in detention in Israel (see septel on the IHH charity that organized this flotilla). [Redacted] said that Turkey would ask if Turkish officials could come to Israel to convince the activists to return to Turkey. The Israeli Embassy told us the GoT also wants to dispatch two "hospital planes" to pick up the wounded Turks in Israel. The embassy told us the GoT will likely accede to this latter GoT request.

4. (C) [Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

5. (SBU) The Israeli Embassy tells us it is operating under "emergency procedures," with officers and dependents staying away from the Embassy. The Turkish National Police (TNP) has ramped up its protection of the Israeli Embassy and all US diplomatic facilities. Deputy Prime Minister Arinc publicly reassured Turkey's Jewish population that it faces no hostility from fellow Turkish citizens. PM Erdogan, departing Chile on May 31, helpfully, echoed Arinc's reassurances to Turkey's Jewish citizens, but also labeled the Israeli operation "state terrorism" and said Turkey would not remain passive or silent in the face of such a provocation. He recounted in detail a version of the boarding that emphasized the peaceful intent of the Mavi Marmaris' passengers: "They were waving white flags." "This is a national cause," he said, "we will take it up. Israel never pays for the sins it commits. That is unacceptable. There are hundreds of Security Council resolutions. Israel ignores them all. No longer!" FonMin Davutoglu strongly condemned Israeli actions in a statement to the UN Security Council May 31.

6. (SBU) GOT and public reactions to the UN Security Council President's statement have been positive. National newspaper Hurriyet called it "the strongest statement so far." Many Turks are looking for a stronger condemnation of Israel, especially from the US. In reaction to the Department's May 31 statement on the issue, ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) spokesman Huseyin Celik

said "the U.S. has only expressed their grief. This is not something that is expected from the United States. This is the end result of vetoes by the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Israel has been spoiled by them. We hope that it will be a lesson for the entire world. And, it will raise long awaited voices by humanity against Israel, which should have been louder earlier."

PKK ATTACK A FURTHER COMPLICATION



NR

COMMENT

8. (C) Most senior Turkish politicians have been quick to condemn Israel as wholly responsible for the flotilla incident, and all Turks are looking to the US to condemn Israeli actions. The UNSC President's Statement was received well. [redacted] 1.4(B)
[redacted] We are somewhat heartened by quiet cooperation between Turkey and Israel. 1.4(D)
defuse the crisis, as well as by columns by some Turkish writers today who question whether Turkey B1 d
all it could to prevent this confrontation (see septel media reaction).

Signature: JEFFREY

Classified By: Jeremiah Howard, Acting POLCOUNS
Political
State
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)
Declassify on: 2020/06/01
Drafted By: POL:Laura de Otalvaro
Cleared By: Howard, Jeremiah H
Approved By: Silliman, Douglas A
Released By: ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah H
Info: ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL IMMEDIATE; CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE; AFOSI DET 521 ANKARA TU IMMEDIATE; MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IQ IMMEDIATE; CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMEMBASSY PODGORICA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:
Dissemination Rule: POL, EAC

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN FULL

P10

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 5:19 AM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)
Cc: Ahn, Michael; Quinn, Shannon D
Subject: RE: Gaza Flotilla cargo

Categories: Working

Shannon:

I infer from Sal's message immediately below that the GoT may now be viewing the manifests as "evidence" to be conserved for an investigation. I don't think we'll be able to get a hold of them easily.

--Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 11:22 AM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)
Cc: Ahn, Michael; Quinn, Shannon D
Subject: RE: Gaza Flotilla cargo

IHH said that copies of the official manifest should be requested from the Turkish Foreign Ministry or the Directorate of Customs. They said that they were aware that the GOI stated that other items were in the cargo but think they may have planted them.

When I met with them they did invite me and other diplomats to inspect the cargo before it was sealed.

Sal

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 8:19 AM
To: Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Cc: Ahn, Michael; Quinn, Shannon D
Subject: FW: Gaza Flotilla cargo

Hey, Sal:

Any chance you could deploy your considerable charm to spring a cargo manifest out of IHH?

PRM is asking.

-- Jerry

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Jeremiah Howard
Deputy Political Counselor

Embassy Ankara - Turkey
T: 90 312 457-7149
IVG: 295-7149

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Miles, Barbara J
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 8:13 AM
To: de Otalvaro, Laura H; Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: Quinn, Shannon D; Silliman, Douglas A
Subject: RE: Gaza Flotilla cargo

Can one of you help Shannon? Thanks

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Quinn, Shannon D
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:37 PM
To: Miles, Barbara J
Subject: Gaza Flotilla cargo
Importance: High

Hi Barbara,

I'm trying to gather as much detail as I can on the cargo that was aboard the Gaza Aid Flotilla when it was intercepted in international waters. I was reading your Daily Briefs and I wonder if you would if anyone at Embassy Ankara might have cargo manifests from the flotilla ships that departed from Turkey. I'll reach out to our friends in Athens to see if they have anything on the ships that joined from Greece. We are trying to compare what was supposed to be onboard vs the GOI accounting to see if there are any discrepancies. For example, Hamas and others are alleging that the cargo included cement and the GOI has said there was none aboard.

Whatever help you could give me in tracking this info down would be very much appreciated.

Best,

Shannon

Shannon Quinn

Palestinian Refugees Program Officer
Office of Assistance for Asia and the Near East
Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
Office: (202) 453-9295 Mobile: (202) 569-1722

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

PII

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 10:13 AM
To: Schrank, Alexander D; de Otalvaro, Laura H
Cc: Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Categories: Working

[Redacted]

B5

--Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Schrank, Alexander D
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 4:05 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H
Cc: Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J
Subject: FW: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Dear Jerry,

[Redacted]

Many thanks,
Alex.

From: Riley, Robert J
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 8:53 AM
To: Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J; Goodman, Ilan A
Cc: Baily, Jess L
Subject: FW: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

[Redacted]

Robert J. Riley
Deputy Director
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)
U.S. Department of State
Office: 202-647-5120
Cell: 202-374-0849
rileyjr@state.gov

From: Jeffrey, James F
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 2:11 AM

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

To: Riley, Robert J; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D
Subject: RE: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

Sensitive

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Riley, Robert J
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 2:39 AM
To: Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D
Subject: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Ambassador and Doug,

[Redacted]

B5

As always, if we could have this by our OOB, it would be much appreciated. Many thanks, Bob

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

From: Jeffrey, James F
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:08 AM
To: Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; 'esherwood-randall@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Brink, Bridget A.'; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hof, Frederic C; Cunningham, James B; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'
Subject: RE: MFA ON IHH GAZA CONVOY: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Classified by: James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador, EXEC, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2020/05/28

Robert J. Riley
Deputy Director
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)
U.S. Department of State
Office: 202-647-5120
Cell: 202-374-0849
rileyrc@state.sgov.gov

P13

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

From: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:24 AM
To: Ankara-Political; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); [redacted]
[redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN
Subject: Notes from Meeting with [redacted] B6
Categories: Working

B6

[redacted]

B6

IHH flotilla

[redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Iran

[redacted]

NR

Const. Ct review of referendum

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[redacted]

NR

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

NR

Hamas

- [Redacted]

Turkey-Israel Relations

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Laura H. de Otaľvaro
Internal Unit Chief and Labor Attaché
Political Section
U.S. Embassy Ankara
Tel: 90.312.457.7171
Cell: 90.533.523.3592
IVG: Switch 295, ext. 7191
♻ Please consider the environment before printing this email

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Classified by: Laura H. de Otaľvaro, Internal Unit Chief, Political Section, U.S. Embassy Ankara
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2020/06/10

P15

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

From: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:10 AM
To: Ankara-Political; [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Hood, Courtney M (Istanbul)
Subject: Notes from meeting with [redacted]
Categories: Working

B6

B6

[redacted]

NR

Israel

[redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Iran

[redacted]

NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Laura H. de Otalvaro
Internal Unit Chief and Labor Attaché
Political Section
U.S. Embassy Ankara
Tel: 90.312.457.7171

Cell: 90.533.523.3592

IVG: Switch 295, ext. 7191

☻ Please consider the environment before printing this email

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: Laura de Otalvaro, Internal Unit Chief, Political Section, U.S. Embassy Ankara

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)

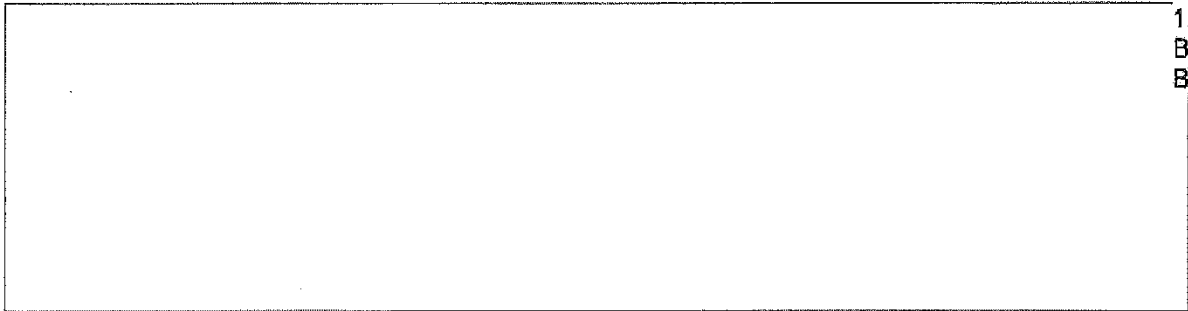
Declassify On: 2020/06/16

P16

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

Logg, Cristina A

From: de OtaIvaro, Laura H
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 10:11 AM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY
Categories: Working



1.4(D)
B1
B5

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/17

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:47 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; de OtaIvaro, Laura H
Subject: FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY



1.4(D)
B1
B5

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/17

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

From: SMART Core
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 09:46:16
Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Eppler, Dale B; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Litke, Sara L; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Turner, Courtney L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Apgar, Julia E; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de OtaIvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; McCarter, Jennifer L; Hessler, Robert E; Howard, Jeremiah H

Subject: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

CONFIDENTIAL
Sensitive



Action Office: POL, ECON

MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1326
 Date/DTG: Jun 17, 2010 / 110853Z JUN 10
 From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
 E.O.: 12958
 TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAP, TU, IS
 Captions: SIPDIS
 Sensitivity: Sensitive
 Reference: A. TEL AVIV 1285 B. ANKARA 827 C. TEL AVIV 597 D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526
 Subject: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 001326

SIPDIS

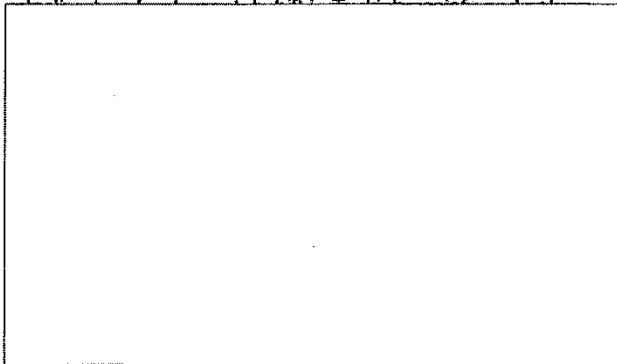
E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2020
 TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAP, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

REF: A. TEL AVIV 1285
 B. ANKARA 827
 C. TEL AVIV 597
 D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526

Classified By: A/DCM Marc J. Sievers, reasons 1.4 (b),(d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Israel officials see the rapid decline in relations with Turkey following their raid on the Mavi Marmara as part of a drawn-out process. [redacted]

NR



[Redacted]

NR

Mavi Marmara Just the Spark

2. (C) A/DCM and A/PolCouns met June 9 with Naor Gilon, MFA Deputy Director General for Western Europe (A/S equivalent), Irit Lillian, Director of the Turkey desk, and Amir Maimon, Minister Counselor for Turkey, Greece and Cyprus to discuss Israel-Turkey bilateral relations in the wake of the Gaza flotilla crisis. Gilon said that the future of the relationship would be determined by Turkey. [Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

3. (C) Therefore, the crisis had been there already, and had just needed a spark. The Mavi Marmara provided the proximate cause [Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

[Redacted]

4. (C) [Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

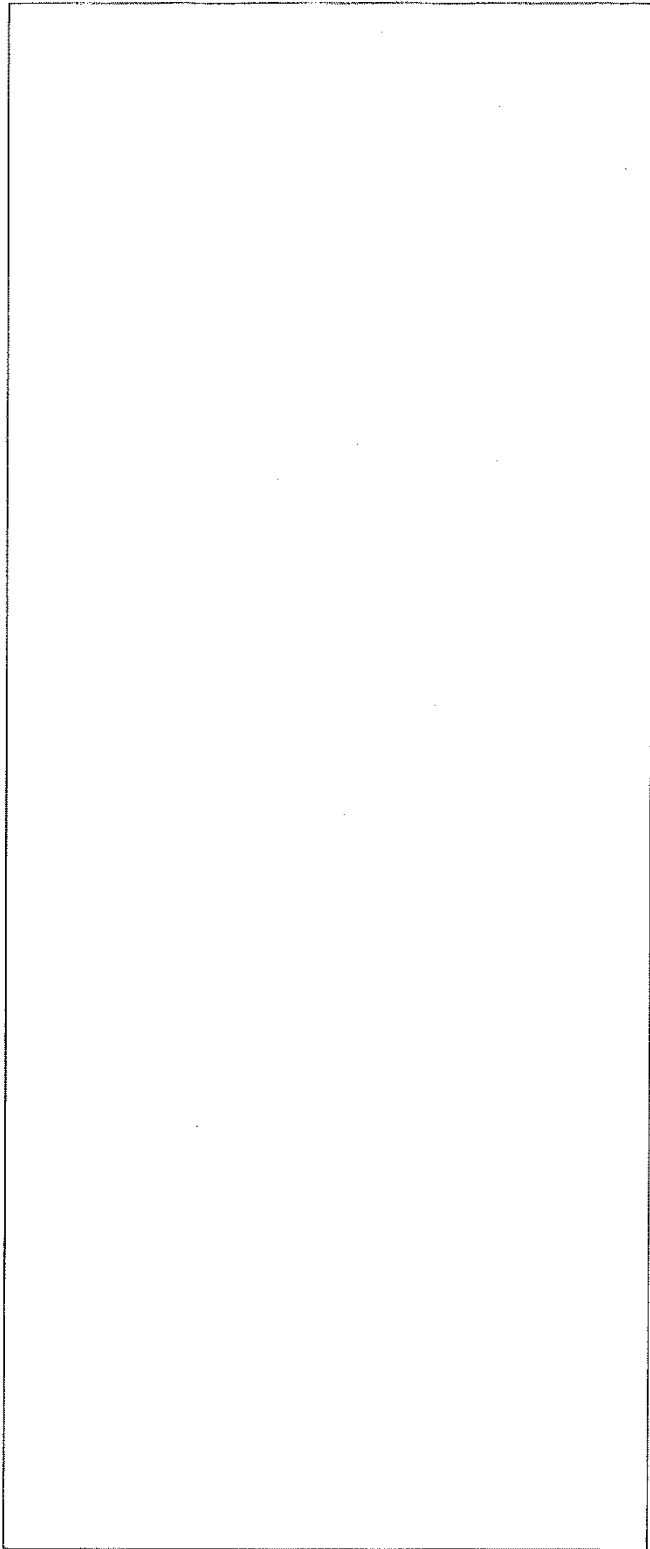
[Redacted]

5. (C) [Redacted]

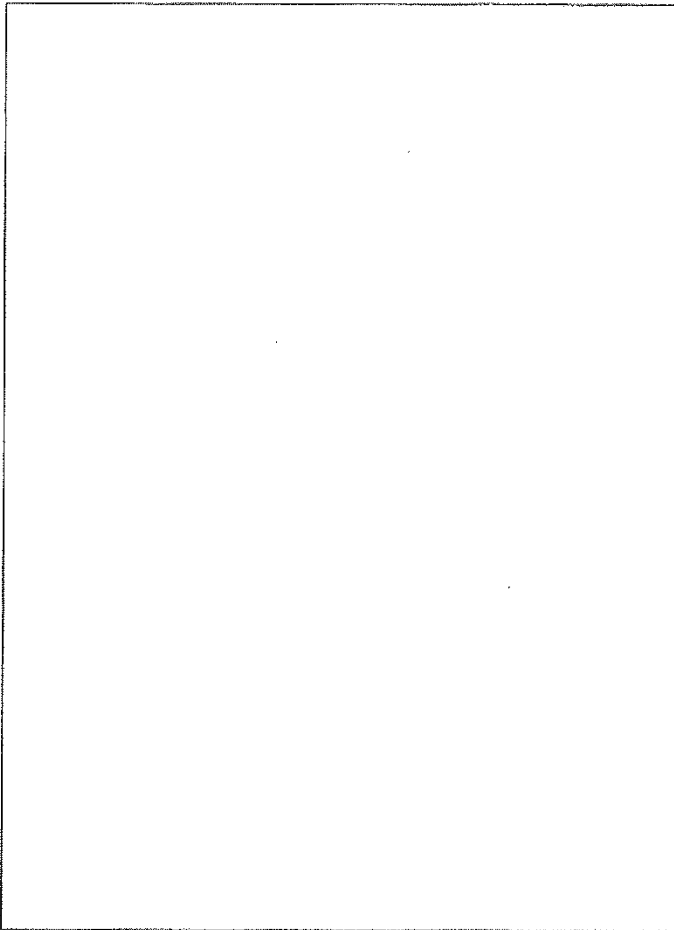
NR

[Redacted]

NR



NR



CUNNINGHAM

Signature: CUNNINGHAM

Classified By: A/DCM Marc J. Sievers,

Reason: 1.4 (b),(d)

Declassify on: 06/11/2020

Info: ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *PRIORITY*; NSC WASHDC *PRIORITY*; ARAB ISRAELI
COLLECTIVE *PRIORITY*

Attachments: metadata.dat

Action Post: AMEMBASSY ANKARA

Dissemination Rule: POL, ECON

CONFIDENTIAL
Sensitive

P17

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 11:09 AM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael; de Otaivaro, Laura H
Subject: RE: FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

Categories: Working

[Redacted]

1.4(D)
B1
B5

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/17

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:47 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; de Otaivaro, Laura H
Subject: FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

[Redacted]

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/17

From: SMART Core
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 09:46:16
Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Eppler, Dale B; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna;
Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Litke, Sara L; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Turner,
To: Courtney L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter,
Rodney M; Apgar, Julia E; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de Otaivaro, Laura H;
Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; McCarter, Jennifer L; Hessler, Robert E; Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

CONFIDENTIAL
Sensitive



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Action Office: POL, ECON

MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1326
 Date/DTG: Jun 17, 2010 / 110853Z JUN 10
 From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
 E.O.: 12958
 TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAF, TU, IS
 Captions: SIPDIS
 Sensitivity: Sensitive
 Reference: A. TEL AVIV 1285 B. ANKARA 827 C. TEL AVIV 597 D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526
 Subject: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 001326

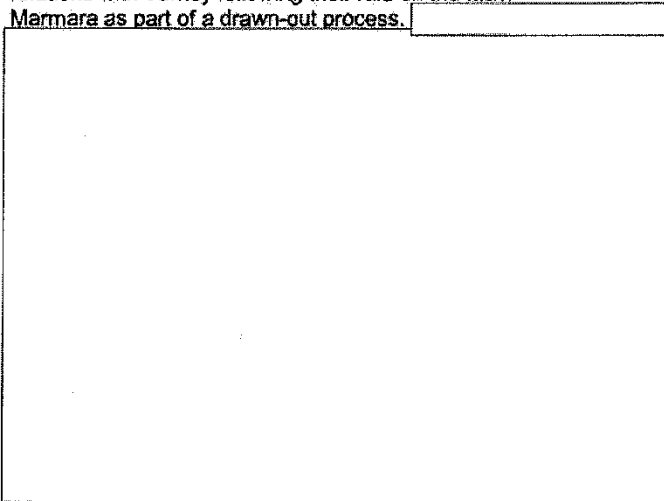
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2020
TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAF, TU, IS
SUBJECT: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

REF: A. TEL AVIV 1285
B. ANKARA 827
C. TEL AVIV 597
D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526

Classified By: A/DCM Marc J. Sievers, reasons 1.4 (b),(d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Israel officials see the rapid decline in relations with Turkey following their raid on the Mavi Marmara as part of a drawn-out process.

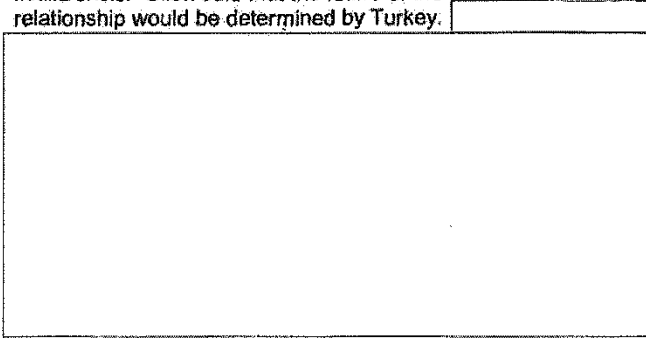


NR

Mavi Marmara Just the Spark

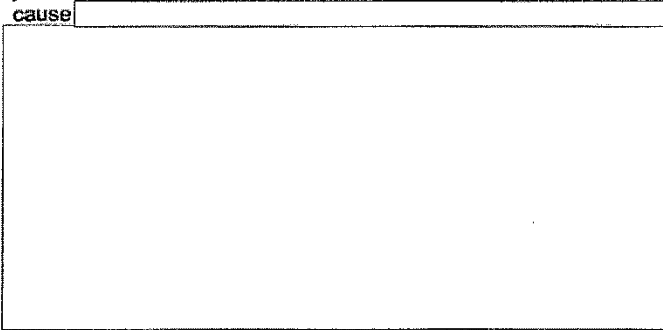
2. (C) A/DCM and A/PolCouns met June 9 with Naor Gilon, MFA Deputy Director General for Western Europe (A/S equivalent), Irit Lillian, Director of the Turkey desk, and Amir Maimon,

Minister Counselor for Turkey, Greece and Cyprus to discuss Israel-Turkey bilateral relations in the wake of the Gaza flotilla crisis. Gilon said that the future of the relationship would be determined by Turkey.



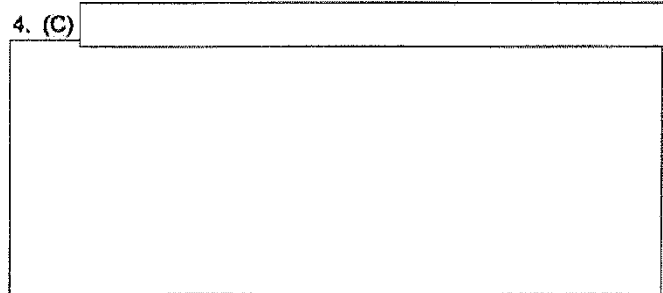
NR

3. (C) Therefore, the crisis had been there already, and had just needed a spark. The Mavi Marmara provided the proximate cause



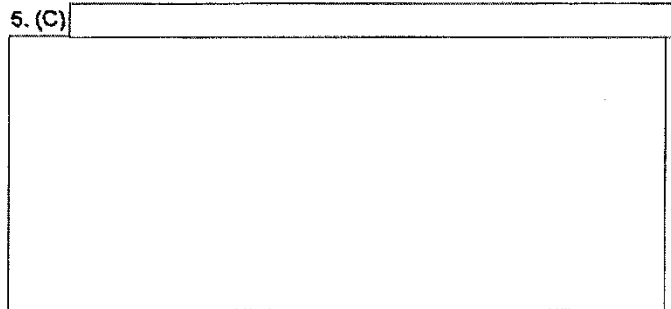
1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

4. (C)



1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

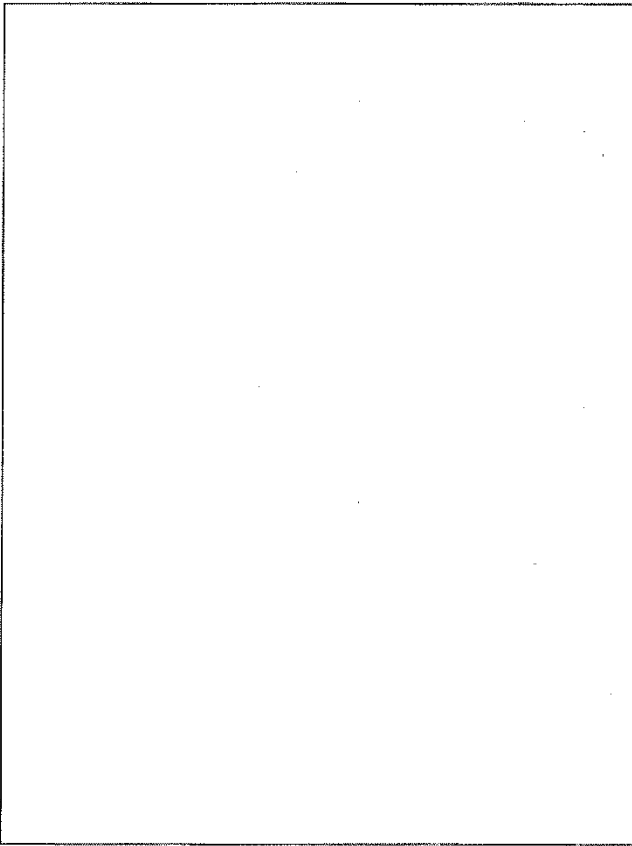
5. (C)



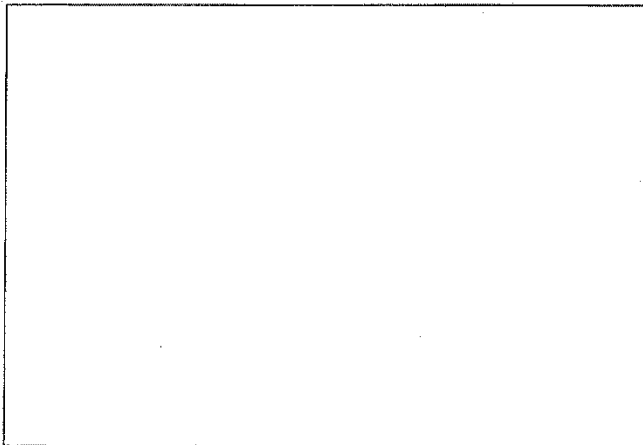
NR
NR

Security Relationship Affected

NR

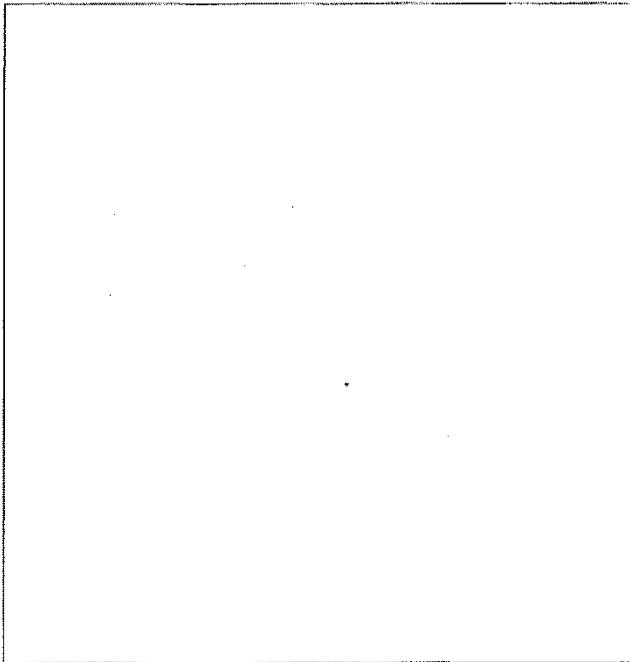


Intelligence Issues



Trade Relationship in Doubt

NR



CUNNINGHAM

Signature: CUNNINGHAM

Classified By: A/DCM Marc J. Sievers,

Reason: 1.4 (b),(d)

Declassify on: 06/11/2020

Info: ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *PRIORITY*, NSC WASHDC *PRIORITY*, ARAB ISRAELI
COLLECTIVE *PRIORITY*

Attachments: metadata.dat

Action Post: AMEMBASSY ANKARA

Dissemination Rule: POL, ECON

CONFIDENTIAL
Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,B7(C),1.4(D),B6

P18

Logg, Cristina A

From: Arvey, Jason M
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 3:55 AM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: RE: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Categories: Working

[Redacted]

B5
B6

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 10:34 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H; Arvey, Jason M
Subject: FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 8:36 AM
To: Appleton, Richard H; O'Grady, Daniel J
Subject: FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Rich, Dan,

[Redacted]

Thanks, **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Doug

Douglas A. Silliman
Deputy Chief of Mission
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey
90-312-455-5555 x7190

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/18

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 2:33 AM
To: Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Kaidanow, Tina S; Marsh, Denise M
Subject: FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Doug, thanks for this.



B5

Jess

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Classified by: Jess Baily, Director, EUR/SE, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2020/06/17

From: Holmstrom, Todd
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 6:00 PM
To: Baily, Jess L; Wallis, Jacob
Subject: RE: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Thanks, Jess. Jake replaced Maura.

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 5:24 PM
To: Holmstrom, Todd
Subject: FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Sending to you Todd as Maura and Tom have left.

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 9:01 AM
To: EUR-SE-DL; Brink, Bridget A.; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

IHH account of Gaza flotilla and other topics given to ConGen Istanbul.

Doug

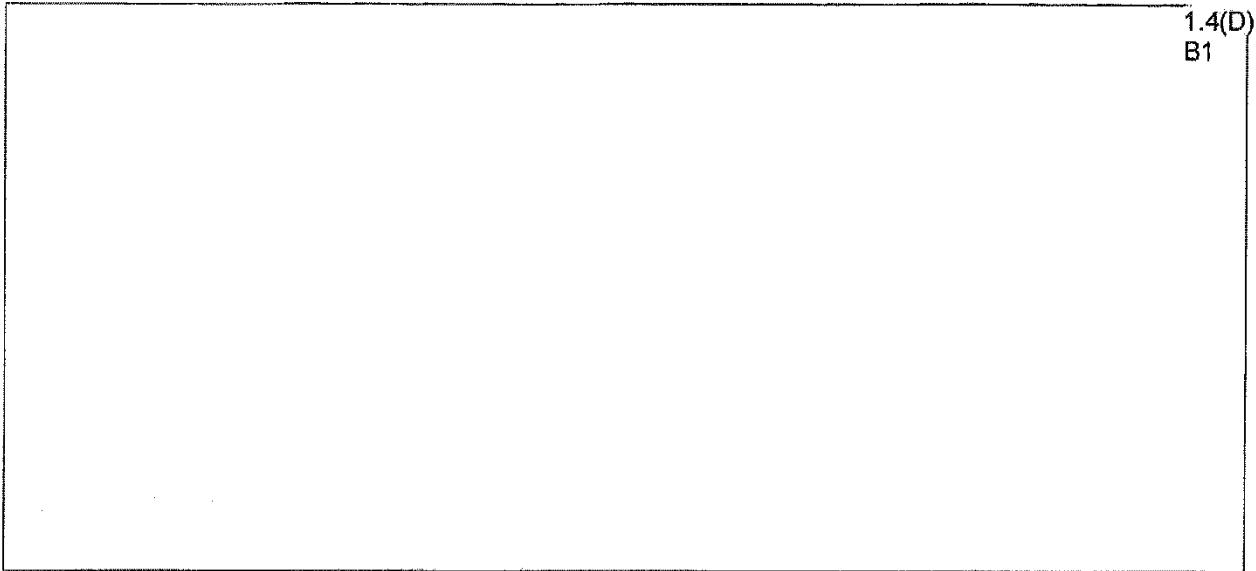
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 d
Declassify On: 2020/06/17

From: SMART Core
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 02:45:10
To: Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Ogle, Karen L.; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; Yountchi, Suzanne M; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Appleton, Richard H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; Hessler, Robert E; MassoudAnsari, Kurosh; Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Epler, Dale B; Kolega, Alen; Brooks, Judith A; Roundy, Brian A; B7(C) Klopp, Deborah A; Hamilton, Elizabeth H
Subject: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

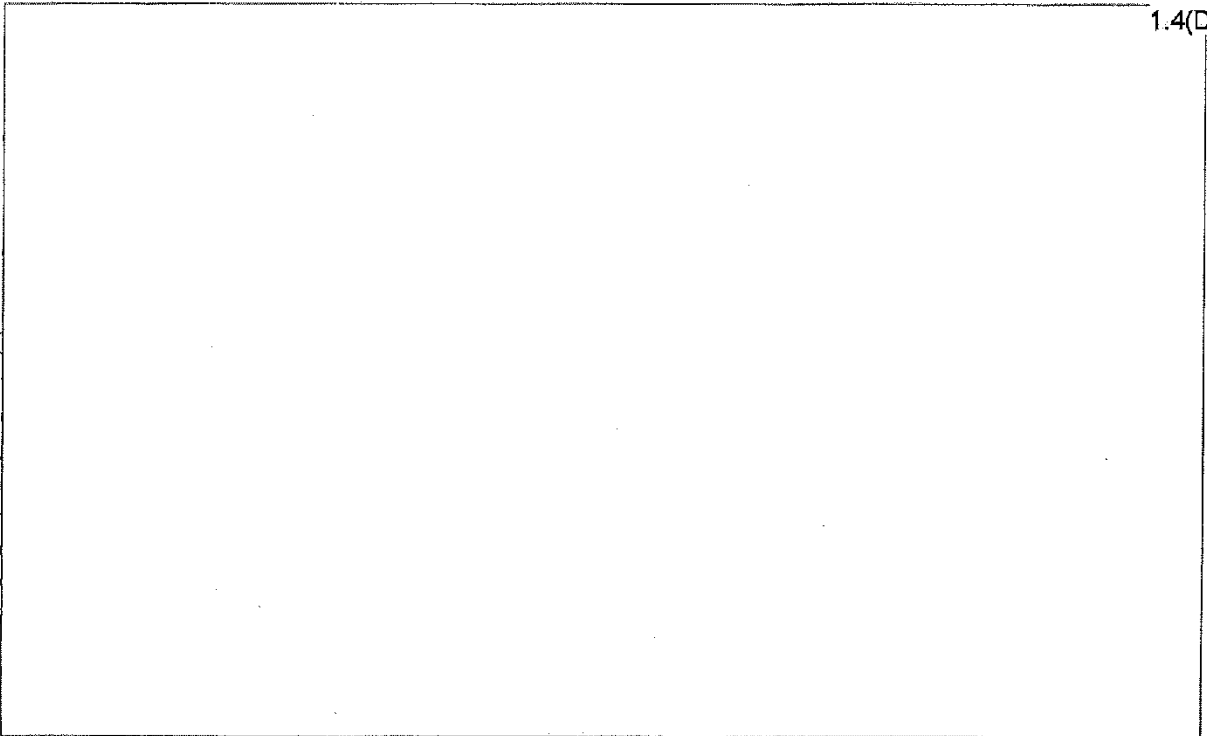
CONFIDENTIAL



Action Office: POL_MIL, POL, CONS, CONGEN
Info Office: EAC, AMB_INFO



1.4(D)
B1

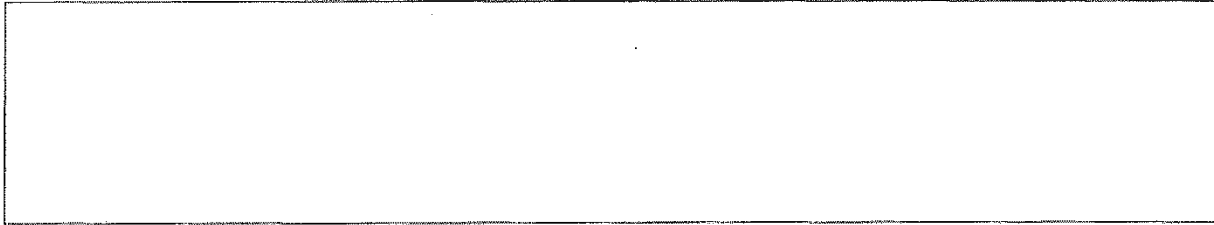


1.4(D)

B6

Page Denied

B1



Signature: Dayton

Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (d)

Declassify on: 2020/06/17

Drafted By: ISTANBUL:Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

Cleared By: Howard, Jeremiah H

Approved By: POL/ECON:Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)

Released By: POL/ECON:Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)

Info: ISTANBUL:Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *IMMEDIATE*; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; EUCOM POLAD VAHINGEN GE *IMMEDIATE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; DIA DHP-1 WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL *IMMEDIATE*; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *IMMEDIATE*; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *IMMEDIATE*; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMEMBASSY PODGORICA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post: AMEMBASSY ANKARA

Dissemination Rule: POL_MIL, POL, EAC, AMB_INFO, CONS_ACTION, CONGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

P19

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 10:39 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: [redacted]

B6

Categories: Working

Wow.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 5:25 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Kramer, Diana L
Subject: RE: [redacted]

Dan,

According to Suheyla, [redacted]

B6

Michael

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 4:43 PM
To: Ahn, Michael
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Kramer, Diana L
Subject: RE: [redacted]

Nice work. I forwarded this to the AMB.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

[REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer]

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 4:23 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J

Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Kramer, Diana L

Subject: [redacted]

B6

Dan,

[redacted] told us today IHH has not/not endorsed the launching of a new flotilla.

He said he attended a press meeting in Strasbourg two days ago where a representative from a French (?) NGO announced a new flotilla would be launched in the second half of April. [redacted] said he did not make a statement about IHH's joining the new flotilla, but did acknowledge his presence at the meeting (as the official IHH representative) could have been misconstrued by the media as an endorsement. He said IHH leaders are currently trying to pursue legal action against Israel and asked for USG support.

[redacted] confirmed the Mavi Marmara embarked under a Comoros flag. He said IHH purchased the previously Turkish-flagged ship directly from the municipality. According to the IHH website, IHH purchased the ship from Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc (IDO).

[redacted] asked for information regarding his U.S. visa. He was unable to attend a meeting in New York because his [redacted] visa is only good for transit. He said he has another valid visa in an expired passport, which he will try to find. Diana Kramer confirmed [redacted] has a valid [redacted] visa (Sept. 2010 expiration date). However, [redacted] visas are only issued to [redacted] [redacted] Diana said his visa application lists him as [redacted] This is news to me. I will ask Diana and [redacted] for clarification.

Michael

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

P20

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 12:20 PM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: IHH Denies July Flotilla Launch.docx
Attachments: IHH Denies July Flotilla Launch.docx
Categories: Working

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

pa1

Logg, Cristina A

From: de Otaivaro, Laura H
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 8:34 AM
To: Ankara-Political; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Hood, Courtney M (Istanbul); [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted] Civ USAF
Subject: Notes from meeting with [redacted] 1.4(B)
Categories: Working 1.4(D)
 B1

B6

This was a regular quarterly meeting.

- [redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
- Davutoglu will visit Paris, London and Berlin soon, mostly to clarify Turkey's position on the investigation into the Mavi Marmara, and anti-Israel statements.
- [redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
- Germany is going through a Presidential election right now. [redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
- The European Heads of Mission are meeting with [redacted] today. [redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
- Interesting that CHP is up to 102 deputies as of last night, [redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
- He has heard the CHP and BDP are meeting to discuss the potential for a coalition in the next elections. [redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
- [redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Laura

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: Laura de Otalvaro, Internal Unit Chief, Political Section, U.S. Embassy Ankara

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)

Declassify On: 2020/06/24

PR2

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 8:59 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: FW: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

Categories: Working

Thanks. Turkey is being consistent, at least.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/24

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 1:28 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: FW: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

FYI

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/06/24

From: SMART Core
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 07:51:53
To: Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; Hessler, Robert E; Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: Brooks, Judith A; Hamilton, Elizabeth H
Subject: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

CONFIDENTIAL



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Action Office: POL
Info Office: AMB_INFO

MRN: 10 JEDDAH 167
Date/DTG: Jun 23, 2010 / 230410Z JUN 10

From: AMCONSUL JEDDAH
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, GY, GZ, IS, KPAL, KPAO, KWBG, PBTS, SA, TU
Captions: SIPDIS
Pass Line: NEA (JFELTMAN); NEA/ARP (JHARRIS AND JBERNDT); INR
Subject: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

CONFIDENTIAL JEDDAH 000187

SIPDIS

NEA (JFELTMAN); NEA/ARP (JHARRIS AND JBERNDT); INR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/22/2020
TAGS: PREL, GY, GZ, IS, KPAL, KPAO, KWBG, PBTS, SA, TU
SUBJECT: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL:
"THIS CANNOT STAND"

Classified By: Acting CG Jeffrey Hill for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Summary and comment: Turkish CG Salih Mutlu Sen invited Jeddah Consuls General to a working lunch on June 20 to present Turkey's view

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Lunch participants expressed a desire and commitment to the quest for Middle East peace, but several expressed doubts that Israelis share this commitment. End summary and comment.

GERMAN

[Redacted]

B1

2. (C) On June 20, Turkish CG Salih Mutlu Sen hosted a lunch briefing for Jeddah CGs to present GOT's views on Israel's May 31 attack on a flotilla of six ships carrying aid to Gaza. About 20 CGs attended, including all of the Arab CGs (except Libya and Iraq), and German, French, Indonesian, Iranian, Chinese, and US.

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

GOT'S POSITION

3. (C) CG Sen began his presentation by saying [Redacted]

[Redacted]

4. (U) Sen then presented the centerpiece of his briefing: GOT's "3 2" conditions that the GOI must meet before GOT would consider resuming normal bilateral relations:

The three:

- Formal apology for GFI;
- Admission of commission of crime; and
- Compensation plan ("moral and material") for victims and families of victims of GFI and the shipowners.

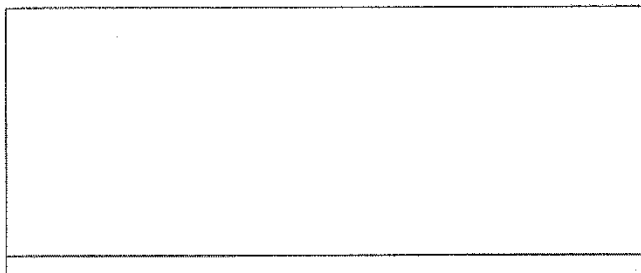
The two:

- Agreeing to a "credible, transparent" international investigation of GFI; and
- Release of all six GFI ships to their countries of origin.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

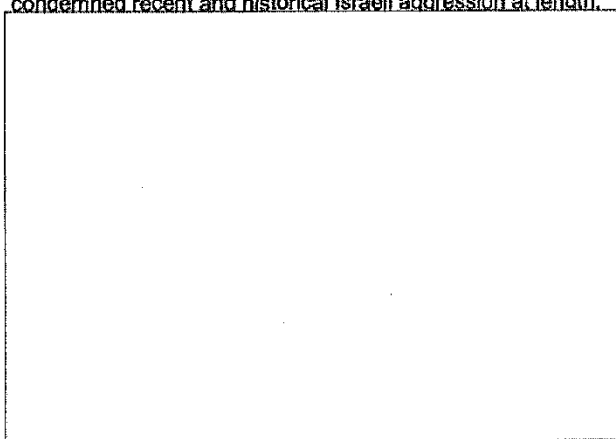
[Redacted]



1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

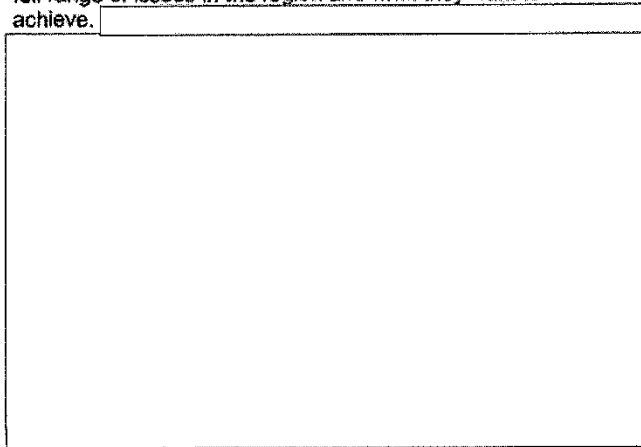
ARAB WORLD: SUPPORT TURKEY,
CONDEMN ISRAEL, BUT LOOK AHEAD

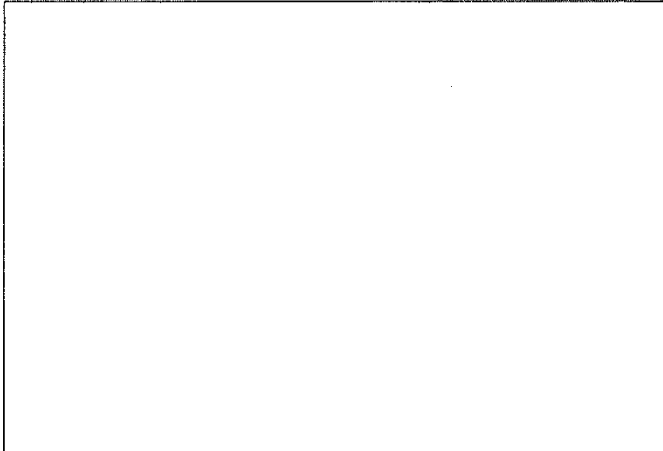
8. (C) In turn, the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Egyptian CGs spoke. All offered their strong support for Turkey and condemned recent and historical Israeli aggression at length.



ARAB WORLD NEEDS BETTER PR TO COUNTER ISRAEL...

9. (C) [redacted] CGs advised Arab and Muslim colleagues that they need to do "better PR" and look at the full range of issues in the region and what they want to achieve.





1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

EYES ON THE PRIZE: MIDDLE EAST PEACE

11. (C) A/CG Hill thanked CG Sen for hosting the working lunch and frank discussion of the GFI and peace in the region, reiterated the USG,s deep regret over the violence and loss of life in the GFI, praised Turkey,s positive role in the quest for peace and prosperity in the Middle East and Central Asia, and underscored other CGs, observations that all parties needed to look ahead and focus on the peace process, easing the suffering of Gazans and other Palestinians, and ensuring peaceful and mutually beneficial relations for all parties in the region. Echoing the Ambassador,s emphasis in his Jeddah Town Hall meeting earlier this month, A/CG urged everyone to "keep our eyes on the prize" of peace in the region and how to get there.

ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE STILL KEY

12. (C) CG Sen [redacted]
[redacted] He added that he appreciated U.S. efforts with the GOI for the same-day release of Turkish citizens to return to Turkey, [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

TURKEY [redacted]

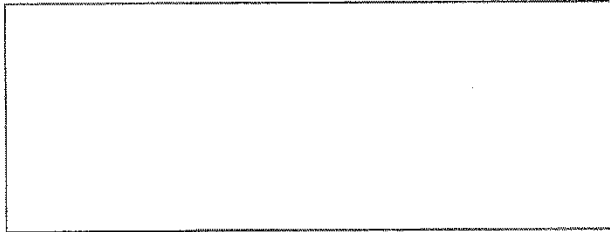
13. (C) CG Sen summed up Turkey,s views on the GFI aftermath

[redacted]



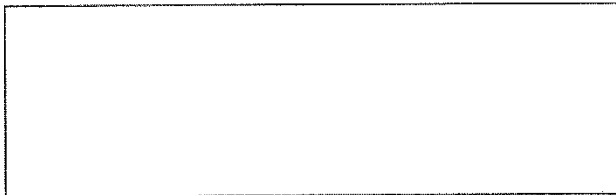
B1

CRISIS BEGETS BOTH DANGER AND OPPORTUNITY



B1

COMMENT



1.4(D)
B1

HILL

Signature: HILL

Classified By: Acting CG Jeffrey Hill,
Reason: 1.4 (b) and (d)
Declassify on: 06/22/2020
Info: BEIJING, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; BERLIN, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; DHAHRAN, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*
Attachments: metadata.dat

Action Post: AMEMBASSY ANKARA
Dissemination Rule: POL, AMB_INFO

CONFIDENTIAL

P23

RELEASED IN PART B6

Logg, Cristina A

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Sunday, July 04, 2010 7:56 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: Meeting with [redacted]
Categories: Working

B6

Excellent. Thanks. I passed to the AMB.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 2:37 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H
Cc: Miles, Barbara J
Subject: Meeting with [redacted]

I met with [redacted] today. The key points mentioned are listed below.

- Contrary to what Today's Zaman reported today, the GoT will not close its airspace to commercial Israeli flights. [redacted] said this was never seriously considered. He said [redacted] is very optimistic that Turkey-Israel relations are on the rebound.
- [redacted] has seen new video footage of the Mavi Marmara incident which suggests shots were fired before the IDF commandos began fast-roping from the helicopters. He will send me a link to the video.
- As far as [redacted] knows, IHH is not planning to launch a new flotilla in the near future (and almost certainly not in late-July).
- [redacted] said TRT showed video footage of the mysterious "pamphlets" some of the IDF troops dropped. (The IHH's [redacted] told us earlier these booklets had photos and descriptions of various Mavi Marmara passengers.) [redacted] said [redacted] is trying to get a hold of one of these booklets or the original video from TRT.

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B), B1, B5, 1.4(D)

P24

Logg, Cristina A

From: Arvey, Jason M.
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 10:13 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: Turkey Daily Brief - July 7, 2010

Categories: Working

[Redacted]

B5

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/07/07

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 3:35 PM
To: Arvey, Jason M
Subject: FW: Turkey Daily Brief - July 7, 2010

[Redacted]

B5

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/07/07

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 12:39 PM
Subject: Turkey Daily Brief - July 7, 2010



CONFIDENTIAL

July 7, 2010

- (C) Women's Issues Range from [Redacted]
- (C) ICC Releases Its Report on the Gaza Flotilla
- (C) Istanbul AKP Officials Disassociate US from Flotilla Attack

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

(U) Media Highlights: Başbuğ Tables Three Proposals and Sends a Last Warning to Barzani; Turkey Ready to Explode; Davutoğlu Makes Adjustment in Turkish Conditions for Israel; Obama Meets Netanyahu; Israeli Ambassador Likely to Leave Ankara Soon; BDP Deputy Poses in Front of Provocative Placard Calling for Revenge; MIT Improves Exchange of Intelligence with the Army; Knife Edge Balance in Constitutional Court

1.4(B)

(U) Upcoming Events: FM Davutoğlu to Visit UK; PM Erdogan to Visit Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia; PM Erdoğan Participate in Commemoration of Srebrenica Massacre; Meeting in Istanbul on Turkey-EU Relations

1.4(D)

B1

Women's issues Range from [redacted]

(C) Over 180 applications from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from across Turkey for the S/GWI's Small Grants Initiative Program offered us some insights into issues facing women in the country. Together with GWI's Ambassador-at-large Rene Renick's visit to Turkey, the submitted projects indicate [redacted]

[redacted]

(Ankara 977, Berna Keen, POL)

[Return to Top](#)

ICC Releases Its Report on the Gaza Flotilla

(C) International Humanitarian Help – the organization better known by its acronym, IHH – has published a report recording its version of what occurred on the "Gaza Peace Flotilla" intercepted by Israeli soldiers, leaving nine people dead. The English-language report is [redacted]

[redacted]

The reports also state that lawyers in a number of countries intend to bring legal cases against the state of Israel to the International Criminal Court on behalf of the participants in the flotilla. (Ankara 979, Jason Arvey, POL)

[Return to Top](#)

Istanbul AKP Officials Disassociate US from Flotilla Attack

[redacted]

(Istanbul 245, Salvatore Amodeo, POL/ECON)

[Return to Top](#)

Media Highlights

- *Milliyet* reports on an interview with soon-to- retire Chief of the General Staff Ilker Başbuğ in which he indicates that Turkey is growing impatient for decisive action by the US and by the Kurdish regional government in Northern Iraq against the PKK.
- A *Radikal* columnist reports that Turkey may soon launch a cross-boarder operation against the PKK in Northern Iraq that would not be as limited as such ventures have been in the past.
- *Hurriyet* reports in a column that confusion in Turkey about Turco-Israeli relations is on the rise, and compares the conditions for normalization listed by Prime Minister Erdogan with the slightly different conditions mentioned by Foreign Minister Davutoğlu.
- A *Zaman* report on President Obama's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu states that the meeting failed to reduce tensions between Israel and Turkey, as Israel has continued to refuse to apologize.
- *Referans* speculates on the progression of deterioration in bilateral ties between Turkey and Israel, including the possibility that Israel will recall its Ambassador to Turkey.
- *Valan* reports on an incident in which BDP deputy Ibrahim Birinci attended the funeral of a terrorist at which posters calling for revenge were displayed. Chief of the General Staff Ilker Başbuğ has condemned the act, saying that a call for revenge is a call for killing of Turkish soldiers and that Birinci should resign.

- Milliyet reports that the new intelligence undersecretary, Hakan Fidan is making important changes in the fight against terror, included better intelligence sharing between MIT and the Turkish military. The paper also notes that in time, MIT will be restructured.
 - Vatan reports that it is unclear how the Constitutional Court will vote regarding the annulment of constitutional reforms. If the reforms are annulled, it will be by a narrow margin.
- [Return to Top - Read the Latest PAS-Ankara Media Reaction](#)

Upcoming Events

- July 8 – Foreign Minister Davutoglu to visit the UK
- July 10-12 – Prime Minister Erdoğan will pay an official visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia
- July 11 – Saadet Party Conference in Ankara.
- July 11 – Erdoğan and FM Davutoglu will participate in commemoration of the Srebrenica massacre
- July 13 – FM Davutoglu and chief EU negotiator will meet with EU officials in Istanbul to discuss Turkey-EU relations.

[Return to Top](#)

Links to More Info on Turkey

Embassy Ankara's SIPRNet Website: [Embassy Ankara](#)
Turkey Page on Intellipedia: [Turkey Page](#)
Turkey Human Rights Portal on Intellipedia: [Turkey Human Rights Portal](#)
Latest Biographies on Turkey's Leaders: [Turkey Bios](#)
Turkey Daily Brief Archives: [TDB Blog](#)

Please direct inquiries or report problems to Barbara J. Miles (Milesbj@state.gov).

Today's TDB Editor was Stephanie Kiel, PMA, Embassy Ankara

Classified by Political Counselor Dan O'Grady, E.O. 12958, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

P25

Logg, Cristina A

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 10:25 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: Huge IHH flotilla possible in Sept.

RELEASED IN PART
B6

Categories: Working

Interesting.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 5:23 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Arvey, Jason M
Cc: Miles, Barbara J
Subject: Huge IHH flotilla possible in Sept.

[redacted] told me today of his meeting with IHH representatives last week.

B6

The IHH's [redacted] told [redacted] HH was planning a 50-ship flotilla in September (pending political developments).

This is somewhat contrary to what IHH [redacted] told [redacted] Embassy [redacted] [redacted] on July 8. [redacted] told [redacted] IHH had no plans for a new flotilla "at the moment."

In a previous meeting, [redacted] told us IHH had no plans for a July launch but did say the next flotilla (no date given) would involve "10,000 passengers."

I wish we could talk to IHH to get some clarification on the matter.

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5, NR

P26

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 6:21 AM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J
Cc: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: Potus Call to Erdogan [CONFIDENTIAL, Record]

Categories: Working

Middle East Peace

[Redacted]

NR

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 8:32 AM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: Ahn, Michael
Subject: FW: Potus Call to Erdogan [CONFIDENTIAL, Record]
Importance: High

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Collins, Jeffrey S. [mailto:JCollins@nss.eop.sgov.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 3:36 AM
To: Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J
Cc: Baily, Jess L
Subject: Potus Call to Erdogan [CONFIDENTIAL, Record]
Importance: High

Doug and Dan: [Redacted]

Gaza Flotilla

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Talking points:

- I was pleased that the UN established a panel to investigate the Gaza flotilla tragedy.

- We think it is important that both Turkey and Israel will be involved in the UN inquiry. This is an opportunity for you and Israel to begin to rebuild your relationship.
- We support the panel fully and we look forward to the participation of Israel and Turkey.

Background: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced August 2 that the UN will launch a panel of inquiry to investigate the May 31 Gaz flotilla incident that left nine dead. The panel will be led by Geoffrey Palmer, former prime minister of New Zealand, as chairman and Alvaro Uribe, outgoing Colombian president, as vice-chair. Representatives from Israel and Turkey will be the panel's other two members. In announcing the panel, Ban said he hopes the panel's work will "impact positively on the relationship between Turkey and Israel as well as the overall situation in the Middle East." Emotions continue to run high in Turkey regarding the flotilla. Turkish press has reacted [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

Middle East Peace

[redacted]

Thanks very much.

Jeff

pa7

Logg, Cristina A

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:37 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Cc: Miles, Barbara J; de Otalvaro, Laura H
Subject: RE: CDA's a.m. meeting, August 24

RELEASED IN PART B5

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Working

On the first item [redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 4:57 PM
To: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J; Miles, Barbara J
Subject: RE: CDA's a.m. meeting, August 24

[redacted]

The Turkish commission, headed by Amb. Mithat Rende, will include members of the MFA, Prime Ministry Inspection Board, Justice Ministry, Security Directorate General, Interior Ministry Investigation Board, and the Maritime Undersecretariat. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Turning this into a cable.

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

P28

Logg, Cristina A

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 12:04 PM
To: Ahn, Michael
Cc: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Subject: RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B), B1, B5, 1.4(D)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Working

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 6:11 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J
Cc: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Subject: RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 6:08 PM
To: Ahn, Michael
Cc: de Otalvaro, Laura H
Subject: FW: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 6:01 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J
Subject: RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

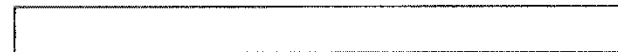
B5



Douglas A Silliman
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey
90-312-455-5555 x7190

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 5:48 PM
To: Silliman, Douglas A
Subject: RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 5:48 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J
Subject: RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation



Douglas A Silliman
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey
90-312-455-5555 x7190

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: O'Grady, Daniel J
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 5:44 PM
To: Baily, Jess L
Cc: Silliman, Douglas A; Gregonis, Meghan E; Schrank, Alexander D; Riley, Robert J
Subject: RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

Jess: [redacted]

B5

We don't know much. Michael Ahn reports that the commission is headed by Amb. Mithat Rende, and includes members of the MFA, Prime Ministry Inspection Board, Justice Ministry, Security Directorate General, Interior Ministry Investigation Board, and the Maritime Undersecretariat. [redacted]

B5

Dan

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 9:32 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H
Cc: Silliman, Douglas A; Gregonis, Meghan E; Schrank, Alexander D; Riley, Robert J
Subject: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Dan, Jerry:

In a meeting last week, [redacted]

Two questions: [redacted] only recall seeing coverage in the press summary earlier this month.

B5

Jess

Jess L. Baily
Director
Office of Southern European Affairs
Department of State
202-647-6112
bailyjl@state.sgov.gov

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Classified by: Jess Baily, Director, EUR/SE, State
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)
Declassify On: 2020/08/23

P29

Logg, Cristina A

From: Mineo, Mark R
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2010 1:18 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: Bits and pieces from my European contacts
Categories: Working

Great stuff Michael,

[Redacted]

NR

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2010 7:57 PM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J
Cc: Mineo, Mark R
Subject: Bits and pieces from my [Redacted] contacts

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

1.4(D)
B1

A couple interesting points raised during my [Redacted] lunch today:

[Redacted]

1.4(D)
B1

NR

Michael
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)

Declassify On: 2020/08/25

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),B6

P30

Logg, Cristina A

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 11:18 AM
To: Schrank, Alexander D; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H
Cc: Silliman, Douglas A; Ahn, Michael; Gregonis, Meghan E
Subject: RE: FW: Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council
Categories: Working

[Redacted]

B5

Jess

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d
Declassify On: 2020/09/13

From: Schrank, Alexander D
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 11:13 AM
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H
Cc: Silliman, Douglas A; Ahn, Michael; Baily, Jess L; Gregonis, Meghan E
Subject: FW: FW: Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

Dear all,

[Redacted]

Thanks,
Alex.

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d
Declassify On: 2020/09/13

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d

Declassify On: 2020/09/13

From: SMART Core
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 10:11:02
To:

Hilton, Robert B; Brush, Jennifer L; Kangar, Leila J; Stickles, Mary P; Sommers, Scott E; Doherty, Kathleen X; Kotheimer, Erin E; Hornbostel, Charles P; O'Flanagan, Liam J; Yakhedts, Anya ; Silverman, Lawrence R; Frantz, Amanda G; Goodman, Ilan A; Osinaga, Claudia W; Riley, Robert J; Scariatelli, Adam W; Schrank, Alexander D; Saint-Andre, Yvette; Bistransky, Sheryl J; Bocchetti, Mark W; Roberts, Bernadette E; Fogo, Michael K; Miller, Deborah A; Fooks, Michael D; Savage, Caroline X; Sheow, Melissa; Sims, Tiffany K; Buzbee, John R; Abbaszadeh, Nima; Bofill, Mariju L; Jackson, Roscoe; Hackworth, Jason K; McKnight, Alexandra K; Pipkin, Alisande L.; Reidhead, Van E; Surampudi, Rakesh X; Froman, David M; Birner, Timothy D; Espinoza, John L; Goldrich, Ethan A.; Dean, Nathaniel P; Deretic, Zoja; Johnson, Seneca E; Konick, Elizabeth J; McCusker, Breeann M; Nardi, Alessandro P; Wolfe, Rachel E; Berry, Agnel H; Collins, Ronald; Norberg, Chad R; Pratt, Qiana L; Robinson, Sharon; Swann, Sarah J; Tervakoski, Mark A; Weathers, Kamala N; Katsoulos, Athena O; Kerr, Robert C; Wyatt, Courtni A; Cope, Aaron M; Hamilton, Joseph A; Pahigian, Anthony A; Pope-Murray, Pamela; Prosen, Richard L; Cunningham, Thomas R; Eldridge, Jennifer A; Has-Ellison, John T; Ostfield, Marc L; Poisson, Beth L; Reasor, Lonni H; Davis, Bridget M; Moore, Kristian G; Efird, Cynthia C; Farmer, Kellee; Smith, Jennifer L; Marshall, Lisa R; Smith, Sammie; Toussaint, Marianne S; Westley, Catherine J; Cavey, Michael J; Treloar, Jay B; Loth, Linda F; Waller, Robert P; Vovchuk, Dmitry; O'Brien, Valerie C; Knutson, Kallie; O'Donnell, Patrick D; Mckenzie, Kelly; Gregonis, Meghan E; McCawley, David

Cc:

Subject: Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

CONFIDENTIAL



Info Office:

EUR_PRESS, RUS_DEP_DIR, SCE_PRIN, EUR_FO_STAFF, PGI_CVE, PGI_BLACK_SEA, WE_PORTUGAL, ERA_POL_USEU_DESK, ERA_DIR, SCE_BOSNIA, RPM_OSCE_ELECTIONS, UMB_BELARUS, GEORGIA, UMB_PRIN, SE_PRIN, SE_GREECE, EUR_FO_WE_PFD, SE_CYPRUS, SE_TURKEY, PGI_CT, UMB_PD, RUS_POL, WE_UK, WE_FRANCE, SCE_MONTENEGRO, WE_IRELAND, WE_PD, WE_ITALY, ACE_SECURITY, CARC_CONFLICT_ADV, CARC_Deputy_DIR, CARC_DIR, ERA_POL_MIDDLE_EAST, ERA_ECON, ERA_POL_DEM, ERA_POL_CENTRAL_ASIA, EUR_FO_RUS_UMB, EUR_FO_AS, SCE_CROATIA, EUR_FO_PDAS, RPM_NATO_AFGAN, RPM_OSCE_DESK, PGI_CIVIL_NGO, ACE_HUMANITARIAN, SCE_MACEDONIA, EUR_FO_CARC_SE

MRN: 10 ANKARA 1327
Date/DTG: Sep 08, 2010 / 081410Z SEP 10
From: AMEMBASSY ANKARA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, UN, TU, IS

Captions: SIPDIS
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
 AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK
 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 1.4(B)
Subject: Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council 1.4(D)
 B1

1. (C) Turkey's [redacted] told CDA and PolOff September 7 that the GoT expects a "strong report" critical of Israel actions against the Free Gaza flotilla from the Human Rights Council (HRC). [redacted] said the HRC's investigation will focus on Israel's alleged violations of human rights, the right to life, and to the freedom of expression surrounding the May 31 Mavi Marmara incident, both during the raid and in the aftermath. The HRC, he said, would not examine the legality of the blockade or the Israeli raid. Having submitted Turkey's own investigation report to the UN on September 2, [redacted] said he has some idea of what he expects to appear in the final HRC report, including a catalog of "inhumane treatment" of the flotilla passengers by Israeli authorities. CDA expressed US concern that the HRC group would focus on elements critical of Israel, but might not examine the voracity of those claims or countervailing arguments with much vigor, which could ultimately lead to an unbalanced report.

2. (SBU) [redacted] spoke highly of the group of lawyers and experts of the fact-finding mission appointed by the President of the HRC, which visited Turkey August 22-29 to inspect the Mavi Marmara and interview witnesses and government officials. The fact-finding mission is chaired by K. Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and also includes Desmond de Silva, chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal, and Shanthi Dairiam, former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

B6

Signature: SILLIMAN

Classified By: Doug Silliman, CDA
 EXEC
 State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2020/09/08

Drafted By: ANKARA:Ahn, Michael

Cleared By: Political:O'Grady, Daniel J

Approved By: Silliman, Douglas A

Released By: ANKARA:Silliman, Douglas A

Info: USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE; DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD ROUTINE;
 COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT ROUTINE; CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE;
 CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; EUCOM POLAD
 VAIHINGEN GE ROUTINE; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL
 SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
 ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY;
 ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY
 MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG;

ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule:

DIS_EUR_PRESS, DIS_RUS_DEP_DIR, DIS_SCE_PRIN, DIS_EUR_FO_STAFF,
DIS_PGI_CVE, PASS_BLACK_SEA, DIS_WE_PORTUGAL,
DIS_ERA_POL_USEU_DESK, DIS_ERA_POL_DEM_HR, DIS_SCE_BOSNIA,
DIS_RPM_OSCE_ELECTIONS, DIS_UMB_BELARUS, DIS_GEORGIA, DIS_UMB_PRIN,
DIS_SE_PRIN, DIS_SE_GREECE, DIS_EUR_FO_WE_PPD, DIS_SE_CYPRUS,
DIS_SE_TURKEY, DIS_PGI_CT, DIS_UMB_PD, DIS_RUS_POL, DIS_WE_UK,
DIS_WE_FRANCE, DIS_SCE_MONTENEGRO, DIS_WE_IRELAND, DIS_WE_PD,
DIS_WE_ITALY, DIS_ACE_SECURITY, DIS_CARC_CONFLICT, DIS_CARC_DEP_DIR,
DIS_CARC_DIR, DIS_ERA_POL_MIDDLE_EAST, DIS_ERA_ECON,
DIS_ERA_POL_CENTRAL_ASIA, DIS_EUR_FO_RUS_UMB, DIS_EUR_FO_AS,
DIS_SCE_CROATIA, DIS_EUR_FO_PDAS, DIS_RPM_NATO_AFGAN,
DIS_RPM_OSCE_DESK, DIS_PGI_CIVIL_NGO, DIS_ACE_HUMANITARIAN,
DIS_SCE_MACEDONIA, DIS_EUR_FO_CARC_SE

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B7(C),NR

P 31

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 2:26 AM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: RE: FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

Categories: Working



NR

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: RE: FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 6:37 PM
To: Ahn, Michael
Subject: FW: FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 6:28 PM
To: Howard, Jeremiah H
Subject: FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2035/09/25

From: SMART Core
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 03:51:35
To: Miles, Barbara J; Read, Anthony M; Hunter, Rodney M; Hessler, Robert E; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Price, Adam P; Witner, Kami A; Arvey, Jason M; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; Roundy, Brian A; Proctor, Tony A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Sapp, Susan J; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Pistana, Robert; Leary, Thomas M; Minco, Mark R; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M
Cc: Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Gardner, Janet M; Donelson, Lale; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Ogle, Karen L.; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Tanner, Alfred C; Pierce, Thomas JN
Subject: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

B7(C)

CONFIDENTIAL



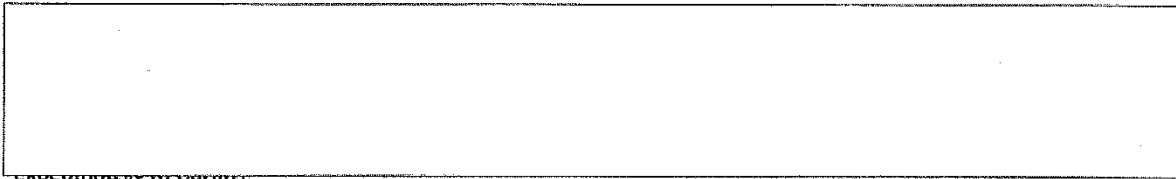
Action Office: POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA, POL_MIL
Info Office: CONS_INFO, AMB_INFO, DEA_INFO, EAC

MRN: 10 ANKARA 1401
Date/DTG: Sep 25, 2010 / 251248Z SEP 10
From: AMEMBASSY ANKARA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, PHUM, TU, SY, IS, EG
Captions: SIPDIS
Reference: A) 10 ANKARA 1327
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK
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
Subject: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The MFA issued a statement September 23 on the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) fact-finding mission report on the May 31 Gaza flotilla interdiction (See para 6 for unofficial embassy translation) . The statement supports the report's findings, which are highly critical of GoI actions, and reiterates calls for an Israeli apology and compensation. The NGO Viva Palestina has launched its fifth and most ambitious truck convoy to break Israel's "siege" of Gaza. This "Lifeline 5" convoy will transit Turkey. The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), which played a leading role in the May 31 Gaza flotilla, will host the convoy while it is in Turkey, but the GoT seems to have pressed IHH not to participate in the convoy as it continues southward. Lifeline 5's meandering route to Gaza appears designed not to deliver humanitarian aid expeditiously to Gazans, but to attract maximum media coverage. AMCITs may be considering joining the convoy. END SUMMARY

2. (U) On September 23, the MFA released a statement endorsing the UN Human Rights Council's fact-finding mission report on the May 31 Gaza flotilla interdiction. The MFA describes the report as consistent with the GoT's own National Investigation and Examination Commission Report of September 1 (refel). The statement repeats calls for an Israeli apology and compensation to the families of the nine Turkish-origin Mavi Marmara activists who were killed and to other participants suffering damages.

3. (SBU) According to media reports, Viva Palestina, the NGO behind the January truck convoy to Gaza that ended in violence, launched its fifth convoy from London on September 18, again with the goal of "breaking the siege of the Gaza Strip." Viva Palestina expects this "Lifeline 5" convoy to grow to 200 vehicles by the time it reaches Latakia in Syria. From there, the convoy is to be transported by ship to the Egyptian port of El Arish. Viva Palestina will try to enter Gaza via the Rafah crossing. Lifeline 5 is scheduled to arrive in Istanbul on September 27. In Turkey, the convoy will pass through Ankara, Kayseri, Adana, Gaziantep, and Killis en route to Syria. The Egyptian Embassy here, which is tracking the convoy's progress, told us September 20 Viva Palestina has, so far, failed to contact Egyptian authorities about its intentions. 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1



Expediently to Gazans.

COMMENT

5. (C) As we expected, the MFA's statement on the HRC report adheres closely to the public line established by the GoT within days of the interdiction.



6. (U) BEGIN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF MFA STATEMENT

No: 206

September 23, 2010

ANNOUNCEMENT

As one would recall, the UN Human Rights Council tasked an HRC mission on June 2, 2010 to collect data and find out the facts in order to study the attack and its consequences following the death of eight Turkish and one American citizen when Israel attacked a humanitarian assistance convoy destined for Gaza in international waters on May 31, 2010. The mission visited our country on August 22-29, 2010.

We are pleased to see that the fact-finding mission presented its report to the HRC on September 22, 2010.

It is understood that the report, which was based on the testimonies of the witnesses, autopsy reports and the views of the experts, was a product of a comprehensive and detailed work. The report can also contribute to meeting the expectation of the international community that the investigation should be in line with international standards, fast, unbiased, acceptable and transparent, as mentioned in the Security Council Presidency announcement on June 1, 2010.

The basic assessments in the report were in line with the data and evaluations in our national report, prepared by the National Investigation and Examination Commission and presented to the UN Investigation Panel on September 1, 2010.

We noted carefully the assessments that in its report the fact-finding mission stated that the blockade on Gaza by Israel was illegal and thus the armed intervention of Israel into the convoy in international waters, too, was clearly illegal; that the Israeli troops used disproportional, unnecessary violence and incredible force; and that the intervention was a severe violation of human rights law and humanitarian law provisions and that the national investigation that Israel initiated at the national level was far from being credible.

With this report, Israeli public opinion may for the first time be getting information from an independent source concerning the violence and inhumane treatment by Israeli security forces against the members of the convoy on board the ship and later when they were under detention. We expect the Israeli authorities to draw the necessary conclusion from the report, apologize by accepting responsibility, and pay compensation to the wounded and the families of those who lost their lives during the offensive and to the passengers whose money and personal belongings were seized during the intervention.

In the future phases we will find it useful for the UN HRC to evaluate and follow appropriately the fact-finding mission report and also the UN Investigation Panel, too, in its work to evaluate carefully this report, which was prepared in line with international standards and in an unbiased way under UN auspices.

END TEXT

Signature: SILLIMAN

Classified By: Doug Silliman, CDA
EXEC
State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2035/09/25

Drafted By: ANKARA:Silliman, Douglas A

Approved By: Silliman, Douglas A

Released By: ANKARA:Silliman, Douglas A

Info: ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT ROUTINE; CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE; CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE ROUTINE; CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ODC ANKARA TU ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: POL, RSO, CONS_INFO, LEGAT, AMB_INFO, ORA, POL_MIL, DEA_INFO, EAC

CONFIDENTIAL

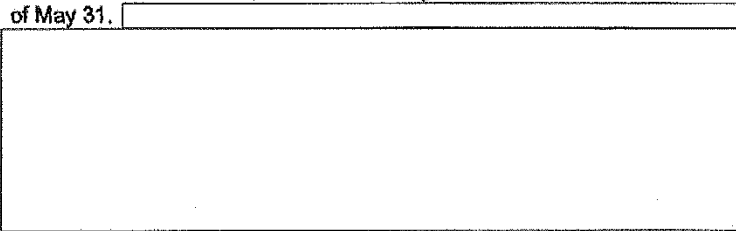
P32

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2010 3:38 AM
To: Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Ahn, Michael; de Otalvaro, Laura H
Subject: IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

Categories: Working

C) SUMMARY: IO A/S Brimmer met with Turkish Ambassador Mihai Rende to discuss the two UN investigations of the flotilla incident of May 31.



1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

END SUMMARY.

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.
Declassify On: 2020/09/28

From: SMART Core
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 11:45:08
Miles, Barbara J; Hunter, Rodney M; Hessler, Robert E; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Price, Adam P; Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A; Arvey, Jason M;
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Godfrey, Anthony F; Pistana, Robert; Leary, Thomas M; Mineo, Mark R; Guido, Deborah L; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M
Subject: IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

CONFIDENTIAL



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Action Office: POL, POL_MIL

MRN: 10 STATE 100840
Date/DTG: Sep 27, 2010 / 271932Z SER 10
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Action: ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; GENEVA, USMISSION ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV
Captions: SIPDIS

Pass Line: , PASS TO IO/FO
Correction Reason: Additional Drafter and/or Approver
Subject: IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

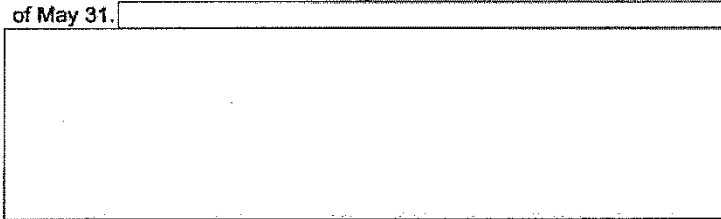
CONFIDENTIAL STATE 100840

SIPDIS, PASS TO IO/FO

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/09/27
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV
SUBJECT: IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

Classified by: Esther Brimmer, A/S
IOReason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: IO A/S Brimmer met with Turkish Ambassador
Mihat Rende to discuss the two UN investigations of the flotilla incident
of May 31.

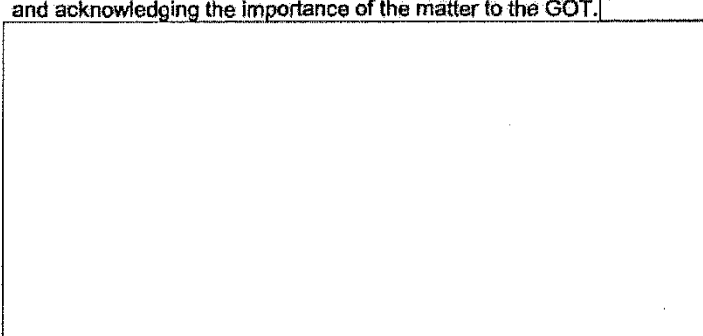


1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

END SUMMARY.

2. (C) On September 22, IO A/S Brimmer met with Turkish
Ambassador
Mihat Rende to discuss the various inquiries into the events
related to the May 31 boarding by the Israeli Defense Forces of a
Gaza-bound flotilla. A/S Brimmer was joined by IO DAS Nossel and
EUR/SE Office Director Baily. Accompanying Amb. Rende was First
Counselor Can Dizdar.

3. (C) Brimmer began the meeting by thanking Amb. Rende for
taking
time to speak about the inquiries into the May 31 flotilla incident
and acknowledging the importance of the matter to the GOT.



1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

