

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00
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	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00
	ISN-00	NIMA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00
	SANA-00	/001W					

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O 071459Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0208
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
 EUCOM POLAD VAHINGEN GE
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
 ODC ANKARA TU
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
 MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IQ
 AFOSI DET 521 ANKARA TU
 JAC MOLESWORTH UK

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), NR, B6

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000825

SIPDIS

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/07
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, IS, TU
 SUBJECT: Turkey Gropes for Way Forward After Gaza

REF: 10 ANKARA 834; 10 ANKARA 815; 10 ANKARA 800; 10 ANKARA 799

CLASSIFIED BY: Douglas Silliman, DCM; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY.



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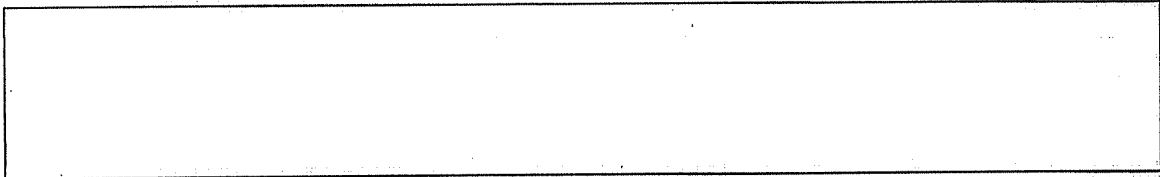
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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Recent GOT Statements Show Turkey Continues to Seethe

2. (SBU) FM Davutoglu, in his June 5 statement to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, repeated that the attack "has become Turkey's September 11. It will have a deep impact on our regional and global view, and it means nothing will be the same again."
3. (U) PM Erdogan announced on June 3 that the GOT would follow-up on the prosecution of Israeli officials on civil and criminal charges. Prosecutors are collecting autopsy reports and testimony as evidence in the cases. (See Ankara 834)
4. (U) On June 6, Deputy PM Bulent Arinc indicated that Turkish MPs did not travel on the aid flotilla because "we didn't want to drop a political shadow on the aid effort."
5. (U) On June 6, AKP Vice Chairman for Foreign Affairs Omer Celik said that in the short term, everything in Turkish-Israeli relations, including military agreements and other connections, shall be annulled.
6. (U) On June 3 the Turkish Grand National Assembly announced its Human Rights Committee will go to Israel soon to investigate on the spot alleged human rights violations such as the handcuffing of wounded activists.
7. (U) On June 4, Turkey's Ambassador to the U.S. Namik Tan warned that Turkey may be forced to freeze relations with Israel if it doesn't apologize for the attack on the Mavi Marmara, agree to an independent and international investigation, and lift the blockade on Gaza.
8. (U) Turkish Customs officials have denied claims leveled by Israeli authorities that there were weapons on the Mavi Marmara. The officials indicated that they searched every passenger before getting on the ship with the help of X-ray machines and metal detectors.

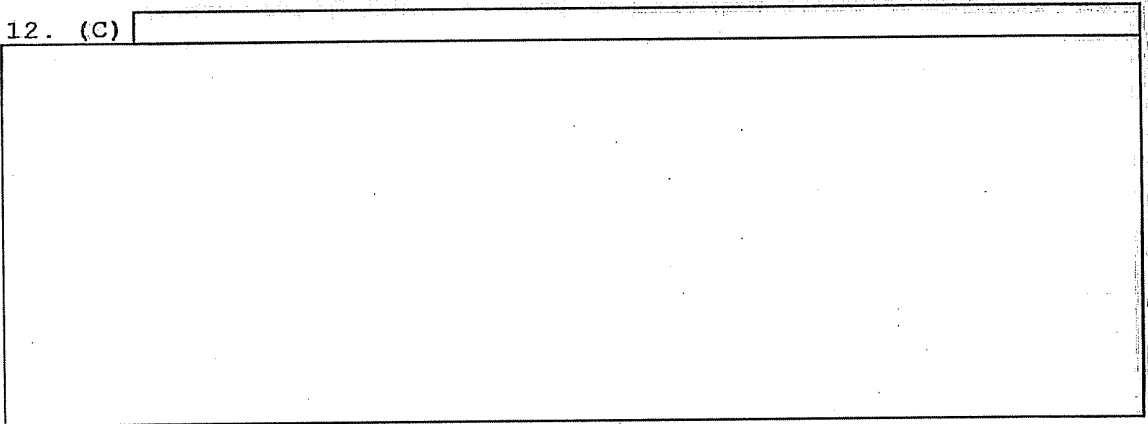
9. (U) On June 4 [redacted] said the Diyarbakir funeral for Ali Haydar Bengi, of one of the activists killed on the Mavi Marmaris, had a very large turnout of "Islamists." [redacted] said this was "disturbing" for the city's intellectuals and showed that Diyarbakir's once staunchly secular nature is turning more religiously conservative. Local media reported thousands attended the funeral procession. Ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) members of parliament attended the funeral and President Abdullah Gul sent a wreath. [redacted] said the use of the word "martyr" referring to the activists was particularly worrying, as someone with humanitarian aims would neither express early wishes to be "martyred" on a trip to deliver supplies, nor should they be posthumously described in this way. [redacted] said he disapproved of the way the GOT appeared to be trying to turn "Jews and Israelis into enemies."



Religious Leader Fethullah Gulen Speaks Out, Many Respond

11. (U) U.S.-based Turkish Islamic leader Fethullah Gulen criticized the Turkish-led flotilla's attempt to deliver aid without Israel's consent in an interview published in the Wall Street Journal on June 4. Gulen lamented the lack of an attempt to get permission to assist Gazans as "a sign of defying authority, [that] will not lead to fruitful matters." Gulen said that when any organization linked with his attempted to do the same, he insisted that they obtained Israel's permission. Gulen called the TV videos of the operations "ugly," adding that assigning blame in the matter would best be left to the United Nations.

12. (C) [redacted]



13. (U) Commenting on Gulen's statement, [redacted] said that "Hocaefendi (Fethullah Gulen) is telling the truth, as always.... We can be exposed to cruelty but we will not be cruel. And we will stand against injustice with patience and determination. This is constructive act and those following this line have always won in this world."

B6

14. (U) Contrary to [redacted]'s view, other AKP parliamentarians disapproved of Gulen's comments. [redacted] MP and the [redacted] stated that he did not believe that Gulen's comments were made by him. [redacted] an AKP [redacted] MP, also commented that "Gulen's explanations are not kind. There would never have been an issue if Israel had given permission at the beginning." [redacted] MP and a [redacted], commented that "Mr. Gulen would have known that it is impossible to get permission from Israel; we are having difficulty understanding his comments." [redacted] said he was saddened by Gulen's comments, and he hoped that the reporting was incorrect. [redacted] noted that he respects Gulen's views, but wished that he had made such a statement after consulting with him.

15. (U) The main opposition party Republican People's Party (CHP) [redacted] stated that "with his remarks, Fethullah Gulen opened up the Gaza flotilla aid debate." Pundits argued that Gulen's explanations created a divergence within the Islamic groups in Turkey. Columnist Murat Yetkin of "Radikal" said the Turkish Government was becoming an advocate of radical Islamic countries and movements, while Gulen was seen as the voice of reasonable Muslims in Turkey. Similarly, Mehmet Ali Birand of "Milliyet" noted that Gulen, for the first time, openly criticized nationalists of using Islam for their own propaganda and claimed Gulen believes he would be the most effective opposition to extreme Islamism.

B6

16. (SBU) [redacted] attorney, [redacted] said Fethullah Gulen's observations on the flotilla incident were "shocking" and quite unexpected. Gulen's supporters and detractors are now emerging, with pro-Gulen media such as Samanyolu television immediately switching its reporting from showing graphic images of the slain activists to more balanced news footage discussing Gulen's statements. [redacted] agreed that fault lines might emerge within the AKP as its voter base becomes split over how to react to Gulen. [redacted] said the "ultra-religious circles" and related cemaats were beginning to express negative reactions to Gulen's remarks, but only the extremists were reacting publicly.

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Comment

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17. (C)

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	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PER-00
	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	EPAE-00
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR

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UNCLAS USOSCE 000165

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, OSCE, PGOV, KZ, RS, AF, GG, TU, IS

SUBJECT: OSCE Weekly Highlights: June 1 - 4, 2010

Chairmanship Aiming to Produce Corfu Interim Report by June 21

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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Turkey Raises Gaza Flotilla at the OSCE

3. (SBU) At the joint FSC/PC meeting June 1, Turkish PermRep Saribas raised the topic of Israel's military operation against the Gaza flotilla, which he termed a "grave violation of international law" for which there was no justification. He cited statements of the UN Security Council and representatives of NATO, the EU, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe condemning

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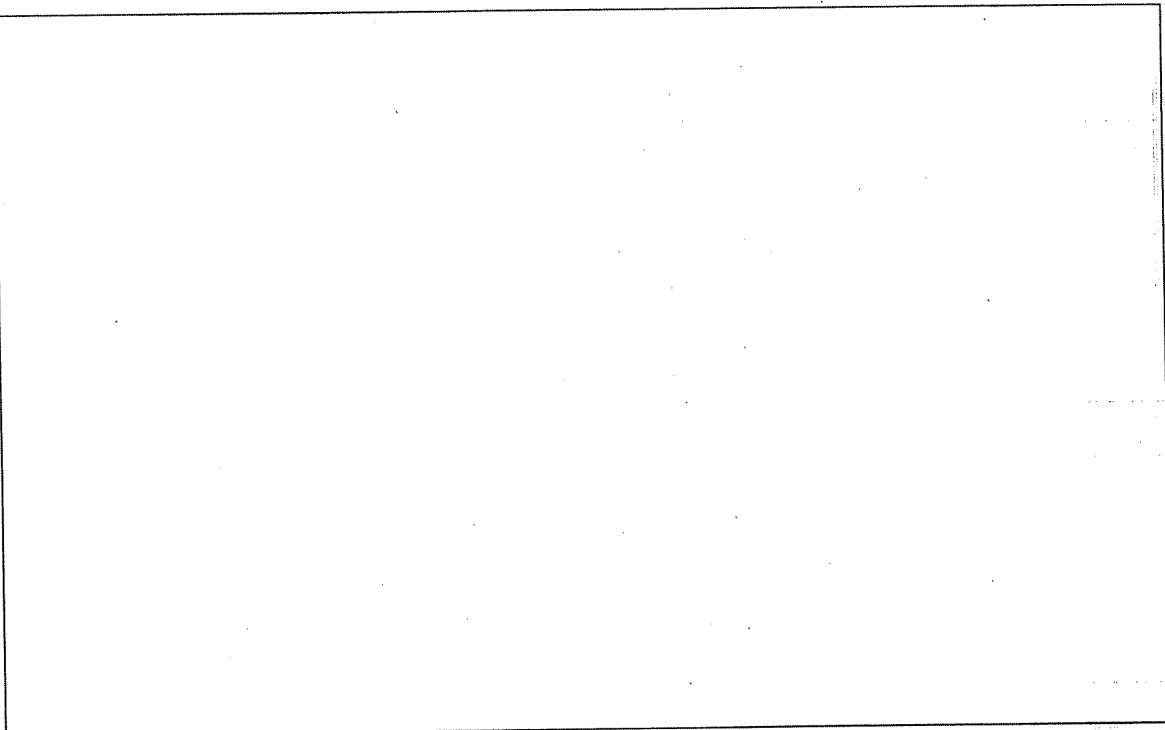
Israeli actions and expressing regret at the loss of life. Saribas called for the immediate release of the ships and persons detained

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by Israeli forces, as well as a prompt, credible investigation into the incident. The Israeli deputy PermRep, in her reply, focused on the legitimacy of the blockade and asserted that Israeli forces acted only in self-defense, after being violently provoked by the passengers of the Marmara ship. She drew attention to the fact that the organizers of the flotilla had refused to hand the goods over for inspection, which she interpreted as proof that the purpose of the flotilla was not humanitarian, but political. The United States read the May 31 statement made by Assistant Secretary Crowley, while the EU, Canada, and Russia drew attention to statements they had made in other fora. Saribas exercised his right of reply to state that the explanations provided by the Israeli deputy PermRep "did not satisfy other international organizations or the countries here today."

Likely Agreement to Hold Energy Security Meeting in Vilnius

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	INL-00	DS-00
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	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	GIWI-00
	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
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O R 111454Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0296
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
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 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000861

SIPDIS
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 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/11
 TAGS: PGOV, TU, PREL
 SUBJECT: IHH: NO NEW FLOTILLA. FOR NOW

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

1. (C) SUMMARY: On June 11 [redacted]
 [redacted] gave us his first-hand account of the
 May 31 Israeli interdiction of the Gaza-bound Mavi Marmara.
 According to [redacted] the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) made several

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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unsuccessful attempts to seize the Mavi Marmara before firing on and killing passengers. He contends the passengers reacted spontaneously out of surprise and fear and then quickly ceased resisting when they realized the IDF was using live ammunition. Unsal alleges the IDF special forces were carrying "small notebooks" with about 20 names and faces of Mavi Marmara passengers, targeting Palestinians, NGO leaders, and journalists.

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[REDACTED]

2. (C) On June 11, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] gave us a first-hand account of the Israeli raid on the IHH-led flotilla. [REDACTED] was a passenger on the Mavi Marmara on May 31 when it was boarded by Israeli Defense Force (IDF) special forces. He claimed the Muslims on board were finishing their morning prayers when they heard shouts from other passengers that Israeli forces were beginning their operation. The Israelis initially fired tear gas and "sound bombs" on the open deck, but [REDACTED] said these had almost no effect on the passengers. The Israelis then attempted to board the Mavi Marmara from the sea using grappling hooks, which the passengers were able to unhook from the railings.

3. (C) After the failed sea-boarding attempt the Israeli special forces began to rappel down from helicopters. Some IDF troops landed on the roof of the bridge without incident. [REDACTED] contends the passengers initially reacted by throwing onions, potatoes, and only later resorted to metal pipes. He said the passengers acted spontaneously out of surprise and fear and were not executing a pre-planned resistance. [REDACTED] concedes three IDF soldiers were captured, stripped of their side-arms, and taken below decks. "We were afraid the younger brothers would get excited and shoot the Israelis," he said, "so we took the guns and put them into the sea." When the IDF began to open fire, [REDACTED] said, no one was scared because everyone assumed the Israelis were using rubber bullets. Once the passengers saw passengers being felled by gunfire [REDACTED] claims he saw a passenger standing two meters from him shot in the head, the passengers stopped fighting. [REDACTED] remembers the whole engagement as lasting about 30 minutes.

4. (C) After the Mavi Marmara was boarded by more IDF troops, all the passengers were sent to their rooms. The dead were collected and the wounded taken into medical care. The remaining passengers were held below decks for about four hours while dogs were brought aboard to sniff for bombs and other weapons. [REDACTED] said no weapons were found, other than four or five knives from the kitchen. He

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said an unarmed Indonesian passenger who released the three captured Israeli soldiers was shot and seriously wounded by the IDF. All passengers were then bound and taken above deck where they waited for another six hours. Afterward, they were unbound and taken to the cabins below.

5. (C) [] estimates the Mavi Marmara arrived at an Israeli port the next day at about 2:00 AM. All the passengers' electronic devices were confiscated or destroyed. He claimed he was carrying \$20,000 in cash, which he declared during entry processing. The money was missing when his bags were later returned. The passengers were held in jail cells, two-to-four people per cell. Some, but not all, of the passengers were "interrogated." Unsal made no mention of any physical abuse.

B1

6. (C) [] alleged that he and other passengers saw "a small notebook that some of the Israelis dropped. About 20 names and faces were in the notebook." He said the names included Palestinians, leaders of IHH and other NGOs, and some journalists. [] believes one of the initial IDF objectives was to "kidnap" the people listed in the notebook.

7. (C) []

8. (C) []

COMMENT

9. (C) []

[] He made clear that the IDF's actions gradually escalated only after several unsuccessful attempts to seize the ship -- and after three IDF soldiers had been taken below deck. He is optimistic the controversy surrounding the interdiction will lead to the easing of Israel's blockade of Gaza.

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-00	CCO-00
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	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
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O R 141247Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
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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 BEIRUT 000539

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/14
 TAGS: PREL, PINR, PTER, KPAL, LE, IS
 SUBJECT: WOULD-BE LEBANESE GAZA FLOTILLA CAUGHT IN THE DOLDRUMS

REF: 10 BEIRUT 527

CLASSIFIED BY: Michele J. Sison, Ambassador, State, Embassy Beirut;
 REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Despite Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah's June 4 call for a "Freedom Flotilla Two," the flotilla's Lebanese organizers have been unable to make any significant progress on organizing another convoy and are continuing to fundraise. Parallel groups also held a press conference in Beirut on June 11 to describe plans for another attempt to break the blockade on Gaza by air or sea "after a month." Separately, a delegation representing all Lebanese parties presented a letter to the Embassy condemning the assault on the Turkish convoy and calling for international action on the issue. While motivation may remain in Lebanon for a follow-on flotilla, logistical, political and funding barriers are likely to prevent its launch in the near term. End Summary.

FLOTILLA ORGANIZERS SHORT OF CASH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M. BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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2. (SBU) Despite Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah's June 4 call for a "Freedom Flotilla Two" (reftel), the flotilla's Lebanese organizers have been unable to make any significant progress in organizing another convoy. In an ad on page four of the June 12 edition of al-Akhbar, the local NGOs Free Palestine Movement and Journalists without Limits admitted that they are having trouble locating and insuring a boat. In the ad, they asked for several things:

- Donations, starting as low as \$10, for renting or buying a boat;
- Donations of educational materials for the children of Gaza; and
- Contact from boat owners who might wish to donate, rent or sell their boats.

The two groups also urged those who want to participate to reserve spaces in the flotilla, and the ad included their contact information (phone: +961-7-1699778, e-mail: journalists@journalism.com <<mailto:journalists@journalism.com>>). The ad also provided the number of a bank account at the Fransabank Hamra branch (in Beirut) for donations.

3. (SBU) On June 11, an unrelated press conference was held at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut to promote future attempts to break the blockade on Gaza. The June 12 edition of As-Safir reported that the conference was organized by "The International Committee for Breaking the Gaza Blockade and Palestinian Victory." According to the committee's press spokesman, Mohammad Hamdan, the group is hoping to organize another sea convoy, with ships coming simultaneously from various countries. It also hopes to break the blockade by flying small planes into Gaza. At the press conference, held after a meeting on the topic organized by former PM Salim al-Hoss, the organizers said they hoped to launch a new flotilla "after a month." They declined to fix a date for the launch, instead saying they would make an announcement after finalizing preparations. Those wishing to obtain more information were directed to the group's website, www.gazasiege.org <<http://www.gazasiege.org>> .

4. (SBU) The committee's vice president, Mohammad Sowalaha rejected offers of Iranian Republican Guard Corps escorts for future flotillas in order not to give Israel a justification for attacking the convoys, which he described as purely civilian. The same article included an interview with Amcit Paul Larudee, whom the paper describes as the founder of the "Free Gaza Movement." Larudee, who allegedly participated in the first Freedom Flotilla,

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described his refusal to cooperate with Israeli officials when detained.

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MANY DOUBT A FLOTILLA LAUNCH SOON

5. (C)

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6. (C)

provided more information to the Embassy's PAO on June 10. [] is not a member of Journalists without Limits, though [] knows other journalists who are. [] said the group is made up of leftist activists who have no money, adding that [] did not believe they were going anywhere soon. [] also assessed that Hizballah might eventually provide some Iranian money to the group in order to compete with Turkey on the issue, but [] did not think the party would do so in the short term. [] predicted that any Lebanese ship would have to go under the umbrella of an international flotilla, because it would be "too destabilizing on a bilateral level."

7. (C)

LEBANESE PARTIES PRESENT LETTER DENOUNCING ISRAEL

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8. (C) On June 11, a delegation [redacted]

[redacted] visited the Embassy and met with Pol/Econ Chief to deliver a demarche regarding the May 31 Israeli attack on the "Freedom Flotilla." The delegation represented all Lebanese political parties, which convened an urgent meeting at PSP headquarters on May 31 to denounce the Israeli assault on the "Freedom Flotilla." (Note: For text of the letter, see para 11. End note.)

9. (C) [redacted] stressed that all parties from both the March 14 and March 8 blocs were unanimous in condemning and denouncing the Israeli assault. [redacted] further indicated that the parties agreed to visit the P-5 embassies to deliver a protest note and to call on the Security Council to lift the blockade imposed on Gaza. [redacted] added that Israel should be held accountable for its actions and noted that the Lebanese political parties had organized a series of demonstrations near the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia headquarters in Beirut to protest Israeli attacks. [redacted] stressed that their letter reflects a unified Lebanese position and said the international community, and especially the U.S., should exert pressure on Israel to stop its inhumane practices.

10. (C) [redacted] underscored the importance of resolving the Gaza crisis irrespective of the political complexities evolving around the Palestinian crisis, adding that "Resolving the case of one million Palestinians living in Gaza should be prioritized in accordance with humanitarian rules." [redacted] called for lifting the embargo imposed on Gaza and stressed the primary role of the U.S. in addressing the crisis saying, "The U.S. has the greatest responsibility because it symbolizes great values and principles." Pol/Econ Chief reiterated POTUS' comments that the situation in Gaza is unacceptable and unsustainable and detailed U.S. efforts to ensure a credible investigation of the incident. He also underscored U.S. commitment to addressing the humanitarian situation in Gaza while ensuring that weapons are not smuggled into the region.

11. (C) COMMENT: [redacted]

TEXT OF THE PROTEST LETTER

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12. (SBU) BEGIN EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION:

The Lebanese political parties, currents and movements strongly denounce and condemn the Israeli massacre committed on the morning of May 31, 2010, against the "Freedom Flotilla" that was heading to the Gaza strip, which has been besieged by Israel since December 2008. As usual, Israel went beyond the limits in breaking all human and international rules, conventions and practices, and broke maritime laws and the rights of peaceful citizens from various nationalities in expressing their solidarity with the people of Gaza, who are suffering the tragedy of a political and economical siege, through their participation in channeling food and medical humanitarian supplies.

Therefore, the Lebanese political parties, currents and movements request that the international community end the aggressive Israeli practices, which are labeled as terrorist acts and maritime piracy, which requires immediate prosecution. It also calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibility in deterring Israel, immediately lift the siege on Gaza, and implement sanctions on Israel forcing it to pay compensation for the human and social tragedy it caused.

The Lebanese political parties, currents and movements believe it is time for the United Nations to fully assume its responsibilities by restoring the credibility to international law, which Israel has systematically continued breaking for decades. The international silence about this heinous crime is tantamount to tacit complicity with Israeli crimes, which do not appear likely to stop in the foreseeable future.

Signed,

The Lebanese political parties, currents and movements

END INFORMAL TRANSLATION.
SISON

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7380

INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 001380

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/17/2020

TAGS: PREL, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, LE, IR, IS

SUBJECT: MFA EXPLAINS GOI VIEWS ON GAZA BLOCKADE, SEEKS TO
DETER FLOTILLA FROM LEBANON

Classified By: A/DCM Marc Sievers, Reason 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (SBU) Summary and Comment. MFA Director General Yossi Gal and Legal Adviser Ehud Keinan briefed members of the diplomatic corps June 16 on the GOI's actions following the May 31 interception of a flotilla seeking to break the naval blockade of Gaza. Keinan explained the structure and powers of the special public commission established by the government, stressing the GOI view that the commission meets requirements of the Security Council's Presidential Statement calling for an independent, credible and transparent investigation. DG Gal noted steps the GOI is considering to ease the restrictions on the flow of reconstruction assistance to Gaza, referring to an agreement reached with UN Special Coordinator Serry regarding the transfer of goods seized from the flotilla to Gaza. Gal also noted that the Israeli cabinet is meeting intensively to review various

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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proposals that would continue to guarantee Israeli security requirements while also improving the living conditions of Gaza's civilian population. Gal then turned to the possibility of another flotilla sailing from Lebanon in the next few days. Noting that Lebanon is regarded as a "hostile state," Gal said Israel would consider any such flotilla to be a provocation and not a humanitarian effort. Referring to public statements by Hizballah leaders and one of the organizers of the flotilla, Gal said Israel will not allow any ships from Lebanon to reach Gaza, although arrangements could be made through existing channels to deliver any legitimate humanitarian supplies by land. Gal called on the international community to urge "states involved in promoting flotillas" to take steps to stop this one. He asked diplomatic representatives to urge their citizens not to take part and called on the Government of Lebanon to "do its part to maintain peace in the region" by preventing the flotilla from sailing. Gal warned that given the possibility that Hizballah terrorists would be on board, the Israeli Navy would act accordingly.

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2. (C) Comment:

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Special Public Commission

3. (SBU) MFA Legal Adviser Keinan began the briefing by noting that the government reviewed several options for forming committees of investigation and settled on what he termed a "special, public commission of inquiry" to be headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Terkel. The commission's mandate will include examining the legal questions involved in Israel's blockade of Gaza and the decision to intercept the flotilla in international waters; the actions of the flotilla's organizers and participants; and Israel's procedures for investigating allegations of violations of

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International Humanitarian Law. In addition to Justice Terkel, the commission will include one of Israel's leading experts on international law and maritime law, Shabtai Rosen, as well as a retired major general. In addition, there will be two foreign observers (a first in Israeli investigations) who will participate in the hearings and deliberations but not have voting rights.

4. (SBU) Keinan said the commission will have the power to take testimony from individuals and entities, both Israeli and foreign. It can command testimony from the Prime Minister, Defense Minister, and the IDF Chief of General Staff. If the commission suspects criminal activity took place, it will transfer its information to the Attorney General. The commission will submit its report to the government, with the intent that it be released publicly. Keinan said the GOI believes this commission corresponds to the UNSC Presidential Statement of June 1. He noted the

positive reactions of many countries. In response to a question from the Brazilian embassy regarding whether Israel has responded to the UNSYG's proposal for an international investigation, Keinan said the GOI believes the commission it has established meets the SC's requirements, adding that Israel remains in close contact with the SYG.

Changes in Gaza Policy

5. (SBU) Director General Gal then updated the diplomats on discussions regarding Israel's Gaza policy. He noted the GOI had reached an agreement with UN Special Coordinator Robert Serry regarding the transfer of supplies seized from the May 31 flotilla to Gaza in coordination with the UN. The UN agreed to take possession of all the cargo, which Israel agreed could be used for UN projects. Gal said Israel was still working on a similar arrangement for the cargo on the M/V Rachel Corrie, an Irish ship stopped by Israel on June 5.

6. (SBU) Gal reported that the Israeli cabinet had met that morning to review Gaza policy options, adding that the cabinet would meet again the morning of June 17. (Note: The Prime Minister's media adviser issued a statement June 17 that described in general terms some adjustments in Israeli policy, reported septel.) Gal said Israel's essential requirements were to guarantee that arms and explosives not reach Gaza and that Hamas not benefit from any change in policy. The cabinet's discussions were aimed at examining proposals that would continue to ensure Israeli security while improving the welfare of Gaza's civilian population.

He appealed to the international community to recognize Israel's legitimate security needs and to continue to uphold the Quartet's conditions for contacts with Hamas.

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Flotilla from Lebanon

7. (SBU) Turning to what struck us as the most important part of the briefing, Gal said Israel has received "clear indications" that a new flotilla will depart Lebanon for Gaza in the next two to three days. Since this flotilla would be embarking from an enemy state, Israel must consider the possibility that it will carry weapons, explosives and terrorists on board. This flotilla, he stressed, would not be humanitarian in nature but rather a political provocation. He referred to numerous statements by Hizballah leaders expressing support for a flotilla as a means of breaking Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza, and noted that one of the flotilla's organizers had spoken publicly of the passengers becoming martyrs and that the goal of the flotilla was to "provoke Israel from the sea."

8. (SBU) Gal said categorically that Israel will not allow any ships from Lebanon to land in Gaza, though he noted that legitimate humanitarian cargo could be delivered to Gaza through the established channels. Passengers on board the Lebanese flotilla may be detained by Israel in accordance with Israeli law since they would be coming from a hostile state. Gal reminded the diplomats that Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit has been held by Hamas in Gaza for over four years without any access to the Red Cross or any communication with his family.

9. (SBU) Gal called on the international community to urge those countries involved in sponsoring the Lebanese flotilla (i.e. presumably Iran and Syria) to stop it. He said governments should ask their citizens not to take part in attempts to break the Israeli blockade. He also called on the Lebanese government to do its part to maintain regional peace and security by preventing the flotilla from sailing.

10. (C)

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ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00
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	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00
	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00
	FMP-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-00
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UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001391

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: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
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JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
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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:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

The media reported that yesterday the Prime Minister's Office announced that the diplomatic-security cabinet had agreed to relax Israel's blockade on Gaza (including the authorization to import concrete, iron, and all kinds of food; the naval blockade remains in place); however, no binding decision was ever made during the cabinet meeting. HaQaretz noted that the Prime Minister's Office issued a press release in English following the meeting, which was also sent to foreign diplomats; however, this version was substantially different from the Hebrew announcement -- according to the English text, a decision was made to ease the blockade, but in the Hebrew text there is no mention of any such decision. HaQaretz wondered whether this discrepancy might have been a deliberate attempt to buy time in the face of international pressure, or whether it was a clerical omission on the part of the Prime Minister's Office. Leading media quoted White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs as saying yesterday during his daily briefing, QWe welcome the principles that were announced by the Israeli Government today. TheyQre a step in the right direction. We will continue to work in the coming days with our Israeli friends to continue to improve a humanitarian situation in Gaza that the President has said is unsustainable.

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The Jerusalem Post reported that DM Barak told U.S. Special Envoy George Mitchell yesterday in Jerusalem that day-to-day problems should not be allowed to divert the indirect talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Israel Radio quoted DM Ehud Barak as saying that Israel will view Lebanon as responsible for the flotilla expected to sail for Gaza from Lebanese ports in the coming days. The radio reported that Lebanese PM Saad Hariri rejected Barak's charge. Israel Radio quoted a Kuwaiti newspaper as saying that Egypt has rejected Israel's request to ban the passage through the Suez Canal of a Gaza-bound Iranian ship.

HaQaretz reported that members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee are demanding that PM Benjamin Netanyahu's military secretary, Maj. Gen. Yohanan Loker, explain the handling of events leading up to the takeover of the Free Gaza Flotilla.

Maariv reported that Turkey has presented new conditions to the return of its ambassador to Israel. HaQaretz reported that unrelated to the diplomatic tensions between Israel and Turkey, the Knesset is scheduled to hold a session later this month on the Armenian genocide allegedly perpetrated by Ottoman Turks. But due to an agreement between the government and the Knesset, the discussion will be held not in the plenum, but in a Knesset committee -- most likely the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Committee Chairman Tzachi Hanegbi said yesterday that if, as expected, the Knesset House Committee selects the panel he heads to host the session, he will probably schedule the hearing for two weeks from now.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Syrian President Hafez Assad as saying yesterday in an interview with the BBC that Israel's raid on the flotilla has increased the chances of war in the Middle East.

Maariv described the unpredictable character and actions of Lord David Trimble, who will be an observer in the Israeli commission of inquiry.

Maariv reported that Israeli Arab Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi (National Democratic Assembly Q Balad), who was on board the Gaza-bound flotilla and was punished by the Knesset's House Committee for her action, told the newspaper that she would join future such ventures.

Maariv reported that DM Barak has hinted to PM Netanyahu that Labor would have to quit the Government if there is not diplomatic development in the next six months.

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Both Yediot and Maariv put into question the fate of Mossad Director Meir Dagan following the failure of the spy agency's latest operations.

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The Jerusalem Post reported that Canadian PM Stephen Harper, BQnai Brith Canada, and MPs from the New Democratic Party (NDP) have criticized NDP MP Libby Davies this week in the wake of comments suggesting Israel should not exist she made at an anti-Israel rally earlier this month in Vancouver.

Maariv reported that Sheikh Raed Salah, the head of the northern branch of Israel's Islamic Movement, is heading the renovation of a Safed mosque, which was abandoned by Arab residents when they fled the city in 1948.

All media led with the mass demonstrations attended by 100-200,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem and Bnei Brak to protest the High Court of Justice decision rejecting the separation between Ashkenazi and Sephardi students in a school in Emmanuel in the West Bank. Dozens of parents were sent to jail for two weeks for violation of the court's decision. Police are still looking for 22 mothers. This morning Israel Radio reported that the women were granted a reprieve until Sunday. Yediot states that two Jewish QstatesQ exist for two Qnations.

Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QAt This Table, Israel Has Already Folded

Military correspondent Amos Harel and Palestinian affairs correspondent Avi Issacharoff wrote in the independent, left-leaning HaQaretz (6/18): QEnforcement of the blockade -- the purpose of the government's order to stop a Gaza-bound flotilla by force on May 31 -- has effectively ended. This is part of the price Israel is paying the international community in order to end the flotilla affair and prevent a rerun of the uproar that led to last year's Goldstone Report. But perhaps the price is not so high. Israel will give up something that was unnecessary anyway: the ban on allowing food products and other goods classified as QluxuriesQ into Gaza. This ban was actually a collective punishment for the abduction of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.... The right flank of Netanyahu's Cabinet is far from thrilled with these steps, and the same goes for senior defense establishment officials. But when the Obama administration insists, the Netanyahu government gives in.... The recent cabinet discussions appear to be cementing Israel's image

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in the Arab -- and perhaps also the Western -- world as a state that mainly understands the language of force. The Turkish passengers who beat Israeli naval commandos with clubs on the deck of the Mavi Marmara have scored a victory. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip

Erdogan will now be portrayed as the leader who broke Israel's resistance. But even so, a partial easing of the blockade at an inconvenient time is better than continuing the current flawed policy.

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II. QObamaQs Double Game

Editor-in-Chief Amnon Lord wrote in the nationalist, Orthodox Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (6/18): QIt appears that Obama is playing a hitherto unobserved double game: he maintains the policy of U.S. relations with Israel at a level of supposed understanding and proximity. He outsources hostile activity. Instead of holding back, he allows the U.N. and Europe to threaten and entangle Israel. He sometimes assumes the role of good cop, letting Ban Ki-moon be the bad cop. The beginning of coordination between Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia will teach Obama that he might become less relevant.

III. QThe Miracle of the Vuvuzelas

Political and parties columnist Sima Kadmon wrote on page one of the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/18): QIt seems that Netanyahu and Barak are counting on the Israeli public not demonstrating [about the flotilla issue]. There is no public rage. Rabin Square [in Tel Aviv] hasn't filled with crowds demanding a commission of investigation. The Government won't fall in the wake of the findings that will emerge. Netanyahu and Barak are trumpeting their vuvuzelas, and the caravan is going through. Even the Opposition doesn't accuse Netanyahu and Barak of ulterior motives. This week Barak's entourage accentuated the lack of need for a commission of investigation: they argue that we have two commissions of investigation -- the first one has 120 members; it is the Knesset. The second includes five million people, who present their findings every few years, during the elections.

IV. QGood Morning, Ehud

Senior columnist and longtime peace advocate Yoel Marcus wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (6/18): QWe have reached a point where the country can't defend itself without being thought to be threatening the neighborhood. The question is whether Netanyahu understands how bad our situation is and how urgently we need any kind of plan that will relieve our distress. The ambition to survive as prime minister is not a solution for anything. The only way Barak can make his influence felt is the threat that Labor will resign from the government and leave Netanyahu with Shas and Foreign

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Minister Avigdor Lieberman of Yisrael Beiteinu. That would be accompanied by the danger of deterioration, ending with Netanyahu losing the premiership for the second and final time and leaving behind a country considered a leper by the world. Despite the daring plan that [Barak] spoke about already a few months ago without doing anything about it, we have deteriorated to a point where we're a hair's breadth away from an imposed solution. There is only one way to stop the deterioration, and that is to bring Kadima into a functioning broad government -- a government that will implement the plan of two states for two peoples and get all the world's lepers off our back.

V. QBetter Late than Never

Ha'aretz editorialized (6/18): QThe Military Advocate General is poised to file a grave indictment against an IDF soldier from the Givati Brigade who allegedly shot and killed two Palestinian women carrying white flags in an open field during Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip. Riyeh and Majda Abu Hajaj, a mother and daughter, were killed while fleeing their home after the IDF had ordered them to leave it. This severe incident of killing was first exposed by B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and by HaQaretz reporter Amira Hass -- both of whom investigated the suspicions and collected testimony from eyewitnesses shortly after the incident.... The army prosecution should be commended for its courageous and necessary decision to put the soldier on trial. Shooting at civilians who are carrying white flags and pose no threat to the soldiers is a war crime. If it transpires that the soldier did so, he must be severely punished. However, one must wonder why the IDF initially tried to ignore and deny the story, and why the investigation dragged on for so long.... Now it is time to praise the army prosecution, make sure the truth comes out, and conduct a swift trial. And it is also time to repent the sin of having slandered and smeared nongovernmental groups that are doing sacred work on behalf of democracy.

VI. QWeathering the Approaching Storm

Deputy Managing Editor and right-wing columnist Caroline B. Glick wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (6/18): QIsrael is endangered today as it has never been before. The Turkish-Hamas flotilla two weeks ago precipitated a number of dangerous developments.... Recent statements by the leaders of Iran, Turkey, Syria, Hamas, and Hizbullah make clear that the members of the Iranian axis view the Mavi Marmara episode as a strategic

victory in their ongoing campaign against Israel. The international stampede against Israel at the U.N., the White House, and throughout Europe exposed Israel's Achilles heel.... In light of the IDF's

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failure to understand Turkey's transformation from ally to enemy in a timely manner, its incompetent planning for the Mavi Marmara takeover and its problematic performance in both Operation Cast Lead and the Second Lebanon War, Netanyahu must create an external body empowered to assess and dictate the means for preparing for emerging threats.... The Iranian ships are already en route, and the ships from Lebanon could appear at any moment.... Time is of the essence. No, Israel does not want another Goldstone kangaroo court. But right now, kangaroo courts are not our biggest problem.

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VII. QDouble Standards

Conservative Op-Ed Page Editor Ben-Dror Yemini wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/18): QThe list of the 87 souls eliminated by the United States in May includes Mustafa al-Yazid, a senior member of al Qaeda [in Afghanistan]. He wasn't alone. All the members of his family were killed in the operation -- his wife, his three daughters, and additional family members. Wide-ranging searches did not find a single word of criticism in the mainstream Western press.

This is the same press that dealt for days with the nine shahids from the Turkish branch of global Jihad.... According to the industry of lies, IDF is an army of criminals, and NATO and U.S. forces are righteous among the nations. They are entitled to do anything. Israel mustn't lose the U.S. We have only one such friend. We are allowed to clarify some basic truths to the U.S.

VIII. QA Defining Moment for American-Israeli Relations

Professor Alon Ben-Meir, an international relations and Middle Eastern affairs expert who teaches at New York University, wrote in The Jerusalem Post (6/18): QIt is abundantly clear that the situation in the Middle East is becoming increasingly more dangerous. Iran is speeding toward acquiring nuclear weapons; the tension between Israel and Hizbullah is rising; Syria is assuming a steadily more aggressive position, and Hamas is riding high on the waves of the flotilla disaster. The room for miscalculation is forever present, and any small incident could trigger a regional conflagration. Israel must work closely with the U.S. to change the equation for the better. This is the moment that will define American-Israeli relations for decades to come.

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
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	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
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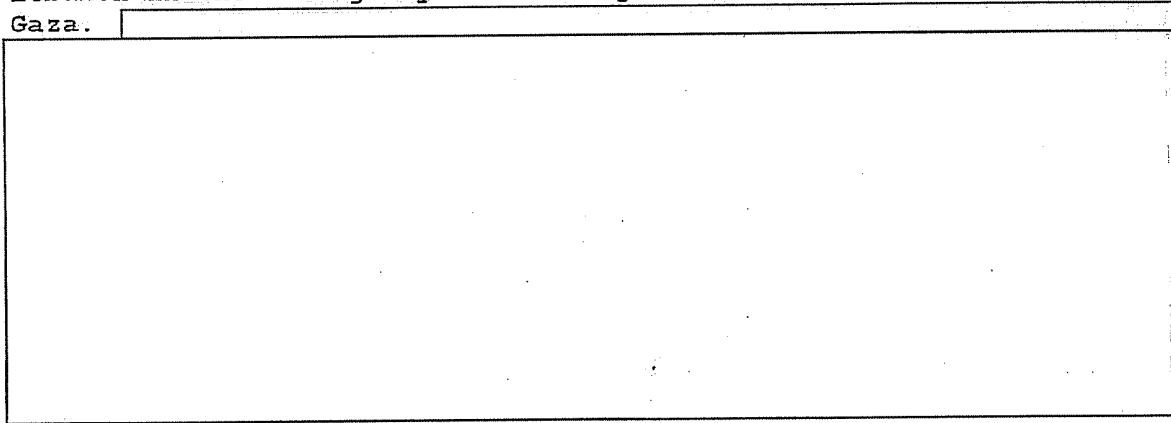
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/18
 TAGS: PREL, PBTS, KPAL, UNIFIL, PTER, PHUM, KWBG, GZ, LE, IS
 SUBJECT: LEBANESE CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF FLOTILLA TO DEPART FOR
 GAZA, BUT SAY IT WILL NOT HAPPEN BEFORE JUNE 20

REF: 10 MDA 1049; 10 BEIRUT 539; 10 BEIRUT 527

CLASSIFIED BY: Thomas F. Daughton, Deputy Chief of Mission, State,
Embassy Beirut; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) Summary: The Lebanese press continues to report that one of
 two ships -- either the Mariam or the Ali al-Naji -- will depart
 Lebanon in the coming days and attempt to break the blockade on
 Gaza.



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2. (SBU) The Lebanese press continues to speculate that a ship or ships will depart Lebanon for Gaza in the coming days. Two different initiatives are currently receiving coverage. The organizers of the Mariam (ref A), characterized as a ship bearing female activists and humanitarian supplies, told the media June 17 that they had no connection to Hizballah and insisted that their boat was ready to sail. The organizers of the Ali al-Naji (ref B), the Lebanese NGOs Free Palestine Movement and Journalists Without Limits, said that their boat would depart with 50 journalists and 25 European activists, including European MPs, "this week." (Note: One U.S.-based source stated that the boat planned to depart June 25. End note.) Comments by Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak warning that the GOL would be held accountable for any "violent and dangerous confrontation" received prominent coverage, and PM Hariri responded by decrying Israeli "threats."

[REDACTED]

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3. (C) [REDACTED] told the Ambassador on June 18 that there is no evidence that any ships will depart from Lebanon for Gaza in the "next two days." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. (C) [REDACTED] said that he had no specific information about the location of any suspect ships. [REDACTED]

[redacted] As for who is financing the campaign, [redacted] reported that a Palestinian businessman was behind it. (Note: A Syrian-born Palestinian businessman named Yasir Qashlaq has been reported in the press to be financing the ship. End note.)

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6. (C)

[redacted]

GENERAL SECURITY SAYS PERMISSION WILL BE REQUIRED

7. (C)

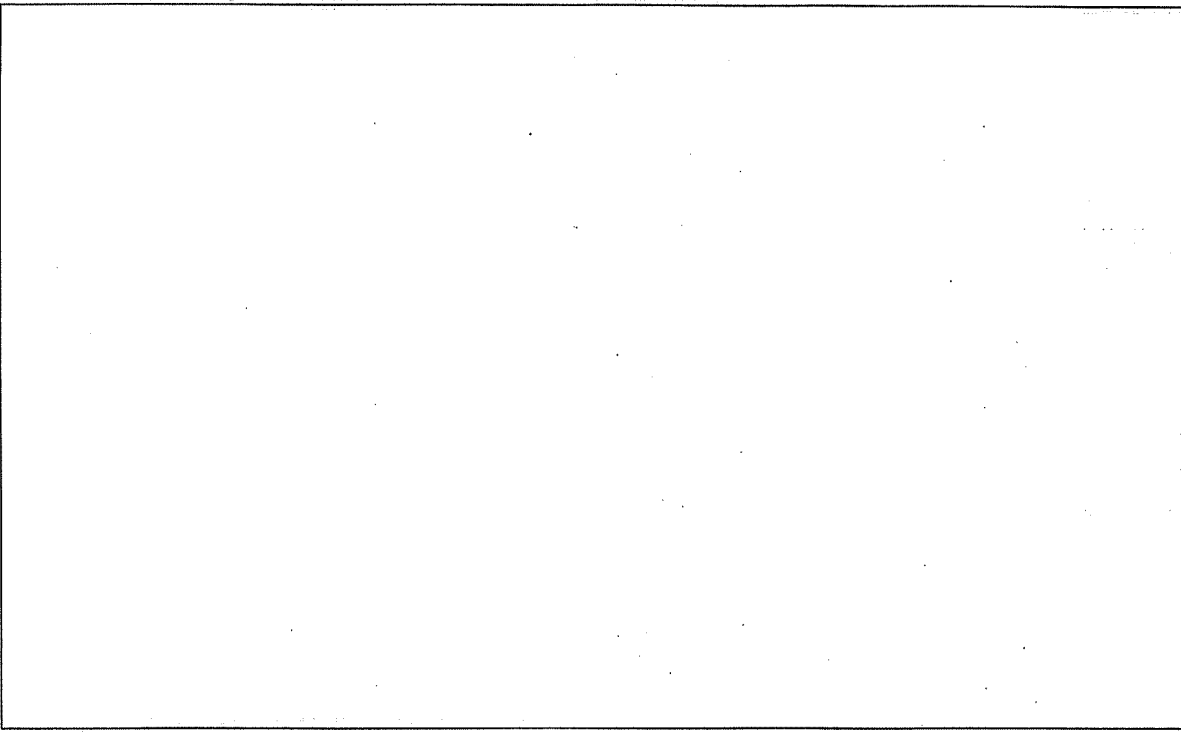
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 EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
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AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
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 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/07/06

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, TU

SUBJECT: IHH Releases Its Report on the Gaza Flotilla

REF: 10 ANKARA 971; 10 ANKARA 965; 10 ANKARA 889

CLASSIFIED BY: Douglas Silliman, Deputy Chief of Mission, State,
 EXEC; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: International Humanitarian Help -- the
 organization better known by its acronym, IHH -- has published a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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report recording its version of what occurred on the "Gaza Peace Flotilla" intercepted by Israeli soldiers, leaving nine people dead. The English-language report is presumably based on the testimony of participants without input from the government of Israel. Predictably, the IHH finds Israel in violation of international law and accuses Israel of "terrorist" acts. The IHH also published an autopsy report which alleges the Israeli soldiers fired upon the ship from the air, and that the Israelis attempted to cover up their "crimes." The reports also state that lawyers in a number of countries intend to bring legal cases against the state of Israel to the International Criminal Court on behalf of the participants in the flotilla. END SUMMARY.

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2. (SBU) The IHH drew the Embassy's attention via fax to the publication of its report on the 31 May confrontation between the Israeli army and the "Gaza Peace Flotilla" and to a report detailing the results of a secondary autopsy performed in Turkey on the bodies of the nine activists killed in the operation. Most of the contents of the primary report is unsourced, presumably derived from testimony by the survivors without input from the Israeli government. The doctors who conducted the autopsy claimed that because the bodies of the deceased had been washed and subjected to chemical treatment against decay, certain details of the victims' deaths -- such as the distance from which weapons were fired -- are indeterminate. However, it claims that the "high angle" from which the bullets entered "most" of the bodies indicates the soldiers were in the air when they fired. The report also claims that the bodies' having been washed is "clear" proof that the Israeli government intended to destroy evidence.

Furkan Dogan

3. The main report continues to claim Furkan Dogan -- the American citizen who was killed in the incident -- as a Turkish citizen from Kayseri. The autopsy also notes that he was hit by five bullets, and that the damage done to Mr. Dogan's face indicates that those two bullets were fired at close range. The report assesses the range from which the two bullets in his torso struck him was indeterminate because his body had been washed and his clothes were bloodsoaked. A fifth bullet damaged one of his feet. The entry and exit points for the bullets in Mr. Dogan's body do not appear to be consistent with the "high angle" allegation of the report.

General Allegations of the Report

4. (SBU) The primary report declares in its introduction and conclusions that the Israeli government conducted a "terrorist attack" against the flotilla, subjected the survivors -- especially the wounded -- to "physical and psychological torture," attempted to provoke the survivors to violence once in custody on Israeli

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soil, and had "stolen" personal property of the activists. The authors of the report claim that after Israeli ships attempted to engage the Mavi Marmara -- the flagship of the flotilla -- with grappling irons, Israeli soldiers descended upon the ship from

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helicopters, simultaneously firing percussion or gas bombs, automatic weapons, and an indeterminate "high frequency...intermittent" weapon. The report claims that "participants saw the Israeli soldiers firing real bullets as they came down from the upper floors of the ship," at which point the passengers began to resist with random objects at hand. According to the report, three soldiers were subdued and their weapons taken from them and dropped into the sea. IHH head Bulent Yildirim claims he announced over the ship's loudspeakers that the passengers should stop fighting, and that he himself waved a white shirt to indicate the ship's surrender. However, according to the report, Israeli soldiers resumed firing upon the occupants of the ship during the transfer of wounded to Israeli ships for medical treatment.

5. (SBU) Under the category of torture, the report cites exposure to elements and "inhumane" conditions, invasive searches, verbal and physical assaults while under detention, and sleep deprivation. The Mavi Marmara passengers were forced to kneel on the ship's deck while it was transported to Israel, all the while subjected to the wind and seaspray churned up by the blades of hovering helicopters. After being transferred to the ship's lounge, the activists complained that the room was overcrowded and inhumanely hot and humid. The group then complained that the automobiles in which they were transferred to Beerhveeva Prison were air conditioned to "cold-storage" degrees. All the while, the detainees were, according to the report, kicked, struck with weapons, and verbally assaulted, with intent to "provoke" them. The activists complain of continual searches, repeated interrogation (with the results being handed directly over to Israel's internal intelligence service, Shabak), and hourly questioning in prison, amounting to sleep deprivation. The report claims the detained activists were also pressured to sign documents saying that they had arrived in Israel without permission, and that they repeatedly refused to do so until a record of their having been brought to Israel against their will was included in the documentation. While allegedly the Israeli authorities claimed they would return personal belongings to the detainees, the report claims that all that was returned were empty suitcases and broken electronics equipment. Some claimed the loss of "large sums of money," while others that their credit cards and cell phones have been used since their confiscation.

Some Contradictions

6. (SBU) The report claims that, upon first contact, the captain of

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the Mavi Marmara repeatedly told Israeli ships via radio that the ship was "taking humanitarian aid on the ship to Gaza," establishing clear intent to try and break the embargo. The report also notes that the "authorities" on the ship told the activists to put on life jackets in anticipation of "a possible Israeli attack," suggesting awareness beforehand of Israeli warnings that the flotilla would be boarded. The allegation that "many participants reported that large sums of money had been seized by the Israelis" may strengthen the Israeli argument that the ship was intending to deliver financial aid in addition to material aid to Gaza. The autopsy report alleges that "most" of the dead had been fired upon from above, whereas in fact only two or three of the bodies appeared to have wounds that would support such a theory. The report also argues that the Israelis fired upon the ship "with intent to kill" not to disable, contradicted later by the statement that many of the wounded had wounds to their arms and legs, not to their torsos.

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Comment

7. (C) The report, though incendiary in style, does not tread any new ground. There is little in the report to cause public uproar, as previous press reports and interviews with the survivors were far more lurid and sensational. Indeed, the GOT's own Press and Information Bureau already has issued a DVD that is far more heavy-handed. The IHH report also stays politically neutral, not calling upon the government of Turkey to take action and explicitly identifying the flotilla as "completely civilian in nature." It also restates that the Mavi Marmara was actually a Comoros-flagged ship -- although recent reports dispute whether this registration was completed in time before the vessel set sail.

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ACTION E-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00
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 WHITE HOUSE/NSC/NEC; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION;
 TREASURY/OASIA/IMI/JAPAN; DEPT PASS USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
 SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN;
 DASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; DEPT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA
 FAS/ITP FOR SCHROETER; PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR;
 CINCPAC FLT/PA/ COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012: 201004163

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E.O. 13526: N/A

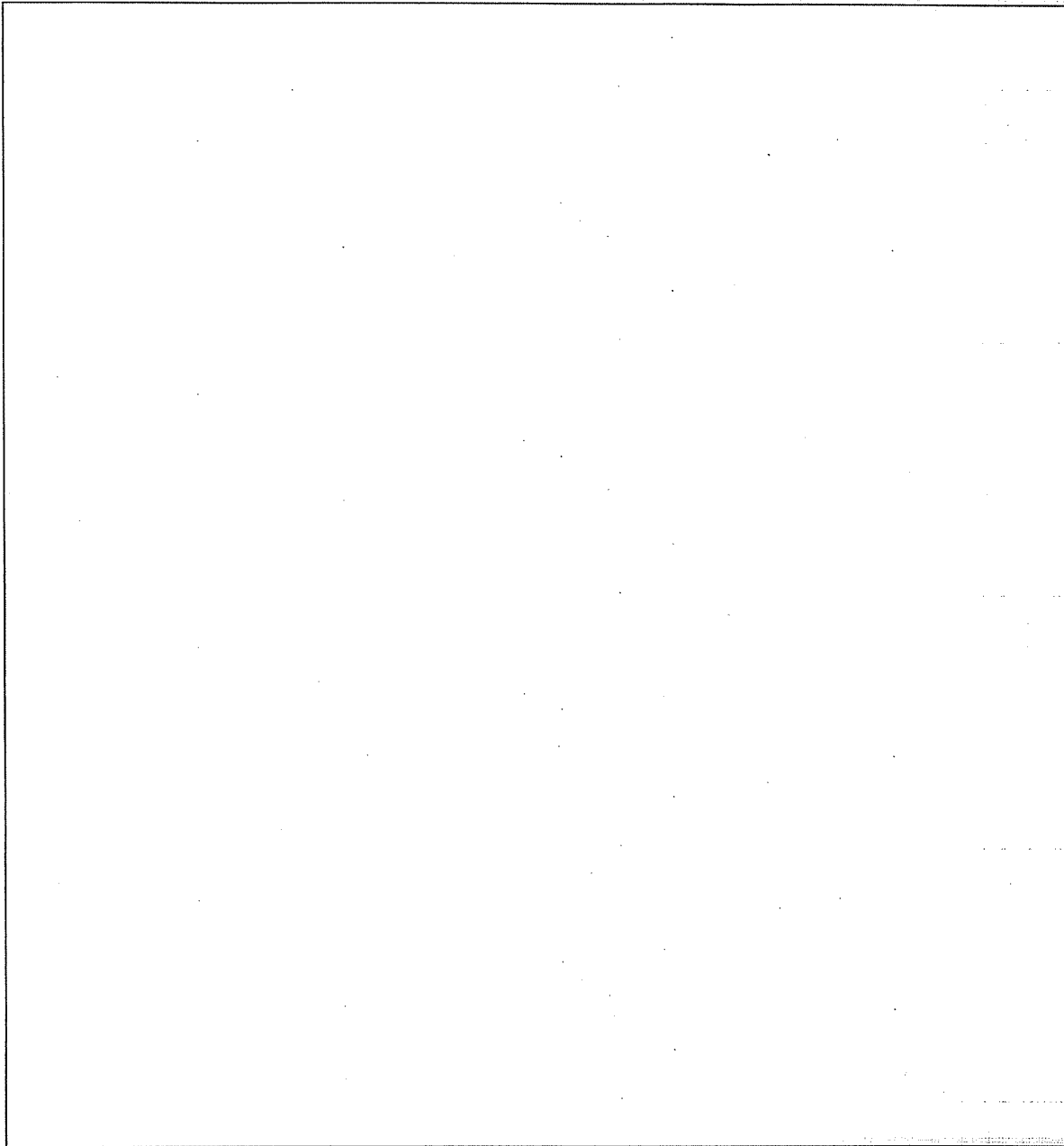
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TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, PGOV, PINR, ECON, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS 07/07/10

INDEX:

- 1) Top headlines
- 2) Editorials



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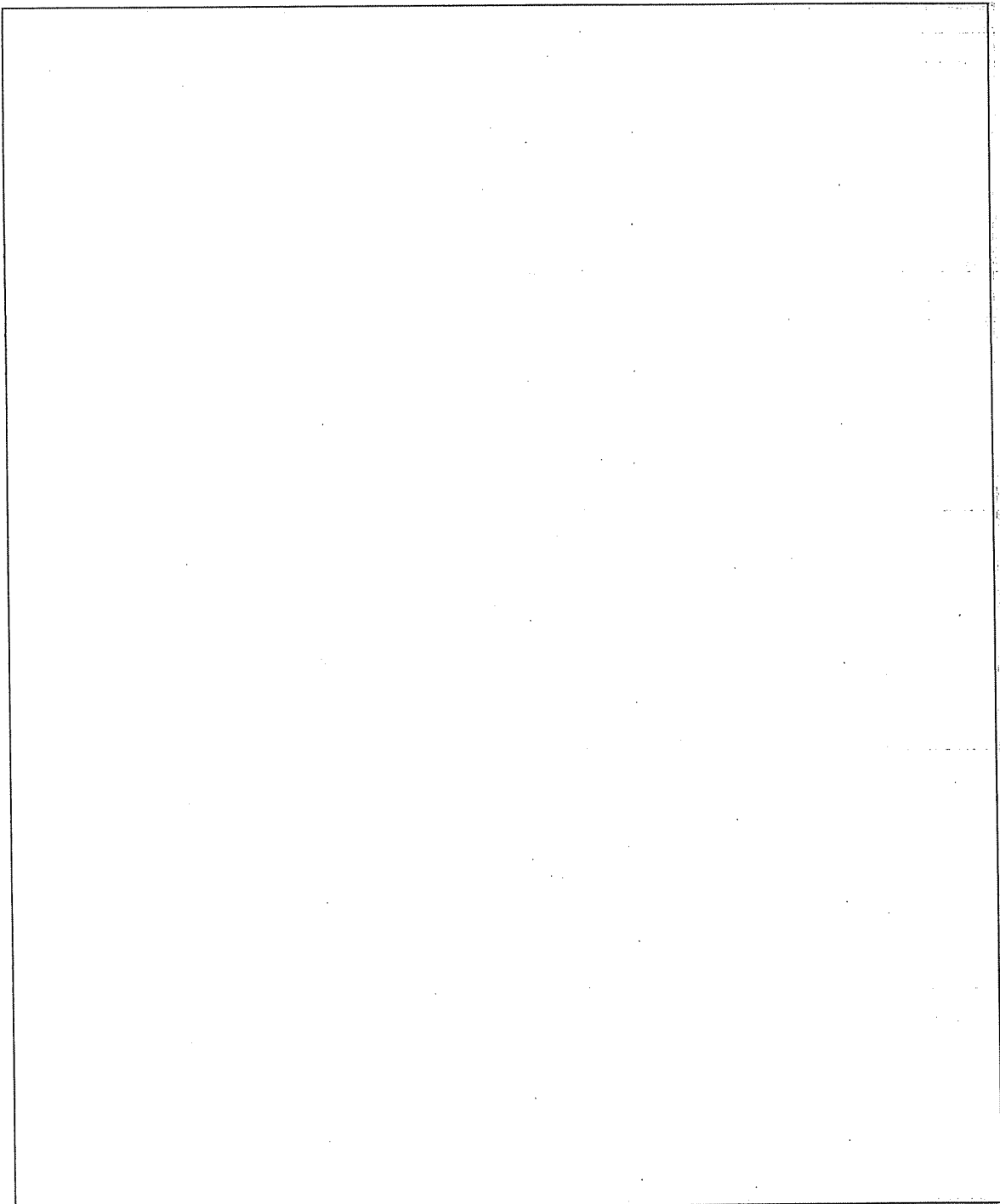
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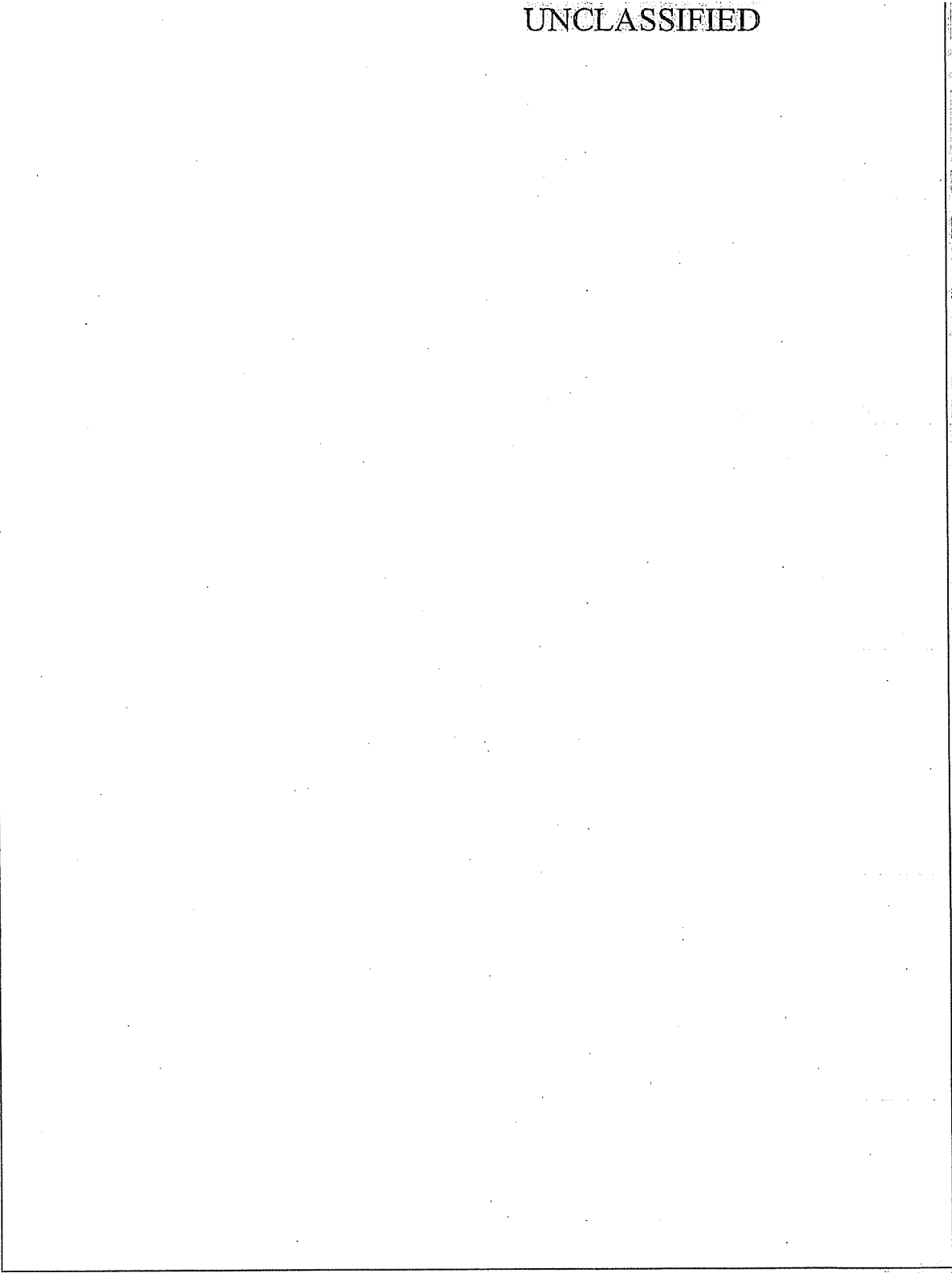
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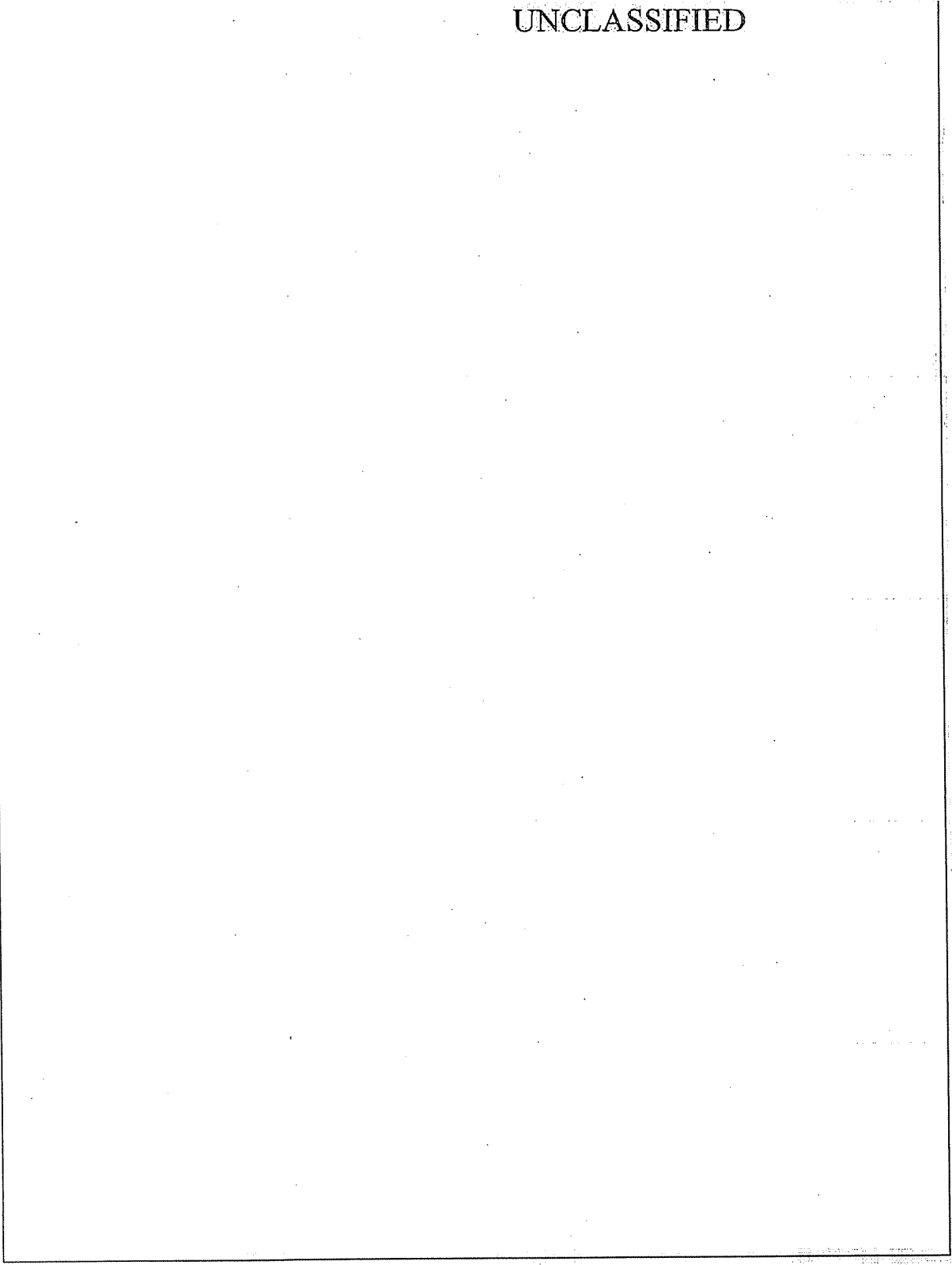
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14) Foreign Minister Okada cautious about condemning Israel

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)

July 7, 2010

Referring to the incident of Israeli naval commandos raiding an aid flotilla sailing to the Gaza Strip in the Palestine autonomous region and shooting nine Turkish passengers to death, Foreign Minister Okada told the press corps on July 6, "At present, it is

better for Japan not to clarify its stance on this issue." He thus indicated a cautious stance toward the Turkish government's call for joining it in condemning Israel. Regarding whether to demand Israel lift the blockade of the border of Gaza Strip, he said, "There is a delicate issue in view of international law. I cannot reply short of a technical discussion."

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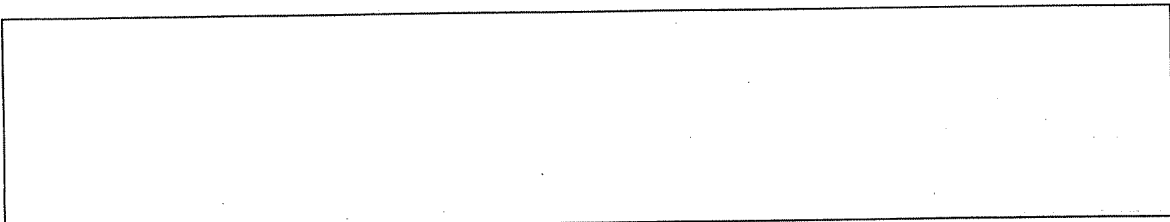
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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO
 SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA REACTION AUGUST 6, 2010

Media Highlights: Ricciardone Delayed; US Terrorism Report; Mavi
 Marmara Returns; Surprise Moves by Military; Erdogan Conjures 1960
 Coup

How the US is Playing/Related News



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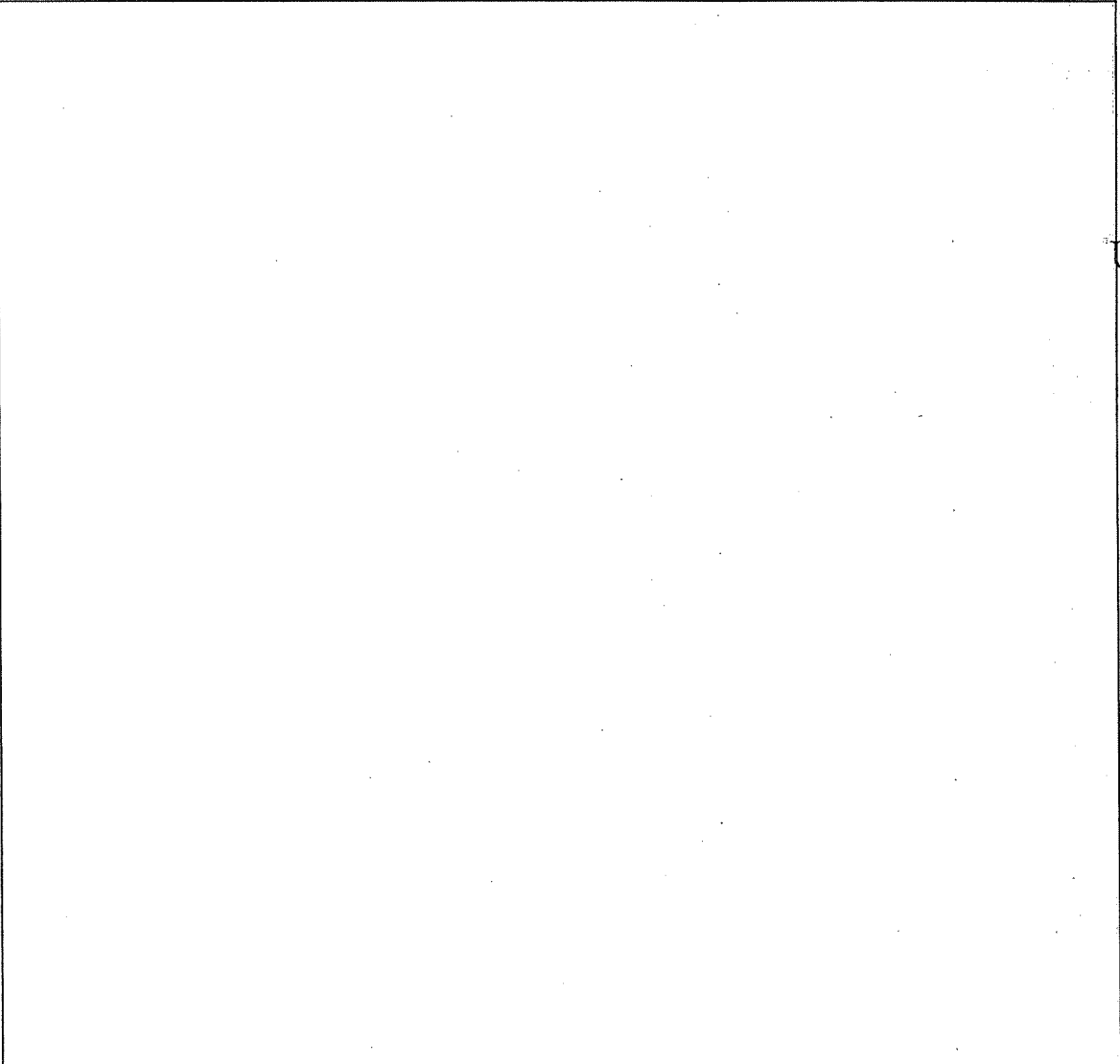
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4. Israel Sends Back "Mavi Marmara" (Hurriyet): Turkish media report that the Mavi Marmara passenger ship at the center of the deadly Israeli navy raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla was towed out of port in Israel and is on way back to Turkey, along with two other flotilla ships. Pro-government Sabah in "Israel Hands Over, Ships on The Way" highlights "Israel fulfills Turkey's demands one by one, now it's time for an apology and compensation." Meanwhile, Hurriyet and Radikal note that the Israeli Foreign Ministry sent a letter to Turkey and requested that no similar ships be sent to Gaza.

In the Headlines

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	GHFS-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
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SENSITIVE

E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: PHUM, PREL, IS, KPAL, TU, UNHRC-1
 SUBJECT: HRC Gaza Flotilla Fact-Finding Mission: What Next ?

REF: GENEVA 654

1. (U) This is an action request. See para 13.

SUMMARY

2. (SBU) Following Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's announcement (on August 2) of a panel of inquiry into the May 31 flotilla incident, and the decision of both Israel and Turkey to cooperate with this investigation, Post has explored ways to "turn off" the flotilla fact finding mission established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in HRC resolution 14/1. We very strongly favor having this fact finding mission (FFM) fall away; we opposed its creation and its superfluousness is now more evident. Unfortunately, having the FFM simply disband or stand down does not appear to be a realistic scenario. Based on recent statements by Turkey and the Thai HRC President, as well as conversations with the Turks and Palestinians in Geneva and with personnel in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the HRC FFM will proceed as

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mandated. There are important outstanding questions, however, about how they will approach their work, i.e., how they understand the terms of their mandate and how ambitious they will be. There is also an urgent need for guidance with respect to whether and how the United States should seek to shape the outcome, as Post has learned that the members of the FFM will be in Geneva next week to consult with OHCHR and various Missions, including the U.S. Mission. The Department may want to consider [REDACTED]

B5

Reactions to Ban's Announcement

3. (U) Human Rights Council President Sihasak Phuanketkeow (Thailand) stated at a press conference on August 4 that the Geneva and New York processes would not overlap, but would "complement" one another. He stated that the Geneva process would focus on "perceived violations of human rights and humanitarian law" while the New York process would focus on preventing similar incidents in the future.

4. (SBU) In its response to Ban's announcement, Turkey, the main sponsor of the resolution establishing the Geneva-based mission, stated that the Geneva process should "complement" the New York process. In a conversation Ambassador Donahoe had with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Turks expressed that they have no fixed idea about what the HRC FFM should do apart from "fulfilling its mandate", i.e., they didn't express specific ideas about what it means for the HRC FFM to complement the NY process, but they did express that they fully expect the FFM to go forward. In a separate conversation on August 5, Palestinian [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Turkish [REDACTED] told PolCouns that there was no way to turn off the Geneva process. Both indicated that if the fact-finding mission report provided actionable conclusions, then the HRC may have to consider follow-up actions. PolCouns argued that having the two processes run in parallel could complicate and politicize the issue with the result being no resolution to the problem, satisfying no one. [REDACTED] made clear that Ankara was expecting the investigation(s) to provide answers they could give to the families of the deceased. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] insisted that the Geneva FFM had to pursue its mandate and provide its conclusions.

B6

5. (SBU) [REDACTED] HRC [REDACTED] told PolCouns on August 5 that OHCHR had approached the UN in NY about the "complementarity" of the two flotilla investigations. OHCHR wanted

investigation. According to [redacted] NY flatly ignored OHCHR's queries. [redacted] said that NY wants nothing to do with Geneva process and prefers to let the tracks run parallel.

B6

[redacted] sees this as a problem but is resigned to the fact that the HRC has created a mandate that must be fulfilled and that the Geneva FFM investigation will continue.

6. (SBU) [redacted]

B5, B6

Status of the Geneva Investigation

7. (SBU) Discussions with the OHCHR staff supporting the Geneva fact-finding mission closely tracked with the view outlined by the HRC President in his August 4 press statement (see para 2). The fact-finding mission sees itself as having a clear, "fixed" mandate from the HRC to investigate alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, during the specific event of the flotilla incident. Ban's announcement does not change or affect that mandate.

8. (SBU) The fact-finding mission members will meet in Geneva beginning August 9 and will devise a formal plan of work. While in Geneva, the members will request meetings with several diplomatic missions including the United States.

9. (SBU) The fact-finding mission intends to request travel to Jordan, Turkey, and Israel to speak with government officials and witnesses. They intend to write a report detailing what occurred with an analysis of whether international law was violated. The group will submit the report at the September 2010 session of the Human Rights Council, at which point the mandate will be completed, barring any new resolution extending the mandate. Given the short timetable for the panel to carry out its work and the insatiable appetite of many HRC delegations for scrutiny of Israeli conduct, a call from some quarters to extend the mandate is judged likely.

10. (SBU) OHCHR reports that the New York panel will focus on recommendations for preventing future incidents, and its assessment will be based on the reports submitted by Turkey and Israel. The panel will not necessarily travel to the region or interview

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witnesses. Therefore, in OHCHR's view which is shared by others in Geneva, the New York and Geneva processes are completely distinct, and the creation of the New York panel has no bearing on the ability of the Geneva fact-finding mission to go forward. This limits our ability to push for a limited, narrow role for the fact-finding mission, much less call it off entirely.

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Comment and Possible Alternatives

11. (SBU) The current mandate of the Geneva-based group runs only through September 2010, leaving little time to complete a meaningful investigation. Furthermore, running parallel investigations is neither practical nor effective. Finally, Israel has not agreed to cooperate with the Geneva process, limiting its credibility and influence. Despite these obvious problems, the FFM will continue its work. While the Turks oppose disbanding the HRC FFM entirely, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

12. (SBU) Post judges that, at least at the level of Geneva, an approach that stresses abandonment of the HRC investigation as the only acceptable outcome to the U.S. will gain no traction, and only intensify the commitment of others to see the FFM move forward. Engagement to shape the focus and outcomes appears the most effective way to potentially mitigate its impact. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The FFM's mandate is to "to investigate violations of international law, including

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international humanitarian law and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance." It will therefore be difficult for them not to orient their work towards alleged international law violations. But we could potentially encourage an approach that develops some basic factual information that would be relevant to assessing potential violations, and argue that it would not be appropriate or prudent for them to make any assessments themselves with respect to actual violations.

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13. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: The FFM members will be in Geneva for meetings with relevant delegations the week of August 9. Post requests guidance regarding interaction with the FFM and other delegations. (Note: Ambassador King knows one of the FFM members well personally. She expects to see him socially in any case during his visit to Geneva next week. End note.)

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COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

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NSC FOR NEA STAFF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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SIPDIS
E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
2. Iran

Key stories in the media:

HaQaretz and Maariv reported that on Wednesday, PM Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a Palestinian demand that direct negotiations be based on a statement by the Quartet confirming its position that the future Palestinian state will be based on the 1967 borders. Meeting in Jerusalem with U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace Senator George Mitchell, Netanyahu repeated his demand for the renewal of direct talks without preconditions. Mitchell briefed Netanyahu on his meeting on Tuesday with PA President Mahmoud Abbas and gave the PM the Palestinian proposal. According to Palestinian sources, Mitchell did not dismiss Abbas' proposal. Abbas is demanding a clear framework for the direct talks and an Israeli commitment to cease construction activity in the settlement during the negotiations. Israel Hayom reported that Mitchell will continue to try to remove Abbas' opposition to direct talks with Israel. The Jerusalem Post reported that Mitchell's meeting in the region failed to produce direct talks. Deputy PM and Interior Minister Eli Yishai was quoted as saying in an interview with The Jerusalem Post on Wednesday that PM Netanyahu intends to build only in the settlement blocs when the construction freeze in the West Bank ends

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on September 26.

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Most media reported that on Wednesday, in his testimony before the Public Commission to Examine the Maritime Incident of 31 May 2010, a.k.a. the Turkel Commission, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi was the only principal Israeli official to claim full responsibility for the events. Ashkenazi said that next time, the IDF will use snipers to halt Gaza-bound flotilla. On Wednesday, IDF Radio released a video clip that reawakened the public and political furor over Balad (National Democratic Assembly) Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi's participation in the Gaza-bound flotilla. Leading media quoted Zoabi's critics as saying the footage from the Mavi Marmara proves that the freshman lawmaker was aware of the violent intentions of the ship's passengers. However, the footage never

clearly show Zoabi in the same frame as an armed passenger. Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin (Likud) called on Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein to probe the video recording. Israel Radio quoted Deputy PM Eli Yisai as saying in an interview with the ultra-Orthodox weekly Hamishpacha that the ministers of the Cabinet had been told before the event that there were Hamas-associated Turkish activists in the flotilla and that some passengers might be armed. The media also reported that the High Court of Justice has demanded explanations over the fact that no woman was appointed to the Turkel panel.

The media reported that on Wednesday a judge at the Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court released Chaim Pearlman to house arrest after spending 30 days in custody. Pearlman is suspected of fatally stabbing at least three Palestinians over a decade ago. The media said that the affair is a great embarrassment to Shin Bet.

Yediot banners: QPlane of the Future to Arrive in Israel.Q The newspaper reported that Israel has finally approved a deal to purchase 20 F-15 fighter jets from the U.S. at the cost of \$2.75 billion. Yediot quoted opponents of the project as saying that the Israeli defense establishment should have chosen a cheaper option.

HaQaretz and Israel Radio reported that on Wednesday PM Netanyahu released a video message in which the Muslim population in Israel and all over the world an QeasyQ month of Ramadan. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released a video message yesterday in which he wished the Muslim population in Israel and all over the world an "easy" month of Ramadan. "We mark this important month [Ramadan] amid attempts to achieve direct peace talks with the Palestinians and to advance peace treaties with our Arab neighbors," Netanyahu said. "I know you are partners in this goal and I ask for your support both in prayers and in any other joint effort to really create a peaceful and harmonious coexistence," he added. The prime minister concluded his message with a traditional Arabic blessing

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wishing the Muslims an easy fast. HaQaretz reported that President Barack Obama will also mark this year's Muslim holiday with a traditional Id al-Fitr dinner at the White House at the end of the month-long fast. Similar to last year, Obama has invited several top rabbis as well as Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Michael Oren, to the dinner. None of them have accepted the invitation, however, as the White House event falls on a Friday night.

HaQaretz quoted Lebanese DM Elias Murr as saying on Wednesday that his country will decline any military assistance from the U.S. that

is conditioned on its agreeing not to use those weapons against Israel. The newspaper cited the State Department's response that Washington would continue to block the Lebanese military. Israel Radio quoted Syria as saying that it is prepared to grant assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces. Yediot quoted the Italian daily Corriere Della Sera as saying that a decision was made at a secret meeting of senior Turkish and Iranian intelligence officials to create territorial contiguity from Iran to Lebanon through Turkey and Syria to enable the passage of missile-laden trucks to Hizbullah.

HaQaretz reported that a new IDF decree bans Israelis from entering Palestinian villages along Route 443, despite these villages being located in Area C, which is under complete Israeli control.

The Jerusalem Post reported that settlers intend to march against the new Palestinian city of Rawabi. The Citizens Committee of the Benjamin (Binyamin) Council north of Jerusalem said that its location was chosen to connect Jenin to Hebron.

Leading media reported that on Wednesday, following Israeli pressure, the U.S. Department of State has removed the city of Eilat from its travel advisory for Israel and the territories

The Jerusalem Post reported that an Israeli exhibit in East Hampton, N.Y. provides Americans with concrete truth about terror conditions. A bomb shelter from Sderot is the centerpiece of the show.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. Obama Has Fled from the Middle East

Middle East affairs commentator Dr. Guy Bechor, a lecturer at the

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Interdisciplinary Center, wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (8/12): QFollowing decades of accelerated American activity in our region -- through pressure, intrigues, deals, mediation, diplomacy, threats, concessions, and doctrines -- an oppressive silence prevails. The incumbent U.S. President, Barack Obama, has disappeared from the Middle Eastern landscape, producing

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a superpower's vacuum. The Arab regimes hated George W. Bush, but they also feared him and were wary of him. Obama simply isn't there... An example of this is the Turkish flotilla affair. Obama should have dispatched his Secretary of State to Ankara and Jerusalem to quickly resolve the issue, but nobody arrived from the United States and regional damage is important... Everybody feels that Obama talks but that he doesn't act. Benjamin Disraeli said that people should never argue but bring results. Obama has not even garnered a single achievement in the Middle East... As the second half of his term approaches, his call on Islam has collapsed and Obama has no other plan: he has no agenda and no direction... He thought that if he kept some distance from Israel, he would earn the sympathy of the moderate Arab camp. The result was a bitter one: he dismantled the moderate Arab camp and lost Israel... It is actually a member of the Democratic Party who brought about the unprecedented... strengthening of the brutality of the Arab regimes surrounding Israel... Here is a warning: those who flee from the Middle East will eventually be hunted by it.

II. QMonopoly for Action Must Not Be Left in IDF's Hands

Former Meretz leader, former Justice Minister, and chief Israeli promoter of the Geneva Initiative, Yossi Beilin, wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (8/12): QEveryone is praising the articulate and candid appearance of the Chief of Staff to the Turkel Commission. He took responsibility. He admitted the mistakes. He backed the soldiers. On the other hand, the IDF accepts the criticism of the other agencies and from this moment on, becomes the address for Israel's failure in handling the Turkish flotilla. The IDF is not the fall guy in this story -- it is the agency that recommends modes of action to the government; it is the executor. The Government is playing a secondary role in the affair. Usually, the army prefers this; this time it is paying the entire price for being the only one around. This is very convenient for the Government... The army has to realize that the ministers, mainly the ignorant ones, who give it blind backing and who rely on it so much, will also be the first to say that they did not intervene, did not object, did not question and perhaps were not questioned, and will assign to the IDF the practical responsibility (of course not the formal responsibility) for failures. In order to prevent this, the IDF must demand the presence of other assessment agencies in the room where the decisions are made, to explain carefully the other options to the ministers, and to ensure that the decision among the

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options be theirs. The current monopoly on making a recommendation is a responsibility that the IDF should not have to take on itself.

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III. QThings I Learned from Abu Mazen

Right-of-center columnist Dror Eydar wrote in Israel Hayom (8/12):
QIn an interview with the editors of the most important Egyptian newspapers, Abu Mazen, the head of the Palestinian Authority, addressed Israel's conditions for the end of the conflict, principally a clear recognition by the Palestinians of the State of Israel as the national home of the Jewish people. According to the report, Abu Mazen said that he will never recognize the State of Israel as the state of the Jewish people. True, it is hard to demand that the Palestinians modify their basic principles. If Israeli society comprises people -- some of them influential in many domains -- who wish to turn Israel in a Qstate of all its citizens ... which means the end of the Jewish state, Benjamin Netanyahu must continue to place this principle as a basic condition for peace negotiations.

IV. QFight Terror Legally

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (8/12): QOn Wednesday, a court decided to release the right-wing activist Chaim Pearlman to house arrest, about a month after he was first taken into custody. When he was arrested, Shin Bet announced with much fanfare that he was suspected of having murdered four Arabs 12 years ago. He was denied basic rights under interrogation.... Shin Bet must make a greater effort to uproot Jewish terrorism, but the end cannot justify any means.... Shin Bet must mend its ways. Pearlman is not the only suspect in recent months who was arrested on the basis of serious allegations that quickly turned out to be false. He was preceded by several Israeli Arab detainees; in those cases, a raft of allegations produced little. Before the Shin Bet arrests people and makes false accusations, it should investigate carefully. It should remember that not everything is permitted in interrogations, and that torture -- whether psychological or physical -- is always unacceptable, no matter the case or the suspect. Even the war against terror must be conducted using legal means.

2. Iran:

Block Quotes:

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The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (8/12):
QThe sanctions imposed on Iran by the U.N., E.U. and U.S. have always looked better on paper than in real life. Their major underlying flaw -- not the only one by any means -- is the probability that not everyone will adhere to them.... Most galling ... is the behavior of certain European democracies such as Switzerland which, for their own good, should be in the vanguard of the struggle to defend free world interests against a rogue regime with nuclear ambitions.... Sanctions are imposed to make it difficult for a regime which inordinately endangers world peace to carry on unhindered. That is the logic. Money is fungible. Whatever enriches Iranian coffers -- especially given the tyrannical nature of the regime -- can, even if not directly, help fund terror and/or help Tehran to proceed with nuclear weapons development. The Swiss aren't that naive. They know the score perfectly well. They should not make fools of the rest of the world. They should know better than to undermine what are ultimately free world interests, most emphatically including their own.

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ACTION EUR-00:

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	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
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 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
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E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/09/08

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, UN, TU, IS

SUBJECT: Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

CLASSIFIED BY: Doug Silliman, CDA, State, EXEC; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) Turkey's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told CDA and PolOff September 7 that the GoT expects a "strong report" critical of Israel actions against the Free Gaza flotilla from the Human Rights Council (HRC). [REDACTED] said the HRC's investigation will focus on Israel's alleged violations of human rights, the right to life, and to the freedom

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of expression surrounding the May 31 Mavi Marmara incident, both during the raid and in the aftermath. The HRC, he said, would not examine the legality of the blockade or the Israeli raid. Having submitted Turkey's own investigation report to the UN on September 2, [] said he has some idea of what he expects to appear in the final HRC report, including a catalog of "inhumane treatment" of the flotilla passengers by Israeli authorities. CDA expressed US concern that the HRC group would focus on elements critical of Israel, but might not examine the voracity of those claims or countervailing arguments with much vigor, which could ultimately lead to an unbalanced report.

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2. (SBU) [] spoke highly of the group of lawyers and experts of the fact-finding mission appointed by the President of the HRC, which visited Turkey August 22-29 to inspect the Mavi Marmara and interview witnesses and government officials. The fact-finding mission is chaired by K. Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and also includes Desmond de Silva, chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal, and Shanthi Dairiam, former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.
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ACTION INR-00

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	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00
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	OIC-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-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
 JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO

SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for September 23, 2010

Media Highlights: Gul in New York on Sanctions; Caglayan on Trade
 with Iran and the US; Contacts in US/Iraq On PKK; UN Flotilla
 Report: Israel Violated Law; PKK Terror: Permanent Peace
 Discussions at Imrali

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

How the US is Playing/Related News

1. Gul in New York: "We Abide By the Sanctions" (Cumhuriyet)

Turkish media is awash in stories chronicling President's Gul's

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movements at the UNGA in New York this week, as well as his numerous interviews with international and American media. Nearly all emphasize Turkey's economic success and focus in on Turkey's relations with Iran. Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet in "We Abide by the Sanctions," reports "President Gul who attended the 'Charlie Rose Show' stressed that Turkey implements the UN sanctions against Iran. 'If Iran has nuclear weapons, this is much more dangerous for Turkey than the US. Turkey will never want to see a neighbor with nuclear weapons and will never be tolerant to Iran possessing nuclear weapons.'" NTV headlines "Gul in NY," and quotes President Gul as saying "When there are binding sanctions, we abide by those binding sanctions." Mainstream Hurriyet says "Message from Gul: I'm Going to Say 'Be a Compromiser' To Iran" and highlights that Gul gave this message while speaking to PBS in NY and the Washington Post and emphasized that "Turkey has the capacity to help with a solution for the problems between Iran and the international community." Mainstream Milliyet online in "Iran Listens to Us" notes "speaking to media in NY, Gul said Iran's leaders pay attention to Turkey and he is going to suggest to them that they be more transparent." Mainstream Sabah headlines "Gul: Local Administration Reforms Required," and reports "President Gul who was live on TRT Haber, emphasized that the whole world, the whole region saw Turkey's success and importance." Sabah also noted that Gul added that Turkey needs to carry out local administration reforms.

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2. Caglayan on Trade with Iran and the US

Trade Minister Caglayan on CNBC-E TV last night mentioned his upcoming Oct. 17 US visit and said Turkey will consult with the U.S. on ensuring financing for its legal trade with neighboring Iran, noting "our bankers are nervous." "While we understand bans on certain aspects of trade, we're having difficulty understanding the limits on the banking system" noting Turkey wants to increase trade from about \$11 billion now to \$30 billion annually. Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal says Caglayan called the prohibition on all banking transactions with Iran "a mistake" and said Turkey was lobbying Washington to alter the measures. Mainstream Vatan in "\$64 Billion of Trade with Iran Is by the EU and the US. How Is This an Embargo?" reports Turkey has no intention of breaking the embargo but conservative-religious Turkiye highlights "Iranian Embargo Reduces Turkish Bank Profits." Semi-official Anadolu Ajansi (AA) stresses that Caglayan found it difficult to explain low trade figures with the U.S. despite an alliance of over half a century, and said that he said his US meetings would take place based on our 'model partnership.'

3. Concurrent Contacts with the US and Iraq (Hurriyet)

Mainstream Hurriyet's prominent inside story highlights the details

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of Turkey's National Intelligence Service (MIT) Undersecretary Hakan Fidan's contacts in the US. Hurriyet reports that Fidan and two senior MIT officials are "holding top secret meetings with President Obama's security advisors on the fight against PKK

terror." At the same time, Turkish Ambassador to Bagdad Murat Ozelik is in discussions with Mesud Barzani, the leader of the regional administration of Northern Iraq. Hurriyet notes "the concurrent talks in Erbil and Washington have triggered allegations that Turkey is seeking tripartite cooperation with the US and Northern Iraq to end PKK terror."

4. Negative Relations with Israel: US-Turkey Trade Impact

Mainstream Milliyet in its economy page reports TUSIAD's deputy chairman and US-TR Business Council chairman Haluk Dincer, talking on the economic effect of the latest developments in US-Turkey relations with Turkey's new foreign policy status, said "there's not a negative effect on economic relations between US-Turkey in the short term. But if Turkey-Israel relations remain negative, US investments in Turkey could decrease in the long run" due to efforts by the Jewish lobby in Congress. On Turkey's economic relations with Iran, Dincer stressed that "Turkish companies were careful on the issue."

5. US and British Ambassadors Wanted to Lobby For Foreign Drug Companies (Milliyet)

Milliyet's economic columnist Derya Sazak writes "Deputy PM Babacan who is in NY together with President Gul, talked about the backstage of bargaining with drug companies. Highlighting that the government's drug purchase could increase to 18 billion TL than 16 billion TL in 2009, Babacan said the US and British Ambassadors intervened and wanted to lobby for foreign companies. 'We told them that this was not a diplomatic issue. We are customers and we bargain,' said Babacan."

In the Headlines

6. UN Flotilla Report: Israel Violated International Law (Zaman, NTV)

Turkish TV and online outlets are reporting in detail on the UN Human Rights Council's new report on the Israeli raid on a Turkish aid flotilla for Gaza, which resulted in the death of 8 Turks and one American. Hurriyet online headlines "People Willfully Killed on Mavi Marmara," referring to the lead ship where the fatalities occurred, while NTV reports "UN Council says Israel Guilty of Violations." Islamist Zaman on line in "Israel Violated International Law" reports the Council's 56-page report by its

fact-finding mission "has concluded that Israel's naval blockade of the Palestinian territory was unlawful because of the humanitarian crisis there, and described the military raid on the flotilla as brutal and disproportionate." Noting that the Israeli Foreign Ministry late Wednesday evening had dismissed the report for its "biased, politicized and extremist approach," Zaman points out that the Council found "the conduct of the Israeli military and other personnel toward the flotilla passengers was not only disproportionate to the occasion but demonstrated levels of totally unnecessary and incredible violence. It betrayed an unacceptable level of brutality." Predicting more condemnation awaits Israel, In "The Report That Will Drive Israel into a Corner," mainstream Vatan predicts more international condemnation awaits Israel in light of the report.

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7. Permanent Peace Discussions at Imrali

Media are highlighting the state of discussions with Ocalan at the Imrali prison and the potential for peace. Mainstream Vatan headlines "Movement at Imrali" reporting that there has been increased discussions with Ocalan in the past week and that a civil commission has been at the island for days. Mainstream Sabah

headlines "A Civil Siege of Imrali" highlighting increased "initiatives to silence the weapons." There is wide TV coverage of the discussions and Radikal Ankara bureau chief Utku Cakiruzer, traveling with Gul in the US, noted on NTV that discussions on Imrali could continue despite the discovery today of a van in Eastern Turkey with bombs belonging to the PKK. Turkish television has given extensive coverage to Israel's Channel 2 television interview with PKK leader Murat Karayilan, in his Northern Iraq hideout, and his comments in which he urged Israel on Tuesday to sever its military ties with Turkey, which he described as a common enemy, were replayed in newspapers.

8. Final Stages In South Korean Nuclear Power Plant Talks

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yldz said Wednesday that talks with South Korea regarding the construction of a nuclear power plant in Sinop, planned for Turkey's northern province of Sinop, are ongoing with only a few remaining issues under deliberation according to Today's Zaman. Yildiz said South Korea has asked to amend some of Turkey's conditions for the construction and the Turkish side is in the final stage of assessment of these proposals. Other media report Turkey and South Korea will sign an intergovernmental agreement on the power plant when PM Erdogan visits Seoul in November 11-12.

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ACTION NEA-00

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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PREL, CASC, KWBG, KPAL, MOPS, IS

SUBJECT: IDF INTERCEPTS "JEWISH BOAT TO GAZA"

REF: TEL AVIV 2176

1. (SBU) According to DAO Tel Aviv, the Israel Navy Force (INF) safely and peacefully boarded the "Jewish Boat to Gaza" Sailing Vessel "Irene" on September 28 at approximately 1130 hours local. (Note: The INF continues to refer to the ship as the "Sven-Y-Two," although the "Jews for Justice for Palestinians" organization and press refer to the ship as the "Irene." End note.) The INF is currently towing the ship to the Israeli port of Ashdod, and estimates its arrival at 1530 hours local. The MFA confirmed that the "Irene" is being towed to Ashdod, and will contact CONS regarding the condition of the passengers and access to American citizen -- reportedly on board -- as soon as the ship arrives in port.

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2. (SBU) According to the Israeli press, the INF hailed the "Irene" twice and ordered it to stop sailing to Gaza. "Jews for Justice for Palestinians" activists on board the "Irene" indicated the ship had departed Famagusta, and announced their clear intention to break the INF's naval blockade of Gaza. Israeli press reports that no violence by either the crew of the "Irene" or by the INF took place.

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SIPDIS
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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, CASC, KWBG, KPAL, MOPS, IS
 SUBJECT: "JEWISH BOAT TO GAZA": ACTIVISTS CLAIM VIOLENCE;
 AMCIT LEAVES PEACEFULLY

REF: A. TEL AVIV 2176
 B. TEL AVIV 2180

1. (SBU) Summary: The Israel Navy Force intercepted the "Jewish Boat to Gaza" on September 28 and towed it to the Israeli port of Ashdod. Israeli activists on board were arrested and later released on bail. The Israeli Ministry of Interior offered foreign activists immediate repatriation; American citizen [redacted] departed Israel early on September 29. [redacted] was met by Embassy staff at Ben Gurion International Airport, and signed a Privacy Act waiver prior to departure; she reported no issues regarding mistreatment, confiscated property, or health. The IDF Spokesperson's office stated the boarding of the ship occurred without incident. Israeli media outlets and the "Jewish Boat to Gaza" website refute this claim, charging that one Israeli activist was tasered during the boarding; [redacted] also reported that the IDF used a taser gun on an activist. The MFA noted that the Israeli activists are entitled to file charges with the Israeli police, who would then be obliged to open an investigation. End summary.

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2. (U) A statement from the IDF Spokesperson's office noted that the boarding of the "Sven Y Two" (also known as the "Irene" to the Israeli MFA and press) "was without incident" and that "no violence of any kind" was used by either the passengers or the INF. The IDF Spokesperson's statement reiterated that Israeli naval ships transmitted two warnings to the captain of the ship, making clear that the intent to sail to Gaza was illegal. Overhead video footage released on YouTube shows IDF soldiers boarding as two INF vessels flanked the ship. IDF Spokesperson Brigadier General Avi Benayahu said during a September 28 interview with Israel Radio that he regretted the INF is "forced to be diverted from its primary mission of fighting terrorism, and must deal instead with a strange mission like this of a yacht that has no connection to humanitarian aid, and is nothing other than a provocation."

3. (SBU) [redacted] the only American citizen on board the "Irene," accepted the GOI's offer of immediate repatriation. As reported septel, CONS staff met [redacted] at Ben Gurion International Airport, and she departed early on September 29 on an El Al flight bound for Newark.

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[redacted] signed a full Privacy Act waiver, and asked that CONS contact her son-in-law. She reported no issues regarding mistreatment, confiscated property, or health. She was, however, quite shaken from her experience and expressed gratitude for the Embassy's assistance.

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4. (U) Israeli press reports that several "Irene" passengers claim the IDF used excessive force when boarding the ship. CAPT (res.) Yonatan Shapira, a former Israel Air Force pilot on board the ship, said there were "no words to describe what (the passengers) went through during the takeover," and claimed the IDF used a taser gun on him. He noted that there was a large discrepancy between the IDF's account of a peaceful boarding and what actually occurred. Eli Usharov, a reporter affiliated with Israel's Channel 10, affirmed Shapira's account of the boarding, including the use of the taser gun. In her conversation with CONS staff, [redacted] reported that the IDF had used a taser gun on one of the activists. The "Jewish Boat to Gaza" website reported that the Israeli passengers were released from police custody on bail, while three international passengers accepted immediate repatriation. The website noted that [redacted] from Germany remains in the Givon Deportment Center after refusing immediate repatriation.

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5. (SBU) MFA Deputy Director General for North America Barukh Bina said September 29 that the MFA considers the "case

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closed" regarding the "Irene." He noted that Bina made clear to the IDF and the Ministry of Interior that the individuals on board be treated with respect and care -- including especially AmCit [redacted] While the activists' views do not correspond to the GOI's perspective, they are nevertheless entitled to their opinions, Bina said. He had no further information regarding Shapira's allegations of abuse. As an Israeli citizen, Shapira is entitled to file charges with the Israeli police; the IDF would then be obliged to investigate the incident, Bina said. He reiterated that the INF had been instructed to refrain from any use of violence during the boarding.
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ACTION NEA-00

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
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ROME FOR MFO

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
2. U.S.-Israel Relations

Key stories in the media:

The media cited remarks that PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin made at the official memorial ceremony for the late Yitzhak Rabin. Netanyahu, who painted himself as more left-wing on Palestinian statehood, was quoted as saying that enmity and the gaps in Israeli society have decreased. Yediot quoted DM Ehud Barak as saying at a meeting of Jewish leaders convened by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute in Jerusalem that Israel should not insist at this point on recognition by the Palestinians as a Jewish state. Yediot reported that Barak also criticized Netanyahu's policy vis-a-vis the Palestinians ("What is needed here now is a De Gaulle who made concessions, not a Churchill who applied force," he was quoted as saying.)

Ha'aretz's Web site and Israel Radio quoted U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as saying on Wednesday at an annual gala of the American Taskforce for Palestine at in Washington that Israelis and Palestinians have not abandoned peace negotiations and that a

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two-state solution is still possible. The Secretary was quoted: UNCLASSIFIED

"We remain convinced that if they persevere with negotiations, the parties can agree on an outcome that ends the conflict; reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps." "We have a moment in time and we must seize... The Obama administration will not turn their backs on either the people of Palestine and Israel. They will continue working for and God willing achieving peace," said Clinton. Ha'aretz reported that Clinton also spoke about U.S. efforts to ease situation in Gaza, under Israeli blockade since 2007. "Our goal is to support sustainable economic growth in Gaza, and it's a little-known fact that the Palestinian Authority is the principal financial supporter of Gaza. The people in Gaza are dependent upon the Palestinian Authority, which is another reason why the increase in economic activity in the West Bank is not only good for those who live in the West Bank, but those who live in Gaza as well."

Leading media reported that in the "largest arms deal in history," Saudi Arabia is purchasing from the U.S. \$60 billion in weapons, including 84 F-15 aircraft. The media reported that the U.S. reassured Israel, saying that the transaction is meant to strengthen Saudi Arabia against the regional threats. Israel Hayom and other media cited the dissatisfaction of Israeli officials, who were however quoted as saying that Israel's qualitative edge will be maintained.

The Jerusalem Post reported on a plan to include officers trained to help reduce civilian casualties in IDF combat units.

In an interview with Maariv, Minority Affairs Minister Avishay Braverman (Labor) stated his belief that as chairman of the Labor Party, he will garner 25 Knesset seats and become prime minister. He proclaimed himself Rabin's successor and said: "The public will have to choose: Lieberman or Braverman."

Leading media quoted New York Times pundit Thomas Friedman as saying in an op-ed article that "Israel today really is behaving like a spoiled child" and that PM Netanyahu told President Obama

that he will dismantle his government to reach an agreement with the Palestinians. Speaking on Israel TV, former Israeli Consul-General in New York Alon Pinkas concurred with Friedman, saying that Israel owes the U.S. a lot and that it should at least make a small gesture to the administration, but that this is not only the issue of a 60-day settlement freeze. Maariv reported that the Jewish leaders convened by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute in Jerusalem asked Netanyahu to continue the settlement freeze. They reportedly pushed Netanyahu to reach understandings with the U.S.

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The Jerusalem Post cited P.A. denial of the new Palestinian conditions for the negotiations as reported by Yediot on Wednesday.

Leading media reported "hilltop youth" have been blamed for arson at a Palestinian school on Wednesday. The Jerusalem Post quoted the IDF as saying that there has been a clear escalation in settler violence.

Major media reported that Rabbi Yitzhak Shapira, the co-author of the book "The King's Torah," which deems as legal, according to "Jewish law," the killing of non-Jews, has recently distributed a leaflet to IDF soldiers, advocating the "neighbor procedure," which allows troops to use Arabs as human shield.

The Jerusalem Post and Israel Hayom reported that on Wednesday the International Criminal Court in The Hague hosted a debate on whether to allow the P.A. to complain about crimes committed on "Palestinian territory." The Jerusalem Post quoted former Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Dore Gold as saying that the decision could accelerate moves toward a unilateral "Palestine." Israel Hayom quoted The New York Times as saying that the Palestinian leadership is considering a change in strategy and is focusing more of its efforts on convincing international organizations to recognize a Palestinian state in the West Bank.

Ha'aretz reported that data found on a laptop of a passenger of last May's Free Gaza Flotilla indicates that the flotilla's organizers received assistance from the highest levels of the Turkish government, including PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other senior government officials. Records of the meeting between the heads of the six groups behind the flotilla, in Istanbul, two weeks prior to embarkation and other similar documents were found on laptop computers confiscated by the IDF following the takeover of the flotilla.

Maariv reported that the IDF will cooperate with the P.A. in rebuilding the "Arches" Palace, a building in the village of Beit Jala, from which Palestinians used to target the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo at the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Intifada. In retaliation, the IDF had bombarded the building.

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Wednesday a family of African-American converts accused immigration inspectors of assaulting them in their house in Ashkelon, during an arrest that took place on Tuesday.

Yediot cited the results of a poll conducted by the Hebrew University and the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR) during the first week of October:

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- 78 percent of Israelis and 30 percent of Palestinians support the continuation of the negotiations
- 6 percent of Palestinians (5 percent of the Israelis) believe that there is a chance for the talks to succeed.
- 29 percent of Israelis support a full building freeze in the settlements.
- 56 percent of Israelis support talks with Hamas to reach a compromise agreement.
- 51 percent of Palestinians support a non-violent protest, should the negotiations fail.
- 49 percent of Palestinians will recognize Israel as a Jewish state as part of a permanent-status agreement.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "The Opposition on Trial"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (10/21): "A number of racist, anti-democratic bills will reach the Knesset rostrum during the parliament's winter session. Their aim is to suppress political demands and expressions of protest voiced by the Arab community. The main opposition party should lead opposition to these proposed laws and mobilize to thwart their legislation. That is Kadima's task right now. However, regrettable positions expressed by some members of the party in speeches and in legislative actions, in addition to the silence of party leader Tzipi Livni, inspire considerable concern. The opposition should not cooperate with anti-democratic legislation, either in deed or tacit consent. Kadima faces the test of presenting a forceful position against racism; not only during a one-time conference, but also throughout the committee's session, and in the work of its committees."

II. "10,000 Years of Palestinian Bluff"

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Conservative columnist Nadav Haetzni wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (10/21): "Israel's economic press is reporting a new event-celebrations marking the 10,000 anniversary of the city of Jericho, sponsored by the Palestinian Authority. On a consumer note, we are being told about plans by Palestinian Authority President Salam Fayyad to raise USD two billion to promote tourism in the city, to build a strip of hotels, an airport and more. We are also being told about a week of celebrations marking '10,000 years since Jericho's establishment as a city.' At the center of the celebrations, the Palestinian cabinet will hold a special session in the city.... It is not clear just how the Netanyahu government has agreed to negotiate with an entity in which Israel does not exist, an entity that systematically incites for the disappearance of Israel. For instance, the Palestinian Media Watch organization reports about a contest recently run on Palestinian television that awarded cash prizes to viewers who correctly named occupied Palestinian cities. These were not Ramallah and Nablus, but rather Akko, Jaffa, Haifa and the like. This goal-erasing Israel and the memory of any Jewish-Israeli roots, is part of the Temple Mount story. For years Israel has allowed Palestinian forces to erase remnants of the existence of ancient civilization at the Temple Mount. This Palestinian vandalism is intended to create mosques on the Mount to blur all remnants of Jewish, Christian or other presence there. This is because Palestinian archeology and history is non-existent. This is the way leading Palestinians tell the false story of this land's history and archaeology. Certain Israeli archaeologists collaborate with this falsehood and ignore dramatic discoveries and argue that there is no archaeological evidence that a Kingdom of David ever existed or any of the other episodes of the First Temple Period. It is all meant to serve the fraud and fantasy that is popularly called 'narrative.' This narrative has a Palestinian nation, 10,000 years old. Therefore, there are no Jewish roots here and no justice for the return of the Jewish people to its land."

III. "Forcing Arabs to Be Zionists"

Liberal columnist Larry Derfner wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (10/21): "Millions of Jews who are wary of [Avigdor] Lieberman and [Shas leader Eli] Yishai have signed on to the demand that Palestinian negotiators and prospective Israeli Arab citizens declare for Zionism. The ironic thing is that it's not the Arabs who are being coerced by this attempt, it's the Jews. Arabs show no inclination ever to make any statement in favor of Israel as a Jewish state, yet Jews have fallen into line behind the spiteful, futile idea of forcing Arabs into it. It's Jews who've been coerced into taking a loyalty oath -- a new one. Once they had to swear that they'd never agree to a Palestinian state, then that they'd never agree to redivide Jerusalem, now it's that the

Arabs have to become Zionists, or at least say they have. The demands for Arab recognition of, or loyalty to, the Jewish state are expressions of the extreme national egocentrism that's been suffocating this country. If we're committed to keeping Israel Jewish, the Arabs have to be committed to keeping Israel Jewish, too, otherwise we can't trust them. If we say it's our right to build settlements, they have to say it's our right to build settlements, otherwise we can't trust them. If we say Jerusalem is our capital and not theirs, they have to say Jerusalem is our capital and not theirs, otherwise we can't trust them. This is beyond egocentric, it's monomaniacal, autistic. I think it's fair to expect the Arabs to tolerate a Jewish state, to agree not to try to destroy it, but we shouldn't expect them to see the justice in it. That's for Zionists to see, and Arabs cannot be expected to be Zionists. Unfortunately, Zionists, or most of us anyway, are the only people in the world who refuse to understand this."

2. U.S.-Israel Relations:

Block Quotes:

"Barack Obama's Plummeting Support for U.S. Jews"

Columnist and conservative international Jewish leader Isi Leibler wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (10/21): "The anti-Obama mood of the Jewish community also reflects the broad American resentment of his handling of other issues, especially the administration's failure to restore the economy. American Jewry's long-standing commitment to liberalism still inhibits most of them from severing their political umbilical cord with the Democratic Party.... However, it is undisputable that there has been dramatic erosion in Jewish support for Obama and his administration.... However, the growing divide in attitudes toward Israel between the Democrats and the Republicans is disconcerting because it threatens to undermine the long-term bipartisan approach which traditionally prevailed.... But despite the doomsayers and contrary to the disinformation disseminated by the Left, [recent] surveys confirm that Americans remain overall strongly supportive of Israel.... But let us not be under any illusions. The road ahead will be difficult.... The role of Jewish leadership after the congressional elections may be crucial should Obama, as many predict, be inclined to intensify his one-sided pressures."

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

The websites of The Jerusalem Post and Ha'aretz, as well as Israel Radio, quoted President Shimon Peres as saying on Thursday that Israel cannot survive without the help of the U.S. He was talking at a Jerusalem conference of the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute on Thursday. Peres said, "for our existence, we need the friendship of the United States of America." Speaking of how Israel can give back to the U.S., he said that just "as the U.S. is trying to understand the security needs of Israel, we Israelis ourselves must understand the security needs of the U.S." He continued, "We cannot give back to the United States what the U.S. is giving us, but in our own small way, we can be of help." Connecting two of the largest issues on the Israeli -- and American -- agenda, the president said Israel could be of help to the U.S. by enabling an "anti-Iran coalition in the Middle East, and the contribution will not be by declaration, but if we stop the conflict between us and the Palestinians," in order to allow the U.S. to focus on the Iranian threat. The Jerusalem Post wrote that Peres also spoke of former U.S. President George W. Bush's foreign policy in the Middle East, saying that he appreciates George Bush's "attempt to expose them [Arab states] to democracy, but is that

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possible?" President Peres explained his thought, adding that it is "very difficult to come to a king and tell him to go to elections." Driving home the point, he said that "it would be like inviting a turkey to a Thanksgiving feast." Peres said that he believed "Muslims should be able to choose their own path." Israel

Radio quoted Peres as saying that most Americans support Israel.

Maariv reported that PM Benjamin Netanyahu is considering a trip to the U.S. for the annual Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly, which is to convene on November 7 in New Orleans. Political sources predict that a condition for the trip's taking place is a breakthrough in the deadlock presently facing negotiations with the Palestinians as well as the subsequent inclination of the American president to meet with him. Maariv reported that on Thursday, the PM dispatched his special envoy to the talks to Washington. Sources in Jerusalem predicted on Thursday that his special envoy, Yitzhak Molcho, would present a new Israeli proposal for renewing talks to the administration. According to the proposal, Israel will renew the construction freeze in return for several demands, the most important of which is that the settlement construction will no longer be raised as a precondition to talks. Associates of the PM are concerned that if the talks are not renewed, the Palestinian issue could reach the UN General Assembly through the group of non-aligned nations, most of which are not supporters of Israel. Maariv quoted the Prime Minister's Bureau as saying that Netanyahu's trip to the conference is currently under consideration, and is contingent on the prime minister's schedule.

The Jerusalem Post reported that an Israeli Government source told the daily on Thursday that Israel will pursue its own unilateral steps if the Palestinians do not return to the negotiating table and instead seek U.N. support for unilateral moves to declare a state within the pre-1967 lines. "If the Palestinians think that unilateral moves are a one-way street, they are sadly mistaken. It is an option that both sides have," said the source. There was some speculation that Israel may be considering reviving aspects of former PM Ehud Olmert's "convergence" ideas for a unilateral withdrawal from isolated parts of the West Bank, evacuating settlements and deploying soldiers there instead. But there was no official confirmation on Thursday night of any such plans and a settler source dismissed the notion as nonsense.

The media quoted Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein as saying that the affair of the Baraks' illegal employment of a Philippine housekeeper justifies an indictment.

Yediot disclosed a 2007 list of potential American donors to

Netanyahu's primaries. Netanyahu reportedly annotated the list, correcting and rating entries according to the chances of the donors contributing to the campaign. Yediot reports that far-Right figures, who apparently wanted to influence Netanyahu's policy, were on the list, as well as people involved in criminal activity. Eventually, 98 percent of the foreign donors contributed to Netanyahu's primaries. The newspaper quoted the Prime Minister's Office as saying that the PM makes decisions according to the interest of the State and not the will of the donors.

Citing the AP, Ha'aretz and other media reported that settlers have begun building new homes at a quick pace since the Government lifted its moratorium on West Bank housing starts -- almost 550 in three weeks, more than four times faster than the last two years. Israel Radio quoted Palestinian officials as saying that this could hamper the peace process. Ha'aretz and Israel Radio cited another AP story that U.N. envoy to the Middle East Robert Serry called the original AP report as "alarming." He said that settlement construction is illegal under international law and that it "will only further undermine trust."

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Thursday the P.A. stepped up its criticism of Israel and that it reiterated its opposition to returning to the negotiating table as long as construction in the settlements continues. Yasser Abed Rabbo, a close confidant of P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas, was quoted as saying that Israel was "spreading lies" and that it was responsible for media reports according to which the P.A. had set new conditions for resuming the U.S.-sponsored direct Israel-P.A. talks.

Ha'aretz and Israel Hayom quoted the international Arabic-language newspaper Al-Hayat as saying that the German mediator in the Shalit deal, Gerhard Conrad, met last month in an Israeli prison with one

of the leaders of Hamas in the West Bank, Sheikh Hassan Yousuf. A senior Hamas figure, who asked to remain anonymous, told Al-Hayat about the meeting, explaining that the imprisoned leadership of the organization has the same amount of influence as the group's leadership domestically and abroad. "Everyone is united over the stance of the movement on the deal," he said. Yediot reported that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard has handed Hamas an unprecedented amount of money in suitcases. The newspaper cited Israel's concern that the funding will help Hamas accelerate its preparations for a military confrontation. This morning, Israel Radio reported that the P.A. has discovered a significant arms cache near Ramallah belonging to Hamas. The radio later cited a denial of the report by the Hamas spokesman in Gaza. In another development, The Jerusalem Post reported that the Israeli Defense Ministry has rejected a U.N. Relief and Works Agency request to establish a number of new schools in Gaza because, it says, they were supposed

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to be built on land provided by Hamas and next to a Hamas military installation. The Jerusalem Post reported that former Irish President and former U.N. High Commissioner of Human Rights told the daily about efforts to encourage a non-violent Hamas.

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The Jerusalem Post reported that the IDF has begun constructing a third Arrow missile battery near Tel Aviv in an effort to beef up missile defense ahead of a future conflict.

Ha'aretz quoted a lawyer acting on behalf of 33 British passengers on May's Free Gaza Flotilla as saying on Thursday that most of them have asked to give oral testimony to the Turkel commission investigating the botched IDF raid on the ships. The group says it is resisting what they see as efforts by the commission to belittle their evidence by having them submit only very basic information about their experiences.

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Thursday the bulldozer driver who struck and killed U.S. activist Rachel Corrie in Gaza seven years ago testified from behind a partition in Haifa District Court that the first time he saw her was after she was dragged out of the rubble in front of his vehicle.

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe reported that six hours before the Yom Kippur War broke out, then-Israeli PM Golda Meir sent Egyptian President Anwar a message through the Americans that Israel would not carry out an preemptive strike, which the newspaper said probably sparked the conflict.

Ha'aretz (English Ed.) reported that former U.S. Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat told the paper that while terrorism, anti-Semitism, and a global shift of power away from Israel's closest allies are among the "mega-trends" confronting Israel and the Jewish nation this century, the Jewish nation's internal challenges are much more worrisome.

Major media reported that police are recommending indicting Boaz Harpaz, the author of the so-called "Galant document." Some newspapers cited the police's belief that Harpaz's ultimate aim in forging the document was helping IDF Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi stay in office. Maariv wrote that the police found Ashkenazi's involvement to be inconclusive.

Israel Radio reported that on Thursday Israeli chess champion Alik Gershon set a Guinness World Record by simultaneously playing against 525 opponents. The aim of the contest was to beat the previous record winner, an Iranian chess player who had successfully competed against 500 contestants.

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Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "When the Party Is Over"

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (10/22): "It seems that Netanyahu responded to [President Obama's 60-day moratorium on settlement construction] proposal as it is customary to respond in the Middle East. When a Middle East politician is given a proposal, he immediately puts on the face of the Sphinx. He doesn't say yes, he doesn't say no. His assumption is that after the first proposal, there will be a second, better proposal. And a third. And a fourth. Those who say yes to the first proposal are suckers. Like Arafat to Barak at Camp David. Like Abu Mazen with Olmert. Like Ahmadinejad to the rest of the world. Very unfortunately, Washington is not part of the Middle East. Not at this time, when the American economy is in deep crisis, with America in trouble up to its neck in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq, and with the political air full of destruction prophecies. After Obama's generous offer, there was a second, less generous offer. Netanyahu became caught up in what psychologists call inaction inertia. Psychologists studied and found that people avoid buying a product at an attractive price when they feel that they've missed purchasing the same product at an even more attractive price. They become paralyzed. The problem is not the freeze: only deluded people believe that within two months, Abu Mazen and Netanyahu can reach an agreement on a land swap and on borders. The problem is the disgust and rage that the Israeli refusal sparked in the administration, a rage that is being suppressed at the moment, but which will erupt in full force on November 3, after the elections to Congress. The Americans are seeking the logic behind the refusal, the wisdom, and are finding nothing. It is no wonder that they conclude -- as Thomas Friedman concluded this week in the New York Times -- that Israel is a spoiled child. Netanyahu told Obama that he was so determined in his wish to reach an agreement that he was willing to break up his government to this end. Obama is a political man. When he heard that Netanyahu was willing to endanger his regime, he was convinced."

II. "Would the U.S. be Steadfast if 'Palestine' Is Declared Unilaterally?"

Diplomatic correspondent Herb Keinon wrote on page one of the

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conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (10/22): "While it is fairly certain the U.S. would veto a unilateral Security Council resolution declaring a Palestinian state -- though a resolution declaring the settlements illegal may be more difficult for Washington to vote against -- there is an enormous amount of distance between voting against something and actively campaigning against it. Israel would not only expect the U.S. to vote against any such motion in any UN forum -- even if the Palestinians don't take it to the Security Council because of the fear of a veto -- but also to actively campaign against it and get others to block it as well.... One could say with a good degree of certainty that the U.S. would not support unilateral Palestinian efforts in the U.N., and will most likely vote against them. But will Washington work with Israel against them, especially if it holds Netanyahu responsible for the current stalemate because of a refusal to extend the settlement moratorium? That right now is a very open question -- one the Palestinians are more than eager to pose, and one the world will deem completely legitimate as long as there is no motion. As long as there are no direct talks."

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III. "Better Late than Never?"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (10/22): "Netanyahu is today drawing on Rabin's example as though he were his peace mentor, but in the Knesset debate 15 years ago he attacked him harshly.... Politicians and leaders are allowed to change their positions, due to belated insight or under pressure of circumstances. It's a good thing Netanyahu understands today the necessity to divide the land between us and the Palestinians so that Israel can exist as a democratic state with a Jewish majority. It is good that Netanyahu is adopting, with regrettable delay, Rabin's heritage. But he is also expected to do some soul searching. Was he wrong then in his total objection to any compromise and agreement with the Palestinians, and did his and his

right-wing colleagues' stubborn objection contribute to missing opportunities and the disastrous division in the Israeli public? The public deserves an answer. Not to reopen the wounds of the past, but to believe Netanyahu really has changed and is capable of leading Israel to an agreement with the Palestinians."

IV. "The Man Who Wasn't There"

Senior commentator Ari Shavit wrote in Ha'aretz (10/22): "When Netanyahu chooses not to choose, he is making a choice. He is choosing war. He is choosing a crisis and collapse. There is writing on that wall that Netanyahu is walking into. It says Yom Kippur. The Yom Kippur [War] of Benjamin Netanyahu. The reality Bibi is facing is an incomparably cruel one. The President of the United States is after him. The Palestinians are acting hostile

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toward him. The international community has turned its back on him. At the same time, Lieberman is sucking his blood. Opposition leader Tzipi Livni and Likud's Silvan Shalom want his head. The army is nothing to write home about. The administration is nothing to write home about. The politics are politics of dwarfs. So when Netanyahu looks left and right he sees he is completely alone. No one really understands the enormous mission he has to face, and no one is helping him deal with it. Tough luck. Leaders do not have the right to moan about their bitter fate. Leaders are supposed to lead. If Netanyahu is not a man now, he will be the man who wasn't there."

V. "Both Sides Know that This Is an Empty Threat"

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (10/22): "It is clear that if the Palestinians choose a new unilateral way, they will burden the international and Israeli systems -- and themselves. They would thus free Benjamin Netanyahu from all the commitments to which his predecessors committed themselves. A unilateral move would grant legitimacy to unilateral countermeasures.... It appears that the Palestinians also

understand that a unilateral step would increase the load that they have assumed. Their threat is no more than a trick to bend Israel's arm around the negotiating table -- in conditions favorable to the Palestinians. These are empty threats. Both sides know it."

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	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIG-00
	NIMA-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00
	FMP-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00
	NEAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/000W		

-----DBE023 100935Z /38

R 100928Z NOV 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1811
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS ANKARA 001617

SENSITIVE
 SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KPAL, UNGA, IS, TU

SUBJECT: Anti-Israeli UNGA Resolutions Demarche Delivered

REF: A) STATE 116372;

1. (U) We delivered REFTEL demarche to MFA Israel and Palestine Affairs Department Head Ali Reza Guney November 10.

2. (SBU) Guney took the opportunity to recall the tension in the Turkish-Israeli relationship since the Israel Defense Force's May 31 interdiction of the Gaza humanitarian aid flotilla and the associated deaths of eight Turks and one Turkish-American aboard the flagship, the Mavi Marmara. He repeated the consistent GoI demand that Israel apologize for its actions and compensate the affected passengers and families. He described Israel as "not cooperating" with the UNSYG's Palmer panel. He said Turkey is awaiting the GoI's submission of its interim report to the panel, but is discouraged by rumors the Israelis may delay submission beyond December 1.

SILLIMAN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M.BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	VCI-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	AVC-00	UTED-00	DIAS-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00
	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	SCA-00	CARC-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/000W	

-----E4AAF2 232309Z /90

R 231437Z NOV 10
 FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1434
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
 AMCONSUL DUBAI
 AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE DELETED
NR

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000826

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: AORC, HURI, MOPS, PHUM, PREF, PREL, KAWC, KPKO, KPOW, KIA, IS
 XF, UN, UNGA, UNGA/C-6, ICRC
 SUBJECT: UN Sixth Committee General Debate and Passage of the Draft
 Resolution on the Status of the Geneva Protocols

1. (U) Summary:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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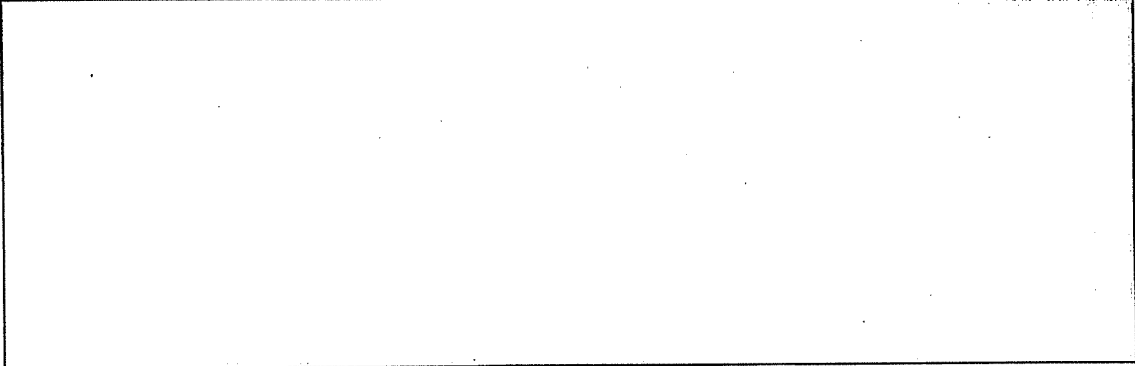
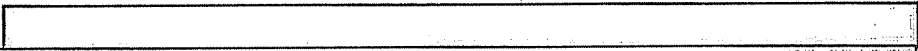


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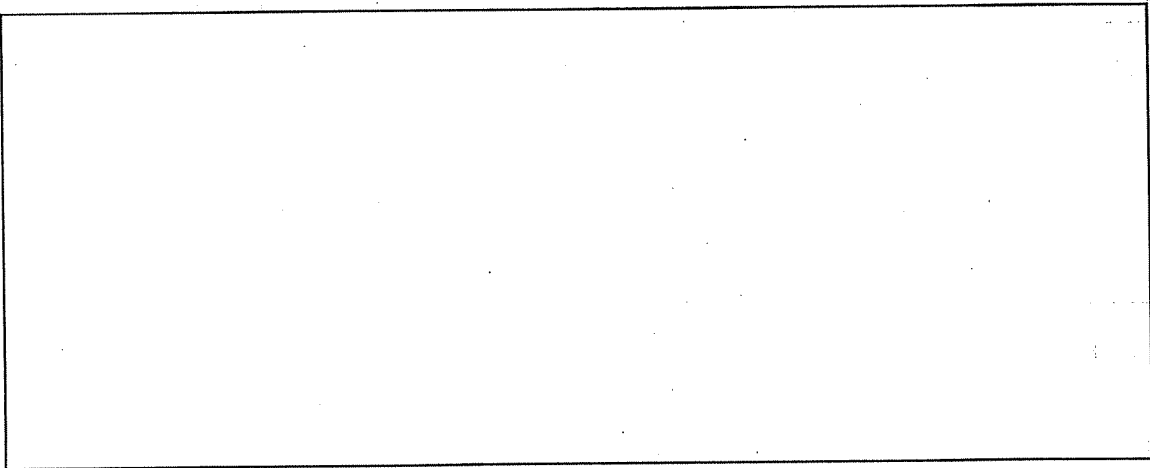
The Middle East

8.

(U)



Malaysia said that the need for and results of a coordinated response to breaches of international humanitarian law was clearly shown by the attack of Israeli armed forces on the MV Mavi Marmara, part of the Turkish flotilla. It stated that the "global condemnation" of the attack "produced immediate results in securing the release of all the passengers from the six vessels, the transportation of the humanitarian cargo of the vessels on to Gaza and the issuance of a more transparent revised list of prohibited items." In a detailed discussion on the rules for establishing a naval blockade and the applicable humanitarian laws, Malaysia also reiterated the need to examine the blockade on Gaza "against the legal premise on which said blockade was established."



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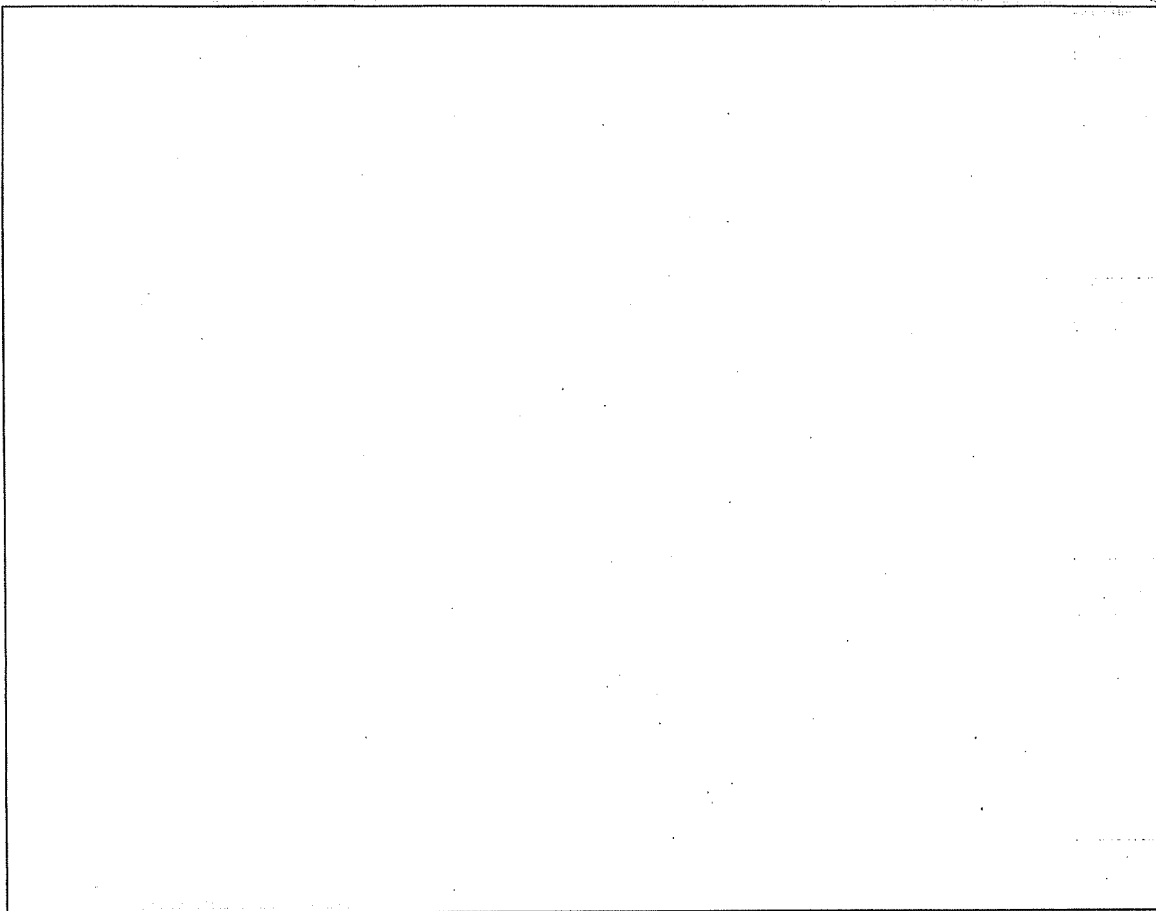
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