

ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	INL-00	PDI-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00
	NSAE-00	OIC-00	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00
	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	IIP-00
	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	CARC-00	SAS-00	FA-00
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 AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
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 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
 COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
 COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
 NSC FOR NEA STAFF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 DEC 2011 201004163

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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XXXX
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JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
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PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Iran
2. Mideast

Key stories in the media:

Leading media reported that President Obama told Deputy PM and Minister of Intelligence and Atomic Energy Dan Meridor, who heads Israel's delegation at the Nuclear Security Summit, that he regrets that PM Benjamin Netanyahu did not come. The Jerusalem Post reported that some key Muslim states attending the summit do not intend to focus on Israel's alleged nuclear capabilities at the conference, despite Israeli concerns to the contrary. Leading media reported that in an interview with ABC News, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has warned Israel against a military attack on Iran, saying it might lead to nuclear war and global disaster. The Russian leader said an attack on Iran would be "the worst possible scenario" in the Middle East, because "everyone is so close over there that nobody would be unaffected." "And if conflict of that kind happens, and a strike is performed, then you can expect anything, including use of nuclear weapons. And nuclear strikes in the Middle East, this means a global catastrophe. Many deaths," Medvedev said. He added that he was uncertain on whether Israel would decide to carry out an airstrike against Iran. Israel Radio

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quoted French President Nicolas Sarkozy as saying in an interview with CBS that an Israel attack against Iran would be a **UNCLASSIFIED** Qcatastrophe.

Leading media reported that during yesterday's closing ceremony of Holocaust Memorial Day, DM Ehud Barak sent a message to Iran that "this time the Jews have an option, and we will not hesitate to act against those who threaten the Jewish people."

Maariv reported that Israel has threatened to attack Syria. Leading media reported that Syria has handed Hizbullah Scud missiles with which to attack Israel in case the latter strikes Iran. Media reported that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with the Syrian ambassador to Washington, and that Senator John Kerry reportedly took the matter up with Syrian President Bashar Assad

some two weeks ago in Damascus.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Damascus has recently turned down an Israeli request to hold trilateral talks.

The media reported that a compact disc on which Anat Kamm copied secret documents has disappeared. The Jerusalem Post reported that Kamm admitted to the loss of the disc. According to Ha'aretz, two disks containing 2,000 secret documents and visual presentations from the office of the head of GOC Central Command vanished. Israel Radio quoted Kamm's lawyer as saying that no disk has disappeared from the IDF offices. The media quoted Judge Zeev Hammer, who is in charge of the case at the Tel Aviv District Court, as saying: I was astounded by the inconceivable failure, as well as the faulty and negligent data security arrangements. Media reported that Kamm told Shin Bet: [When] I copied the materials I thought that as far as history is concerned, people who have warned of war crimes, they are forgiven. Yediot and The Jerusalem Post reported that former Attorney-General Menachem Mazuz had checked research based on Kamm's documents and rejected all of them i.e. the IDF had not breached High Court of Justice rulings.

Yediot reported about the person who appears to have been the principal source of police information in the Holyland affair. Both former PM Ehud Olmert and Hillel Charney, a prominent businessman who has been arrested in connection to the affair, claim to have been the victims of a blackmail attempt. The implication in the report is that the man who allegedly tried to blackmail the two, ultimately became the principal source of information for the police.

Major media reported that the "forum of seven" cabinet ministers met yesterday to discuss President Obama's demands of Israel. U.S. Special Envoy to Middle East Peace Senator George Mitchell is expected to arrive in Israel next week. Israel Hayom quoted the

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international newspaper Al-Quds Al-Arabi as saying that secret negotiations have recently taken place between Israel and the P.S. in Washington. The Jerusalem Post reported that on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit, President Obama and Jordanian King Abdullah II promoted proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel Radio and other media reported on an infiltration attempt near Kibbutz Kissufim along the Gaza border. Four terrorists were killed.

HaQaretz quoted the Kuwaiti daily Al-Rai Al-Aam as saying over the weekend that the U.S. administration postponed "until further notice" the appointment of an American ambassador to Damascus.

HaQaretz cited a World Bank report according to which PM Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks about a current "economic boom" in the Palestinian territories are exaggerated.

Yediot reported that cooperation between Israel and NATO will soon increase: an Israeli missile boat will be at the service of the organization, and NATO will sell Israel security equipment. The newspaper reported that senior NATO officials arrived in Israel yesterday and met with Deputy FM Daniel Ayalon.

Ha'aretz reported that six years after Israeli security forces raided the Arab Bank's Ramallah branch and confiscated funds, the IDF cleared the bank and its workers of any involvement in terror.

HaQaretz reported that the Foreign Ministry is looking to address concerns about the rising number of complaints of mistreatment of foreigners at Ben-Gurion Airport,

Yediot reported that Israel would not let famed Israeli musician Daniel Barenboim perform in Gaza before Gilad Shalit is released.

Israel Radio quoted former Labor MK Hagai Merom as saying at the closing ceremony of Holocaust Memorial Day that there have been 120 cases of anti-Semitism in the U.S. over the past year -- one-quarter of all cases in the world.

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe cited the results of a poll conducted among Palestinians by an-Najah University in Nablus: while 71 percent of P.A. residents favor Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad's diplomatic plan, a majority opposes proximity talks.

1. Iran:

Block Quotes:

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I. Obama -- Focus on Iran

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan

Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (4/13) : Every junior diplomat knows that what Egypt fears is not the Israeli nuclear program, but the Iranian one. [Egypt] knows that Israel will not try to impose Jewish hegemony on the Middle East, but the Iranians dream about exactly the same thing concerning a Persian-Shi'ite hegemony. The Egyptians nonetheless share any anti-Israeli pronouncement.... WhatQs needed before anything is a deep aspiration by Obama [to impose sanctions on Iran].

II. We're Not Nearing a Holocaust

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (4/13): "The Prime Minister's declarations will tie his hands when it's time to decide on which policy to pursue against Iran and its threats. If Israel is facing a Holocaust, it must act in every way possible to prevent it and even go to war if the international community disappoints us in its efforts to use diplomacy to stop Iran's nuclear program. Maybe Netanyahu believes that his warnings will push Western countries to act, but the political logic behind this is dubious. If Netanyahu wanted to encourage world leaders to act against Iran, he should have taken part in the nuclear conference in Washington this week and voiced his poignant warnings directly to his counterparts. But Netanyahu was concerned about criticism of Israel's nuclear capability, so he opted to stay home and speak from Yad Vashem's safe podium. He thus missed out on a chance to join the international effort, which only highlights Israel's growing isolation.

2. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. Where Obama and Netanyahu Diverge

David Makovsky, senior fellow and director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute, the co-author with Dennis Ross of the new book "Myths, Illusions and Peace," wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (4/13) : Netanyahu needs to share with Obama how he envisions a two-state solution, and a

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plausible strategy to attain it. Obama feels he has this with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, even if Israelis remain skeptical. Some believe Netanyahu does not have that vision, and that this is the main problem. However, it is also possible that given how politically explosive these issues are in Israel, Netanyahu fears misplaced trust could leak and be exploited by rivals at home. So if the absence of a shared vision has contributed to a lack of trust, the absence of trust also contributes to a lack of shared vision. A second set of issues are differences between the two over urgency, and cannot be divorced from the issue of a shared vision. Despite recent comments by U.S. armed forces head Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, senior Administration sources sharply deny Obama only sees the issue of Israel through the prism of how it impacts American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq... It seems to be hard for Obama to believe that Netanyahu has domestic political constraints when he has the option of putting forward a set of policies regarding a two-state solution that would enable opposition leader Tzipi Livni to join his government. In other words, Obama sees these constraints by Netanyahu as self-imposed.... Given the conceptual divide outlined above, it is hard to be overly optimistic about the basis of a new relationship. Yet neither leader has the luxury of disengagement. Obama and Netanyahu have to find common ground in addressing the massive challenge of Iran's nuclear weapon program, or else the consequences could be disastrous. Moreover, even some European and Arab diplomats -- almost all of whom have traditionally favored pressure on Israel -- admit that such friction at the top of U.S.-Israel relations will not translate into progress for peace. They say an insecure Israel will not take risks for peace. Trust needs to be built, and not as a favor to either leader, but because it is a necessity for anyone who wants to see a more stable Middle East.

II. There Is No Other Way

Former Meretz leader, former Justice Minister, and chief Israeli promoter of the Geneva Initiative, Yossi Beilin, wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (4/13) : It is impossible for such an act [stealing 2,000 document of secret military material] not to be brought to trial. In the mid-80s [the Knesset] legislated a stupid law that banned contacts with PLO members , even in non-diplomatic circumstances. From the moment this law was legislated there was a struggle to have it abolished. I am very proud to have led to its cancellation in January 1993. But until this happened, people like Abe Nathan spent time in jail for meeting with members of the

Palestinian group. In retrospect it is difficult to understand that law, but the jail terms of those who had violated the law were part of maintaining Israel's status as that of a law-abiding country. The struggle to engage in a dialogue with the representatives of the

Palestinian national movement was justified, but their means of struggle was illegal. The price they paid was predictable.

III. Israel's Pentagon Papers

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Bernard Avishai, Professor of Business at Hebrew University and one of the founders of Peace Now, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (4/13) : QCommon sense tells you that the IDF, charged with keeping citizens as safe as possible, should have the right to keep operational plans secret, and that the government -- acting within bounds set by the judiciary -- should have the right to censor any stories about such plans and prosecute the people who leak them. But what if the military, acting as an occupation force, is itself violating bounds set by the judiciary, and its actions are arguably making citizens less safe? What if a whistle-blower leaks documents to a journalist, who then uses them to write a story questioning the legality or efficacy of the military's actions? What if the story is itself passed by the censor, but the government opens an investigation into the journalist's sources?... I expect we will soon hear stories about [Anat] Kamm's youth, or ingenuousness, or narcissism, which all may be as true as Daniel Ellsberg's depressions. None of this changes the importance to Israeli democracy of airing the question of whether targeted assassinations as practiced and sanctioned by the IDF are either morally acceptable in a country of law or will allow any of us to sleep more safely, even if not more soundly.

IV. Is Israel Entitled to Win ?

Deputy Editor-in-Chief Uri Elitzur, who was director of the Prime Minister's Office during Netanyahu's first term, wrote in the editorial of the nationalist, Orthodox Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (4/13) : A county at war kills enemy fighters without imprisonment or trial. This is international morals and international law. Nobody disagrees that in times of war a commander is allowed to carry out assassinations of commanders of the enemy army. The debate is about the question whether the war on terror is a war. A deeper question lies beyond this discussion: is Israel allowed to win? Ha'aretz and Anat Kamm believe that it can.

V. The Disposal of Myths

Gershon Baskin, Co-Director of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (4/13): QMost Palestinians view [the] demand [to recognize Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people] as a new hurdle they are being forced to jump over when they have never received any Israeli assurance regarding their own national rights. They also see it as a trick to remove the refugee issue from the negotiating table, and as a means to facilitate plans from the likes

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of Avigdor Lieberman to expel the Palestinian citizens of Israel who are living on their own land for generations.... Even with Palestinian refusal to enter negotiations while settlement building continues, there has never been a better partner for peace on the Palestinian side than there is today. The main problem is that there is no real partner for peace in Jerusalem.

VI. The New Anti-Semitism

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (4/13) : The Jew must now be coopted to the evil establishment. He is the rapacious capitalist, the smug acquisitionist; he is part of the neocon Cabal directing US foreign policy in Iraq. But more than anything, the Jew is the warmongering Israeli. Once derided for his weakness and rootlessness, the Jew, who hoped to put an end to anti-Semitism by establishing his own state, is now singled out for being too aggressive, too militant. That's why in January 2009, the month Israel launched Operation Cast Lead, there was a sharp spike in anti-Semitic attacks.... There is nothing the Jew can do to put an end to anti-Semitism. God knows, he's tried. Yet the Jew of the 21st century should be optimistic. The same rabid hatred that has caused so much suffering for Jews throughout the ages was one of the central factors in the timing of the revival of the Jews sovereign state. Unlike in the past, when it relied on the kindness of others for protection, today the Jewish people has control of its destiny.

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ACTION EUR-00

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P 140950Z APR 10
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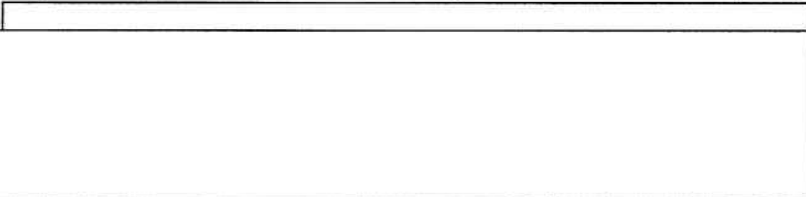
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/14/2020
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, TU, EG, IS
 SUBJECT: ANGST REIGNS OVER CONVOY OF AID SHIPS TO GAZA

REF: ANKARA 467

Classified By: POL Counselor Daniel O'Grady for reasons 1.4(b,d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) is preparing to lead a convoy of ships to Israeli-controlled Gaza beginning on May 15 to "break the embargo" and deliver humanitarian aid.



B1

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END

SUMMARY.

2. (C) Bulent Yildirim, president of the Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH), [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] has announced his organization will lead a flotilla of ships to Israeli-controlled Gaza in May to "break the embargo" and deliver humanitarian aid. IHH has called this convoy "Noah's Ark," "Freedom Is the Last Port," and most recently "Palestine Our Destination, Freedom Our Cargo."

B1, B6

[REDACTED] told us April 9 the flotilla will consist of seven ships: two from Turkey, three from the UK, and one each from Greece and Ireland. Inconsistent media reports say IHH hopes to increase the number of ships to 10, 15, or 20. One of the Turkish ships is a cargo ship with a 3000-ton freight capacity. The other is a passenger ship with a maximum capacity of 1100 persons. [REDACTED]

B1

An "Artificial Island"

3. (SBU) According to [REDACTED] IHH fully expects to be stopped along the maritime border by Israeli ships. He said the convoy will create an "artificial island" and is prepared to stay at least one month. This "artificial island" will be serviced and supplied by a number of smaller, faster boats that will make supply runs to Mersin and Cyprus. In addition to providing a supply-line, the smaller supply boats will also ferry and rotate the passengers, crew, and media. [REDACTED] said VIPs such as entertainers, Turkish MPs, and other politicians can be shuttled to the mother ships with ease. The large Turkish passenger ship will not be at full

B6

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capacity. [redacted] said this is so the passengers can be comfortable even if they have to stay long-term. Women and children will reportedly be aboard. Because IHH now owns its own ships, he said, it plans to continue sending convoys by sea to Gaza "until the end."

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B6

4. (C) The sea convoy will have a heavy media component and organizers plan to broadcast everything live on television.

[redacted] said "Our power is the consciousness of the world people. Day by day, hour by hour, we will inform the world."

B1, B6

[redacted] said IHH opted to wait until after the May 6 UK election in order to maximize media coverage. IHH believes its media coverage window will close on June 11 when the 2010 World Cup begins in South Africa. Meanwhile, [redacted]

B1

[redacted] told us April 12 that he

believes the

only purpose of the convoy is political

propaganda and "diplomatic drama." He cited existing means for delivering humanitarian to Gaza, if that were the true

purpose. [redacted] told us

B1

the same thing on April 9. [redacted]

[redacted]

5. (C) [redacted]

[redacted]

Egyptian Concerns

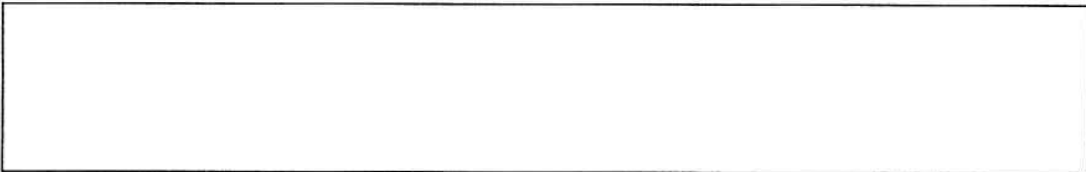
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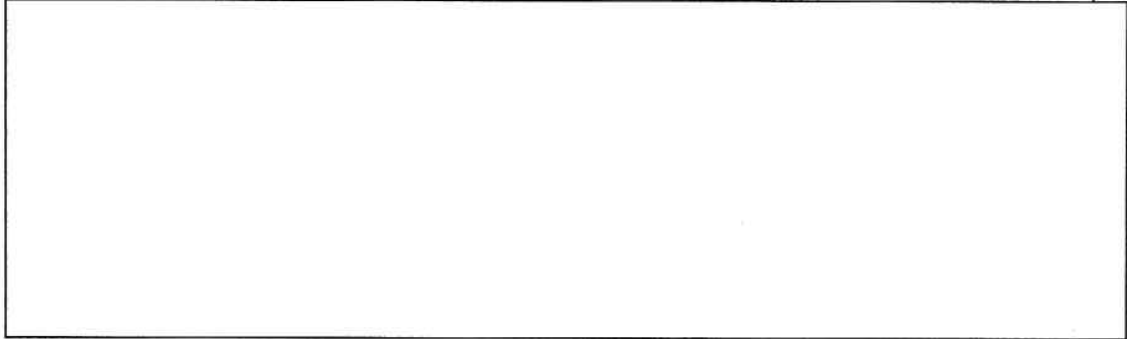
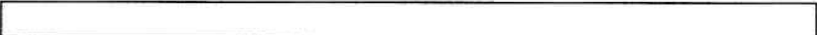
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9. (C) COMMENT:



"Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at <http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Turkey>"
SILLIMAN

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ACTION NEA-00

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P 210912Z MAY 10
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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
 NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 DEC 2011 201004163

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HQ USAF FOR X0XX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

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JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
2. Iran

Key stories in the media:

Israel Hayom reports this morning that US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell's latest round of shuttle diplomacy has borne no fruit. After three days in Jerusalem and Ramallah, Mitchell has returned to the United States without conclusive results. Maariv reported that Mitchell and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu yesterday discussed the possibility of more Israeli gestures towards the Palestinians, but only under the condition that the Palestinians curb their efforts to de-legitimize Israel overseas. Maariv also adds that White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel is expected to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu during his private visit to Israel next week celebrating his son's Bar-Mitzvah.

Israel Hayom reports this morning that the Israel Navy is preparing to intercept the flotilla that will be setting out for Gaza from either Turkey or Cyprus. In response to Turkey's official support for the flotilla-which is raising tensions between Israel and Turkey even further-the Foreign Ministry's deputy director general for Western Europe, Naor Gilon, asked the Turkish ambassador to tell his country's citizens not to take part in it. Israel Hayom's Dan Margalit, suggests in his commentary that Israel mount a

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counter-flotilla in order to explain the nature of Hamas's regime to the world. He takes the idea further, suggesting that it be put into practice on university campuses where Palestinian activists prevent Israeli officials from speaking.

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Maariv and Israel Hayom today are reporting that Mohammed Abu Tir, the Hamas operative who was arrested four years ago as a bargaining chip to be exchanged for kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit and was released yesterday, was summoned to Jerusalem District Police headquarters, where he was handed an expulsion order according to which he is forbidden to enter Jerusalem and must leave Israel in a month's time.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "A Course in Core Curriculum"

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (5/21): This week, President Obama met with Jewish members of Congress who are supporters of Israel. It was a meeting of reconciliation. ... There was concern on the Jewish street. The meeting helped to calm it. The mistakes to which Obama admitted were mainly in the relationship between himself and the Jewish members of Congress. But ... the policy that Obama described was the same. The United States's standing in the world is weaker than it was in every way since its period of isolationism on the eve of World War II. Supposedly, this situation ought to have been the dream of every Israeli government.... But the opposite is true. When America is weak, Israel is weak also. ... All the nonsensical statements that Avigdor Lieberman made at the beginning of his wretched term as foreign minister have come back to us like a boomerang. ... Obama has been drawn into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because he thought, mistakenly, that solving it would be the key to the hearts of the Arab world. George Mitchell ... will begin to talk about the core issues. Is the key in Tzippi Livni's hands? Not long ago, (Haim)Ramon told (Dan) Shapiro: Wait for Tzippi (Livni). She will be much more easier for you to work with. Shapiro understood that Ramon was giving the Palestinians the same advice. For the American negotiating team, this meeting was not an attempt to coordinate between two friends, but an intelligence-gathering operation. Now they know who is sabotaging the negotiations."

II. "The Lone Ranger"

Columnist Nadav Eyal, who is also Channel 10-TV Foreign News Editor,

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wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (5/21): "How does a nation become isolated? When is the precise moment in which it begins the shift ... from the point in which its policy is controversial to the point where it itself is controversial? ... A series of events and processes grew to form a critical mass, and at times such events slice through our lives. For example, the thousands that were expecting to see Elvis Costello.... Neither is Noam Chomsky worthy.... Contrary to others, nobody can seriously argue ... that Chomsky was involved in violent acts; Chomsky is a

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vehement and ideologist self-declared anti-Zionist, but if this is the grounds for not letting him into Israel, one might ask why Israel's border police do not refuse entry to the good sons and daughters of the Jerusalem-based Eda Haredit - anti-Zionists of the highest order. Ah, but let us not forget Ivan Prado, the most celebrated clown in all of Spain. Prado is a well-known figure in Spain, and he arrived in Israel in order to bring laughter to children in Ramallah. ... Israel's Spanish embassy says that extremely severe damage has been caused to Israel's image; after all, it is a bit difficult to explain to the Spaniards how a clown could constitute a security risk."

III. "A counter-flotilla: The right price tag"

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (5/21): The vessels that are setting sail ... toward the Gaza Strip ... bear a false message, that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is intolerable. They are putting a burden on the navy. Under these circumstances, it would be a good time for Israeli citizens to organize a counter-flotilla. We must not abandon the arena exclusively to the supporters of Palestinian terrorism.... This is the right perspective of the "price tag" tactic.... Setting a price tag is justifiable as part of a public-relations campaign. The Jewish organizations need to wake up. In a place where an Israeli diplomat cannot give her speech, a Palestinian emissary will not manage to do so either. If Israel's voice cannot be heard in the universities and on public lawns and at international conferences throughout the world, this will happen to all its adversaries, too.... What is needed is a response by the public. Those who boycott will be boycotted. Without discounts and without leniencies.

IV. "Useful Idiots"

Conservative Op-Ed Page Editor Ben-Dror Yemini wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (5/21): Noam Chomsky ... was able to make world headlines due to Israel preventing his entry.... This is a story of foolishness. Not fascism. Because many Western countries prevent the entry of evil folk who preach things they deem to be problematic.

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... Even beacons of democracy, like the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and France, have lists of those who are denied entry. One law for all democracies, another for Israel. But Israel behaved stupidly, because it turned Chomsky into a hero. To get to the point, the free world must recognize that Galloway, Ramadan, Norman

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Finkelstein, Ilan Pappé, Raed Salah, Azmi Bishara, Noam Chomsky, and all their friends from the brown and green coalition, Islamists and "progressives," are part of the problem. They are the ideological branch, and some are also the executive branch, of global jihad. Some are worthy of the title "useful idiots."

V. "Why I opposed leaving Lebanon"

Former cabinet minister and current chair of the Center for Strategic Dialogue at Netanya Academic College Ephraim Sneh wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (5/21): "The IDF's unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000 deserves a thorough analysis even 10 years later. As deputy defense minister, I was firmly opposed to the unilateral withdrawal. For the 18 years, the fighting in Israel's security zone in South Lebanon took on the nature of guerrilla and counter-guerrilla warfare, with the IDF ultimately gaining the upper hand. This situation was not achieved without our paying a price in blood, however. Each year, an average of 25 Israeli soldiers were killed. What was eroded during those years ... was Israeli society's ability to tolerate the constant price of casualties.... There are those who say that it's a good thing that the second intifada found us already out of Lebanon. But it is certainly possible to assume ... that the message of weakness transmitted by the retreat from Lebanon encouraged the Palestinians to return to using violent methods. Today Hezbollah's strength is several times greater than it was in the summer of 2006, certainly far greater than it was in May 2000. Iran will continue to want to use that strength against the Israeli home front. A genuine understanding of the nature of the confrontation, and telling it the way it is to the public, will be necessary in the future as well."

2. Iran:

Block Quotes:

I. "A small but important step"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (5/21): "After several months of efforts, the U.S. administration has put together

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a new outline of sanctions against Iran.... These steps in

themselves will not stop the centrifuges for enriching uranium. Nor will they lead Iran to moderate its threats against Israel or its oppression of the opposition. Even after the Security Council approves the new sanctions package ... Iran will continue to develop its nuclear program.... Still, the resolution sets before Iran a united front of world powers.... The world powers are united in their objection to a nuclear Iran, and the message has been received in Tehran.... The Obama administration ... has toughened its stance in recent weeks. The American resolve will be tested by the administration's response to Iran's expected disregard for the Security Council's resolution. The softened resolution to be submitted to the UN Security Council is far from adequate as far as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is concerned. Although Israel finds the sanctions to be brought before the Security Council far from satisfactory, the agreement reached by the world powers is extremely important. ... Israel must back the U.S. administration on this matter and remain within the international consensus, rather than disrupt it with unnecessary threats or unilateral acts."

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ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	INL-00	PDI-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	TEDE-00
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	PA-00	MCC-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00
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-----688C90 251112Z /38

P 251106Z MAY 10
 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7035
 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
 WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
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 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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 AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
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 AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
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 COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
 COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
 NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 DEC 2011 201004163

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HQ USAF FOR XOXX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

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JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast

Key stories in the media:

All major Hebrew-language newspapers reported this morning that former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is scheduled to be questioned today by the police about possible wrongdoing in what has popularly come to be referred to as the Holyland affair. Police sources have said that Olmert is alleged to have taken bribes while he was mayor of Jerusalem so as to advance the Holyland housing construction project. Olmert has repeatedly denied ever having been offered or accepted bribes.

he police have recommended that Foreign Minister Aigdor Lieberman be indicted for obstruction of justice and breach of trust. Lieberman is alleged to have obtained classified police information about an investigation that pertained to him and was being conducted in Belarus. He allegedly obtained his privileged information with the assistance of the then-Israeli Ambassador to Belarus Zeev Ben Aryeh, with whom he is alleged to have had an improper quid pro quo arrangement. The police have also recommended that the State Attorney's Office indict Ben-Aryeh.

Yediot is reporting this morning that while Israel does not intend to let the "Free Gaza" flotilla reach the Gaza coast, it has had some success on the diplomatic front, persuading a number of

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European countries to withdraw their support for the flotilla. The 10-ship flotilla is expected to come near its destination on either Thursday or Friday, but Israeli security officials have told the Israeli press that they are adamant to prevent the ships from docking in Gaza. Yediot also reported that Turkey has declined an offer made by Israel to have the Israeli authorities deliver the goods and materials to Gaza in their stead. Israel Hayom reports about plans to arrest the hundreds of people expected to be on board the ships. They are to be questioned in the Ashdod Port facilities and, if convicted, will be sent to Beer Sheva Prison.

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1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "Netanyahu's true test"

Former cabinet minister and current head of the Kadima council Haim Ramon wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (5/25):

"Prime Minister Netanyahu tried to create the impression that he was willing, with all his might, to take a bold step for peace. ... There were many who were tempted into believing this.... But today they are tempted into believing the new excuse: the prime minister cannot count on Kadima and he fears that if he takes a "courageous step for peace," the Kadima leaders will not support him but will rather wait for his government to fall.... (After the 1998 Wye agreement) Netanyahu, dodged making a decision. He preferred an impasse in the peace process and a continuation of the status quo rather than determination and taking action. Netanyahu, today, can emulate Sharon's determination and courage (from the disengagement). He can take meaningful steps to implement the idea of two states for two peoples.... I am convinced that if Netanyahu were to do this, he would earn Kadima's support for any step that conforms to its positions.... I myself will act to prevent his government from falling, as long as he sticks to this path. My support will be given to Netanyahu as long as the negotiations are serious and meaningful, whether in the framework of a unity government or whether from the opposition."

II. "What do they want from the Palestinians?"

Peace Now Secretary-General Yariv Oppenheimer wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (5/25): "Instead of being happy that the Israeli economy has learned to exploit the lands of Judea and Samaria and to invest inordinate sums of money to build factories and industrial

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zones in the territories, the Palestinian Authority announces a boycott and a ban on purchasing Israeli goods that are manufactured in the settlements.... Have the Palestinian people decided to fight the Israeli occupation not by violent means but by legitimate and more acceptable methods? To be fair, one has to admit that the factories in the territories don't hurt only the Palestinians; industry in the territories hurts first and foremost the Israeli economy from an ethical, economic and political standpoint. From an economic standpoint, Israeli exports overseas suffer from waves of

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global opposition.... "The Palestinians are shooting themselves in the foot," said top industrialists with a typically patronizing tone. Instead of collaborating with the settlement factories, the Palestinians are prepared to sacrifice the meager wages for the sake of their national struggle for independence-truly a course of action that is unfathomable for Israelis. Like a thief who asks his victim for payment, so too has Israel demanded that the Palestinians show their settler overlords their gratefulness and to continue to buy with their money products from the factories in the settlements."

III. "Why the Chief Military Rabbi is right"

Liberal columnist and television anchor Ofer Shelach wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (5/25): "Chief Military Chaplain Brig. Gen. Avi Ronsky ended his term this week in a series of interviews in which he explained his thinking that until now has only been vaguely alluded to.... This was a fitting ending chord for Ronsky's term, which was prominently typified by a dramatic rise in the profile of the Military Rabbinate. Under him, the Military Rabbinate ... became the Education Corps for large parts of the fighting army.... The picture that Ronsky describes is not that of the entire combat levels of the IDF, but rather its infantry brigades. In them, there is indeed a particularly high percentage of religious officers.... Even those who think that security needs or faith require Israel's continued control over the West Bank, must recognize that the inevitable result is that the service profile of entire units in the fighting army, headed by the infantry brigades ... becomes ... the policing of an occupied civilian population. And they must realize that in entire sectors ... they will find a way to avoid this service, either in commando units or in desk jobs. Ronsky says that soldiers who have faith make the best soldiers, and in this he is also right. This type of service draws those who see the army as a tool for social mobility, or those who believe that this war is a holy war. Anyone who wants to complain about Ronsky should address their complaints to those sectors who have given an unofficial divorce writ to the Paratroopers Brigade, to the Golani Brigade or the Givati Brigade-and those who assign to these brigades their current tasks."

IV. "Taking Gaza seriously"

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The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (5/25): "We will soon mark five years since Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip, but Gaza refuses to disengage from Israel. Neither Hamas nor Israel is interested in escalating the military conflict, which

remains limited to sporadic rocket fire met by air force strikes.... Instead of restarting (Negotiations for Shalit)... the Netanyahu government is merely seeking to burnish its image while keeping public pressure to return him in check. The (Hamas prisoners') bill is little more than a distraction from the main issue. It is very doubtful that Hamas ... will give up now just so that its people can watch comedy shows and Al Jazeera. The government is handling the blockade the same way: using it as a means of exerting pressure on the Hamas.... But the closure has resulted in humanitarian distress for much of the population and must be ended.... Instead of allowing Gazans to rebuild, Israel is setting up a televised confrontation between the navy and unarmed civilians. Shalit deserves serious negotiations that lead to his release. Residents of Gaza deserve to have their plight eased. Gaza will not disappear, despite the disengagement and the closure. And it warrants more serious treatment from Israel's government."

V. "It's not too late for Israel to make peace"

Senior columnist and longtime peace advocate Yoel Marcus wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (5/25): "Maybe it's a coincidence, but the day on which the massive Home Front drill began marked the 10th anniversary of Israel's hasty retreat from Lebanon.... The war, in its different phases, lasted 18 years. The generals at the time turned the supposedly brief operation into an ongoing campaign. As time went by the voices calling for getting out of Lebanon grew stronger.... To this day the IDF's nocturnal desertion remains controversial. Opponents say the rushed exit did not prevent the Second Lebanon War, which brought the long-range missile threat to the heart of Israel's Home Front. The lesson to be learned ... is that a military triumph does not necessarily lead to a decisive diplomatic outcome. History teaches that in the absence of a decisive diplomatic outcome, the next war is written on the wall.... The conclusion is that even if 43 years have elapsed since the Six-Day War victory, it is not too late for this government, which also has the required majority, to translate that military triumph into a peace agreement."

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00
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	NIMA-00	PA-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5006
 INFO GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000379

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/31/2020
 TAGS: PREL, CASC, PINR, PGOV, PHUM, KU
 SUBJECT: GOK CONVOKES P-5 ON "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" INCIDENT

Classified By: Political Counselor Pete O'Donohue for reasons 1.4 b and d

GoK: "Israeli Attack" [redacted]

B1

1. (C) Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting FM Roudhan Abdulaziz Al-Roudhan (in the absence of the FM, who is traveling in Asia) convoked P-5 Ambassadors May 31 to protest in the strongest terms the events earlier in the day off Gaza, [redacted]

[redacted]

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00
	DS-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
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	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-00	OIC-00
	NIMA-00	PA-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00
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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000379

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/31/2020
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[redacted]

AMCIT Among the Kuwaiti Participants

2. (C) In response to Ambassador's query on the number and condition of Kuwaiti participants in the flotilla, Al-Roudhan confirmed that 16 Kuwaitis were participating in the flotilla and that no reports had been received of any injuries to them. Post understands the Kuwaiti participants include

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Poloff received a call from [Redacted]

[Redacted] who said that his AMCIT daughter, [Redacted] a social activist, was also among the 16. U/S Jarallah requested that the Ambassador provide any information we might receive regarding the disposition of the 16 Kuwaiti nationals, following reports the GoI planned to detain them.

Press Inquiries

3. (SBU) Post continues to receive requests for comment from the local press and would appreciate appropriate guidance asap; for now we are avoiding comment other than to regret the tragic loss of life while noting that the facts of the matter are not yet clear.

For more reporting from Embassy Kuwait, visit:
Kuwait's Classified Website at:

<http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Kuwait>

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00
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	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00
	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	NFAT-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5018

INFO ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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B6, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000387

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

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

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KISL, PINR, KU

SUBJECT: GOK/PARLIAMENT REACT STRONGLY TO "FREEDOM
FLOTILLA" INCIDENT, PROMINENT KUWAITI MP AMONG THE DETAINED

REF: A. KUWAIT 379

B. 09 KUWAIT 87

Classified By: Political Counselor Pete O'Donohue for reasons 1.4 b and
d

Summary

1. (C) The GoK, Kuwaiti National Assembly, and the public have in unison expressed outrage over the May 31 "Freedom Flotilla" incident. The GoK and parliament separately issued statements condemning the deaths of civilian activists and have called for a comprehensive international response of condemnation against Israel. Sixteen Kuwaitis were part of the flotilla, including an MP and human rights activists (including prominent Islamist MP and perennial GoK critic Dr. Walid Al-Tabtabaie and an American-Kuwaiti dual national, [redacted]; the Kuwaitis are believed to be unharmed but still in Israeli detention. Public reaction has been

B6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 11 JAN 2012 201004163

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peaceful but notable, with several hundred Kuwaitis braving the early summer heat to gather in Determination Square on the night of May 31 to express support for the Kuwaiti flotilla participants and to condemn Israeli action; Kuwaiti students have started sign-up drives on campus to secure volunteers to join the next flotilla to Gaza. The Amir, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and publicly has ordered an Amiri Flight aircraft to Turkey to bring back the 16 Kuwaitis once freed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] End summary.

GoK Reacts

2. (C) The Kuwait Cabinet held a May 31 emergency session to discuss concerns related to the 16 Kuwaiti "Freedom Flotilla" participants -- among them an MP, a dual American-Kuwaiti national, journalists, human rights activists and other notable citizens -- currently reported to be unharmed but in Israeli custody. The council also issued a 10-page document entitled "The Government's Communique Regarding the Crime of Aggression on the Freedom Flotilla to Transport Humanitarian Aid to the People of Gaza." Following the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting FM Roudhan Al-Roudhan condemned in a press statement the "aggressive nature and the arrogant mindset" of Israel and bemoaned perceived Israeli "disregard of all international resolutions and laws." After summoning UNSC P-5 member Chiefs of Mission (reported ref A), Al-Roudhan also noted to the press that the Kuwaiti Amir as current GCC president, had discussed this "heinous humanitarian crime" with other GCC states and other Arab nations via the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Amir has also ordered a plane to Turkey to stand by to return the 16 (likely to a hero's welcome) once they are released by the GoI. [REDACTED]

National Assembly Seals Ranks in Support of One of its Own

3. (C) Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Jassem Al-Khorafi

called a special June 1 parliamentary session, which lasted six hours, to condemn "the obnoxious crimes perpetrated by Israel" and to "underscore Kuwait's official and public solidarity with the people of Palestine." On the floor of parliament, MPs passed a motion calling for the GoK to withdraw from the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative (API). In separate statements, various MPs called for the GoK to cease participation in all Middle East peace initiatives. (Note: Withdrawal specifically from Proximity Talks was mentioned neither on the floor nor in a statement subsequently issued by the National Assembly. MFA U/S Khalid Al-Jarallah confirmed to Ambassador June 1 that withdrawal from peace initiatives is not a GoK policy objective. End note.) In addition to passing the API motion, the National Assembly issued a statement calling for the following:

-- That the UNSC conduct an international investigation to

determine Israel's legal culpability and that the UNSC enforce international resolutions calling on Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories.

-- That the International Court of Justice assume jurisdiction for the investigation and legal proceedings against Israel under charges of crimes against humanity.

-- That Chiefs of Mission in Kuwait call on their governments to exert pressure on the GoI for the immediate release from detention of all flotilla participants.

-- That Arab and Muslim nations assume their responsibility toward the "Gazans under siege" and work to end the embargo.

4. (C) Given that Kuwaiti MP Dr. Walid Al-Tabtabaie, an Islamist activist and a perennial critic of the government, is among the 16 currently detained by the GoI, Kuwait MPs have been unusually -- if understandably -- unanimous in support of one of their own. (Note: Honoring Al-Tabtabaie's participation in the flotilla, fellow MPs marked his chair with his portrait and a large Kuwaiti flag. Al-Tabtabaie's participation in the flotilla -- his second attempt to enter Gaza, he previously entered Gaza via tunnels from Egypt (ref B) -- has overnight raised his stature from that of gadfly to hero. End note.) Comments from MPs (liberals and conservatives alike) variously condemned the attack on the aid vessels and called for Arab and Muslims to sever all ties with Israel (with special pleas for Oman and Qatar to "take the lead") and demanded the expulsion of Israeli diplomats

from Arab and Muslim nations.

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Public Unified as Well

5. (C) Public expressions of outrage mirrored the response of the GoK and Parliament in a number of demonstrations. Several hundred Kuwaitis rallied in front of Parliament May 31 in a demonstration orchestrated by the Kuwait Society for Basic Elements of Human Rights. Families of the activists, politicians, religious figures civil societies and students were among the demonstrators expressing solidarity with the Gazans and the 16 Kuwaiti detainees. Speaking at the rally, Islamist MP Jam'an Al-Hirbish [redacted]

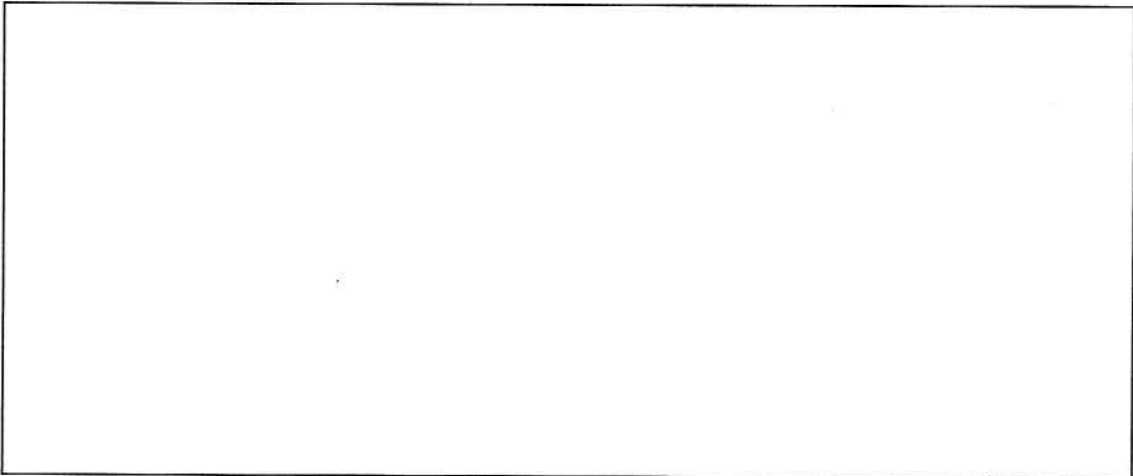
[redacted]

[redacted] claimed, "The kings of the Arab world are not those who occupy the thrones and seats of power. Our kings are those who are aboard the Freedom Flotilla and risking their lives for the sake of our brethren in Gaza." He also stated that Kuwaitis form the second largest Nationality (sic), behind the Turks in the contingent bound for Gaza [redacted]

[redacted]

Also circulating in the press and in blogs is the report that "sign-up sheets" for the next flotilla are circulating on university campuses and in the broader community and are quickly being filled.

Comment



For more reporting from Embassy Kuwait, visit:
Kuwait's Classified Website at:

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<http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Kuwait>

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 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SWCI-00
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R 081409Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0019
 INFO GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000417

RELEASED IN PART
 B1, 1.4(D)

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/08
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KU
 SUBJECT: GOK PUBLICLY AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE

CLASSIFIED BY: Peter O'Donohue, Political Counselor, State,
 Political; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (SBU) Kuwait government spokesman Dr. Mohammed Al-Busairi, who also holds the posts of Minister of Communications and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, confirmed in a statement following the weekly Cabinet meeting June 7 that Kuwait remains committed to the Arab Peace Initiative (API). The statement was intended to clarify confusion sowed on June 1 when in comments to the press Al-Busairi suggested that the GOK would consider all, and was prepared to accept some, of the recommendations made by parliament in the wake of the Gaza flotilla crisis, which included a motion to withdraw from the API.

2. As noted reftel, MFA U/S Khaled Al-Jarallah told Ambassador on June 1 that withdrawal from peace initiatives was not a GOK policy objective; Al-Jarallah made the same points to Charge June 2 but demurred when asked to immediately issue a retraction to correct erroneous local press reports (which were publicly welcomed by HAMAS) saying the country was pulling out of the API. Later June 2, however, Al-Jarallah did clarify to the press that while the matter had not been finally decided - because the full Cabinet had yet to consider Parliament's recommendations - it was "not current Kuwaiti policy" to support withdrawing from "the Arab Peace Initiative of Saudi King Abdullah." Parliament Speaker Jassem Al-Kharafi similarly sought to down-play the issue, telling the press June 2 that the GOK was not bound to accept any of

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 DEC 2011 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

parliament's recommendations, specifically mentioning this one , and noting that the GOK had abstained from voting on the measure. Seeking to clear up the confusion, MP Dr. Aseel Al-Awadi, one of parliament's four female MPS, submitted on June 6 a request asking the GOK to clarify whether it had accepted parliament's recommendation that it withdraw from the API; Al-Busairi's response definitively puts such speculation to rest.

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3. (SBU) In his statement, Al-Busairi stated that the GOK "would not adopt a unilateral approach to dealing with the initiative launched by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Saudi King Abdullah Bin-Abdulaziz at the Beirut Summit of 2002." He added that "the Arab Peace Initiative is a matter for summits to decide on, not for a certain government... the government of Kuwait is keen to work within the consensus framework of the GCC states and the Arab countries in general." Al-Busairi noted in his statement that, while a majority of MPs (32 out of 50) had voted in favor of withdrawing from the API, the GOK had exercised its prerogative not to accept the motion; he also referred to Speaker Al-Kharafi's June 2 comments noting that the GOK was not under a legal obligation to accept this or any other parliamentary recommendation.

4. (C) Comment:

B1

WILLIAMS

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	RPPR-00	INL-00
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 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
 DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

RELEASED IN PART
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 000451

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA
 LONDON FOR LORD, PARIS FOR NOBLES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/07/2020
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, KPAO, SY
 SUBJECT: LONG-AWAITED MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
 TOUCHES ON GAZA FLOTILLA, AL-RAI TV, INFO TECHNOLOGY
 DELEGATION AND BILATERAL ATMOSPHERICS

Classified By: CDA Charles Hunter, Reasons 1.4 b and d.

1. (C) SUMMARY:

NR

She spoke,
 of Israel's
 interdiction of the Gaza-bound flotilla earlier in the week

B1

[redacted] She professed ignorance of her government's position regarding [redacted]

NR

[redacted]

[redacted]

END SUMMARY.

2. (C) CDA and PAO called on Bouthaina Shaaban, political and media advisor to Syrian President Bashar al-Asad, in her office at the presidential compound a block away from the U.S. Embassy on June 2. [redacted]

NR

[redacted]

[redacted] The cordial, 45-minute-long meeting, which started late due to Shaaban's unexpectedly having to receive the Minister of Economy and Trade, came against the backdrop of SARG preparations for a hero's welcome for the four Syrian participants in the Gaza flotilla, who were returning to Damascus later that day from Amman. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

THE GAZA FLOTILLA

B1

3. (C) [redacted]

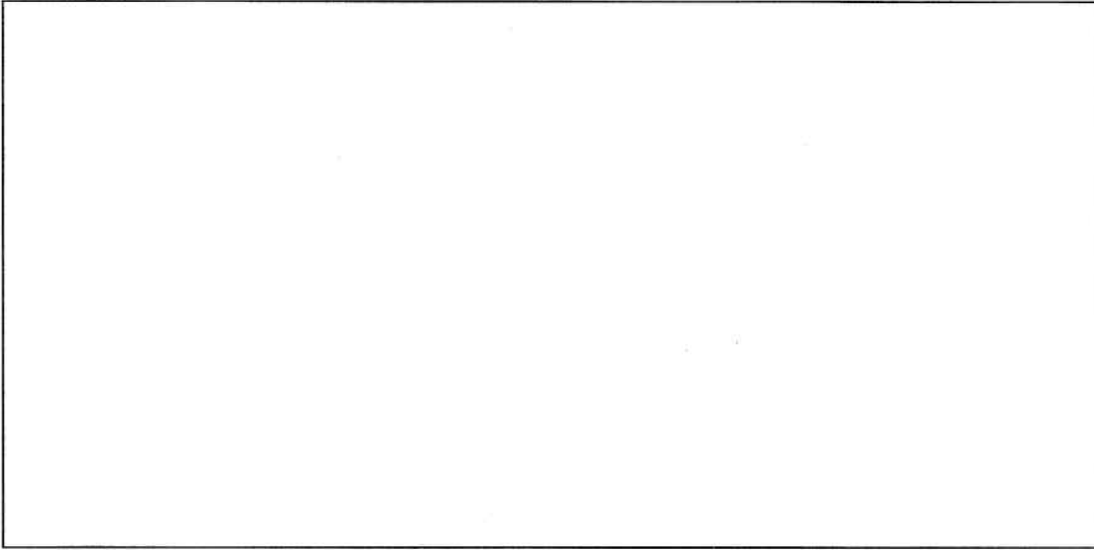
B1

[redacted]

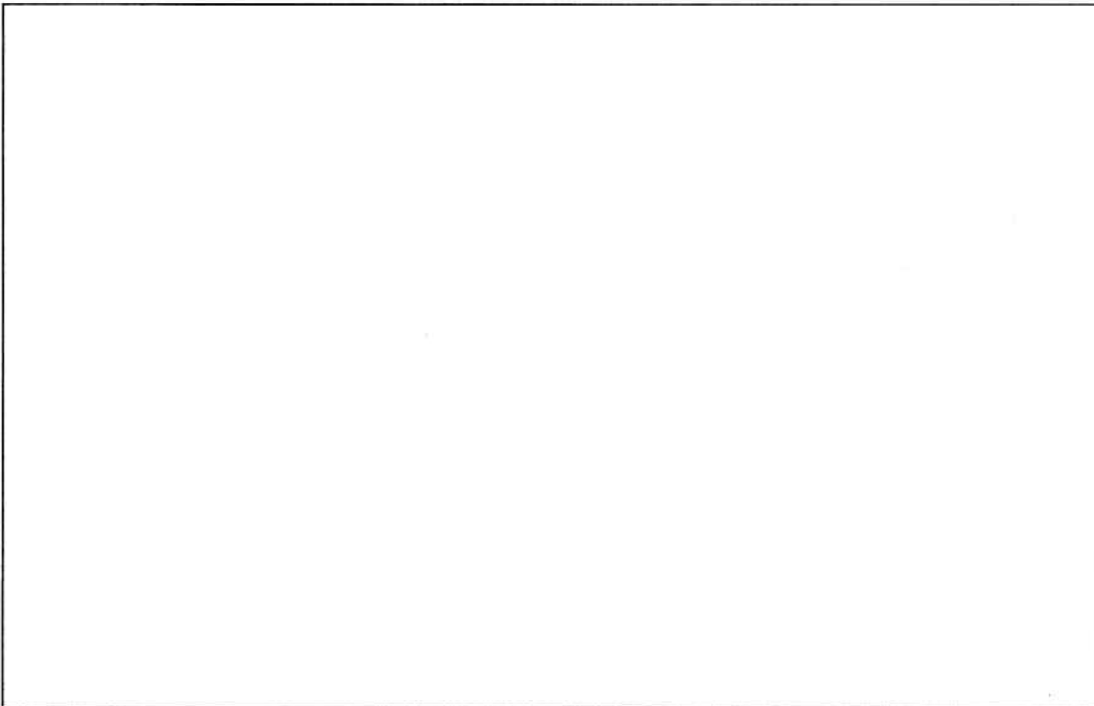
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UPCOMING IT DELEGATION



AL-RAI TV



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NR

ATMOSPHERICS

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COMMENT

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G12

RELEASED IN FULL

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	GHFS-00	RPPR-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
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UNCLAS ANKARA 001334

SIPDIS
 DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
 JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO
 SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for August 23, 2010

Media Highlights: Sinirlioglu Visit; Turkey Warned on Iran Sanctions; TPAO Pulls out of Iran Project; US Flood Aid to Pakistan; Turkey's Red Book Changes; New Book Cites Gulenist Influences; Lebanon Flotilla; Netanyahu Blames Turkey

US Embassy Ankara - Turkey Media Reaction - August 23, 2010 as prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office

How the US is Playing/Related News

1. US-Turkey Ties as U/S Sinirlioglu Heads to Washington

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 DEC 2011 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

Columnist Semih Idiz writes in Milliyet that the "Turkey meeting" recently held at the State Department has revealed that the Obama Administration has some questions about the AK Party government. "Turkey has problems with the US Congress, not with the Obama Administration. Anti-Turkey mood prevails both at the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the situation has deteriorated since the visit of the AK Party representatives to the US in June. Even if Turkish Foreign Ministry U/S Sinirlioglu manages to work out disagreements with the US Administration, his contacts will have little effect on the US Congress. The ties between Turkey and the US are expected to deteriorate further with the sanctions against Iran, the Gaza flotilla probe and Armenian Genocide Resolution. For this reason, Sinirlioglu would hardly be able to repair the strains in bilateral ties. In the meantime, Turkey and the US will continue to work with a 'case-by-case approach' in bilateral ties."

2. Omer Taspinar opines in Sabah: "There's a negative mood in the US Congress on Turkey. Washington uses this as a tool, and asks Turkey to be more careful in ties with Israel and Iran. Both the White House and Ankara will lose if we see problems in the US Congress over the coming months regarding arms sales or the Armenian Genocide Resolution (AGR). The AK Party cannot succeed in Turkey if problems with the US continue. It's only natural that now and then the Obama Administration is sending messages to Turkey to be careful since problems can also be seen in the Congress."

3. Kadri Gursel writes in Milliyet: "Observing the fact that the ties between Turkey and the US are suffering difficulties, the US Congress began interfering in the US Administration regarding the relationship. The US will hold Congressional elections in November, in which the Democrats may lose their majority in one of the chambers. Nevertheless, we can say that Turkey has not yet become a matter in US internal politics."

4. US Outreach on Iran Sanctions: Turkish media extensively followed up on a Cumhuriyet exclusive last week that cited officials from the US Treasury and State Departments in Turkey on new American legislation on Iran sanctions. Milliyet reported in its economic section on 8/21 that US officials discussed "terror financing" and that "they want a reduction in activity from banks and business working with Iran." In "We Didn't Give a Black List," pro-government Sabah gives prominent play to an interview with Embassy Charge Silliman who clarified the global effort by US officials to "open a dialogue" on UN sanctions as well as "regional and national laws being mounted by the US, EU and other countries" to sanction companies doing business with Iran in nuclear proliferation-related fields. Liberal Radikal on 8/22 headlined "Iranian Controversy Mars Turco-American Business Council Meeting In October," and contended that the US delegation also came to

confirm arrangements for the proposed US-Turkey business council and told their Turkish counterparts that "Turkey had to choose between Iran and the US." Radikal adds that the Turkish private

sector working with the US would pay attention to the warning.

5. Turkish Firm Pulls Out of Iran Energy Project: Cumhuriyet in "TPAO Has Given Up on Iran" on 8/21 noted that because it dug dry wells, TPAO has decided not to invest in the Southern Pars District natural gas fields at this time. Cumhuriyet reports that a high-level delegation from the US Treasury and State Departments that visited Turkey last week was "glad to hear that rather than suspending the investment, they are pulling out of the project." The paper notes that the delegation was "not here to give a warning but to provide information" according to Turkish Foreign Ministry authorities who indicated that the sanctions specific to the US would not be taken as Turkey's position." Government authorities told the group members that "they are passing on the information they've received but that it is up to individual companies whether they want to comply with sanctions beyond those imposed by the UN" noting that "exceptions have decreased in this round of US sanctions."

6. US Aid for Pakistan Floods Relief: On 8/23, Media continue to focus on Turkey's response to the flood crisis in Pakistan with little mention of international relief efforts. Weekend stories reported on the UN meeting on 8/19 and mentioned Secretary Clinton's announcement that the US will up its contributions to \$150 million. In "Our Goal is Not Military" pro-government Sabah on Sunday gave prominent play to an interview with Charge Doug Silliman, with several photos, saying that the US is the country giving the most aid to Pakistan and batting down rumors in Turkey that the US has military designs on a weakened Pakistan. Silliman responds: "Our desire is to help Pakistan and we have no desire for a military intervention. This disaster will show the effectiveness of Pakistan's democracy. It could also bring Pakistan and India closer like it did in Turkey and Greece. Noting that he served three years in Pakistan, Silliman mentioned that the disaster was bigger than the Pakistan earthquake in 2005 and the Haiti disaster and encompasses an area the size of Italy and about a third of Turkey, starting from Ankara to the whole west of Turkey. Denying reports that the US will intervene in Pakistan with its military power, Silliman said the US will continue its aid and that "while the US has some soldiers in Pakistan, we are working with the Pakistan government," and urged the press to not speculate about any US intervention.

In the Headlines

7. Threat Reductions in New "Red Book" from Greece, Iraq, Russia

and Iran: Mainstreams Sabah and Milliyet give extensive front page coverage to expected shifts in Turkish foreign policy in the new National Security Policy document - known as the Red Book - now being drafted by Turkish Foreign Ministry. In "12 Miles, Not a Cause of War Anymore" Sabah says Turkey will no longer consider a threat the 12-mile continental shelf disagreement with Greece, and will instead emphasize new cooperation with all its neighbors, noting that the "Red Book will discard "cliches regarding external threat perceptions." In "Threat Reduction In the Red Book" Milliyet columnist Asli Aydintasbas reports "zero problems with neighbors' policy of the AKP will mark the new Red Book, " which will make references to the nuclear program of Iran but put emphasis on freeing the Middle East of nuclear weapons. One of the major changes is about Iraq, she claims, and notes that whereas the Red Book used to focus on the PKK threat, the new version will draw attention to the cooperation with the central Iraqi government and the Iraqis. Russia, Iran and Greece as well will not be perceived as threat anymore," Milliyet notes.

8. Police Chief Avci Blames Gulen Community (Cumhuriyet)

Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports Eskisehir police chief Hanefi Avci has written in his new book that the "Fettullah Gulen Community" was behind all the politically oriented "voice recordings and video footage" that were posted on the internet. "There's only one address capable of such postings, and it's the extension of the Gulen community in the police. A couple thousand people have been wiretapped in Turkey, and the same unlawfulness continues today," Cumhuriyet quotes Avci as saying.

9. No Departure Port for Lebanese Blockade Ship to Gaza:

Islamist-oriented Zaman 8/21 reported that because Lebanon and Israel are still technically at war, this ship needs an acceptable 'departure port' in its quest to deliver aid shipment through the Gaza blockade. According to denizhaber.com.tr (Turkish Shipping News) early 8/23, the organizers have not succeeded in getting permission from any nearby country and that the ship was reported to still be in Lebanon. Online haber50.com reported 8/22 that Cyprus had turned down requests to have the ship depart from there and organizers had requested permission from Greece and Turkey to use ports there. Israel has asked the UN to help enforce all international laws and has asked that the ship not be allowed to come.

10. Netanyahu Holds Turkey Responsible for Tensions with Israel (Zaman)

Hurriyet reports Israeli PM Netanyahu told Greek daily To Vima Israel would not apologize to Turkey over the raid on Gaza aid flotilla. "Deterioration of ties with Turkey was not our choice,

it all began by PM Erdogan attacking President Peres at Davos in January last year. Ankara has an open policy of stoking tensions with Israel. We will welcome it if Turkey chooses a moderate path," Netanyahu told To Vima.

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11. UN Delegation in Turkey to Investigate Gaza Aid Flotilla Raid (Hurriyet)

Papers report a UN Human Rights committee will begin Monday investigations on the Israeli raid on an aid flotilla bound for Gaza in the Turkish cities of Ankara, Istanbul and Iskenderun. The delegation, comprised of Sir Desmond da Silva from Britain, Karl Hudson-Phillips from Trinidad and Tobago, and Mary Shanthi Dairiam from Malaysia, will conduct investigations in the Turkish cities for a week, reports Zaman.

12. Architect of Gaza Massacre New Israeli Chief of Staff (Zaman)

Islamist, pro-government dailies Zaman and Yeni Safak report Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak has appointed General Yoav Galant as the new Israeli chief of military staff. The papers claim Galant has been the figure behind the "massacre" in Gaza. Zaman says "hundreds of Turks" had filed international lawsuits against Galant over his role in Operation Cast Lead and the IDF raid on Gaza aid flotilla in May.

SILLIMAN

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
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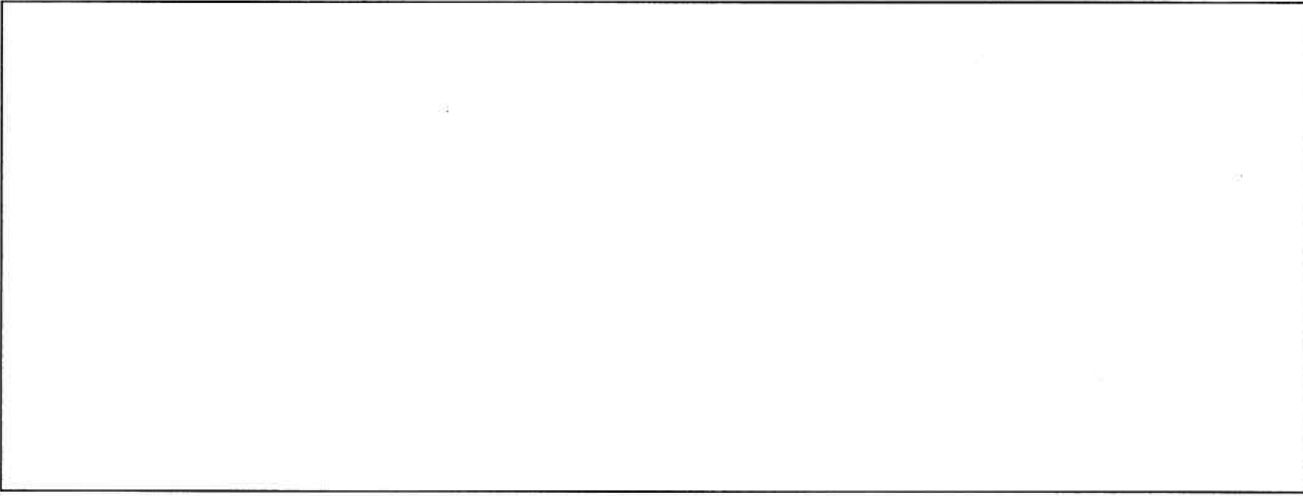
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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, PHUM, UNHRC-1, KPAL, IS, MY
 SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN MFA COMMENTS ON LATEST ROUND OF
 ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 93128 -- ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS
 B) STATE 94696 -- UPDATE ON ISRAELI INVESTIGATIONS
 REF: A) STATE 93128 -- ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS;

1. (SBU) Acting PolCouns conveyed the ref A developments from the initial meeting between Israeli and Palestinian leaders to Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Under Secretary in charge of the MFA's Multi-lateral division, on September 13. U/S Ganeson replied that



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[Note: Malaysia has historically criticized Israel in both domestic and international fora; most recently Foreign Minister Anifah Aman visited New York in July 2010 to meet with UN Secretary General (UNSYG) Ban Ki Moon after the incident involving the Gaza-bound flotilla. End Note.]

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