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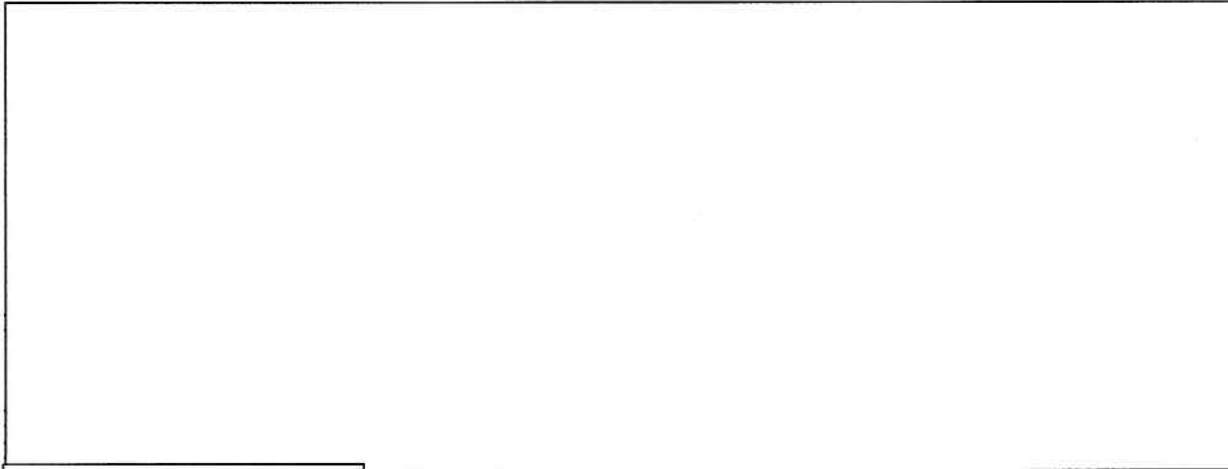
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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: OVIP, TU, KPAO
 SUBJECT: Scen setter for U/S McHale's Visit to Turkey

Summary



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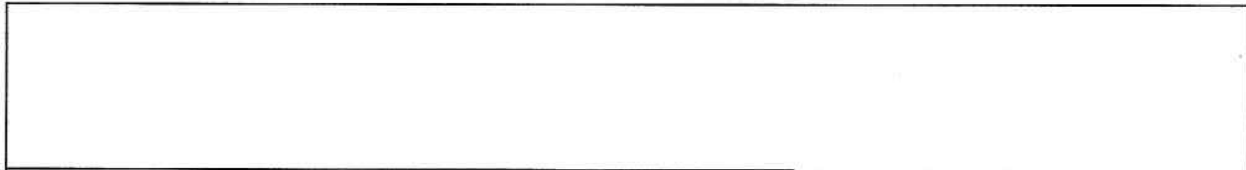
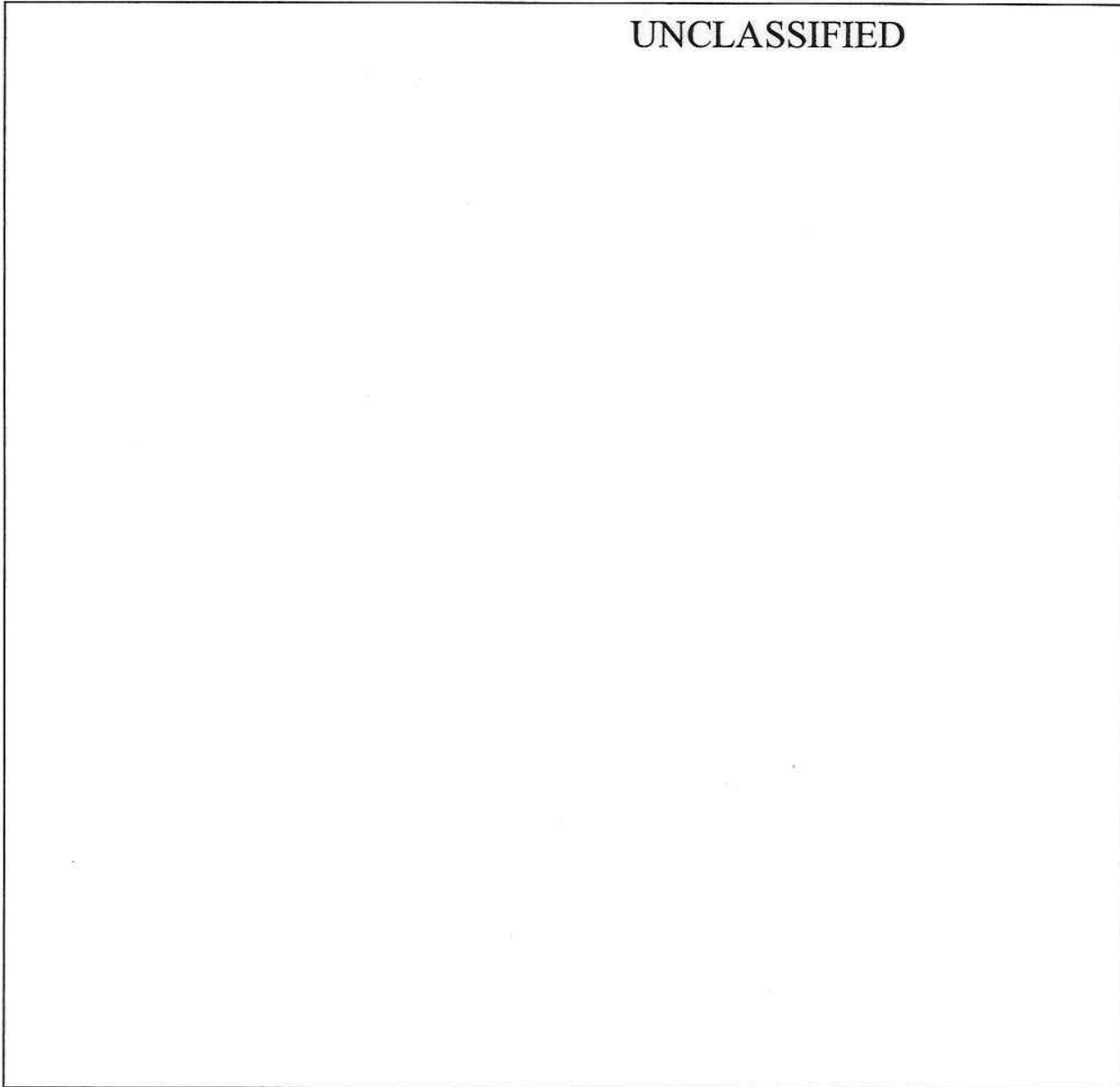
End summary.

Recommend You Raise



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The media covered the Israeli interception of the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish flagged participant in the May 31 "Free Gaza flotilla" with jingoistic brio. The funerals of those killed, including the one Turkish-American, received extensive and even morbid coverage.



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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO

SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for October 14, 2010

Media Highlights: US Passes the Ball to Ankara in Missile Shield Project; Missile Shield Commentary; Erdogan in Pakistan Comments on Israel; Davutoglu on Sudan: Will Recognize South if Divided; Erdogan To Go To Athens Climate Summit

US Embassy Ankara - Turkey Media Reaction - October 14, 2010 as prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office

How the US is Playing/Related News

US Passes the Ball to Ankara in Missile Shield Project (Yeni Safak)

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

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Media widely report US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense James Townsend told a gathering at the Atlantic Council that they wanted Turkey to host components of the missile shield system project. Mainstream Vatan headlines "A New Headache for Turkey" and mainstream Milliyet calls it "US Missile Shield Pressure on Turkey" with both announcing the system will be the most important item on the November NATO summit in Lisbon. In "Ankara Will Make Two Decisions," Hurriyet reports Townsend said Turkey has to decide whether to accept or reject the deployment of a NATO missile defense capability and then Turkey must decide what kind of a role it will play in the missile shield system. "We look at where the ballistic-missile threats can come from and Turkey seems to be very much along the front lines. In terms of geography, Turkey would be a good place to have some capability," Townsend is quoted as saying by Hurriyet.

Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports Townsend said he didn't believe Turkey was reluctant to see deployment of the system on its soil while Liberal Radikal reports Ankara has two objections, that the project depicts Turkey's neighbors Iran and Syria as a threat, and it does not protect the entire country. Mainstream Vatan agrees that Turkey hesitates because of its close ties with Iran and adds the project was also likely to anger Russia. However, FM Davutoglu said "We will assess together what can be done to agree on a common strategy within the alliance system," according to Hurriyet and Cumhuriyet.

Commentary: Missile Shield System-Turkey

Deniz Zeyrek in Radikal: "The details of the missile defense project such as which parts of the system would be deployed in Turkey, and whether they would be radars or hunter missiles, were not clarified in the meetings between Ankara and the American officials. Ankara has conveyed to Americans its concerns that the system should not be shown as being implemented against the threats that might come from Iran and Syria, which would make Turkey a target, and that the system will not protect entire Turkey from ballistic missile attacks, which makes it meaningless for Turkey to host it. The US Defense Department official James Townsend said Turkish officials were thinking about the system in detail, and are aware of the importance of it. 'Turks want to see how much the system fits with their political calculations in the region, and try to strike a balance,' said Townsend."

Commentary: "New Enemies Sought for NATO"

Akif Emre in Yeni Safak: "The threat perception seen in the first strategic vision developed in NATO after the collapse of the Soviet system had been directed toward the Muslim world. The invasion of Afghanistan was based on article 5 in NATO; a country was drowned

in blood and fire with the slogan 'Global fight against religious terror.' The US is withdrawing from Iraq, but it's a matter of debate whether this is a defeat or not. The US pulls out of Iraq

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in the sense it pulled out of Kosovo, with strategic goals attained. A military structure is built which can control the energy resources in the Middle East. By pulling India to its side, the US can launch destabilization attempts in Afghanistan and Pakistan freely. All these do not mean that everything is under the control of the US. The basic issue for NATO is whether it will be able to invent new enemies, in the sense the Alliance has so far legitimized its strategic concept against Islamic terror."

In the Headlines

Erdogan: "Turkey Will Build Lasting Structures in Pakistan" (Hurriyet)

All media report Prime Minister Erdogan went to Pakistan, in a visit which was delayed because of the constitutional referendum in Turkey. Erdogan delivered a speech in Multan province during the opening of the 1600 prefabricated "Mevlana Houses" built by the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay), and gave messages to Israel, reports Cumhuriyet. Erdogan said Israel needs to apologize for the raid on a Turkish-led humanitarian aid flotilla to Gaza, and to pay compensation. "If not, Israel is doomed to remain alone in the region," said Erdogan. He said the EU abstained and the US sided with Israel regarding a report on the raid issued by the Human Rights Committee in Geneva, whereas 30 countries blamed Tel Aviv. Hurriyet reports Erdogan said the tents and containers were "temporary," and that Turkey wanted to leave behind lasting structures in Pakistan.

Davutoglu: "Sudanese Sides Must Continue Ties Even in Case of Division" (Zaman)

Islamist-oriented Zaman reports Foreign Minister Davutoglu met with his Sudanese counterpart Ali Ahmed Karti in Ankara. The two ministers defended Sudan's unity, but stressed a possible disintegration decision in an upcoming referendum should be treated peacefully and in a just manner. Ankara will recognize south Sudan in case that is the decision, and is preparing to open a consulate general in the south according to Zaman. The paper added that Karti said Sudan would not object to Ankara recognizing the south.

Erdogan To Go To Athens Climate Summit

Mainstream Sabah in "A 'First Class' Invitation for Erdogan" reports PM Papandreou's invitation to PM Erdogan to join the Mediterranean Climate Summit to be held in Greece on October 22 as

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a "guest of honor ." Erdogan has accepted according to Sabah and in addition to speaking on "preserving the Mediterranean for the future generations" will sign a declaration on cooperation in the fight against climate change. Mainstream Milliyet notes that Israeli PM Netanyahu who was also invited is unlikely to attend because of the likelihood of being targeted for criticism by Palestinian and Arab country participants.

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Commentary: Iran-Armenia Develop Ties

Fikret Ertan in Zaman: "The Speaker of the Iranian Assembly, Ali Larijani, paid a visit to Yerevan over the weekend. Larijani said Iran wanted to expand the existing comprehensive ties with Armenia whereas the Armenian FM Nalbandian stressed the visit would broaden the grounds for cooperation. Armenia-Iran relations have reached new dimensions in transportation and energy. There is no political problem between the sides, and Iran wants very much to act as an intermediary on the Karabakh problem."

Correction: The portion of the 10/13 MR story on U/S McHale's visit to Turkey attributed to Posta actually ran in Sabah.

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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO

SUBJECT: Turkish Media Wikileaks, Iran, Missile Defense - Oct 25,
 2010

Media Highlights: Turkey WikiLeaks Iraq; U/S Levey Says Turkey
 Should Not Give Iran; Turkey Mulling Missile Shield; US Involved
 in Mavi Marmara Flotilla Debate; Turkey-Greece Close to Agreement
 on Aegean Dispute; Dogan Sells Gas Franchise to OMV; Headscarf
 Debates; Divorce in Turkey on the Rise; Heritage Says Armenian Site
 Threatened in Ani

US Embassy Ankara - Turkey Media Reaction - October 25, 2010 as
 prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office

How the US is Playing/Related News

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

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WikiLeaks Reveals Dungeons of Torture in Iraq (Milliyet)

In the most substantial coverage to date, all Turkish papers prominently report the Wikileaks snafu, with most reporting that there are numerous links to Turkey amongst the 400,000 leaked documents and that Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has promised more to come. In "Dungeons of Torture," Milliyet reports that the Iraqi police and army as well as the insurgents had set up underground "torture rooms" in which the captives had been mistreated with "chains, whips and electric saws." Milliyet says the documents show American soldiers were ordered to report all mistreatment made by the Iraqi officials, but that no investigations have been launched, and highlights that Amnesty International (AI) has said the US has violated the Geneva Convention on Torture by handing over thousands of prisoners to Iraqi authorities while withdrawing from Iraq. "The US Alone in Its Fight Against WikiLeaks," headlines Radikal, saying that legal figures, human rights organizations and the British deputy PM have publically supported WikiLeaks decision to release the documents. Today's Zaman headlines "Leaked Documents Show US Military Sees the PKK as 'Freedom Fighters'" and in highlighting one document that discusses the detainment and release of a PKK "propaganda worker," comments that the timing came shortly after the Turkish Parliament's decision in 2003 not to allow the US to deploy troops in Turkey to attack Iraq. Hurriyet Daily News (HDN) headlines "Leaked Iraq War Documents Include Turkey File" and provides a laundry list of Turkey-related documents, such as one document that said insurgents who orchestrated the explosion of a bridge near Baghdad were "financed by Turkey." Weekend papers report Assange said at a press conference on Friday: "We also have plenty of documents related to Turkey's EU membership negotiations. We must be very careful while assessing them and the documents must be translated literally." Zaman reports that Turkey is mentioned in 128 of the leaked documents so far. Meanwhile, in "Mr Leaks Burn al-Maliki," Hurriyet reports the documents put the United Kingdom and the former Iraqi PM al-Maliki in a difficult position, opining that "Iraqi dailies close to al-Maliki said the leak had been a political campaign against al-Maliki, and Maliki is looking for support from regional countries, including Turkey, regarding his efforts to become the PM again."

Levey Visit: Turkey Shouldn't be Iran's Assurance (Cumhuriyet)

In its lead, above-the-fold front page story, Cumhuriyet takes a reflective view of the 10/21 visit of Treasury U/S Stuart Levey, his criticism of Turkey's plan to "triple trade with Tehran," and observation that "Iran sees Turkey as a safety valve and this endangers the success of international sanctions." Cumhuriyet says that Levey underscored the need by Turkish banks for guidance on

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both UN and US sanctions, and points out that Iran's Bank Mellat (which does business in Turkey) is on the black list of major trade partners such as those in the EU. Levey underlines the need for a better dialog between Turkey and the US on sanctions.

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US/NATO: Turkey Mulling Missile Shield (Zaman, HaberTurk, Sabah)

Several Turkish news outlets grapple with how the proposed "Phased Adaptive Approach" missile shield project for NATO will impact Turkey. In "Concerned Ankara Has Three Questions on Missile Shield," mainstream Haberturk highlights three concerns: "Will the system protect Eastern Anatolia; will it be used to protect Israel; what happens if Israel attacks Turkey?" HaberTurk highlights that US officials have given Turkey assurance about her concerns and that the system will be used only by NATO members. In "Ankara Asked for Assurances About Israel," Zaman underlines that the "US guarantees only NATO members will be a part of the system," and notes "immediate access to the information obtained from radar is a must for Turkey and the US agrees on this in principle." Regarding any attacks on Turkey, from Israel or other countries, Zaman underlines that the "US reassures Turkey by reminding of the protection aspects of NATO's Article 5. The US also comforts Turkey by supporting the Montreux Agreement and by remaining firm on placing ships carrying the missile shield in the Black sea. In "Operation: Trapping Turkey" influential columnist Serdar Turgut of HaberTurk writes about the risks of the missile shield defense system for Turkey. He argues the system is a 'smart trap' for Turkey, planned by US and backed by Israel. Turgut mentions "If Turkey says yes to missile system, it will harm Turkish foreign policy and weaken its credibility. If Turkey says no, there will be a crisis within NATO and some might question Turkey's membership." Meanwhile, Sabah reports that the proposed NATO missile shield system will be the top agenda item at Turkey's 10/27 national security council meeting.

In the Headlines

"Mavi Marmara Was on Its Way to Egypt" (Milliyet)

Mainstream Milliyet's Asli Aydintasbas reexamines the underpinnings of Turkey's position on the tragic Gaza Aid flotilla, and sheds new light on understandings she claims were made by the countries involved before the convoy departed. She writes that following "heavy diplomacy traffic amongst Turkey, Israel and the US three days before the attack on Mavi Marmara (MM), it was agreed that the flotilla would cast anchor in Egypt's port city of al-Arish" instead of Gaza and that all parties involved knew about the route. Aydintasbas writes that the MM crew, in an attempt to reduce conflict by irate IHH passengers on board, had stored away possible

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weapons - electrical equipment and chains - but that "things went out of control at the last minute," leading to the attack. Given the pre agreement, she asserts that "this could bring brand new legal consequences to Israel." She notes that former US Ambassador to Turkey James Jeffrey met Undersecretary Sinirlioglu on the morning of May 28. Jeffrey conveyed the US concern that the flotilla could cause a crisis and warned that Israel would conduct an operation. U/S Sinirlioglu in turn said that IHH (which sponsored the flotilla) was not a government controlled NGO, but had agreed to reroute to al-Arish. Washington was relieved with that news." Meanwhile mainstream Hurriyet reports that Israel's top general said in testimony on Sunday that Israelis fired 308 live bullets aboard Mavi Marmara in May at passengers, and that 70 bullets were designed to harm. Lt Gen Gabi Ashkenazi defended the Navy's killing of nine Turkish activists on the aid ship as "unavoidable."

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Extensive Solution In Aegean Close (Sabah)

Pro-government Sabah gives extensive front page coverage to the reports in the Greek media that Turkey and Greece were close to settlement on Aegean disputes. According to Sabah, Turkish and Greek prime ministers have agreed in principle on a solution that would end a long-standing dispute between the two countries over the territorial waters in the Aegean. Sabah says "Greece will extend its territorial waters to 12 miles in the Ionian Sea and the Mediterranean but will limit it to six to ten miles for the Greek islands in the Aegean."

Dogan Sells Gas Station Chain: All media reported over the weekend that OMV, central Europe's biggest oil company, has agreed to take over Turkey's biggest fuel retailer for 1 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) to tap faster growth in emerging markets. OMV will buy Dogan Holding's 54.17 percent holding in Petrol Ofisi, boosting its stake to 95.75 percent from 41.58 percent, according to a statement on Friday, after markets closed. Before completion, likely within three months, Petrol Ofisi will distribute \$488 million in dividends to shareholders, with \$203 million going to OMV, \$265 million to Dogan and \$21 million to free-float investors.

Commentary: Headscarf Debate in Turkey

Weekend media focused on the continuing debates regarding the wearing of headscarves in universities and schools in Turkey. Semih Idiz adds perspective in Milliyet: "In Turkey, we are not debating the headscarf but our ignorance and backwardness. This has got nothing to do with being religious or not but the education level of the society. We cannot solve this problem without developing an education system which would be contemporary, free,

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non-biased and truly secular, and which would be focused on human rights. As we all witness, it is not being resolved."

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Divorce in Turkey on the Rise (Zaman)

Zaman reports that the Prime Ministry Family Research Council had determined that the divorce rate in Turkey posted a 40 percent increase in the last decade, affecting 1.5 million people. The new report says that divorce rates in the eastern and southeastern Anatolia regions increased for the first time in history and that Izmir held the record in the rate of increase in divorce rates with 2.5 percent; the average across the country was 1.4 percent.

Global Heritage Fund: Ani in Danger (Zaman)

The Ani ruins out in Kars are on the verge of vanishing due to neglect, according to a new report. The San Francisco-based Global Heritage Fund (GHF) has identified Turkey's Ani as among the top 12 of the most at risk in 200 heritage sites located in developing nations. According to the GHF report, many of Ani's remaining 11th century buildings are on the brink of collapse due to wear and tear caused by regular picnickers and homeless people who take shelter in its buildings.

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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO

SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction: Wikileaks, Israel and Pharma -
 December 7, 2010

1. Media Highlights for December 7: Wikileaks Founder Arrested;
 Wikileaks's Three Important Turkish Companies; Embassy POL Counselor
 was Wiki Cable Writer; Davutoglu Wants Ottoman Commonwealth; US
 Pharma Accused of Using Turkey as Deadly Backyard; Fire Diplomacy:
 Turkey-Israel Seek 'Apology Formula'; Commentary on Turkey, Israel;
 Sinirlioglu on Iran Sanctions; Student Loses Baby in Police
 Violence

How the US is Playing/Related News

2. Wikileaks Flash: CNN Turk and all other broadcast media

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

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reported at 12:30 pm that Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has been arrested in the UK.

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3. Three Important Turkish Companies for the US (Hurriyet)

Turkish media give extensive front page coverage to the list released by Wikileaks on places and companies vital to US national security interests -- with lots of collective head scratching as to why three Turkish companies were included. Hurriyet says "the list begins with a cobalt mine in Congo and refers to various locations in Europe. The straits in Turkey, Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline and three Turkish metal producer companies Durmazlar, Baykal and Ermaksan are among important factors for the US." Mainstream Vatan in "Three Favorite Turkish Companies of the US," highlights "leaked US cable names three Turkish companies on national security vitals list." Liberal Radikal headlines "Three Companies Critical for the US," and notes "the three giant companies are operating in defense industry in Bursa," noting that the Baykal factory took part in construction of the Freedom Towers in NY. Mainstream Haberturk in its center fold page headlines "Companies That Uncle Sam is Curious About," and lists critical locations of US interest around the world. Meanwhile, pro-government Sabah in "What Are We Doing in Wikileaks?" says "three Turkish companies listed on the new document released were shocked to be included in such a list." Mainstream Milliyet in "Companies Shocked With It," notes that "one company was happy, two were tense about the list."

4. Commentary: WikiLeaks Disclosures and Turkish Press

Ibrahim Karagul in Yeni Safak: "In 2005, my paper Yeni Safak had been the first to report about the torture and human rights violations committed by the US army in Iraq. Hell broke loose, and the US Embassy and Ambassador Edelman, enraged, launched a counter attack. Turkish columnists followed suit, and launched heavy accusations against us. Yeni Safak managers were put under enormous pressure. Some circles in Turkey were carrying out a lynch campaign on behalf of Edelman, demanding an end to my columns in the paper. Turkey's media was almost managed by the US Embassy. In those days, the claim that Americans gave considerable amounts of money to the media was discussed. I hope that the next batch of WikiLeaks revelations will mention those who have received money from the Americans."

5. Wikileaks: "Target Counselor was Mr. John" (Aksam)

In a center front page story with photo, tabloid Aksam says former Ambassador Edelman in recent interviews pointed to former Political Counselor John Kunstadter as the writer of leaked cables that report on PM Erdogan's alleged bank accounts in Swiss Banks. Aksam says: "Journalists and politicians knew him very well" and

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reminds its readers that Kunstadter was also mentioned in 2004 media reports regarding fake coup plans that were circulating. Aksam notes that Kunstadter retired five years ago and that according to gossip, he was working for the US intelligence service.

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US Pharmaceutical: Backyard of Deadly Experiments (Milliyet)

Mainstream Milliyet, in its banner story on its front page, recaps Vanity Fair's January article on American medical companies and their experiments abroad. In "Backyard of Deadly Experiments" Milliyet reports Turkey is one of the countries used by US medical companies to conduct clinical trials for new drugs. The article says "When pharmaceutical companies do not get FDA approval in US, they conduct clinical trials in other countries including Turkey, China and India. Subjects in those countries are cheaper and even if the experiments fail there are fewer problems." Milliyet focuses on the claims that suggest the because trials are likely to harm subjects, US pharmaceutical companies choose poor countries where the subjects are more unaware. According to Milliyet, Turkish Ministry of Health approved many of the trials and, in fact, a recent trial concerned schizophrenia treatment. The article says "One of the US companies that conducts trials in Turkey looked for physically strong male subjects in Istanbul, Adana, Samsun and Manisa between 18-65 years old." Turkish Ministry of Health denied that American companies conduct clinical trials in Turkey and told Milliyet that it is forbidden to pay for subjects. but Journal of Clinical Studies underlines it becomes easier to conduct experiments in Turkey with the new legislation.

6. Washington Post: "Ottoman Commonwealth" (Milliyet)

Milliyet on its front page recaps the Washington Post's spotlight on Turkey on 12/6, including highlights of FM Davutoglu's recent comments and recent Wikileaks releases. Milliyet plays up Davutoglu's comment that "Britain has a commonwealth with its former colonies. Why shouldn't Turkey rebuild its leadership in former Ottoman lands of the Balkans, Middle East and Central Asia?" In "Ottoman Commonwealth" Milliyet underlines WP's Jackson Diehl's observations whether Turkey is still really an ally of US. The paper also mentions the clash http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/01/world/middleeast/01flotilla.html?_r=1 between Israeli commandos and Turkish Islamic activists off the coast of the Gaza Strip in May and adds Davutoglu suggested "It was the Turkish 9/11." In "Cables Capture Turkey," liberal Vatan also recaps the WP story and reports Ambassador Jeffrey cable: [At the end of the day we will have to live with a Turkey whose population is propelling much of what we see. This calls for an issue-by-issue approach and recognition that Turkey will often go

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its own way. The current cast of political leaders, have a special yen for destructive drama and rhetoric. But we see no one better on the horizon, and Turkey will remain a complicated blend of world class 'Western' institutions, competencies and orientation, and Middle Eastern culture and religion.]

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7. Wikileaks: Turkey is The Kindest (Sabah): Conservative and pro-government media are playing down the Wikileaks scandal, or are selective in highlighting positive revelations from leaked cables. Pro-government Sabah, in "Turkey is The Kindest" focuses on Secretary Gates's meeting with Iraqi President Talabani in Dec. 10, 2009. Sabah reports Jalal Talabani

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/t/jalal_talabani/index.html?inline=nyt-per> said ["All Iraq's neighbors were interfering, albeit in different ways, the Gulf and Saudi Arabia with money, Iran with money and political influence, and the Syrians by all means. The Turks are 'polite' in their interference, but continue their attempts to influence Iraq's Turkmen community and Sunnis in Mosul."] The article also mentions Dec.14 2009 cable where Talabani describes Iraqi relation with Turkey as 'perfect'. Meanwhile, Islamist Zaman and Today's Zaman ignores Wikileaks on its front pages for the second day, but comments inside in "WikiLeaks Quake Fails to Jolt Mideast" that "while hundreds of thousands of US State Department documents leaked last week have sent shockwaves across most of the world, as the disclosures revealed a hidden world of backstage international diplomacy, the

disclosures have resulted in superficial coverage in most Middle Eastern countries."

8. Wikileaks: "Sinirlioglu: Sanctions Will Damage Us" (Radikal)

Liberal Radikal today reports on the cable released by Wikileaks on a meeting between MFA U/S Sinirlioglu and his counterpart William Burns on the sidelines of "Common Vision and Structured Dialogue" meetings. According to Wikileaks, during the session dated February 8, 2010, Burns persistently invited Turkey to join efforts on Iran's nuclear policy mistakes. Sinirlioglu in response said a military operation could harm Turkey and sanctions would give damage to Turkey. Citing a cable by Amb. Jeffrey, Radikal says "Sinirlioglu was discouraged when Burns continued to defend the sanctions, but finally accepted that Iran was perceived as a threat in the region."

In the Headlines

9. Turkey, Israel Seek 'Apology Formula' in Geneva (Sabah)

Mainstream Hurriyet says that the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA)

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Undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioglu and Joseph Ciechanover, a senior Israeli diplomat from the UN committee formed to probe the Gaza flotilla raid, have held their second meeting in Geneva on Monday morning. In "Turkey, Israel Meet for a Second Time," Hurriyet comments that yesterday's meeting showed that the two countries were willing to solve the disagreements between them. In a major inside spread, mainstream, pro-government Sabah says Turkey has eight demands, including a formal apology, while Israel offers to convey its regret to the Turkish public and the relatives of the victims of the flotilla raid. Hurriyet says Turkey would not press for a formal apology and would accept it if Israel apologizes to the families of the victims. In "Celikkol Formula for Apology," leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet says that according to a draft discussed at the meeting, Israel will apologize and will pay compensations to the families of the victims, not to the Turkish state. Cumhuriyet notes that the same formula was used when Turkish Ambassador Oguz Celikkol was summoned to the Israeli Foreign Ministry and was made to sit in a low chair while Israeli officials were sitting in high chairs. After the scandal, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon apologized to the Turkish ambassador, and not to Turkey. Cumhuriyet claims the decision for the meeting of Turkish and Israeli diplomats in Geneva was taken after Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu phoned Turkish officials to express his gratitude for Turkish support in the firefighting operations.

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10. Commentary: Turkey and Israel

Cengiz Candar in Radikal: "In the Middle East, the positions of Turkey and Israel do not overlap, but clash. Israel must accept Turkey as a regional power and must place itself in a secondary position in matters concerning Turkey. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Turkey has caused problems in Turkey's ties with the US; it has also 'isolated' Israel in international politics and in the region. Turkey can survive its troubles with the US, but Israel cannot continue in international isolation. We must bear in mind this larger picture when Turkey and Israel are working to put their relationship back on track."

Erdal Guven in Radikal: "Turkey's PM has made beating Israel a daily routine. PM Erdogan's popularity rises whenever he lashes out at Israel, and not only in Turkey but in the Middle East as well. Moreover, Turkey's worsening ties with Israel doesn't cost Ankara much. Erdogan will not object to a betterment of ties with

Israel because Tel Aviv will eventually apologize and pay compensation to Turkey, which will give a boost to Erdogan's popularity again. In this case, it wouldn't be wise for Erdogan to immediately mend the fences with Israel with only a few months to

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general elections in Turkey. This is a win-win situation for Erdogan."

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Hadi Uluengin in Hurriyet: "Turkey and Greece had drawn closer to each other with Greece extending a helping hand after the devastating August 1999 earthquake in Turkey. Now, another 'disaster diplomacy' is in the works for Israel and Turkey. Turkey has made a timely and very positive effort by sending firefighting planes to Israel to help fight the Karmel fire. PM Netanyahu has responded immediately by thanking to PM Erdogan. The mood in the Israeli public and media has also changed in favor of Turkey. Both sides must continue this disaster diplomacy skillfully without disrupting it."

11. Student Loses Her Baby in Police Violence (Hurriyet)

Turkish papers continue reporting on police brutality when riot police used "disproportionate force" in dispersing university students who were protesting PM Erdogan meeting with university rectors in Istanbul over the weekend. Police have used batons and pepper spray and kicked the students ruthlessly when they fell down. A pregnant student lost her baby when she was kicked by policemen. Hurriyet reports opposition CHP lawmakers have filed parliamentary motions requesting explanation to the charges that female students taken into custody were sexually harassed by the police. Papers report Turkey's chief EU negotiator Egemen Bagis said it was the students who used disproportionate violence against the police. Bagis said the youths of this country should not be attacking the security forces "with sticks," report papers. Citing official statistics, NTV reported that the number of women being murdered in Turkey, in general, has zoomed.

US Embassy Ankara - Turkey Media Reaction - December 7, 2010 as prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office
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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	VCI-00	AID-00	A-00	GHFS-00
	CA-00	CCO-00	CG-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	C-00
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	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	IO-00	L-00	CAC-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00
	NRC-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
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E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/12/28
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 SUBJECT: GoT Remains Silent After Lieberman/Davutoglu Joust

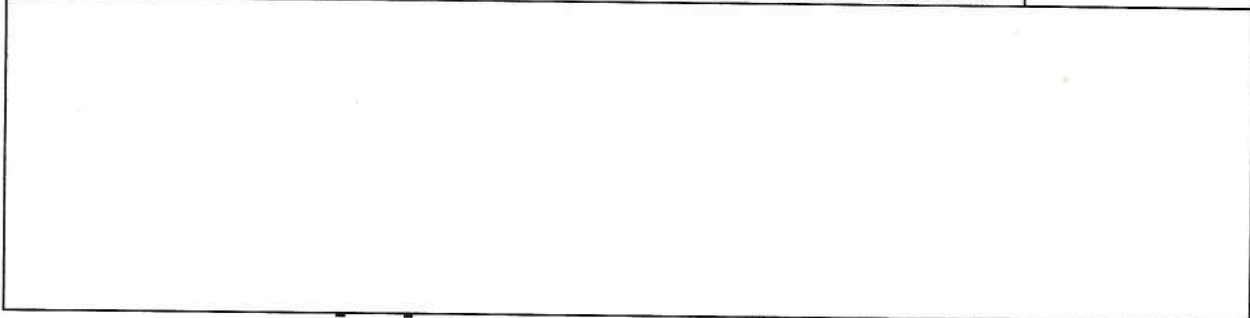
REF: A) 10 ANKARA 1768; B) 10 TEL AVIV 2669;

CLASSIFIED BY: Daniel O'Grady, A/DCM, State, EXEC; REASON: 1.4(B),
 (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: The verbal jousting between Israeli FM Lieberman and Turkish FM Davutoglu received wide press play in Turkey. The spat was apparently triggered by Davutoglu's claims that Turkey, but not Israel, has the political will to improve relations. FM Lieberman responded with a vow that Israel will not apologize for

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

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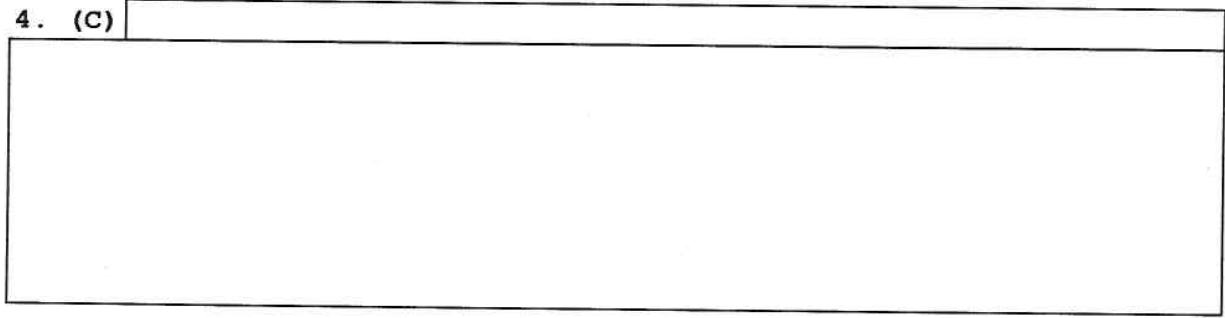
SUMMARY.

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2. (U) Turkish media gave prominent coverage to the verbal jousting between Israeli FM Lieberman and Turkish FM Davutoglu, apparently triggered by Davutoglu's December 25 comments that Turkey has the political will to make peace with Israel, but that "the other side does not have the same political will." Davutoglu's comments suggesting a desire to improve relations after the deadly May 31 Mavi Marmara raid included another indirect criticism that reportedly angered Lieberman. Referring to Turkey's dispatch of two firefighting planes December 3 to battle wildfires in Israel (reftel), Davutoglu said, "It took us two minutes to decide to send the firefighting planes.... Had the case been reversed, several days would have passed until the coalition in Israel would have agreed to send a plane."

3. (U) In response to Davutoglu's comments, Lieberman replied December 26, "I cannot bear to hear lies and false accusations from Turkey.... I am certain that if there is a disaster in Turkey, Israel will assist immediately." Lieberman vowed that Israel would not apologize to Turkey for the Mavi Marmara raid. Lieberman told a meeting of Israel's ambassadors that Turkey's demand for an apology "borders onchutzpah or beyond." "The ones to apologize are the government of Turkey for supporting terror," Lieberman said, adding "There will be no apology" from Israel. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office distanced itself from Lieberman's statement saying it was only Lieberman's "personal opinion" and that "Mr. Netanyahu is the only one who can express the position of Israel."

4. (C) [redacted]



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ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	GHFS-00	RPPR-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
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	UTED-00	SIPD-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	CDC-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00
	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00
	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
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 DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO
 SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for April 28, 2011

1. Turkey Media Highlights, April 28: Cohen: Close Bank Mellat in Turkey; Hamas-Fatah Reconciliation; CHP Election Materials Promise More US Relations Balance; Second Flotilla Should Also Go to Syria; Commentary on Syria: Ankara Is Concerned; Hardening US Attitude; On Ankaras Warning, Assad Pledges to Continue Reforms; State Minister and Officers At Martyr Funeral in Church; PM Erdogans Crazy Project; Council of Europe On Press Freedom, Very Concerned

How the US is Playing/Related News

2. Cohen: Close Bank Mellat in Turkey (Hurriyet) and Freeze Gaddafi Assets

Turkish papers report in detail that Acting Treasury Under Secretary David Cohen held contacts in Ankara and Istanbul to urge Turkish

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

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officials to restrict commercial and banking cooperation with Iran. Mainstream Hurriyet reports Cohen held talks with government officials and the banking sector, and made public warnings that earlier had been delivered behind closed doors. In a backgrounder at the US Consulate General in Istanbul, Cohen said it was vital that Turkish banks refrain from doing business with any Iranian banks or institutions suspected of proliferation activities. He said Bank Mellat, Iran's second largest state bank, had been judged to be involved in illicit activity by the United States, European nations, Japan, South Korea and others. In US Official Urges Turkey to Close Bank Mellat, leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports Cohen urged Turkey to shut down Bank Mellat branches. While watching the exciting developments in the region, we follow closely the steps Iran needs to take regarding its nuclear program. We continue talks with our allies such as Turkey for the implementation of sanctions against Iran and also try to make new moves which would increase the pressure on Tehran, Cumhuriyet quotes Cohen as saying. In Intense Financial Pressure on Ankara, liberal Radikal reports Cohen asked the Turkish government to restrict the activities of Bank Mellat in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. In Iran Can Abuse Trade with Turkey, Islamist, pro-government Zaman says Turkey's recently increasing trade with Iran could help Tehran provide financial support to its nuclear program. Cumhuriyet says the US has also asked Ankara to freeze Gaddafi's assets in Turkey. US sources told the paper they would be surprised if Gaddafi did not have assets in Turkey, and that they have asked Ankara to mobilize its financial institutions to find these assets and freeze them. In We Have Full Support of Turkey on Gaddafi Assets, mainstream Milliyet reports Cohen said they have been assured by the Turkish government and Turkish banks that they fully supported the UN Security Council decision on Libya. US Calls for Blockade of Gaddafi's Money in Turkey, headlines pro-government Sabah and reports that prior to the visit of Acting U/S Cohen, the US administration had given a message to Turkey by declaring five PKK leaders as narcotics traffickers and freezing their assets in the US. On Syria, the US official told Cumhuriyet, We are also working on sanctions against the Syrian administration, but we have made no decision yet. But we know that Turkey shares the views of the US, and finds the developments in Syria unacceptable.

3. Hamas-Fatah Reconciliation First Product of Change in Egypt (Zaman)

Turkish media report that in Cairo, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's al-Fatah group inked a deal with its rival Hamas to end their long-running disagreement and form an interim government ahead of elections within a year. Islamist, pro-government Zaman says Egypt, which started an impartial approach to the Palestinian groups after the ousting of Hosni Mubarak, has managed to reconcile the rival Palestinian factions. Israel has been uneasy over the agreement, reports Zaman, and quotes PM Netanyahu as urging al-Fatah leader

Abbas to choose between peace with Hamas and peace with Israel. Pro-government Sabah reports a US official said they supported the reconciliation between the two Palestinian groups. The Turkish Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, has welcomed the deal. Turkish FM Davutoglu has called President Abbas to voice pleasure over the agreement, reports Sabah. In Historic Reconciliation in Palestine, mainstream Hurriyet reports Netanyahu said in a statement, Since Hamas aims to destroy the state of Israel, there is no possibility

for the PA Administration for peace with both Hamas and Israel," Netanyahu said in a televised statement. The US National Security Council Spokesman Tommy Vietor has voiced similar concerns, and said Hamas was a terror organization targeting civilians, reports Hurriyet.

4. CHP Election Materials Promise More US Relations Balance (Medyarazzi News Portal)

Online news portal Medyarazzi reports that the CHP is promising to balance rising anti-Americanism if they are elected in the June elections. Under Relations with US, the CHP says theyll work for better understanding between Americans and the Turkish people using social confidence building measures such as student, business and administrator exchanges and by supporting cultural and artistic events held with the US.

In the News: Libya and Syria

5. IHH Second Flotilla Should Also Go to Syria (Milliyet)

Milliyet columnist Kadri Gursel complains that the AKP government voiced almost no reactions as the family friend in Damascus massacres Syrian demonstrators. The writer says: The second peace flotilla going to Gaza needs to stop also in Syria. If the flotilla goes only to Gaza, Turkey will create the impression that it doesnt care about tragedies caused by Arab dictators or Ankara cares only about Arabs oppressed by Israel. The Turkish government should advise IHH to try to stop in Syrian ports. Gursel also criticizes AKPs close relation with the IHH.

6. Commentary on Syria: Ankara Is Concerned (Posta)

Turkish media continues to discuss Ankaras position on Syria. Mainstream Milliyet columnist Semih Idiz writes Ankaras Middle East Vision Has Collapsed in Syria, and notes that It is not clear if Ankara and Washington have agreed on Syrian sanctions but because of Russia and China, it is also not clear if the UN can push a sanction decision further. Liberal Radikal columnist Murat Yetkin says possible scenarios, including ousting Assad, will be discussed at the

Turkish National Security Council (MGK) meeting today. Yetkin reminds that Turkey is sending a delegation of public administration and planning specialists to help Assad carry out reforms. The writer says: Ankara is losing its hope for reforms in Syria and Assad will remain in power. Preparations for sanctions against Syria in the US and the EU also might come to the MGK agenda. Tabloid Posta columnist Mehmet Ali Birand quotes a source close to PM Erdogan as saying what can we do, other than warnings and advice? Should we send troops? We know that there is an expectation here and in Arab countries for Turkey to raise its voice, but when you make public remarks you are out of the game. Pro-government Haberturk columnist Muharrem Sarikaya says Assad is not likely to pay attention to Erdogans warnings. Sarikaya writes: Many diplomatic observers in Ankara believe that there is a growing gap between Erdogan and Assad. While holding contacts with Assad, Turkey also hosted a meeting of the Syrian opposition. Ankara exerts efforts to calm both sides in Syria, but Turkish chances for success decline.

7. Syria: Hardening US Attitude (Radikal)

Liberal Radikal columnist Murat Yetkin says the new appointments in the Pentagon and CIA show that the US gives control of developments to a team of hawks. Yetkin writes: There is no guarantee that the West will not have a military intervention in Syria (because of Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Iran and Hezbollah connections). In Syria the West is expected to have interventionist attitudes demonstrated in Libya. The writer suggests that the new appointments in Pentagon and CIA cannot be a coincidence while there is the possibility of more conflicts in the region and he adds: Turkey has to start scenarios for the regime changes expected not only in Syria, but also

in other Middle East countries.

8. On Ankaras Warning, Assad Pledges to Continue Reforms (Sabah)

Pro-government Sabah reports Syrian President Assad has told Prime Minister Erdogan that he was committed to his pledges for reforms asked for by Erdogan earlier. Assad said that he expected Turkish support to ensure security in his country. Sabah says Damascus told Ankara that the Syrian army had to intervene to stop the escalation of tensions because the police force failed to quell the violence. Turkish Ambassador to Damascus Omer Onhon is in Ankara to brief National Security Council (MGK) members at a meeting today in Ankara.

Sabah reports Turkey plans to send Syria not only a special envoy, but a delegation. The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) sources told Sabah there was no civil war in Syria but rather street clashes, and noted the international community has not asked Assad to step down. They noted the US policy in Syria is different from that of the EU, and the US doesnt target Assad. Assad has been too late in carrying out reforms, and he cannot stop the upheavals without using force.

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The sources said Turkey had warned Damascus to refrain from using disproportionate force, and to act with restraint so riots do not turn into a spiral of violence, reports Sabah. Mainstream Aksam reports Turkey is making preparations for coping with a possible wave of migrants from Syria.

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Other News

9. State Minister and Officers Attend: Martyr Funeral in Church (Hurriyet)

All media report that Private Sevag Balikci, who died due to a stray bullet when he was serving his compulsory military service in Batman, was laid to rest after a funeral at an Armenian Church. NTV reports that the funeral was attended by State Minister Egemen Bagis and several high-ranking officers representing the Turkish General Staff (TGS). Mainstream Milliyet reports that wreaths sent by the TGS and the Office of the Commander in Chief were placed both inside and outside the church.

10. PM Erdogans Crazy Project (All Media)

All media cover it extensively and today's papers give broad front-page coverage. PM Erdogan's plan to build a 50-km canal connecting the Black and Marmara Seas. Pro-government media report it is a great project while mainstream media focus on the problems that might/would occur during its implementation. Pro-government Sabah's headline is Great Project of the Great Country, and Islamic Yeni Safak says Erdogan got the chance to put into action the "Magnificent" project dreamed of by Suleiman the Magnificent centuries ago. On the other hand, many liberal columnists write that the project was first announced by former PM Ecevit in 1994. In Crazy Plagiarism leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reminds that DSP chairman Bulent Ecevit had announced a project to create a second strait prior to elections in 1994, but changed his mind because of environmental concerns. In European Island, mainstream Hurriyet says it would be good to have the Bosphorus free of vessels but the project could lead to destroying forests in the north of Istanbul, and might cause ecological damage in the Black and Marmara Seas. In addition, the paper notes that foreign ships could not be forced to use the new canal. Liberal Vatan quotes Erdogan as saying the Canal Istanbul cannot even be compared with Panama, Suez and Corinth canal in Greece. We are launching initiatives for one of the biggest projects of this century."

11. Council of Europe On Press Freedom: We Are Very Concerned (Cumhuriyet)

Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet interviewed Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland on freedom of press in Turkey.

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According to Cumhuriyet, Jagland said: We are very much concerned for freedom of press in Turkey. I discussed the subject with PM Erdogan. Long detentions periods are against the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. Long detention periods should be shortened. We dont have an army to make it happen forcefully, all we can do is call on authorities to abide by this rule shortening detention periods.

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Paris Points for: Tuesday, June 1, 2010
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- **Condemnations of Israeli Raid from Across the Political Spectrum in France**
- [Redacted]
- **Congressman Berman: Iran, Syria, Israel and Russia**



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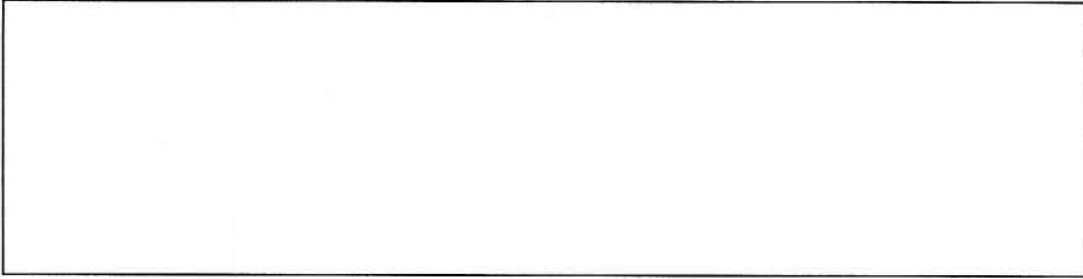
Condemnations of Israeli Raid from across the Political Spectrum in France

(U) President Sarkozy expressed May 31 his "profound emotions" in response to the "tragic consequences of the Israeli military operation against the 'flotilla of liberty' headed for Gaza." He condemned the "disproportionate use of force" by Israel and expressed his condolences to the families of the victims. He called for light to be shed on the circumstances of the tragedy, which he said underlines the urgency of re-launching the peace process. Foreign Minister Kouchner, who was in Nice for the France-Africa summit when events unfolded on the aid ships in the early morning of May 31, released a statement the same day declaring that he was "profoundly shocked" and that "nothing could justify the use of such violence." He later added that these events serve as a reminder that the current situation in Gaza is untenable, and that France would take the necessary initiatives to prevent this tragedy leading to an escalation of violence. The French MFA convoked Israeli Ambassador Shek on the afternoon of May 31, where Kouchner's Chief of Staff Philippe Errera reportedly conveyed these messages.

(C) [Redacted]

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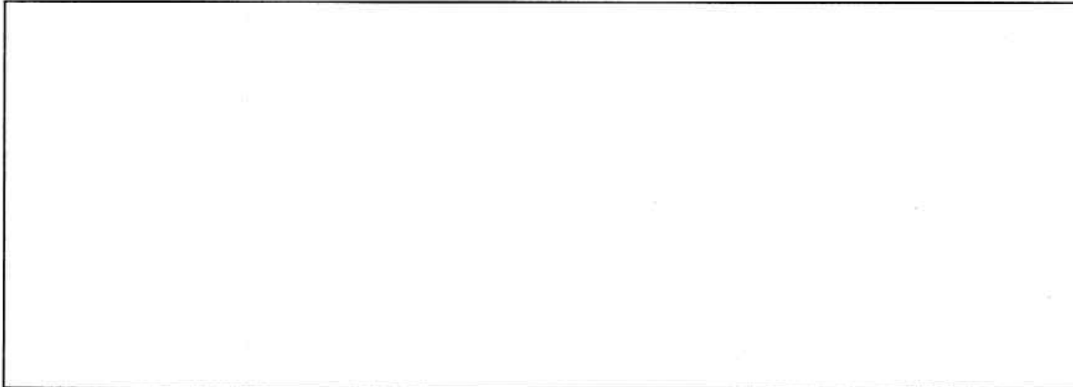
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 31 MAY 2035
DATE/CASE ID: 03 JAN 2012 201004163



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(U) Political leaders from across the spectrum in France roundly condemned the raid. Socialist Party (PS) leader Martine Aubry expressed her disapproval in "the strongest terms" of the "unacceptable and disproportionate" use of force. The PS Mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, described Israel's raid as "disastrous" for hopes of peace between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Marielle de Sarracoin of the centrist Democratic Movement decried a "terrible catastrophe that could have been avoided." Left-wing parties unanimously denounced the attack, with several calling for action by the U.N. Security Council. The Greens, the New Anticapitalist Party, and pro-Palestinian groups organized protest demonstrations in Paris, Lille, Marseille, Lyon, and Toulouse. In Paris, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the Israeli Embassy in Paris, blocking traffic and ultimately clashing with French police. Some of the protesters threw stones at the police, who responded with tear gas and pepper spray. Police estimated that about 1,200 people took part in the demonstration. While many protesters waved Palestinian flags, others brought out flags from former French colonies, mainly in North Africa. Former Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin also joined the fray, declaring in a national television program that "nothing could justify a policy of force that defies international law." He said the drama unfolded in the context of a terrible blockade of Gaza since 2007, and since the terrible Israel intervention in Gaza that killed so many people. (JMiller)

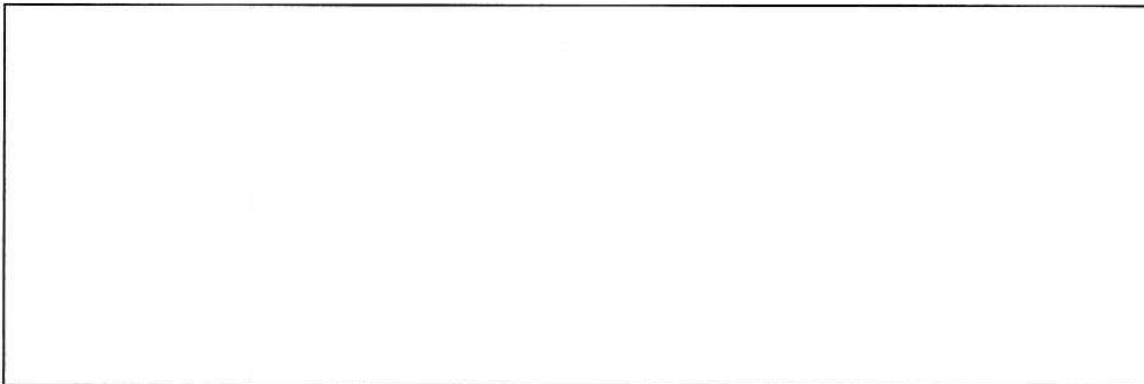
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Congressman Berman: Iran, Syria, Israel and Russia



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(C) Events off the coast of Gaza were still unclear at the time of the meetings. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] when the Congressman asked about Russian relations. [Redacted]

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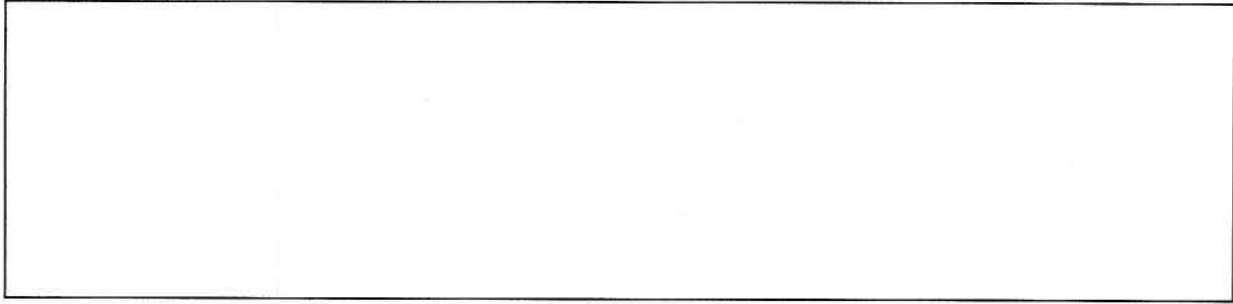
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