ISRAELI PALESTINIANS
TURKEY CONFIRMS, CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK ON AID SHIPS
ANKARA, TURKEY (AP) TURKEY'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYS AT LEAST 2 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND MORE THAN 30 WOUNDED IN AN ISRAELI RAID ON AN AID SHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE MINISTRY CONDEMNED MONDAY'S RAID ON THE SHIP CARRYING PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS, CALLED IT UNACCEPTABLE AND DEMANDED AN "URGENT EXPLANATION" FROM ISRAEL. IT SAYS ISRAEL VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES.

AFGHANISTAN
NA TO COMMANDER IN AFGHANISTAN SAYS TALIBAN TRAIN IN IRAN
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AP) THE COMMANDER OF NATO AND U.S. FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN SAYS THERE'S "CLEAR EVIDENCE" THAT SOME TALIBAN FIGHTERS HAVE TRAINED IN IRAN. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN KABUL, GEN. STANLEY MCCRYSTAL SAYS TEHRAN HAS GENERALLY HELPED THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IN FIGHTING THE INSURGENT GROUP. BUT HE SAYS THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO IRANIAN
ACTIVITY IN SOME CASES PROVIDING WEAPONS AND TRAINING TO THE TALIBAN. MCCHRISTAL SAYS NATO FORCES ARE WORKING TO STOP BOTH THE TRAINING AND THE WEAPONS TRAFFICKING. LAST MONTH, MCCHRISTAL SAID IT DIDN'T APPEAR MANY TALIBAN WERE TRAINING IN IRAN OR THAT IT WAS PART OF AN IRANIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY. IRAN IS AFGHANISTAN'S WESTERN NEIGHBOR. MEANWHILE, THE U.S. COMMAND HAS CONFIRMED THAT AN AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBER WAS KILLED TODAY IN A SMALL ARMS ATTACK IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN. MAY HAS ALREADY BECOME THE DEADLIEST MONTH THIS YEAR FOR U.S. TROOPS WITH 33 DEATHS. MORE THAN 1,000 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE AFGHAN WAR SINCE IT BEGAN IN 2001.

THE VOTE ALSO GIVES THE PENTAGON UNTIL YEAR'S END TO STUDY HOW TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN. A SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE CHANGE THURSDAY, BUT THE FULL SENATE Isn'T EXPECTED TO ACT FOR MONTHS. MULLEN TELLS CNN'S "STATE OF THE UNION" THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION DOES ALLOW THE PENTAGON TIME TO COMPLETE ITS PLANS TO SURVEY TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEN CERTIFY THAT THE REPEAL WONT HURT THE MILITARY'S ABILITY TO FIGHT, AS WELL AS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN SOLDIERS.

MULLEN CITES RISKS OF FURTHER NKOREAN PROVOCATION. WASHINGTON (AP) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF IS EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT NORTH KOREA MIGHT FOLLOW ITS ALLEGED TORPEDOING OF A SOUTH KOREAN WARSHIP WITH OTHER PROVOCATIVE ACTS. ADM. MIKE MULLEN TELLS "FOX NEWS SUNDAY" THAT NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM JONG IL TENDS NOT TO STOP AFTER A SINGLE PROVOCATIVE MOVE. SO MULLEN WORRIES THAT KIM COULD BE PLANNING SOMETHING ELSE. NORTH KOREA DENIES THAT IT DOWNED THE SOUTH KOREAN SHIP. AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION LED BY SOUTH KOREA HAS SAID THE NORTH WAS TO BLAME. FORTY-SIX SOUTH KOREAN SAILORS WERE KILLED IN THE EXPLOSION.

MULLEN SAYS IT'S UP TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO DECIDE WHETHER NORTH KOREA SHOULD GO BACK ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S LIST OF NATIONS THAT SPONSOR TERRORISM. NORTH KOREA WAS REMOVED FROM THAT LIST DURING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION.

TROPICAL WEATHER
TROPICAL STORM KILLS 99 IN CENTRAL AMERICA
GUATEMALA CITY (AP) MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA ARE BEING KEPT FROM THEIR HOMES AFTER EVACUATIONS DUE TO A DEADLY TROPICAL STORM THAT'S NOW TAKEN AT LEAST 99 LIVES. LANDSLIDES AND FLOODING TRIGGERED BY THE YEAR'S FIRST TROPICAL STORM HAVE KILLED AT LEAST 82 PEOPLE IN GUATEMALA ALONE, AS AUTHORITIES STRUGGLE TO CLEAR ROADS OF DEBRIS AND REACH CUT-OFF
COMMUNITIES.

EIGHT DEATHS IN HONDURAS WERE LINKED TO THE WEATHER ALONG WITH NINE IN EL SALVADOR.

TORNENTIAL RAINS THAT HAVE POUNDED AN AREA STRETCHING FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO NEARLY TO NICARAGUA HAVE EASED SOMewhat, BUT RIVERS CONTINUE TO RISE, AND THE CHANCE OF FLOODING ALONG WITH THEM.

THE U.S. NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER IN MIAMI WARNS THAT REMNANTS OF TROPICAL STORM AGATHA ARE EXPECTED TO DELIVER 10 TO 20 INCHES OF RAIN OVER SOUTHEASTERN MEXICO, GUATEMALA AND PARTS OF EL SALVADOR.

ALASKA WILDFIRES

EVACUATED RESIDENTS RETURN HOME

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA (AP) A WILDFIRE IN EASTERN ALASKA IS STILL BURNING, BUT EVACUATED RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

THE VILLAGE OF TANACROSS AND THE EAGLE SUBDIVISION NEAR TOK WERE EVACUATED WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY BECAUSE OF THE FAST-MOVING FIRE.

RESIDENTS RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES LAST NIGHT.

OFFICIALS SAY THE FIRE IS 15 PERCENT CONTAINED.

TRAVEL ON THE ALASKA HIGHWAY IS BEING DELAYED BECAUSE OF SMOKE.

FIRE OFFICIALS SAY EIGHT HOTSHOT CREWS FROM THE LOWER 48 ARRIVED YESTERDAY, AND ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED.

THE EAGLE TRAIL FIRE WAS STARTED BY LIGHTNING ON WEDNESDAY. AS OF TODAY, IT HAD BURNED MORE THAN 8,600 ACRES.

FLIGHT DIVERTED

DIVERTED FLIGHT DEPARTS AFTER MAN ARRESTED ON WARRANT

WASHINGTON (AP) AN AEROMEXICO FLIGHT FROM PARIS TO MEXICO CITY HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO TAKE OFF AGAIN AFTER BEING DIVERTED TO MONTREAL WHEN THE U.S. DENIED THE FLIGHT ACCESS TO ITS AIRSPACE.

AN OFFICIAL SAYS THE DENIAL CAME AFTER A MAN NAMED IN AN OUTSTANDING WARRANT WAS REPORTED ABOARD.

THE PERSON, WHOM OFFICIALS DID NOT IDENTIFY, WAS REMOVED FROM THE PLANE BY AUTHORITIES ON SUNDAY AND ARRESTED AT PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

A SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON, LAUREN GACHES, SAYS OTHER PASSENGERS ON AERO MEXICO FLIGHT 006 FROM CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT TO MEXICO CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WERE RE-SCREENED AND ALLOWED TO REBOARD THE FLIGHT.

AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE TSA DOES NOT CONFIRM OR DENY WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL APPEARS ON A GOVERNMENT WATCH LIST.

GULF OIL SPILL-FIXES

BP'S NEXT EFFORT TO CONTAIN THE OIL SPEWING FROM A DAMAGED WELL IN THE GULF COULd RESULT IN A TEMPORARY 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE FLOW. BP'S LATEST ATTEMPT TO STEM THE LEAK INVOLVES CUTTING AND REMOVING A DAMAGED PIPE. BROWNER SAID IN A NEWS RELEASE SUNDAY THAT GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THE OIL Gusher WOULD INCREASE AS MUCH AS 20 PERCENT FROM THE TIME THE PIPE IS CUT TO WHEN A CONTAINMENT VALVE IS IN PLACE.

BP SPOKESMAN JOHN CURRY DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH TIME WOULD PASS BETWEEN THE PROCEDURES. THE OPERATION BEGAN SATURDAY AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE FOUR TO SEVEN DAYS.

BP PLC CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE DOUG SUTTLES SAID SATURDAY THAT CUTTING OFF THE DAMAGED PIPE WASN'T EXPECTED TO CAUSE THE FLOW TO
INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY.
GULF OIL SPILL-PLUMES
BP CEO DISPUTES CLAIMS OF UNDERWATER OIL PLUMES
VENICE, LA. (AP) BP CEO TONY HAYWARD IS DISPUTING CLAIMS BY
SCIENTISTS THAT LARGE UNDERSEA PLUMES HAVE BEEN SETADRIFT BY THE

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GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL AND HE SAYS THE CLEANUP FIGHT HAS NARROWED
TO SURFACE SLICKS ROLLING INTO LOUISIANA'S COASTAL MARSHES.
HAYWARD SAYS "THE OIL IS ON THE SURFACE," EXPLAINING THAT
"OIL HAS A SPECIFIC GRAVITY THAT'S ABOUT HALF THAT OF WATER," HE
SAYS "IT WANTS TO GET TO THE SURFACE BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCE IN
SPECIFIC GRAVITY."
SCIENTISTS FROM SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES HAVE REPORTED PLUMES OF
WHAT APPEARS TO BE OIL SUSPENDED IN CLOUDS STRETCHING FOR
MILES AND REACHING HUNDREDS OF FEET BENEATH THE GULF'S SURFACE.
OIL SPILL-MYSTERIES OF THE DEEP
DEEPWATER MYSTERY: OIL LOOSE IN THE GULF
NEW ORLEANS (AP) INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS AND GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS SAY AN UNSEEN DISASTER IS PLAYING OUT IN THE GULF OF
MEXICO AS THE BLOWN OUT WELL CONTINUES TO GUSH OIL. THE MYSTERIOUS
DEPTHS ARE INHABITED BY EVERYTHING FROM SPERM WHALES TO GIGANTIC
JELLYFISH, DIMINUTIVE PLANKTON AND MANY FISH.
MARINE SCIENTISTS SAY WHAT HAPPENS IN THE DEEP GULF CAN RIPPLE
ACROSS THE FOOD CHAIN. EVERY NIGHT THE DENIZENS OF THE DEEP MAKE
FORAYS TO SHALLOWER DEPTHS TO EAT AND BE EATEN.
IN TURN SEVERAL SPECIES CLOSEST TO THE SURFACE INCLUDING RED
SNAPPER, SHRIMP AND MENHADEN , HELP DRIVE THE GULF COAST FISHING
INDUSTRY. OTHERS SUCH AS MARLIN, COBIA AND YELLOWFIN TUNA SIT ATOP
THE FOOD CHAIN AND ARE CHASED BY THE GULF'S CHARTER FISHING FLEET.
SCIENTISTS SAY IT COULD BE A LONG TIME BEFORE THE FULL IMPACT ON
THIS COMPLEX ECOSYSTEM IS KNOWN.
AMTRAK TRAIN DERAILS
5 PASSENGERS INJURED WHEN TRAIN DERAILES IN ILL.
GRANITE CITY, ILL. (AP) AMTRAK SAYS FIVE PEOPLE SUFFERED MINOR
INJURIES WHEN A PASSENGER TRAIN DERAILED IN SUBURBAN ST. LOUIS.
AMTRAK SPOKESMAN MARC MAGLARI SAYS THE LAST TWO COACHES ON THE
TRAIN LEFT THE TRACKS SUNDAY EVENING IN GRANITE CITY, ILL. THE
TRAIN WAS HEADED FROM ST. LOUIS TO CHICAGO.
MAGLARI SAYS FIVE OF THE TRAIN'S 63 PASSENGERS WERE TREATED AT
HOSPITALS FOR MINOR INJURIES. AMTRAK GAVE THE REST OF THE
PASSENGERS THE OPTION OF GOING ONTO CHICAGO ON CHARTER BUSES OR
RETURNING TO ST. LOUIS.
MAGLARI SAYS IT'S NOT YET KNOWN WHAT CAUSED THE TWO CARS TO

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LEAVE THE TRACKS. THE TRAIN HAD TWO LOCOMOTIVES THAT WERE PULLING
FIVE COACH CARS.
THE RAILWAY IS OWNED BY UNION PACIFIC AND KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN.
THE TRACK OWNERS AND AMTRAK ARE INVESTIGATING.
CHINA-TORTURE
NEW RULES BAN ILLEGAL EVIDENCE IN CHINA COURTS
BEIJING (AP) CHINA HAS ISSUED NEW RULES SAYING EVIDENCE
OBTAINED ILLEGALLY CANNOT BE USED IN DEATH PENALTY CASES AND OTHER CRIMINAL CASES.  

THE RULINGS ARE THE FIRST TIME CHINA HAS EXPLICITLY STATED THAT EVIDENCE OBTAINED UNDER TORTURE OR DURESS IS ILLEGAL AND INADMISSIBLE IN COURT. THEY'RE EXPECTED TO HELP CUT DOWN ON DEATH SENTENCES AND REDUCE FORCED CONFESSIONS.  

CHINA EXECUTES MORE PEOPLE ANNUALLY THAN ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, THOUGH IT DOES NOT RELEASE AN OFFICIAL COUNT. RIGHTS GROUP AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ESTIMATED CHINA PUT AT LEAST 1,718 PEOPLE TO DEATH IN 2008.  

DRUG WAR-MEXICO  
MORE THAN 20 BODIES FOUND IN ABANDONED SILVER MINE  
MEXICO CITY (AP) MEXICO'S FEDERAL POLICE COMMISSIONER SAYS...
CRITICISM FROM HIS OPPONENT IN THE RACE FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA'S OLD SENATE SEAT BECAUSE KIRK CLAIMED A MILITARY AWARD THAT HE NEVER ACTUALLY WON.

DEMOCRAT ALEXI GIANNOLIAS' (JEH-NOO'-LEE-US) CAMPAIGN SAID TODAY THAT KIRK IS "A TYPICAL WASHINGTON POLITICIAN" WITH A PATTERN OF INFLATING HIS CREDENTIALS.

KIRK IS AN OFFICER IN THE NAVY RESERVES. HE HAS LONG SAID HE WAS NAMED THE NAVY'S INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF THE YEAR FOR HIS SERVICE DURING THE KOSOVO CONFLICT.

KIRK NOW ACKNOWLEDGES HIS UNIT WON AN AWARD BUT HE DIDN'T GET AN INDIVIDUAL HONOR.

MEMORIAL DAY-CEMETERIES

CHAPEL HAVEN'S CEMETERY URGES AMERICANS TO HONOR WAR DEAD

ST. PAUL, MINN. (AP) A MILITARY CHAPLAIN WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM IRAQ IS ENCOURAGING AMERICANS TO HONOR THE NATION'S FALLEN VETERANS ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

LT. COL. JOHN MORRIS, WHO'S NOW CHAPLAIN OF THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD, NOTES THAT MEMORIAL DAY BEGAN AFTER THE CIVIL WAR AS DECORATION DAY, WHEN FAMILIES WOULD DECORATE THE GRAVES OF THEIR WAR DEAD.

MORRIS TOLD KTIS RADIO THAT THIS HOLIDAY IS STILL AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO VISIT A LOCAL CEMETERY AND SAY A PRAYER OF THANKS FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY HEROES, AND TO ASK GOD'S PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERVING NOW.

CIA MEMORIAL B-17 TO DROP FLOWERS FOR CIA KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

NEW YORK (AP) HISTORIC AIRCRAFT WILL ESCORT A B-17 BOMBER AS IT DROPS FLOWERS OVER THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IN A PUBLIC MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO SEVEN CIA EMPLOYEES KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN.

A WORLD WAR II FIGHTER TRAINEER FROM THE AMERICAN AIRPOWER MUSEUM ON LONG ISLAND IS SCHEDULED TO ESCORT THE BOMBER AS IT DROPS FLOWERS IN NEW YORK HARBOR ON MONDAY AFTERNOON.

MEANWHILE, THE CIA'S DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL CLANDESTINE SERVICE, MICHAEL J. SULICK, IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE FARMINGDALE MUSEUM.

THE TRIBUTE HONORS SEVEN EMPLOYEES KILLED DEC. 30 BY A SUICIDE BOMBER AT A CIA BASE IN AFGHANISTAN'S KHOST PROVINCE.

Buddhist Lantern Ceremony Planned Today in Honolulu

HONOLULU (AP) THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO GATHER AT HONOLULU'S ALA MOANA (MOH-AH-NAH) BEACH PARK THIS MEMORIAL DAY FOR AN ANNUAL LANTERN FLOATING CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DIED.

PARTICIPANTS ARE TO FLOAT MORE THAN 2,000 CANDLELIT LANTERNS BEARING NAMES AND HANDWRITTEN MESSAGES.

THE CEREMONY COMMEMORATES THOSE WHO MAKE A WISH-SENIORS

FOR ELDERLY, A DIFFERENT KIND OF 'MAKE A WISH'

WATERBURY, CONN. (AP) A GROWING NUMBER OF SENIOR CITIZENS...
NATIONWIDE ARE GETTING THEIR WISHES GRANTED BY GROUPS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION FOR SICK CHILDREN. THE GROUPS, OFTEN RUN BY VOLUNTEERS, ARE GRANTING WISHES TO SENIORS THAT RANGE FROM SIMPLE THINGS LIKE PIANO LESSONS TO FLIGHTS IN WAR-ERA BOMBER PLANES. GROUP FOUNDERS IN CONNECTICUT, GEORGIA, INDIANA, TENNESSEE AND ELSEWHERE SAY THEY USUALLY FOCUS ON NURSING HOME RESIDENTS, HOMEBOUND SENIORS AND THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE THE MONEY OR ABILITY TO FULFIL THE WISH THEMSELVES. THEY'RE CAREFUL NOT TO CALL THEM "LAST" WISHES, THOUGH. AND, AS ONE ORGANIZER SAYS, THE SENIORS DON'T NEED TO BE SICK TO GET THEIR WISH, SINCE EVERYONE DIES EVENTUALLY.

BERNANKE FED CHIEF SEES A DELICATE DANCE AHEAD
WASHINGTON (AP) FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN BEN BERNANKE SAYS THE DELICATE TASK AHEAD FOR THE FED AND OTHER CENTRAL BANKS IS DECIDING WHEN TO START BOOSTING INTEREST RATES AND REELING IN ALL THE STIMULUS PUMPED OUT DURING THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS.

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BERNANKE ISN'T PROVIDING ANY NEW CLUES ON WHEN THE FED WILL BOOST RATES.
THE FED CHIEF SAYS THAT CENTRAL BANK OFFICIALS WILL HAVE TO WEIGH THE RISKS OF A PREMATURE EXIT AGAINST THOSE OF LEAVING EXPANSIONARY POLICY IN PLACE FOR TOO LONG. HE SAYS THAT BALANCING ACT IS TYPICAL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. BERNANKE MAKES THE COMMENTS IN A PRERECORDED SPEECH PREPARED FOR DELIVERY VIA A VIDEO LINK TO A FINANCIAL CONFERENCE IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA.

AP POLL STRESSING OVER DEBT
POLL FINDS DEBT-DOGED AMERICANS STRESSED OUT
WASHINGTON (AP) THE ECONOMY MAY BE IMPROVING, BUT PERSONAL DEBT IS STRESSING OUT MANY AMERICANS. AN ASSOCIATED PRESS-GFK POLL FINDS THAT 46 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED SAY THEY'RE SUFFERING FROM DEBT-RELATED STRESS, AND HALF OF THAT GROUP DESCRIBED THEIR STRESS AS A "GREAT DEAL" OR "QUITE A BIT." ON THE OTHER HAND, ABOUT 53 PERCENT SAY THEY FEEL LITTLE OR NO STRESS AT ALL.
EVEN THOUGH THE ECONOMY IS SHOWING SIGNS OF GETTING BETTER, WITH UNEMPLOYMENT PUSHING 10 PERCENT AND COMPETITION FOR GOOD JOBS FIERCE, IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL LIKE MUCH OF A RECOVERY FOR MANY AMERICAN WORKERS STRUGGLING TO PAY OFF THEIR CREDIT CARDS AND OTHER IOUS.

BUSINESS NOTES
BAD MONTH—JOBS REPORT DUE—SHALE HOLDINGS EYED—
NEW YORK (AP) MAY WILL NOT BE A MONTH FONDLY REMEMBERED BY WALL STREET, WITH BLUE CHIP STOCKS LOSING ABOUT 8 PERCENT OF THEIR VALUE. IN FRIDAYS SESSION, THE DOW FELL 122 POINTS TO 13,137.
WASHINGTON (AP) IN THE COMING WEEK, THE GOVERNMENT WILL REPORT ON THE NATION'S JOB MARKET. SOME 500,000 JOBS ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN CREATED IN MAY, MOSTLY JOBS FOR THE CENSUS.
NEW YORK (AP) CRUDE PRICES Fell FRIDAY. BENCHMARK CRUDE FOR JULY DELIVERY LOST 58 CENTS TO SETTLE AT $73.97 A BARREL ON THE NEW YORK MERCANTILE (MUR'-KUHN-TYL) EXCHANGE.
MIAMI (AP) GOVERNMENT LAWYERS CHARGE IN A LAWSUIT THAT SIX WEBSITES RUN BY A FLORIDA MAN VIOLATED FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAWS. THEY SAY THE SITES ALLOWED VISITORS TO VIEW BATMAN AND OTHER COMIC BOOKS FOR FREE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE PUBLISHERS OR AUTHORS.
NEW YORK (AP) ROYAL DUTCH SHELL, EUROPE'S LARGEST OIL COMPANY, SAYS IT WILL BUY EAST RESOURCES FOR $4.7 BILLION. THE COMPANY TO BE ACQUIRED IS A PENNSYLVANIA FIRM THAT OWNS MORE THAN 2,500 OIL AND NATURAL GAS WELLS IN THE U.S. IT ALSO CONTROLS 1.25 MILLION ACRES OF LAND, MOSTLY IN THE ENERGY RICH MARCELLUS SHALE REGION THAT RUNS FROM NEW YORK TO SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA.

DOLLAR
EURO STEADY AT $1.2295
BERLIN (AP) THE EURO IS STEADY AFTER FALLING AT THE END OF LAST WEEK AS A MAJOR RATINGS AGENCY DOWNGRADED SPAIN'S DEBT AMID CONCERNS OVER ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE 16-NATION EURO BOUGHT $1.2295 IN MORNING EUROPEAN TRADING MONDAY, JUST ABOVE THE $1.2287 IT BOUGHT IN NEW YORK LATE FRIDAY.

THE DOLLAR MIGHT BE BUYING ITSELF A BREAK. IT HAS BEEN BATTERED BY WORRIES OVER EUROPE'S DEBT CRISIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE GROWTH. IT HAS BEEN TRADING CLOSE TO FOUR-YEAR LOWS.

U.S. FINANCIAL MARKETS WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY FOR MEMORIAL DAY AND BRITAIN ALSO HAS A BANK HOLIDAY.

THE BRITISH POUND WAS UP MARGINALY TO $1.4472 FROM $1.4463. THE DOLLAR CLIMBED TO 91.40 JAPANESE YEN FROM 90.88 YEN.

FOOD AND FARM
BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION SOARS IN WASHINGTON STATE
BURBANK, WASH. (AP) WASHINGTON IS SIXTH IN THE NATION IN BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION, WITH FARMING OF THE FRUIT GAINING POPULARITY ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE STATE.

THE TRI-CITY HERALD REPORTS THAT AN ESTIMATED 3,180 ACRES IN EASTERN WASHINGTON ARE DEDICATED TO BLUEBERRIES. THAT'S UP FROM 2,500 ACRES TWO YEARS AGO.

THE CROP TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN GROWN IN WESTERN WASHINGTON, WITH WHATCOM COUNTY LEADING THE WAY.

STATEWIDE, PRODUCERS THIS YEAR EXPECT TO HARVEST MORE THAN 90 MILLION POUNDS OF BLUEBERRIES. TWO YEARS AGO, STATEWIDE PRODUCTION WAS 28 MILLION POUNDS.

PRODUCERS SAY THE FRUIT'S HEALTH BENEFITS ARE DRIVING UP DEMAND.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SAYS BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION NATIONWIDE JUMPED FROM 143.6 MILLION POUNDS IN 2007 TO 182.1 MILLION POUNDS LAST YEAR. NORTH AMERICA'S TOP PRODUCERS ARE MICHIGAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA, OREGON, NEW JERSEY AND GEORGIA.

BOX OFFICE
'SHREK' BETTER THAN 'SEX' WITH $43M AT THEATERS
LOS ANGELES (AP) MOVIE AUDIENCES ARE SHOWING MORE APPETITE FOR SHREK THAN FOR SEX OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.

THE ANIMATED SEQUEL "SHREK FOREVER AFTER" REMAINED THE NO. 1 MOVIE FOR A SECOND WEEKEND WITH $43.3 MILLION FROM FRIDAY TO SUNDAY. THE FILM RAISED ITS DOMESTIC TOTAL TO $133.1 MILLION.

THAT EASILY TOPPED SEX AND THE CITY 2, WHICH WAS NO. 2 WITH A $32.1 MILLION DEBUT THAT CAME IN FAR BELOW THE $59.8 MILLION OPENING WEEKEND OF ITS PREDECESSOR TWO YEARS AGO. ALONG WITH A $46.3 MILLION Haul IN ITS FIRST DAY THURSDAY, "SEX AND THE CITY 2" HAS TOTALLE $88.3 MILLION.

DEBUTING AT NO. 3 WITH $30.2 MILLION WAS THE ACTION TALE "PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME."

CYBER CORNER
CONGRESSMAN ASKS SOCIAL NETS TO COOPERATE ON PRIVACY CONCERNS
WASHINGTON (AP) THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HAS
ASKED BOTH GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK TO COOPERATE WITH ANY GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES INTO THE COMPANIES' PRIVACY PRACTICES. MICHIGAN DEMOCRAT JOHN CONYERS SENT LETTERS TO GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK ON FRIDAY ... IN CONGRESS THAT THE SITES ARENT DOING ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF THEIR MILLIONS OF USERS. FACEBOOK HAS COME UNDER FIRE FOR SHARING USER INFORMATION WITH A HANDFUL OF OTHER ONLINE SERVICES AS PART OF ITS NEW "INSTANT PERSONALIZATION" PROGRAM. AND GOOGLE RECENTLY ADMITTED IT HAD SUCKED UP FRAGMENTS OF E-MAILS, WEB SURFING BEHAVIOR AND OTHER ONLINE ACTIVITIES OVER PUBLIC WI-FI NETWORKS IN MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES WHILE IT WAS PHOTOGRAPHING NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ITS "STREET VIEW" MAPPING FEATURE.

VIDEO GAMES CAN HELP IN LEARNING NEW YORK (AP) IT MAY BECOME THE RESPONSE PARENTS MAY GET WHEN THEY TELL THEIR KIDS: "PUT DOWN THAT GAME CONTROLLER AND PICK UP A BOOK SO YOU CAN LEARN SOMETHING." A NEW STUDY INDICATES KIDS CAN SAY: "BUT I AM LEARNING." THE RESEARCH PRESENTED AT A CONFERENCE LAST WEEK INDICATES THAT VIDEO GAMES CAN BE EFFECTIVE LEARNING TOOLS. ONE RESEARCHER SAYS PEOPLE WHO PLAY FAST-PACED GAMES LIKE THOSE THAT REQUIRE QUICK REACTIONS MAY BE MAKING THEIR BRAINS BETTER. DAPHNE BAVELIER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SAYS GAMERS TEND TO HAVE BETTER VISION, ATTENTION AND COGNITION THAN THOSE WHO DON'T. THE RESEARCH WAS PRESENTED LAST WEEK AT A CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK ON GAMES AS A LEARNING TOOL.

FEDS SUE WEB SITES THAT LET VISITORS SEE COMIC BOOKS FOR FREE CYBERSPACE (AP) BANG! ZOWIE! POW! THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS GONE AFTER A HALF DOZEN SIX WEBSITES THAT LET VISITORS CHECK OUT COMIC BOOKS FOR FREE, WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE PUBLISHERS OR AUTHORS. THE SITES WERE RUN BY GREGORY STEVEN HART OF TAMPA-BASED DATABASE ENGINEERS INCORPORATED. THE SUIT CLAIMS THE SITES WERE RUN BY GREGORY STEVEN HART OF TAMPA-BASED DATABASE ENGINEERS INCORPORATED. THE SUIT CULMINATES AN INVESTIGATION THAT BEGAN IN 2009.

TODAY IS HISTORY TODAY IS MONDAY, MAY 31, THE 151ST DAY OF 2010. THERE ARE 214 DAYS LEFT IN THE YEAR. THIS IS THE MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE.

ON THIS DATE: IN 1819, POET WALT WHITMAN WAS BORN IN WEST HILLS, N.Y. IN 1888, MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE PERISHED WHEN A DAM BREAK SENT WATER RUSHING THROUGH JOHNSTOWN, PA. IN 1910, THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA WAS FOUNDED. IN 1911, THE BRITISH LINER RMS TITANIC WAS LAUNCHED FROM ITS BUILDING BERTH AT THE PORT OF BELFAST. IN 1916, DURING WORLD WAR I, BRITISH AND GERMAN FLEETS FOUGHT THE NAVAL BATTLE OF JUTLAND OFF DENMARK; THERE WAS NO CLEAR-CUT VICTOR, ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH SUFFERED HEAVIER LOSSES. IN 1961, SOUTH AFRICA BECAME AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC. IN 1970, A MAGNITUDE 7.9 EARTHQUAKE IN PERU CLAIMED AN ESTIMATED 20,000 LIVES, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS WEBSITE.
IN 1977, THE TRANS-ALASKA OIL PIPELINE, THREE YEARS IN THE MAKING, WAS COMPLETED.

IN 1990, THE SITUATION COMEDY "SEINFELD" BEGAN AIRING AS A REGULAR SERIES ON NBC.

IN 1994, THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED IT WAS NO LONGER AIMING LONG-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES AT TARGETS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

FIVE YEARS AGO, PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, VISITING PORTUGAL, TRIED TO CALM FEARS OF A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE THAT WOULD LEAVE EUROPE VULNERABLE BY PROMISING TO SHARE ANY NEW MISSILE DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY WITH U.S. ALLIES. BANDLEADER TITO PUENTE DIED IN NEW YORK AT 77.

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TEN YEARS AGO: PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, VISITING PORTUGAL, TRIED TO CALM FEARS OF A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE THAT WOULD LEAVE EUROPE VULNERABLE BY PROMISING TO SHARE ANY NEW MISSILE DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY WITH U.S. ALLIES. BANDLEADER TITO PUENTE DIED IN NEW YORK AT 77.

THE REALITY TV SHOW "SURVIVOR" FIRST DEBUTED ON CBS (THE WINNER OF THE PREMIERE SERIES WAS RICHARD HATCH).

FIVE YEARS AGO: BREAKING A SILENCE OF 30 YEARS, FORMER FBI OFFICIAL W. MARK FELT STEPPED FORWARD AS "DEEP THROAT," THE SECRET WASHINGTON POST SOURCE THAT HELPED BRING DOWN PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON DURING THE WATERGATE SCANDAL. PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH, FACED WITH A STRING OF SETBACKS ON CAPITOL HILL, SHRUGGED OFF QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS POLITICAL CLOUT WITH NO POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE FOR 50 YEARS.

MILLVINA WALT WAS SHOT INTO THE REALITY WITH U.S. ALLIES. VULNERABLE REGULAR RICHARD NIXON DURING BUSH, LONG-RANGE NUCLEAR MAKING, WAS COMPLETED.

CONFERENCE TO KEEP PUSHING CONGRESS FOR A SOCIAL SECURITY OVERHAUL.

OIL TYCOON MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY (MIH-HAH-EEL) ABORTIONS, WAS SHOT IN PRISON.

ACTRESS SHARON GLESS IS67. FOOTBALL IN PRISON.

ROMA MAFJIA (MA-FEE-UH) IS 52. COMEDIAN CHRIS ELLIOTT IS 50.

ACTOR TOM BERENGER'S "PURPLE PEOPLE EATER" HIT THE TOP OF THE POP CHARTS AND STAYED THERE FOR SIX WEEKS.

IN 1981, CHUCK BERRY OPENED BERRY PARK, AN OUTDOOR AMUSEMENT PARK IN WENTZVILLE, MISSOURI.

IN 1961, THE WHO GOT INTO THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS AS THE LOUDEST ROCK BAND EVER, WHEN THEIR CONCERT IN ENGLAND MEASURED 120 DECIBELS. THAT RECORD HAS SINCE BEEN BROKEN.

IN 1977, EMERSON, LAKE AND PALMER BEGAN A TOUR OF THE U.S.
ACCOMPANIED BY A 70-PIECE ORCHESTRA.
IN 1978, THE TRAMMPS' "DISCO INFERNO" ALBUM WENT GOLD.
IN 1989, THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL ROCK AWARDS CEREMONY WAS HELD
IN NEW YORK CITY. THE TRAVELING WILBURY'S "VOLUME ONE" WAS NAMED

IN 1990, "SEINFELD" MADE ITS DEBUT AS "THE SEINFELD
CHRONICLES" ON NBC.
IN 1995, TED NUGENT PLACED HIS HANDPRINT AND SIGNATURE IN CEMENT
IN THE HOLLYWOOD ROCK WALK.
IN 1996, SINGER ELISABETH HOBBES, WHO SANG BASS WITH THE DRIFTERS,
DIED OF THROAT AND LUNG CANCER IN NEW YORK. SHE WAS 59.
IN 1998, SINGER GERI HALLIWELL, BETTER KNOWN AS GINGER SPICE,
QUIT THE SPICE GIRLS.
IN 2000, SINGER JOHNNIE TAYLOR DIED OF AN APPARENT HEART ATTACK
AT A HOSPITAL IN DALLAS. HE WAS 62. HE'S PROBABLY BEST KNOWN FOR
SONGS LIKE "WHO'S MAKING LOVE" AND "DISCO LADY." THAT SAME DAY,
LATIN BANDLEADER TITO PUENTE (PWEN'-TAY) DIED IN NEW YORK FROM
COMPLICATIONS FROM OPEN HEART SURGERY. HE WAS 77.
IN 2006, KATIE COURIC APPEARED FOR THE LAST TIME ON NBC'S
"TODAY" SHOW AFTER 15 YEARS ON THE PROGRAM. SHE LEFT TO ANCHOR
THE 'CBS EVENING NEWS.'

PAGE 06 RUCOMFC2123 UNCLAS
RELEASED BY MR. JEFFERY WHITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEFENSE MEDIA
CENTER. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. //
From: Renda, Christopher M  
To: svcSMARTHBTSPOP5  
Subject: Irish Foreign Minister Condemns Israeli Raid  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

1. (SBU) Summary: Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin has strongly denounced the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla. More than a thousand protesters gathered outside both the Israeli Embassy and the Israeli Ambassador’s house demanding expulsion of the Ambassador from Ireland. Irish politicians from a spectrum of political parties have also spoken out against the raid. Public anger has not been directed against the United States. End Summary.

2. (SBU) Following a May 31 meeting with the Israeli Ambassador, Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheal Martin has condemned the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla as, “appalling, disproportionate, and unacceptable.” He called for the immediate and unconditional release of all seven Irish citizens detained in Israel following the raid. Martin said, “The seven individuals concerned did not enter Israel illegally; rather they were essentially seized from international waters.” Martin also expressed unhappiness about Israel’s failure to allow full consular access to all detained Irish citizens.

3. (SBU) Protesters marched on both the Israeli Embassy and the Israeli Ambassador’s house to demand the Ambassador’s expulsion from Ireland. Police estimated more than 1,600 protesters marched to the Embassy. The march included Dublin Lord Mayor Emer Costello, trade union leader Jack O’Connor, and at least two members of the Irish parliament. Demonstrations were also held in Cork, Galway, Sligo, and Waterford. More protests are expected upon the return of the Irish citizens currently detained in Israel. Despite being a few hundred yards away, there were no protests at the US Embassy.

4. (SBU) O’Connor heads the Services, Industrial, Professional, and Technical Union (SIPTU), one of the largest unions in Ireland. Speaking at the protests, he too called for the expulsion of the Israeli Ambassador until, “his country complies with UN resolutions and with international law.” O’Connor said Taoiseach Brian Cowen and Martin should withdraw previously-promised Irish support for Israel’s admission into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

5. (SBU) Chris Andrews, one of three Irish parliamentarians who had unsuccessfully tried to join the flotilla in Cyprus last week, compared Israel’s defense of its soldiers’ actions to British arguments after the Derry shooting on Bloody Sunday in 1972. Aengus O’Snodaigh, who also attempted to join the flotilla, demanded the immediate expulsion of the Israeli Ambassador. O’Snodaigh urged Ireland to withdraw from any trade agreements with Israel. Labour Party parliamentarians described the Israeli raid as an “international outrage.”

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer
6. (SBU) Another vessel, the Rachel Corrie, that was separated from the flotilla is continuing course towards Gaza. The boat has five Irish nationals on board. Martin has called on Israel to allow the boat to pass through the military blockade.

7. (SBU) Comment: Outrage over the attacks appears widespread through all Irish political parties. However, it is hard to tell how much staying power this anger has. Ireland tends to view the Israel/Palestine conflict through its own troubled history with the British and, as such, identifies with the Palestinians on most issues. The Irish are genuinely upset by the Israeli raid, but none of that emotion has boiled over into anger at the United States. End Comment.
From: Vega, Graciela E  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION; GAZA FLOTILLA; 6/1/10; BUENOS AIRES

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SUMMARY

1. Israel’s raid on a humanitarian flotilla received wide coverage in the Argentine press, with most reports blasting Tel Aviv’s actions as military attacks against civilian vessels. Most news articles highlighted that many nations are condemning the attack and demanding an investigation into the incident, in contrast to a few articles supporting Israel’s claims that the ships were raided to prevent arms from falling into Hamas’ hands. International commentators said the incident is likely to hinder U.S. relations with Israel and Middle East peace talks, raising questions about Washington’s leadership and its role in international disputes. End summary.

A MILITARY ATTACK ON CIVILIANS

2. Press across the political spectrum describe the Israeli raid as a “military attack” against pro-Palestine civilian ships transporting humanitarian supplies to the Gaza strip. Major circulation daily Clarin notes Israel was aware of the consequences of its actions when it decided to conduct the operation in international waters and despite the fact that the vessels were carrying prominent personalities onboard. Clarin adds that pro-Palestinian activists were successful in unveiling Israel’s “systematic violations” before the international community.

http://www.clarin.com/mundo/medio_oriente/desastre-

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Page 1 of 3

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer
INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION

3. The media welcomed the criticism of the governments of Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, but noted the U.S. fell short of a condemnation because of its close ties with Israel, requesting Tel Aviv to conduct an investigation into the incident instead. A commentator in pro-government Pagina 12 says Israeli authorities are increasingly "radicalized" and "violent," stressing that their "brutal actions" demand firm international censure. Second largest daily La Nacion says the incident will likely lead the international community to step up pressure on Israel to lift the economic blockade.

http://www.clarin.com/mundo/oriente/Protestas-repudio-mundial-Obama-explicaciones_0_272372807.html

4. Many Buenos Aires newspapers also interviewed the Israeli Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Daniel Gazit, who defended the operation saying the Israeli forces were trying to seize arms heading to the Gaza strip, and adding that Israeli soldiers only attacked activists in self defense. An article by an international relations analysis group published in conservative La Prensa meanwhile decried that the "pro-Islam" flotilla was not transporting food to Gaza but attempted to "clash" with the Israeli forces to spread the image that Israel is violent.


INCIDENTS SEEN STALLING MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS

5. A news commentator in Clarin says the incident is restraining U.S. ties with Israel, quoting comments from Syrian President Assad suggesting that a "new international scene" is arising caused by the failure of the U.S. and EU to resolve international disputes. Pagina 12 and La Nacion noted the incident is posing a dilemma for Washington, forcing the U.S. to reach a balance between its strategic alliance with Turkey and its historical partnership with Israel, as the latter is facing the prospect of growing international isolation. The newspapers also say U.S. ties with Israel are jeopardizing its role as a mediator in the peace talks, as well as Washington's efforts to sanction Iran's nuclear program. An international observer in La Nacion says the incident is boosting the image of Hamas, turning it into a significant actor in the Middle East, which should no longer be neglected in Washington's talks with Abbas and Netanyahu.

http://www.clarin.com/mundo/oriente/palestinos-ganan-guerra-dispararon-tiro_0_272372812.html
CONFIDENTIAL

From: Fischer, Patrick J
Sent: 6/1/2010 4:52:45 PM
To: svcSMARTHTSPOP8
Subject: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: PREVENTING UNASUR ENDORSEMENT OF TEHRAN DECLARATION
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL

MRN: 10 SANTIAGO 155
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 012052Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, KNNP, PARM, MNUC, IR, CI
Reference: A) STATE 55861
Pass Line: WHA/BSC AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PASS TO AMCONSUL QUEBEC AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PASS TO AMEMBASSY GRENA DA USOFFICE NEWINGTON PASS TO USOFFICE FSC CHARLESTON
Subject: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: PREVENTING UNASUR ENDORSEMENT OF TEHRAN DECLARATION

1. (C) The Ambassador delivered ref tel demarche to FM Moreno on May 29. Moreno said he would look into the matter. MFA officials subsequently told Emboffs that Chile’s representative to the June 2 meeting in Santo Domingo, the Chilean Ambassador to Haiti, has been instructed to only discuss Haiti-related issues.

2. (SBU) Separately, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan was in Chile May 30. He was scheduled to conduct an official visit, but suspended the trip and returned to Turkey after the Gaza flotilla incident. FM Moreno met briefly with PM Erdogan before his departure, and they discussed the Gaza flotilla incident. The MFA would not confirm or deny that they discussed the Brazil-Turkey-Iran initiative. PM Erdogan’s visit has not been rescheduled.

3. (U) Post will brief Foreign Ministry staff on U.S. views towards the Brazil/Turkey/Iran declaration, and will report any substantive responses.

Signature: SIMONS

Classified By: Paul E. Simons, Ambassador
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)
Declassify on: 2020/06/01
Drafted By: SANTIAGO:Fischer, Patrick J
Cleared By: Santiago-Edwards, David B
Approved By: Urban, Carol

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer
From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 6/1/2010 7:03:37 PM
To: SMART Core
Subject: JUNE 1, 2010 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: ISRAEL, CHEONAN, TIBET, TAIWAN, GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 BEIJING 1302
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 012303Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: ETRD, ECIN, PREL, PHUM, KNNP, EFIN, CH, KN, KS, IN, IS, XF
Captions: SIPDIS
Subject: JUNE 1, 2010 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: ISRAEL, CHEONAN, TIBET, TAIWAN, GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

UNCLAS BEIJING 001302

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, ECIN, PREL, PHUM, KNNP, EFIN, CH, KN, KS, IN, IS, XF
SUBJECT: JUNE 1, 2010 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: ISRAEL, CHEONAN, TIBET, TAIWAN, GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

1. Key points at the June 1 MFA press briefing were:

- China condemns the actions of the Israeli navy for the attack on the "Turkish humanitarian aid flotilla" and calls on the Israeli government to lift the blockade against the Gaza Strip.

- China does not have any "first-hand" information regarding the sinking of the South Korean corvette Cheonan but takes the investigation into the cause of the sinking very seriously and will make a "fair and objective" decision based on the merits of the issue.

- The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no information regarding the arrest of Tibetan activist Karma Samdup.

- As China prepares to sign the Economic Cooperation Framework agreement with Taiwan, the Chinese government approves of non-governmental, economic exchanges between Taiwan and other countries but opposes "official agreements."

- China attaches great importance to the June 4 meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council members with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer
Israeli Naval Attack

2. At the June 1 regularly scheduled Foreign Ministry press briefing, Spokesperson Ma Zhaoxu stated that there should be "concrete measures" to punish Israel after an attack on a "Turkish humanitarian aid flotilla" on route to the Gaza Strip. The Chinese government expressed "shock" at the attack and urged Israel to take action to lift the naval blockade of Gaza and work to prevent further disruption of peace talks. China also urged Israel to implement relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The Chinese Government held that the Middle East is at a critical moment and the PRC would continue to take part in discussions with the international community regarding the incident.

Choennan Incident

3. Ma stated that China had no "first-hand" information stemming from the investigation into the sinking of the South Korean naval vessel and would not comment on reports from South Korea claiming that the Chinese government had asked for a new investigation. China viewed the investigation into the cause of the sinking as a serious matter and would make a "fair and objective" decision based on the merits of the issue.

4. When asked by an Associated Press reporter about the difference in China's response to the Choenan sinking and the Israeli naval attack, Ma was visibly flustered. He stated that he did not understand the logic of the question and refused further comment.

Tibetan Activist Arrest

5. The spokesperson offered no information regarding the arrest of Karma Samdup, a Tibetan environmental activist and businessman, on charges stemming from a 1996 incident but Ma nonetheless maintained that China was a nation under the rule of law and its legal cases were handled according to law.

Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement

6. When asked about a clause in the proposed Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement being negotiated between Taiwan and the Mainland that would allow Taiwan to sign economic deals with other countries, Ma stated that the Chinese government would approve of non-governmental, economic exchanges between Taiwan and other countries but opposed official agreements. China and Taiwan planned to sign the agreement in late June.

Gulf Cooperation Council

5. When asked about the upcoming meeting between Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council in Beijing on June 4, Ma stated that the Chinese government attached great importance to this meeting.

Response to Indian Presidential Visit
7. China viewed the visit by Indian President Pratibha Patil as “fruitful and successful.” President Patil exchanged views with Chinese leaders on the further development of relations between the two countries.

8. State Councillor Dai Bingguo was scheduled to attend the third summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia in Istanbul on June 8. Dai would address the conference on Chinese policies designed to seek security and development through cooperation.

9. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was scheduled to visit China on June 4 to meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.
From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 6/1/2010 9:33:35 PM
To: SMART Core
Subject: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS 06/10

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 TOKYO 1073
Date/DTG: Jun 02, 2010 / 020126Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE/R/TO
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, PGOV, PINR, ECON, ELAB, JA
Captions: SIPDIS
Pass Line: DEPT FOR E, P, EB, EAP/J, EAP/P, EAP/PD, PA;
WHITE HOUSE/NSC/NEC; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION;
TREASURY/ASIA/MI/JAPAN; DEPT PASS USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN;
DASDI/SA/EAPR/JAPAN; DEPT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA;
FAS/TP FOR SCHROETER; PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR;
CINCPAC FLT/PA/ COMNAVFORJAPAN/PAC.
Subject: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS 06/10

UNCLASSIFIED TOKYO 001073
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR E, P, EB, EAP/J, EAP/P, EAP/PD, PA;
WHITE HOUSE/NSC/NEC; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION;
TREASURY/ASIA/MI/JAPAN; DEPT PASS USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN;
DASDI/SA/EAPR/JAPAN; DEPT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA;
FAS/TP FOR SCHROETER; PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR;
CINCPAC FLT/PA/ COMNAVFORJAPAN/PAC.
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, PGOV, PINR, ECON, ELAB, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS 06/10

INDEX:
Breaking News: PM Hatoyama conveys his intention to resign

NHK reported this morning that Prime Minister Hatoyama told senior DPJ officials that he intends to resign from his post to take responsibility for "losing the trust of the public" in the wake of the SDP's departure from the ruling coalition over the Futenma relocation issue. The network said that DPJ will hold an emergency joint plenary meeting from 10 a.m. today to discuss the matter.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer
1) Top headlines
2) Editorials

Politics:
3) No conclusion yet on PM's resignation at meeting with Ozawa, Koshiishi (Asahi)

Futenma issue:
4) Hatoyama to report to Diet on Futenma on June 4 (Nikkei)
5) Gov't mulling using "sympathy budget" to cover introduction of renewable-energy technology in Guam (Mainichi)
6) Futenma relocation: Chief cabinet secretary says exercises to take place regularly in Tokunoshima, may become a Marine base (Akahata)
7) Osaka governor has plan for relocation of U.S. base (Sankei)
8) Hirano under fire for Futenma issue; described as a "chameleon," the "worst chief cabinet secretary" (Asahi)

Foreign relations:
9) Ambassador Roos seeks implementation of Japan-U.S. accord on Futenma relocation even after change of prime minister (Sankei)
10) U.S. envoy calls for swift implementation of Futenma accord (Asahi)
11) Ambassador Roos indicates U.S. to strengthen cooperation on Okinawa development (Tokyo Shimbun)
12) U.S. Ambassador indicates U.S. will cooperate in persuading local community to accept runway site (Mainichi)
13) Gov't says U.S. participation in East Asia Community vital (Yomiuri)
14) Foreign Ministry announces 1.5 billion yen in aid for Afghanistan and Pakistan (Asahi)

Society:
15) Birthrate stops rising for first time in four years (Nikkei)

Economy & trade:
16) Trade Ministry announces vision for industrial structure (Yomiuri)
17) New car sales up 22 PERCENT (Mainichi)

Opinion:
18) Foreign Ministry poll: U.S. experts say China more important than Japan for U.S. (Nikkei)

Articles:
1) TOP HEADLINES

Asahi:
No conclusion yet on PM's resignation at meeting with Ozawa, Koshiishi

Mainichi:
PM remains eager to stay in office after 30-minute meeting; Ozawa silent, PM gives thumbs up

Yomiuri:
No conclusion yet on PM's resignation; PM asks Ozawa, Koshiishi to let him continue in his job

Nikkei:
Discussions on PM's resignation to continue; PM still eager to stay in office at meeting with Ozawa
Sankei:
PM refuses to resign; Ozawa, in dilemma, remains silent

Tokyo Shimbun:
No conclusion yet on PM's resignation; DPJ Upper House members furious

Akahata:
Futenma relocation: Chief cabinet secretary says exercises to take place regularly in Tokunoshima, may become a Marine base

2) EDITORIALS

Asahi:
(1) Calls growing for Hatoyama's resignation
(2) Internet advertisements: Do not infringe on privacy of communications

Mainichi:
(1) Calls for Hatoyama's resignation gaining momentum: Both Ozawa and Hatoyama to blame
(2) No need to scramble to enact postal reform bill

Yomiuri:
(1) Hatoyama's resignation: DPJ must discuss the matter openly
(2) One year after GM failed: A long way to move away from government control

Nikkei:
(1) Growth strategy requires selected targets with sense of speed
(2) No delay allowed for realigning domestic commodity exchanges

Sankei:
(1) Question of Hatoyama's resignation: Both Hatoyama and Ozawa should be held accountable
(2) Postal bill requires thorough deliberations in Upper House

Tokyo Shimbun:
(1) Child allowance: Children should be raised by society as whole
(2) Gaza aid flotilla attack: Humanitarian relief should not be blocked

Akahata:
(1) Aid flotilla attack an act of barbarism running counter to international wishes

3) No conclusion yet on PM's resignation at meeting with Ozawa, Koshiishi

ASAHI (Top play) (Lead paragraph)
June 2, 2010

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama had another meeting with Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and Azuma Koshiishi, head of the DPJ caucus in the House of Councillors, at the Diet in the early evening of June 1, following their meeting on the previous day. They exchanged views on how to manage the administration from now on, including the question of the Prime Minister's resignation, but failed to reach a conclusion. They will meet again on June 2. There is a growing call among DPJ members, particularly Upper House members, for Hatoyama's resignation due to the plunge in the cabinet's support rating, but he still intends to stay in office. It is believed that discussions on this issue are currently deadlocked. With the adjournment of the Diet session
approaching on June 16, the opposition parties are planning to submit a motion of no confidence on the cabinet or a censure motion against the Prime Minister. His management of the administration will be increasingly difficult.

4) Hatoyama to explain about Futenma issue in Diet on June 4

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
June 2, 2010

The Democratic Party of Japan, the People's New Party, and the Social Democratic Party held a meeting of their Diet Affairs Committee chairmen in the Diet building yesterday. The committee chairmen decided to have Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama explain the details and development of the issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa and respond to questions during a House of Representatives plenary session on June 4.

5) Okada announces plan to use Japan's host nation support for introduction of renewable energy technology

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)
June 2, 2010

With respect to the facilities the United States is going to build in Guam for its Marines to be relocated from Okinawa, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada announced in a House of Councillors Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting yesterday the government's intention to consider shouldering the cost of introducing renewable energy technology from Japan's host nation support (omoyari yosan, literally "sympathy budget") for U.S. forces stationed in Japan. Okada was replying to a question asked by Satoshi Inoue of the Japanese Communist Party.

Introduction of renewable energy technology is included in a Japan-U.S. joint statement on the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station as U.S.-Japanese collaboration on a "Green Alliance." Of the 10.27 billion dollar Guam relocation cost, Japan will shoulder 6.09 billion dollars. The new burden for a U.S. base outside Japan will be covered by Japan's host nation support.

6) Futenma relocation: Chief cabinet secretary says exercises to take place routinely in Tokunoshima, may become a Marine base

AKAHATA (Top play) (Abridged)
June 2, 2010

Explaining why Tokunoshima in Kagoshima Prefecture was named as the relocation site of training exercises in the Japan-U.S. joint statement on the "relocation" of the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (in Ginowan City, Okinawa) at the House of Councillors Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense on June 1, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano said: "There are exercises that are conducted routinely as part of the normal integrated operations. In that sense, there will be inherent restrictions with regard to distance (from the mainland and from Okinawa)." He thus revealed that exercises are expected to take place routinely in Tokunoshima.

Hirano's statement indicates an intention to extend integrated exercises by the Marines' ground troops, helicopters, and other units in Okinawa to Tokunoshima. He said that for this purpose, "the airport managed by the prefectural government (in Tokunoshima) needs to be renovated to make it fully operational," indicating that renovation work is necessary to enable the airport to handle exercises on a daily basis.
7) Gov. Hashimoto has "own plan" for U.S. base relocation

SANKEI (Page 1) (Full)
June 2, 2010

Osaka Gov. Tohru Hashimoto has revealed that he has a "plan" of his own in connection with the relocation of U.S. military bases in Japan and their training exercises. "I've been studying and considering this matter in my own way while taking account of Japan's security and defense policies and the Kansai region's geographical advantages," Hashimoto said in a press conference yesterday. "I have various ideas in mind," he added. He also said: "I have yet to discuss this matter with the U.S. government, so I'm not sure how far it will pass muster. It's beyond my authority to say that," Hashimoto thus avoided going into detail and indicated that he would watch the progress of consultations between the Japanese and U.S. governments.

In addition, Hashimoto said: "If there's a request (from the government), then I will consider it. It's necessary to show this stance. We should explore what we can do in Osaka. Even if we don't host large-scale training exercises, I think there should be something else we can do."

8) Hirano under fire over Futenma, dubbed "chameleon-like," "worst chief cabinet secretary"

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
June 2, 2010

The Diet House of Councillors held a meeting of its standing committee on foreign affairs and defense yesterday to discuss the issue of relocating the U.S. military's Futenma airfield in Okinawa Prefecture. During the meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano, who coordinated the relocation plan, faced demands and criticism from the opposition bench calling for him to resign.

Although Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa were also seated before the committee, Hirano, a confidant of Prime Minister Hatoyama, was the one who came under fire. Ichita Yamamoto, a lawmaker of the leading opposition Liberal Democratic Party in the Diet's upper chamber, blasted Hirano, stating: "What the chief cabinet secretary says is ever-changing like a chameleon. I should call him 'Chameleon Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirano.'" Yamamoto went on: "He's the worst chief cabinet secretary we've ever had because he has made a mockery of the Okinawan people and undermined Japan's alliance with the United States." Hirano thus urged Hirano to resign from his cabinet post.

"That's a very rude thing to say. What I do is based on what the prime minister decides, and I'm in a position to fulfill my duties."

Toshinori Yamauchi, a member of the Social Democratic Party, which has now bolted the ruling coalition, pressed Hirano, Okada, and Kitazawa, saying: "I suggest that the chief cabinet secretary and the foreign minister and the defense minister all resign to take responsibility and restore the people's faith in politics."

9) U.S. Ambassador Roos seeks implementation of Japan-U.S. accord on Futenma relocation even after change of prime minister

SANKEI (Page 1) (Full)
June 2, 2010
U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos held an informal meeting with Japanese reporters at the U.S. Embassy in the afternoon of June 1. He said that the Japan-U.S. agreement on the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station (in Ginowan City, Okinawa) "is an agreement between governments, so the two countries will cooperate in moving forward. The Japanese prime minister is the representative of Japan." It is believed that he made these remarks to stress to the Japanese side that the agreement needs to be implemented in good faith even after a change of prime minister.

Roos said: "I would like to compliment Prime Minister Hatoyama for making such an important decision in a difficult political environment," expressing his appreciation. Regarding the Okinawa people's opposition to the Japan-U.S. agreement, he stated: "We will also have to work with the local communities. I would also like to contribute in any way I can."

10) U.S. Ambassador calls for moving forward Futenma relocation process swiftly

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
June 2, 2010

At a press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo yesterday, U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos said regarding the joint statement issued on May 28 by the Japanese and U.S. governments on the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa: "We agreed with the Japanese government not to have a significant delay in the construction of (the alternative runway)." He indicated that the preparations for the relocation should be carried out in accordance with the timetable agreed on between the two countries even if the political situation becomes unstable in Japan.

The Ambassador explained: "The two countries think it is important to move forward with the relocation process as expeditiously as possible." He pointed out that the joint statement specifies that the U.S. and Japan will decide on the location, configuration, and construction method of the alternative facility by the end of August.

11) U.S. Ambassador Roos says U.S. to strengthen cooperation in supporting Okinawa's economy

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)
June 2, 2010

U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos held a roundtable with the Japanese media at the U.S. Embassy in Akasaka, Tokyo, on June 1. In the session, the Ambassador underscored the importance of closely communicating with Okinawa residents regarding the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa. On May 28, the foreign and defense ministers (2+2) of Japan and the United States released a joint statement that referred to cooperation with Okinawa in the areas of education, science and technology. Pointing out this fact, the Ambassador announced a policy to step up cooperation in stimulating Okinawa's economy.

12) U.S. Ambassador Roos to cooperate in persuading local communities on Futenma relocation

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)
June 2, 2010
Masaya Oikawa

U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos gave an interview to reporters of Mainichi Shimbun and other media outlets at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on June 1. Regarding the Japan-U.S. agreement on the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station, the Ambassador stressed that "this is an important step in reducing the burden imposed on Okinawa by U.S. forces." He indicated that he will cooperate with efforts to persuade the local communities so that the specific location and construction method of the runway can be decided by the end of August, as laid out in the agreement.

The Japan-U.S. joint statement identifies "Camp Schwab, Henoko-saki" (in Henoko, Nago City) as the relocation site. Roos said: "The Japanese and U.S. governments agreed that the Futenma airfield needs to be closed and relocated as soon as possible."

13) U.S. vital to East Asian Community

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
June 2, 2010

The government released on June 1 guidelines for translating into reality the framework for the "East Asian Community" advocated by Prime Minister Hatoyama. The guidelines specify inclusion of the United States in the community, calling for "promotion of open and transparent regional cooperation with all member nations including the United States," and noting that "the involvement of the United States is vital."

Last October the prime minister, speaking about the East Asian Community, remarked that "Japan had been somewhat too dependent on the United States." His statement, interpreted as "excluding the United States," made waves. Against that background the guidelines specify that "the Japan-U.S. alliance is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the region."

The guidelines call for leveraging such frameworks as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan, China, and Korea (ASEAN plus 3). They call for concrete measures including (1) promotion of negotiations for concluding Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with Korea and India and (2) the utilization of Japanese energy-saving technology to counter global warming.

14) Foreign Ministry to contribute 1.5 billion yen to NPO to carry out activities in Afghanistan

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
June 2, 2010

The Foreign Ministry announced on June 1 that it will contribute 1.5 billion yen to Japan Platform (JPF), a nonprofit organization comprising 33 nongovernmental organizations, to carry out support activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This was announced in a joint press conference held by Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and JPF Chairperson Yukie Osa.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the government has provided up to 300 million yen a year to NGOs carrying out activities in Afghanistan. "This is a new effort the Foreign Ministry has never tried before in collaboration with NGOs," Okada said about the new aid. If positive results are achieved, the ministry plans to increase such assistance.
The assistance is part of the government's aid program for Afghanistan, announced last fall, to provide up to 5 billion dollars (approximately 456 billion yen) for five years. According to JPF, the support period will be five years starting this year. The aid amounting to 1.5 billion yen is to cover the first period from July 2010 to December 2011. It will be used for building infrastructure such as schools and water sanitation facilities (about 860 million yen); training teachers and building clinics (about 300 million yen); removing landmines (about 240 million yen), and so on.

15) Birthrate increase stops in 2009 at 1.37
NIKKEI (Page 1) (Excerpts)
June 2, 2010

The nation's birthrate per woman in 2009 was 1.37, the same as in 2008, it was learned yesterday. There was no increase in the country's birthrate for the first time in four years. This result apparently reflects that an increasing number of women are hesitant about getting married and having children because of the sharp economic downturn since the fall of 2008. The overall number of births is also expected to fall in 2009 for the first time in two years. Consequently, progress in improving the declining trend of the birthrate has come to a standstill.

The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry will announce these results today. As measures to increase the nation's birthrate, the government is urged to create an environment in which two-income households can raise children without anxiety.

16) METI adopts vision for industrial structure: 2.58 million jobs to be created by 2020 through strengthened competitiveness
YOMIURI (Page 9) (Excerpts)
June 2, 2010

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) on June 1 adopted a vision for Japan's industrial structure, a growth strategy that shows measures to revitalize the Japanese economy. Underscoring the need to strengthen the nation's industrial competitiveness as a national commitment, the package cites the goal of creating a new market worth 149 trillion yen and 2.58 million jobs by 2020 by providing policy assistance in five strategic areas, including exports of infrastructure, such as nuclear power plants and the Shinkansen train system. METI intends to characterize the package as a showcase for the government's new growth strategy, which the National Policy Unit is set to compile by the end of this month.

Outline of vision for industrial structure

Change industrial structure
Q Strengthen five strategic areas
Change corporate business models
Q Establish international standards
Q Reorganize with eye on global markets
Switch from the two options of securing domestic jobs or going global
Q Strengthen international competitiveness by taking such measures as reforming the corporate tax
Change the role of government
Q Private- and public-sector cooperation for exports of infrastructure
Market creation effects in five strategic areas
(increase in 2020 from 2007 level)

Production value (trillion yen) Jobs

Exports of infrastructure 12.3 187,000
Environment, energy 23.7 362,000
Medical care, nursing care, health care and child-raising services
12.0 1,134,000
Cultural industries 6.9 264,000
Advanced areas 27.4 632,000
Knock-on effects on other sectors 65.8
Total 149 2,579,000

17) May sales of new cars up 22 percent, topping previous year's level for nine consecutive months

The Japan Automobile Dealers Association on June 1 released data showing that the domestic sales of new cars (including mini-vehicles) in May reached 356,148 units, up 22 percent from the same month last year, topping the previous year's level for nine consecutive months. The sales of cars (with engines larger than 660 cc) subject to the automobile inspection registration system, excluding mini-vehicles, reached 228,514 units, up 28 percent, marking the tenth month-to-month increase. The figure is larger than the 221,377 units marked in May 2008 before the financial crisis.

The substantive increase in the sales of cars subject to registration is attributable to government policies, including a tax break for the purchases of eco-friendly vehicles and a cash-for-clunkers program. The increase is also a rebound effect of the sales of 178,503 units marked in May 2009, the worst since 1968 when the first statistics were taken.

18) Govt poll of U.S. opinion leaders: China outranks Japan as America's most important partner in Asia

The Foreign Ministry yesterday released the results of its public opinion survey conducted in the United States to probe American attitudes toward Japan among opinion leaders like university professors, government employees, and businessmen. In the survey, respondents were asked which country they think is "America's most important partner in Asia." In this ranking of partners in Asia, China outranked Japan and topped all other countries at 56 PERCENT. Japan and China changed places for the first time since 1985. Japan was at 36 PERCENT, down 8 percentage points from last year. In the breakdown of answers from the general public as well, Japan and China ranked on a par at 44 PERCENT. "The United States and China have strengthened their economic ties against the backdrop of the survey results," the ministry says.

In the survey, respondents were asked if they think the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty should be maintained. In response to this question, 90 PERCENT of the Americans in general and 86 PERCENT of the opinion leaders answered in the affirmative. Respondents were also asked if they think the treaty contributes to peace and security in the Far East. To this question, more than 90 PERCENT of the general public answered "yes."
The survey has been conducted almost every year since 1960 by the Foreign Ministry through Gallup, a U.S. pollster. This year's survey was carried out over the telephone from February through March, with a total of 1,201 persons chosen from among the general public and another total of 202 persons chosen from among experts.

ROOS

Signature: ROOS

Info:
WASHINGTON DC, SECDEF ROUTINE; WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;
DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;
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UNCLASSIFIED
From: van der Walde, Kurt
Sent: 6/1/2010 4:57:34 PM
To: SMART Core
Subject: Focus on Iran in shortened Netanyahu visit to Canada

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 OTTAWA 514
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 012056Z JUN 10
From: AMBASSAD OTTAWA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KNNP, IS, IR, CA
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS
Subject: Focus on Iran in shortened Netanyahu visit to Canada

1. (U) Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu cut short his visit to Canada on May 31 following an Israeli attack on a flotilla to Gaza. Netanyahu repeatedly raised the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran during an abbreviated two-day visit to Canada although he refused to label international diplomatic initiatives a failure. Netanyahu called for direct talks with no preconditions between himself and Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas leading to the formation of a demilitarized Palestinian state. Following the Israeli attack, Harper said he “deeply regrets” the loss of life.

2. (U) In public speeches and media interviews in Toronto, Netanyahu raised the specter of an Iran-sponsored nuclear-armed “proxy state” in the West Bank dedicated to the “annihilation” of Israel. The only guard against such an eventuality in an independent Palestinian state, he argued, is an agreement that any Palestinian state be fully demilitarized. The international community must prevent the Iranian regime from acquiring nuclear weapons to maintain that demilitarization, Netanyahu told the audience at the annual Walk with Israel rally in Toronto. Netanyahu expanded upon this theme in a national CBC interview in which he drew parallels between the lack of acknowledgement of a global threat by the Nazis before World War II “until it was too late” and the “14 – 15 years” he has argued that “the single greatest threat facing the world is the arming of Iran with nuclear weapons.” He opined that the proposed sanctions against Iran by the UN Security Council would be “symbolic” with no “practical consequences.” He argued for “tougher” sanctions preventing Iran from importing gasoline and exporting oil.

3. (SBU) While lauding U.S. involvement in the peace process, Netanyahu bemoaned the lack of direct talks between himself and Mahmoud Abbas and decried the Palestinian approach of “relying on the United States supplying all sorts of theoretical pressures on Israel.” Netanyahu flew to Ottawa on May 31 with time only to shake Harper’s hand before canceling the remainder of the visit and returning to Israel. The Canadian government has yet to issue a formal statement on the May 31 Israeli attack on the flotilla headed to Gaza beyond expressing regret for the loss of life. Harper added that he “will be looking in the days that follow to get all the information we can get to find out exactly what has transpired here.” Netanyahu had originally planned to meet

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer
with both Harper and opposition leader Michael Ignatieff while in Ottawa.
Media Highlights: Humanitarian Aid Ships for Gaza; Ambassador Jeffrey on the Israeli Operation, PKK

US Embassy Ankara – Turkey Media Reaction – June 2, 2010 as prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office

Breaking News:
Turkish television, citing Israeli state radio, reported Tuesday morning that amid rising security risks and tensions in its relations with Turkey, Israel has begun to evacuate families of the diplomats at its mission in Turkey.

Headlines:
"Erdogan: Nothing Will Be Same Again," Hurriyet
"Erdogan to Obama and Cameron: Don't Encourage Israel Any Further" Hurriyet
"Erdogan: Don't Mistake Turkey with Others, Consequences Will Be Grave" Milliyet
"Captive Turks Are Being Released" Milliyet
"Erdogan to Obama: Israel is about to Lose its Sole Friend" Milliyet, Sabah
"Erdogan: No One Should Test Our Patience" Sabah
"Erdogan: Whoever Condemnes Will Be Accomplices" Cumhuriyet, Hurriyet
"US Backs Israel: Instead of Denouncing Violence, US Says Gaza Aid Should be Shipped via Israel" Cumhuriyet
"Erdogan Severely Critizes Israeli Government" Radikal
"Devotoglu: US Should Condemn" Radikal
"NATO and EU Push Israel To Release Hostages" Radikal
"PM's Last Warnings to Israel" Zaman
"Devotoglu: Israeli Attack Is Turkey's 9/11" Zaman, Vatan, Hurriyet

Commentary:
Editorials today focus on two aspects of the crisis: PM Erdogan's attitude toward Israel through his party group speech and the ill-chosen approach of the current Israeli administration. Only a few speak critically about the Turkish government's policy. Mainstream Milliyet's Fikret Bila and Mehmet Tezkan find the PM's speech "balanced and well crafted," and they are satisfied by his "limiting the message only to the Israeli government and not blaming the Israeli people as a whole."
A few pundits are equally critical of the Israeli and Turkish governments. Cray Egin in the mainstream Aksam finds "no excuse for Israel's attitude" but adds: "The Turkish government, on the other hand, is pursuing a hate-language campaign against Israel and playing for domestic political gain. The Turkish government deliberately encouraged a radical Islamist foundation to lead the humanitarian aid program and put at risk hundreds of Turks' lives." Calling for "common sense at home," Erhuruk O'zkok writes in mainstream Hurriyet: "Turkey cannot easily come clean by saying this was a civilian initiative. We still owe an explanation about what hundreds of people doing were doing there, including women and children. Why does the PM constantly use 'martyr' and 'captive' for the flotilla people, are we at war?"

Erdogan to Obama: "Israel is about to Lose Its Only Friend" (Radikal)
Papers report that Prime Minister Erdogan held a phone conversation with President Obama late Tuesday regarding developments concerning the Israeli attack on the Gaza aid ships. According to the official statement released after the conversation, Erdogan said Israel's attack was "unacceptable unlawfulness" and a "breach of international precedents." During the conversation, Obama expressed his sorrow over the death of Turkish citizens onboard the ships as well as of Turkish soldiers in a recent terrorist attack in Iskenderun. Obama said the US was making intense efforts for the solution of the matter in accordance with international law and in line with Turkey's expectations. Erdogan spoke over the phone with British Prime Minister Cameron and Iranian President Ahmadinejad as well as to discuss the Israeli attack, says papers Hurriyet says Erdogan asked Obama and Cameron not to encourage Israel anymore. "US backs Israel. Instead of Denouncing Violence, US Says Aid to Gaza Should be Shipped through Israel," says Cumhuriyet on its front page, referring to State Department Spokesman Crowley's statement.

Erdogan: "No One Should Test Turkey's Patience" (Vatan)
Turkish papers continue their extensive coverage of the crisis with Israel. Prime Minister Erdogan, addressing his party group meeting in the parliament on Tuesday, urged Israel to release the civilians and seized ships. Erdogan warned that Israel should not test Turkey's patience. "Turkey can be a good friend, but its enmity should be feared," he stressed. The PM said Israel had blood on its hands, and called on the international community to stop the Israeli violence. He also drew attention to the historic ties between Turks and Jews, and called on the Israeli people to get rid of their politicians responsible for the bloody raid. He pointed out the Israeli raid was an attack targeting international law, world peace, and the basic philosophy of the UN. Erdogan reiterated his support for the Palestinians, but also warned that protests should not be extended to attacking the Jewish citizens of Turkey. Zaman says Erdogan gave some "last warnings" to Israel whereas Radikal says in his extremely harsh speech the PM stopped just short of declaring war on Israel.

Israel Deports Gaza Flotilla Activists (Hurriyet)
Four of the nine people who died in Israel's attack on an aid convoy were Turks, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. Two Turkish military planes assigned to bring back 20 Turkish citizens who were injured in the raid left for Israel on Tuesday. Papers report Israel decided on Tuesday to free hundreds of foreign peace activists it had detained. Israel earlier said it would jail the activists for attacking Israeli soldiers. Radikal says NATO and the EU have "pushed" Israel to release the civilians. Meanwhile, Vatan reports that the Free Gaza Movement, the organization that dispatched the flotilla to Gaza, has decided to send three more ships to the region within a few days. Israel has announced that it would block these ships as well if they try to reach Gaza.

Davutoglu: "Israel's Attack on Turkey's 9/11" (Zaman)
Papers report Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu met with Secretary Clinton and US National Security Advisor James Jones. The meeting, which was "positive," lasted two hours and 15 minutes, say reports. During a breakfast meeting with foreign journalists in Washington, Davutoglu stated that Turkey is "disappointed with Washington's cautious reaction to the event." "Psychologically, this attack is like 9/11 for Turkey, because Turkish citizens were attacked not by terrorists, but by a state, and through the conscious decision of its political leaders," Referring to criticism regarding the uranium swap deal with Iran, Davutoglu said "This is not tantamount to defending Iran. This is defending regional peace, global peace, and Turkey's national interests."

Trade with Israel Continues. No Problem in Heron Delivery (Cumhuriyet)
Papers report Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul said the recent crisis with Israel will not impact the delivery of the Heron drones to Turkey. Gonul said the last four Herons are expected to be delivered to Turkey in June or July this year.

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Page 2 of 5
UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05717260 Date: 05/06/2015
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From: svcsmartmi
Sent: 6/2/2010 2:54:37 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: MGGZ01: ALGERIA MEDIA REACTION TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

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MRN: 10 ALGIERS 526
Date/DTG: Jun 02, 2010 / 020653Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PINR, AG, IS, GZ, PA
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Pass Line: STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEAIMAG, NEA/PPD, AND NEAIPA.
Subject: MGGZ01: ALGERIA MEDIA REACTION TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

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SIPDIS
SENSITIVE
STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEAIMAG, NEA/PPD, AND NEAIPA.
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PINR, AG, IS, GZ, PA
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: ALGERIA MEDIA REACTION TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

SUMMARY

1. (U) The May 31 Israeli attack on the Free Gaza Flotilla was on the front page of every newspaper in Algeria the following day. The coverage was widespread and universally condemned the attacks. Algerians are outraged about the incident and have expressed particular concern over the 32 Algerians that reportedly participated in the convoy. Editorial were numerous, and many placed blame not only on the Israeli government but their “American and Western financiers.” Another key theme in the editorial line was a sense of frustration with the Obama administration. One editorial asked when President Obama would reveal his new roadmap to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as called for in his Cairo speech; another opined that maybe the Noble Prize was awarded to President Obama prematurely. This is a markedly different line as journalists are often critical of

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer

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Page 1 of 3
UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05717261 Date: 05/06/2015
U.S. policies but have previously been positive about President Obama and his administration.

COVERAGE

2. (U) It was a rare day in Algeria when the state-owned, private, French language, and Arabic language press all ran exactly the same cover story. All of the stories were similar in their outrage and condemnation of the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla on May 31. More than one newspaper has called Israel a "hoodlum" state, and concern has been expressed for the 32 Algerians who reportedly were in the convoy and are now believed being held in Israel. One French daily, the online "Tout Sur L'Algerie," has reported that the Algerian government has requested Jordan's assistance in repatriating the Algerians who were on the flotilla. Many papers expressed their anger and said that, once again, the Arabs are angry, but "En-Nahar" used a well-known Arab proverb that says "talking is free." Many newspapers said that the time for talking was over and the time for action was now. In the largest newspaper in the country "Echourouk," a cartoonist ran a drawing of an Arab ostrich with its head in the water while the vessel was being attacked. This cartoon expressed the general sentiment of frustration toward Arab leadership and the overall state of play that was very common in all of the reporting.

EDITORIAL

3. (U) The editorials in all of the largest French and Arabic language newspapers expressed the same themes of outrage towards Israel and the West's tepid condemnation of the attacks. "Sawt al-Ahrar" the official paper of the ruling party, ran an editorial saying that Western governments were complicit in the attacks due to their unwavering support for Israel. One of the largest French language dailies in the country, "Liberte," wrote a similar piece but also questioned the "real value" of all of President Obama's promises. "Liberte's" piece added that the U.S. role as Israel's compliant ally does not serve the long-term interest of the U.S. in the Middle East. "Liberte" and another French language daily, "Le Quotidien d'Oran," called Obama's reaction to the incident "embarrassed." A common theme in the editorials in the French, Arabic, government-run, and private newspapers was the expectation of a stronger reaction from the West, especially the United States.

COMMENT

4. (SBU) Only time, Israeli actions, and our public reaction will tell where the editorial lines of Algerian papers will be in the coming week. How the USG responds to this crisis will dramatically affect public opinion in Algeria if not the region. Currently, we are being portrayed here as not taking a tough enough stance towards Israel. There are conflicting media reports about two Algerian casualties on the flotilla. If these reports turn out to be true, we can expect to see even harsher anti-Israel commentary that will
inevitably have a sharper anti-American complement. End
Comment.

PEARCE

Signature: PEARCE

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Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy
From: Pattarini, Daniel M
To: SMART Core
Subject: OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID FLOTILLA

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

1. SUMMARY: The Omani print media reacted swiftly to Israeli military action against the aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip. Nearly all of Oman’s English and Arabic papers issued strong condemnations and called on the international community to take actions to punish Israel for violations of international law and to force it to end the blockade of Gaza. END SUMMARY.

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

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

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

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer
ATTACK DESERVES "CONDEMNATION OF THE HIGHEST ORDER"

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

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

ACTION "A KIND OF ISRAELI BARBARISM"

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

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

ISRAEL "BLEW UP ALL PEACE"

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

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