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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	INL-00	PDI-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00
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 AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
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 AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
 COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

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

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

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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XXXX
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PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

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

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Iran
2. Mideast

Key stories in the media:

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

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

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

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

some two weeks ago in Damascus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Iran:

Block Quotes:

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I. Obama -- Focus on Iran

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan

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

II. We're Not Nearing a Holocaust

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

2. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. Where Obama and Netanyahu Diverge

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

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

II. There Is No Other Way

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

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

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

III. Israel's Pentagon Papers

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

IV. Is Israel Entitled to Win ?

Deputy Editor-in-Chief Uri Elitzur, who was director of the Prime Minister's Office during Netanyahu's first term, wrote in the editorial of the nationalist, Orthodox Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (4/13) : A county at war kills enemy fighters without imprisonment or trial. This is international morals and international law. Nobody disagrees that in times of war a commander is allowed to carry out assassinations of commanders of the enemy army. The debate is about the question whether the war on terror is a war. A deeper question lies beyond this discussion: is Israel allowed to win? Ha'aretz and Anat Kamm believe that it can't.

V. The Disposal of Myths

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

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

VI. The New Anti-Semitism

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

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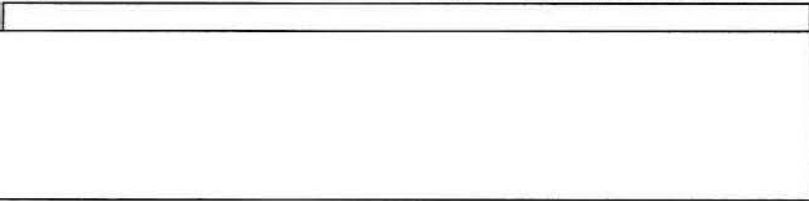
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/14/2020
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, TU, EG, IS
 SUBJECT: ANGST REIGNS OVER CONVOY OF AID SHIPS TO GAZA

REF: ANKARA 467

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

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



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[Redacted]

END

SUMMARY.

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

B1

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

B1, B6

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

B1

[Redacted]

An "Artificial Island"

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

B6

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

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B6

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

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

B1, B6

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

B1

[redacted] told us April 12 that he

believes the

only purpose of the convoy is political

propaganda and "diplomatic drama." He cited existing means

for delivering humanitarian to Gaza, if that were the true

purpose. [redacted] told us

B1

the same thing on April 9. [redacted]

[redacted]

5. (C) [redacted]

[redacted]

Egyptian Concerns

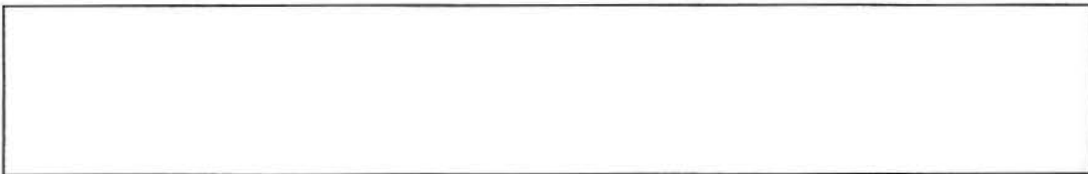
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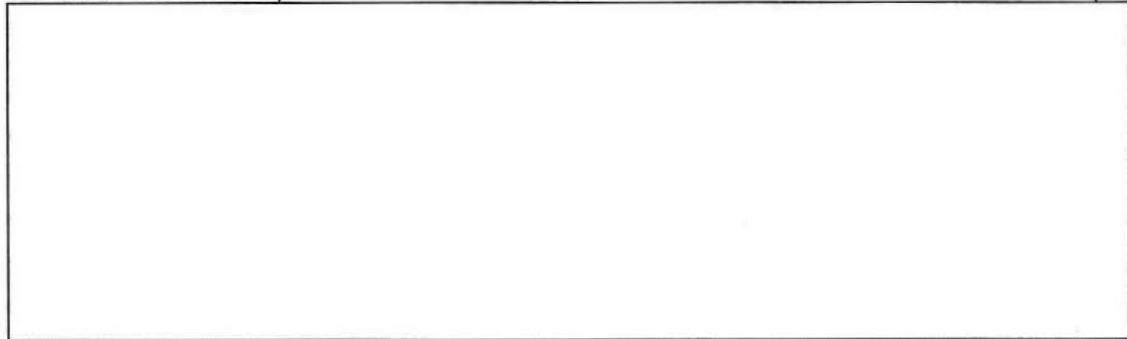
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9. (C) COMMENT:



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

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ACTION NEA-00

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

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

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

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

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

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
2. Iran

Key stories in the media:

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

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

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

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

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "A Course in Core Curriculum"

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

II. "The Lone Ranger"

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

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

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

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

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

IV. "Useful Idiots"

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

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

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

V. "Why I opposed leaving Lebanon"

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

2. Iran:

Block Quotes:

I. "A small but important step"

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

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

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

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ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	INL-00	PDI-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00
	PA-00	MCC-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	CARC-00	SAS-00	FA-00	PESU-00
	SANA-00	/000W					

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P 251106Z MAY 10
 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7035
 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
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 CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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 CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
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 AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
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 COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
 COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast

Key stories in the media:

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

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

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

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

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1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "Netanyahu's true test"

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

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

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

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

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

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

III. "Why the Chief Military Rabbi is right"

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

IV. "Taking Gaza seriously"

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

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

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

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

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	DODE-00	DOT-00
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	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	CAC-00	ARMY-00
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O 311255Z MAY 10
 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5006
 INFO GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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

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

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

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

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

GoK: "Israeli Attack" [redacted]

B1

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

[redacted]

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	DODE-00	NOTE-00
	DS-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	CAC-00	ARMY-00
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-00	OIC-00
	NIMA-00	PA-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00
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 CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

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

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

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AMCIT Among the Kuwaiti Participants

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

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Poloff received a call from [Redacted]

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

Press Inquiries

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

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

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

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	DODE-00	NOTE-00
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	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00
	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SRMC-00	MEPP-00	/001W

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 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5018
 INFO ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
 CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2020
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KISL, PINR, KU
 SUBJECT: GOK/PARLIAMENT REACT STRONGLY TO "FREEDOM
 FLOTILLA" INCIDENT, PROMINENT KUWAITI MP AMONG THE DETAINED

REF: A. KUWAIT 379
 B. 09 KUWAIT 87

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

Summary

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

B6

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

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

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

[redacted]

[redacted] End summary.

GoK Reacts

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

[redacted]

National Assembly Seals Ranks in Support of One of its Own

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

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

-- That the UNSC conduct an international investigation to

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

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

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

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

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

from Arab and Muslim nations.

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Public Unified as Well

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

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

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

Comment

[Large redacted area]

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

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

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DNI-00 DODE-00
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 ARMY-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00 DCP-00 NSAE-00
 NIMA-00 GIWI-00 FMPC-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 NCTC-00
 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SWCI-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0019
 INFO GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

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

RELEASED IN PART
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SIPDIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. (C) Comment:

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WILLIAMS

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	RPPR-00	INL-00
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R 081307Z JUN 10
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 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
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 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
 DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

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

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

SIPDIS

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

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

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

1. (C) SUMMARY:

NR

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

B1

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

NR

[redacted]

[redacted]

END SUMMARY.

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

NR

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

[redacted] THE GAZA FLOTILLA

B1

3. (C) [redacted]

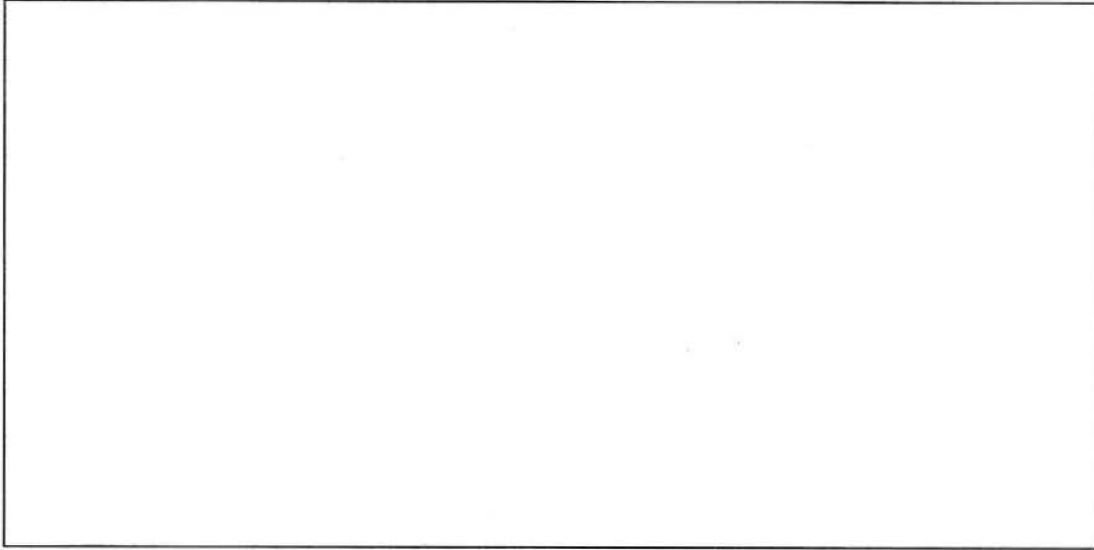
B1

[redacted]

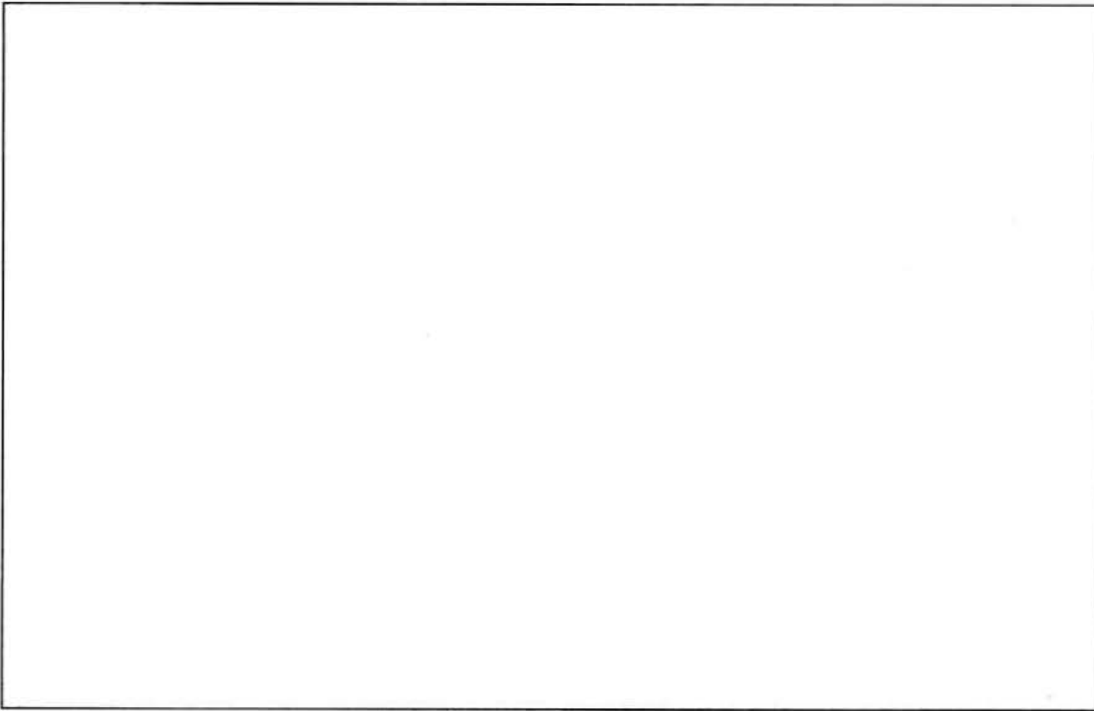
[redacted]

NR

UPCOMING IT DELEGATION



AL-RAI TV



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ATMOSPHERICS

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COMMENT

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ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

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O R 230908Z AUG 10
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UNCLAS ANKARA 001334

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

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

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

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

How the US is Playing/Related News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the Headlines

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

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

8. Police Chief Avci Blames Gulen Community (Cumhuriyet)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SILLIMAN

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ACTION NEA-00

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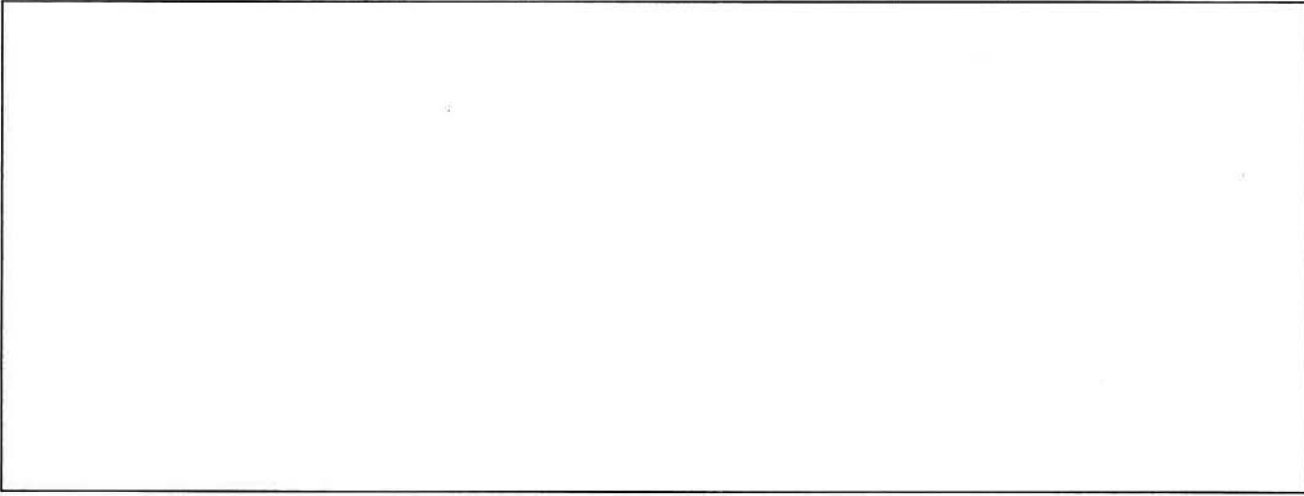
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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, PHUM, UNHRC-1, KPAL, IS, MY
 SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN MFA COMMENTS ON LATEST ROUND OF
 ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS

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

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



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

RAPSON

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From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 5/28/2010 8:40:20 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: USEU Today Transfer

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MRN: 10 DAILY 5282316
Date/DTG: May 28, 2010 / 281130Z MAY 10
From: DAILY
Action: DAILY ROUTINE
TAGS: BE, XTAG
Subject: USEU Today Transfer

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FOR TRANSFERRING DATA ONLY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: BE
SUBJECT: USEU Today Transfer

(U) EU presses Armenia and Turkey to continue normalization process

Speaking at separate briefings following their meetings with visiting President Sargsyan of Armenia May 26-27, European Council President Van Rompuy and Commission President Barroso pressed both Armenia and Turkey to continue the "historic" process of normalization of their relations "without preconditions" and "within a reasonable timeframe." Van Rompuy said he was "pleased that Armenia decided to stay committed to the process, adding: "I recognize the President's political courage on this issue." He confirmed the EU's "continued commitment to peace and security in the Caucasus, including through contributing to the resolution of the protracted conflicts." Barroso said the Commission was prepared to launch negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Armenia "as soon as next July," noting that "an important part of this Agreement will be the negotiation on a bilateral Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)." Barroso nevertheless made it clear that "this could kick off only once Armenia will have fully addressed key trade-related recommendations made by the Commission." (POL:RDeglain).

News

(EU) EU/CSDP: General Ton van Osch new chief of EU military staff - Brussels, May 27 (Agence Europe) - General Ton van Osch from the Netherlands took over on Thursday 27 May from General David Leakey (United Kingdom) as Chief of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS). During a joint press conference with his predecessor, General Osch emphasised that during his three-year mandate he would focus on two main subjects: implementation of a comprehensive approach, which would help to combine and jointly coordinate all crisis management instruments; and strengthening cooperation between the EU and its partners such as NATO, the UN, the African Union and the other "major actors and nations". The general provided

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 22 AUG 2011 201004163

assurances that "every body will find me willing to cooperate" and said that making the European External Action Service operational, where EU High Representative Catherine Ashton will be responsible for all instruments, will be a big step forward. The general explained: "I know there's a lot of talking that should be much better and I agree with that, but at the same time I would like to make a point that we made a lot of big steps". General Leakey was asked about the necessity of providing the EU with a permanent military operations staff in the future but explained that there is no "one size fits all" solution from a political point of view or in the context of military practicalities. He added: "If you have a member state who takes an operations commander rather than operational headquarters responsibility, then it means that the operation is guaranteed to be a success". According to Leakey, the current situation has the merit of giving each member state greater responsibility when it ensures command of an operation. Born in 1955, General Osch has been the Dutch permanent military representative to NATO and the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) since June 2007. He is the third chief of staff as head of this structure, following French General Jean-Paul Peruche and General Leakey, and will be particularly responsible for strategic planning and EU military expertise.

(EU) EP/PALESTINE: Isabelle Durant and Louis Michel urge Israel to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza - Brussels, May 27 (Agence Europe) - The vice president of the European Parliament, Isabelle Durant (Greens/EFA, Belgium) and the MEP and former commissioner for development, Louis Michel (ALDE, Belgium) launched an appeal to Israel on Thursday 27 May, to allow humanitarian aid to Gaza to reach its destination. MEPs are concerned about threats of a blockade by the Israeli authorities and the deployment of military forces to prevent the berthing and unloading of the "Gaza freedom flotilla". The mission consists of nine new boats. They contain 10,000 tons of humanitarian equipment (educational and medical materials) and construction materials (cement etc) for Gaza, as well as 700 volunteers from the whole world. The first boats left Turkey for Gaza on Tuesday 25 May. "This mission must arrive at the right port of call", insisted Isabelle Durant. She added that "this is not a political mission; it aims to provide aid and solidarity, and it is necessary to guarantee the security of the people accompanying it". The appeal by MEPs aims to mobilise public opinion to put pressure on the Israeli government. Louis Michel was keen to point out that "international humanitarian law requires that access to victims or people in danger is ensured or at least facilitated. (...) The Israeli authorities do not want Hamas to benefit from this operation because it is claimed that the Palestinian organisation and the humanitarian workers are working together. Isabelle Durant and Louis Michel refute this.

EU's Almunia says fewer banks taking up state aid - BRUSSELS, May 27 (Reuters) - European Union banks are gradually weaning themselves off state aid as the sector recovers from the credit crisis which led to trillions of euros in bailouts and state guarantees, the EU's competition chief said on Thursday. Since the crisis deepened in September 2008, the European Commission has approved 4.13 trillion euros (\$5.072 billion) in recapitalisation schemes and other measures by EU governments to help lenders. Of this figure, just a third or 1.24 billion euros were taken up by banks via state guaranteed funding or recapitalisation measures. The EU executive said the use of government guarantees by banks has declined since the middle of 2009, both in terms of the number of bonds issued and volume of issuance. The total amount of state-guaranteed bonds issued by banks in December last year amounted to a monthly average of 4 percent of lenders' total funding, down from 30 percent in the

first quarter of 2009, data from the Commission showed. "The declining use of state guarantees is an encouraging indicator that the financial sector has begun to return to normal market conditions," EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia told a news conference. "While the situation remains fragile it is crucial for the overall economy that banks do not stay dependent on the state for longer than is strictly needed and finance themselves increasingly on the market," he said. He said France, Italy and the United Kingdom have already said they would not extend their guarantee schemes. There are currently 15 EU countries with such schemes which will expire either at the end of this month or next. EU finance ministers agreed last week to raise the fees that banks pay if guarantee schemes are extended by up to 40 basis points.

(EU) EU/ECONOMY: Herman Van Rompuy wants more governance and greater EESC involvement in taking important Council decisions and measures - Brussels, May 27 (Agence Europe) - Addressing the plenary session of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) chaired by Mario Sepi, on Thursday 27 May in Brussels, the president of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, unveiled how he felt about the need to immediately overcome the agitation caused by the economic crisis, and to have a crisis prevention and management system. He announced the results of the first meeting of the task force under his leadership. Van Rompuy wanted the EESC to be more actively involved in taking measures and important decisions at the European Council in June 2010, and to be more actively concerned by follow up to such measures and decisions. He highlighted how important it was to have a structural growth policy, i.e. the EU2020 strategy, which, he said, is an operation of high political intensity without which the EU's social model would be in danger. (...) In addition to overcoming the crisis, there is a structural policy for increasing the EU's economic potential, the EU2020 strategy. Van Rompuy said he wished to speak to the EESC about this later, adding that he was willing for the committee to be more involved when important decisions or measures are taken at the European Council in June. However, he asserted, this process is not yet over. There will be follow-up, and adjustment throughout the process. He took the view that, without this structural policy for growth, the EU's social model would be in danger. Van Rompuy underlined how difficult it was for a politician to explain to the public that it is necessary to put taxes up while safeguarding investment in human capital. This prompted him to say that "the EU2020 strategy is not a technical operation but an operation with high political import".

Kennard

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Attachments: metadata.dat

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
Page 1 of 4

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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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Sent: 6/17/2010 6:41:36 AM
To: svcSMARTHBTSTPOP2
Subject: Lebanese Gaza Flotilla Update – June 17, 2010
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL

MRN: 10 MDA 1049
Date/DTG: Jun 17, 2010 / 171041Z JUN 10
From: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)
Action: Lawson, Christine *MIMMEDIATE*; HHajjar@nss.eop.sgov.gov *MIMMEDIATE*
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, PBTS, KPAL, PHUM, GZ, IS, LE
Subject: Lebanese Gaza Flotilla Update – June 17, 2010

SITUATION UPDATE

(C) EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE/IMPEDE LAUNCH: [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] Separately, a senior Surete Generale (SG) official told us late this morning that the SG has issued an order to all Lebanese ports saying that no ship may leave port without providing a manifest of who is on board. No manifests have been provided as yet for Gaza-bound ships. A Port of Beirut official verified to us that no vessel there has applied for a permit to depart for Gaza.

(C) POSSIBLE LAUNCH TOMORROW? Media contacts say that the *Mariam* is hoping to launch for Gaza the morning of June 18 carrying 50 women of different nationalities. *An-Nahar* reports that the *Mariam* effort is being led by Inam Saad, the wife of a Saida-based opposition politician who is a foe of PM Hariri. Conflicting press reports have said the boat plans to launch from Beirut, Jounieh (just north of Beirut), Tripoli and Saida. We have verified that the *Mariam* is not in Beirut or Jounieh, and are seeking now to verify the Saida report (Saida is roughly halfway between Beirut and the Israeli border; the Maronite bishop of Saida is presiding over a mass there today to bless the *Mariam's* undertaking). [REDACTED]

B1

The press is also reporting that Yasser Kashlak, a wealthy Palestinian businessman based in the Gulf, is the main funder of the *Mariam* effort. Kashlak heads the Palestinian Businessmen's Association as well as the Lebanese Institute of International Research.

(C) AMCIT INVOLVEMENT: One newspaper is reporting that "four U.S. nuns"

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

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
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plan to be among the 50 women aboard the Mariam. Separately, Amcit Paul Larudee (who was on the first Gaza flotilla) gave an interview to a Beirut paper, but it is not clear from the article that Larudee was present in the country at the time of the interview. We have asked consular contacts [redacted] [redacted] if they can verify that Larudee has entered Lebanon.

B1

CONTACTS WITH GOL AND OTHERS

(C) The Ambassador made a series of phone calls this morning to GOL officials and others about the potential new flotilla. Drawing from the points prepared for U/S Burns, she stressed our strong concern at reports about the advanced state of preparations for launching one or more ships from Lebanon. She underscored our belief that such an effort would be extremely destabilizing for Lebanon and the region, and urged the GOL officials to take quick action to dissuade the organizers from proceeding with their plans. She also noted our concern that American citizens might be involved in the effort and asked for any information about Amcit participants. Following are the responses she received:

[redacted]

[redacted]

-- [redacted] said the issue was on the front burner for the PM's office, and that he would be following it closely through the day.

-- [redacted] reported that [redacted] contacts were saying no launch would occur for several days, but [redacted] was checking again based on today's press reports.

-- [redacted] agreed that the new Gaza flotilla effort is fraught with potential problems, but noted that the issue is "very delicate" and virtually all Lebanese are "lining up on one side" of it.

CONCLUSION

It is not clear that the Israeli announcement today of a plan to ease restrictions on Gaza will change the thinking of the Lebanese organizing the launches.

Classified By: Thomas F. Daughton, Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy Beirut
Department of State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2020/06/17

Drafted By: BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

Approved By: U.S. Embassy Beirut:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

Released By: BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

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Rana, Gautam A*ROUTINE*; Walles, Jacob*ROUTINE*; Cornforth, Jeremy A*ROUTINE*;
Wong, Kam T*ROUTINE*; Vassilev, Ivaylo*ROUTINE*; Williams, Prestina D*ROUTINE*;
Bauer, Paul A*ROUTINE*; Solly, Janet R (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Williams, Jennifer L*ROUTINE*;
Lantz, James V*ROUTINE*; Pannaman, Jeffrey E*ROUTINE*; Balestri, Richard R*ROUTINE*;
Riley, Richard H*ROUTINE*; Hinton, Terrance*ROUTINE*; Brown, Karen L*ROUTINE*;
Hosking, Erika L (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Citrin, Ruth*ROUTINE*; Embury, Benjamin S*ROUTINE*;
Herbol, Denise A*ROUTINE*; Abell, J Andrew*ROUTINE*; Kontek, Ted L (Beirut)*ROUTINE*;
Gliha, Ryan M*ROUTINE*; Wilt, Mark C (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Addis, Casey L*ROUTINE*;
Creedon, Reid M*ROUTINE*; Evans, Jennifer R*ROUTINE*; Tachco, Amy N (Beirut)*ROUTINE*;
Polacheck, Joshua W (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; McCulloch, Megan L*ROUTINE*

Attachments:

Metadata.dat

Dissemination Rule:

Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
Page 1 of 4

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

<![endif]-->

From: Hebert, Margaret R (Rome)
Sent: 7/13/2010 7:24:37 AM
To: svcSMARTHBTSP0P3
Subject: Embassy Rome Daily Report July 13, 2010
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

MRN: 10 MDA 1305
Date/DTG: Jul 13, 2010 / 131125Z JUL 10
From: Hebert, Margaret R (Rome)
Action: Arria, Salvatore A (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Ashley, Donald D (Rome)ROUTINE; Ayala, William M (Rome)ROUTINE; Barker, Rachel A. (Rome)ROUTINE; Bell, Janice)ROUTINE; Benway, Angela E (Milan)ROUTINE; Benz, Charles E (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Bergeson, Mark E (Rome)ROUTINE; Bland, J Nathan (Vatican)ROUTINE; Blazey, Elizabeth Z ROUTINE; Bliss, Amy M (Naples)ROUTINE; Bonilla, Anthony (Rome)ROUTINE; Boyer, Spencer PROUTINE; Bradley, Tobin JROUTINE; Brew, Kevin M (Rome)ROUTINE; Brownfeld, Peter E (Rome)ROUTINE; Cali, Philip M (Rome)ROUTINE; Carland, Raphael ROUTINE; Carlson, Robert W (Naples)ROUTINE; Chupp, Teresa G (Rome)ROUTINE; Conrad, Shannon S (Naples)ROUTINE; Countryman, Mary E (Florence)ROUTINE; Cowan, Fleur S (Rome)ROUTINE; Degory, John A (Vatican)ROUTINE; Diaz, Miguel H (Vatican)ROUTINE; Dibble, Elizabeth L (Rome)ROUTINE; Elsen, Jeffery G (Rome)ROUTINE; EUR-WE-DLROUTINE; Foley, Rafael P (Vatican)ROUTINE; Fouts, Daniel J (Rome)ROUTINE; Freeman, Vincent L (Rome)ROUTINE; Fried, DanielROUTINE; Hall, Morgan C (Rome)ROUTINE; Hankins, Stacie R (Rome)ROUTINE; Harvey, Patrick J (DRL)ROUTINE; Hebert, Margaret R (Rome)ROUTINE; Hiller, Jean E (Rome) ROUTINE; Hillmeyer, John J (Milan)ROUTINE; Hogle, Charles MROUTINE; Israelsen, Brent W (Florence)ROUTINE; Iversen, Lisa O (Rome)ROUTINE; Johnson, Seneca E ROUTINE; Katz, Daniel S (Rome)ROUTINE; Kostelancik, David XROUTINE; Larrea, John F (Florence)ROUTINE; Lawlor, Tim J (Rome)ROUTINE; Le Claire, Claire (Rome) ROUTINE; Leaf, Barbara A (Rome)ROUTINE; Lora, Terrie Buell (Rome)ROUTINE; Maldonado, Jon M (Rome)ROUTINE; Morrill, Brian D (Rome)ROUTINE; Nash, Robert C ROUTINE; Notarianni, Stephan F (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Noyes, Julieta Valls (Vatican) ROUTINE; Noyes, Nick (Rome)ROUTINE; Odean, Joan (Rome)ROUTINE; Patel, Bindi K (Rome) ROUTINE; Perez, Carol Z (Milan)ROUTINE; Preston, Jean E (Rome)ROUTINE; Quintal, Paul N (Rome)ROUTINE; Rad, Natalie L (Rome)ROUTINE; Rakich, Kathryn A (Florence)ROUTINE; Reed, Sherrell I (Rome)ROUTINE; Sanderson, Mary A ROUTINE; Schaff, Charles E (Rome)ROUTINE; Schubert, Paul F (Rome)ROUTINE; Seliqini, Louis P (Rome)ROUTINE; Sharkey, James CROUTINE; Shaul, Barry C (Rome) ROUTINE; Smith, Donna L (Rome)ROUTINE; Swann, Sonjia (Rome)ROUTINE; Tarantolo, Sonia S (Milan)ROUTINE; Thiede, Paula S (Rome)ROUTINE; Thorne, David H (Rome)ROUTINE; Viola, Vincent (Rome)ROUTINE; Volk, Carol J (Rome) ROUTINE; Wachowe, Cheryl A (Rome)ROUTINE; Waser, Tamir GROUTINE; Wasley, Liam J (Rome)ROUTINE; Weaver, Brittany MROUTINE; White, George M (Rome) ROUTINE; Wohlauer, Benjamin V (Milan)ROUTINE; Wood, Kevin M (Naples)ROUTINE; Zalewski, Dianne D (Vatican)ROUTINE; Ziff, Benjamin G (Rome)ROUTINE; ATUKORALAV@TSDN.TREASURY.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; CICASJ@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; CLETUS.HAGG@AFOSI.AF.SMIL.MILROUTINE; DIMORFX@DIA.SMIL.MILROUTINE; ERIK.STOHLMANN@EUCOM.SMIL.MILROUTINE; FINKELC@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOV

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 JUL 2020

DATE/CASE ID: 28 DEC 2011 201004163

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
Page 1 of 4

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ROUTINE ; DEANNA.DESANTE@OSD.SMIL.MILROUTINE ; perezj@jdiss.cia.sgov.govROUTINE
13526
PGOV, PREL, ECON, IT
SIPDIS, NOFORN
Embassy Rome Daily Report July 13, 2010

E.O.:

TAGS:

Captions:

Subject:

EMBASSY ROME DAILY REPORT

July 13, 2010

Political Report

- (C/NF) Berlusconi: [redacted]
- (C) Turkish Embassy [redacted] **New Gaza Aid Flotilla Being Organized in Italy.**
- (SBU) MFA [redacted]

NR
B1

Upcoming Visits

GOI Upcoming Visits

Read Recent Cables from Rome.

Political Report

(C/NF) Berlusconi: [redacted]

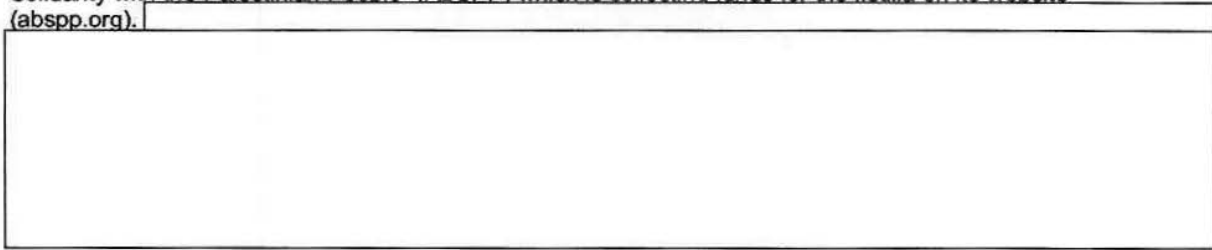
[Large redacted area]

NR

(C) Turkish Embassy [redacted] **a New Gaza Aid Flotilla Being Organized in Italy.**
Center-right daily Il Giornale reported on July 8 on a new Gaza aid flotilla being prepared by a group of
Palestinian and Islamic organizations in Italy. Basing its information on a website, Infopal, Il Giornale writes that
Mohammad Hannoun, from the Association of Palestinians in Italy, announced that the Freedom Flotilla 2 will be
composed of about 20 ships and 5000 passengers, with six boats already ready to leave in September.
Hannoun is also the founder of the Genoa-based and allegedly Hamas-affiliated "Benevolent Association of

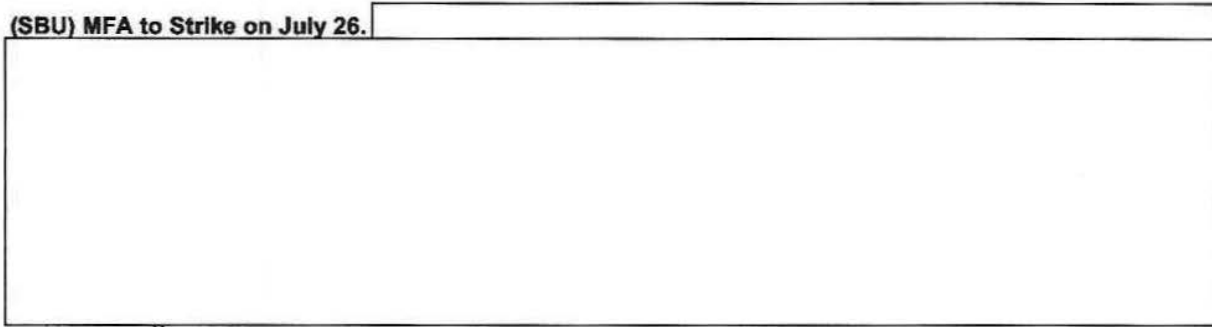
B1

Solidarity with the Palestinian People" (ABSPP) which is collecting funds for the flotilla on its website (abspp.org).



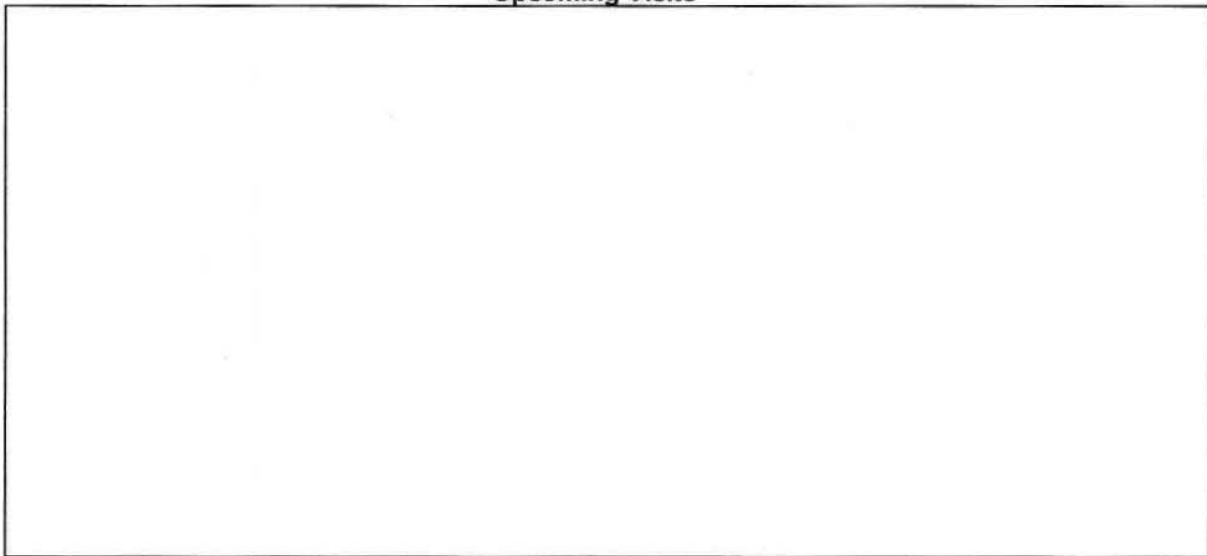
B1

(SBU) MFA to Strike on July 26.



NR

Upcoming Visits



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Read archived Daily Reports on our [Intelink Blog](#).

Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)
Political Section

UNCLASSIFIED

Declassify on: Department of State
2020/07/13
Drafted By: ROME:Hebert, Margaret R (Rome)
Approved By: POL:Volk, Carol J (Rome)
Released By: ROME:Hebert, Margaret R (Rome)
Attachments: Metadata.dat

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DNI-00 DODE-00
 PDI-00 DS-00 DHSE-00 FBIE-00 UTED-00 VCI-00 DIAS-00
 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 ARMY-00 MOFM-00
 MOF-00 VCIE-00 NEA-00 NSAE-00 OES-00 NIMA-00 EPAU-00
 PER-00 PM-00 GIWI-00 MA-00 DOHS-00 SP-00 SSO-00
 SS-00 NCTC-00 FMP-00 BBG-00 EPAE-00 IIP-00 SCRS-00
 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 CARC-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00
 FA-00 SWCI-00 /001W

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O 311346Z MAY 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0085
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN PART
 B6

UNCLAS ANKARA 000772

SENSITIVE
 SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 1 on Humanitarian Aid Foundation Flotilla,
 12:00 pm Turkey Time

REF: 10 ISTANBUL 199; 10 ISTANBUL 195
 DE OTALVARO EMAIL OF 31 MAY 10 AT 12:55 TO SES-O

1. (SBU) According to Turkish press sources, at approximately 4:30 a.m. on May 31, the Israeli military allegedly landed soldiers on the deck of the Turkish flagged ship "Blue Marmara", while it was in international waters, between 69 and 70 miles from Israel's shore. The ship was part of the Turkish NGO Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla attempting to reach Gaza and allegedly deliver humanitarian supplies. The latest press reports indicate that shots were fired on the ship and somewhere between 10 and 16 people were killed. Israel Prime Ministry Spokesman Gendelman said that there were firearms, knives and batons on the ship, and that fire was opened against the Israeli soldiers. Gendelman reported that between eight and ten soldiers were wounded, some in serious condition.

2. (SBU) So far the press has not identified any Americans among the victims. According to Al Jazeera TV, 9 of the dead are Turkish citizens. According to the Associated Press, IHH Official

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 22 AUG 2011 201004163

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Omer Faruk Korkmaz reported that Israeli soldiers are taking the ship to Haifa. IHH Headquarters in Istanbul also reported that they have lost radio contact with the flotilla. The Turkish press reported that the Israeli military jammed the flotilla's radio communication starting at 3:30 a.m. Israeli television stations have reported that the wounded -- civilians and soldiers -- were transferred to hospitals in Ashkelon. Turkish television stations reported that preparations are underway to detain some civilians in prisons.

3. (SBU) Following the intervention, the Prime Ministry established a crisis task force to follow events after 7:00 a.m. Deputy PM Bulent Arinc, Interior Minister Besir Atalay, Prime Ministry Undersecretary Efgan Ala, and Turkish General Staff Operations Commander General Mehmet Eroz are following the issue. The Turkish MFA released a strong statement that condemned the attack and protested the use of force by the Israeli Defense Forces against the civilians on the flotilla, who were from many countries and wanted to transport humanitarian assistance to the people in Gaza. It pointed out that there were women and children among the passengers, and that they had received reports so far that the intervention had caused 2 deaths and more than 30 people to be injured. It said Israel has "once again clearly demonstrated that it does not value human lives and peaceful initiatives through targeting innocent civilians." Calling the intervention an "inhuman act," it said the incident, which took place on the high seas in a gross violation of international law, "might cause irreversible consequences in our relations." It said that the Embassy in Tel Aviv would conduct initiatives to protest the event, and that the incident is being "strongly protested" in Ankara, while an explanation from the Israeli Ambassador in Ankara has been demanded at the Ministry. It said the actions against civilians conducting peaceful activities -- whatever their motives -- were unacceptable and that Israel will have to bear the consequences of the actions, which constitute a violation of international law. In closing the statement said "May God bestow His mercy upon those who lost their lives. We wish to express our condolences to the bereaved families of the deceased, and swift recovery to the wounded."

4. (SBU) [redacted] told the Ambassador that he personally could not understand how the intervention could have happened. He and others were working with the Israelis, he admitted, and they thought that they had a solution to keep everything under control. He stressed as well that there will be consequences to the intervention. He emphasized that Turks are outraged that the Israelis acted when the ships were 69 miles from Gaza, in international waters. He intimated that 'a solution' might have been possible, or at least more understanding, were the ships intercepted -- as he had thought they would be --

B6

closer to Gaza. The Ambassador stressed the need to protect both U.S. and Israeli diplomatic establishments from crowds of protesters in Turkey, and urged caution on any action until all of the facts were in. [redacted] in turn urged for us to ask Washington to say something critical about this operation, indicating that this would help, although the Ambassador did not respond to the request.

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5. (SBU) Israel's Ambassador to Turkey, Gaby Levi, told the Ambassador that while he had been summoned to the MFA, his residence had been blockaded by protestors and so he was unable to move. He was "under siege" at his embassy. He anticipated "the worst" from the Turks, and that there will be diplomatic consequences to the intervention. The Turkish press reported that MFA Deputy U/S Unal Cevikoz spoke to Ambassador Levi for 20 minutes, and in addition to condemning the attack, he urged Israel to send the passengers and wounded to Turkey immediately. Cevikoz also reminded Levi that Turkey preserves all its rights stemming from international law. The Turkish press also reported that the visit of an Israeli tourist ship to Alanya port today was cancelled.

6. (SBU) There were protests in several cities Turkey against Israeli and U.S. installations. Media outlets reported that a large crowd of protestors gathered outside the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul starting at 5:00 a.m. The group had been very agitated but at the moment was calm, and had been contained by Turkish police, using water cannons and pepper gas. Mission RSOs sent SMS messages through its warden network to avoiding protests in the areas around Israeli or U.S. diplomatic buildings. In Adana at approximately 1:45 a.m. a group of 30-40 protestors held a sit-in in front of the U.S. Consulate for half an hour, and another protest is expected.

7. (SBU) Turkish media outlets report that Hamas called the operation "brutal", and urgently urged the UN to interfere, while Palestinian President Abbas termed the attack as "massacre" and declared three days of mourning.

8. (SBU) Post will continue to monitor events and report as needed.
JEFFREY

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	INL-00
	NOTE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	VCI-00
	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00
	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	SAS-00	FA-00
	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-00				

(SAS) /000W

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O 011159Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0101
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 EUCOM POLAD VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
 MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IQ IMMEDIATE
 AFOSI DET 521 ANKARA TU IMMEDIATE
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000779

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
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
 AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MOPS, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

REF: 10 ISTANBUL 195; 10 ISTANBUL 199; 10 ANKARA 772; 10 ANKARA 774
 10 ANKARA 776; 10 ANKARA 778; 10 ANKARA 777

CLASSIFIED BY: Jeremiah Howard, Acting POLCOUNS, State, Political;
 REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

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

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1. (C) [REDACTED]

3. (SBU) The Israel Defense Force's boarding and seizure of the six-ship Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla May 31 remains the almost exclusive focus of media reporting and GoT public statements. According to Turkish contacts the Turkish casualties -- as many as nine deaths according to the Turkish and international press -- were confined to Turkish-registered Mavi Marmaris. The Turkish MFA estimated a total of 560 passengers on board that ship, 353 of those Turkish. MFA claims 33 Algerians, 31 Jordanians, 28 British nationals, between 10-20 passengers from Malaysia, Indonesia and Kuwait, respectively, and three AMCITs were also on board. The Mavi Marmaris and five other ships in the flotilla have been diverted to Ashdod. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told visiting CODEL Delahunt that the GoT is determined to have its citizens and the Turkish ships returned quickly to Turkey. One complicating factor, according to [REDACTED] is the refusal of many of the Turkish activists to return voluntarily to Turkey; Israel has offered voluntary return to 100 of them who

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have refused; 200 more were to be offered voluntary return but Turkey feared they would also refuse. Meanwhile, [redacted] continued, the Israelis were interrogating those refusing, 'treating them like terrorists or criminals.' We infer the activists' hope to continue their protest of the Gaza embargo and their pursuit of media publicity by remaining in detention in Israel (see septel on the IHH charity that organized this flotilla). [redacted] said that Turkey would ask if Turkish

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officials could come to Israel to convince the activists to return to Turkey. The Israeli Embassy told us the GoT also wants to dispatch two "hospital planes" to pick up the wounded Turks in Israel. The embassy told us the GoI will likely accede to this latter GoT request.

4. (C) [redacted]

B1

5. (SBU) The Israeli Embassy tells us it is operating under "emergency procedures," with officers and dependents staying away from the Embassy. The Turkish National Police (TNP) has ramped up its protection of the Israeli Embassy and all US diplomatic facilities. Deputy Prime Minister Arinc publicly reassured Turkey's Jewish population that it faces no hostility from fellow Turkish citizens. PM Erdogan, departing Chile on May 31, helpfully, echoed Arinc's reassurances to Turkey's Jewish citizens, but also labeled the Israeli operation "state terrorism" and said Turkey would not remain passive or silent in the face of such a provocation. He recounted in detail a version of the boarding that emphasized the peaceful intent of the Mavi Marmaris' passengers: "They were waving white flags." "This is a national cause," he said, "we will take it up. Israel never pays for the sins it commits. That is unacceptable. There are hundreds of Security Council resolutions. Israel ignores them all. No longer!" FonMin Davutoglu strongly condemned Israeli actions in a statement to the UN Security Council May 31.

6. (SBU) GOT and public reactions to the UN Security Council President's statement have been positive. National newspaper Hurriyet called it "the strongest statement so far." Many Turks are looking for a stronger condemnation of Israel, especially from the US. In reaction to the Department's May 31 statement on the issue, ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) spokesman Huseyin

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Celik said "the U.S. has only expressed their grief. This is not something that is expected from the United States. This is the end result of vetoes by the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Israel has been spoiled by them. We hope that it will be a lesson for the entire world. And, it will raise long awaited voices by humanity against Israel, which should have been louder earlier."

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PKK ATTACK A FURTHER COMPLICATION

7. (SBU) On May 31 shortly after midnight the PKK launched an attack against a military vehicle near a Turkish naval base in Iskenderun, killing six soldiers. This is the latest in a series of attacks that have killed several other soldiers and village guards. Although the Turkish General Staff announced it believed the attack was conducted by the PKK, AKP spokesman Celik said he thought the timing between the attack and the Israeli military intervention was "not a coincidence." Opposition CHP Chairman

Kemal Kilicdaroglu also said he thought the coincidental timing was "meaningful".

COMMENT

8. (C) Most senior Turkish politicians have been quick to condemn Israel as wholly responsible for the flotilla incident, and all Turks are looking to the US to condemn Israeli actions. The UNSC President's Statement was received well, [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]
We are somewhat heartened by quiet cooperation between Turkey and Israel to defuse the crisis, as well as by columns by some Turkish writers today who question whether Turkey did all it could to prevent this confrontation (see septel media reaction).

JEFFREY

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UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00
	OES-00	NIMA-00	PM-00	MA-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	BBG-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-00	/001W		

-----7035AA 041635Z /38

O 041632Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0174
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 EUCOM POLAD VAHINGEN GE
 39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
 ODC ANKARA TU
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 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), B6, NR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000815

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
 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. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/04
 TAGS: PGOV, PHSA, PREL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 8 on IHH Flotilla

REF: 10 ANKARA 799; 10 ANKARA 800; 10 ANKARA 779; 10 ISTANBUL 203

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

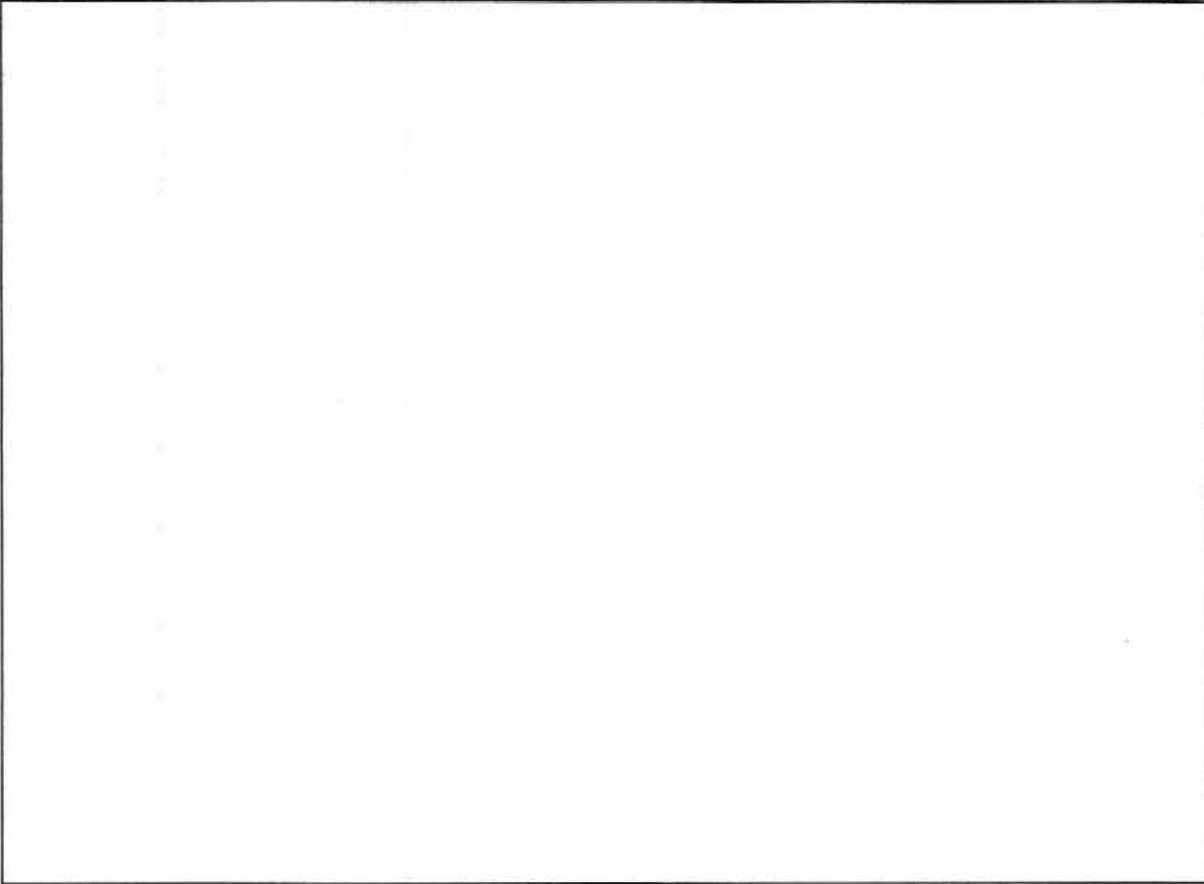
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 03 JAN 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1. (C) Summary. Non-violent protests continued in Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana June 4, with press attention focused on the victims of the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla and their funerals.

B1



MOST TURKS BACK IN TURKEY

3. (SBU) Acting U/S Cevikoz expressed gratitude for U.S. engagement in securing the release of detainees and reported that all of those detained were returned to Turkey, with the exception of five who had been too seriously injured to be moved on June 3. Two additional "air ambulances" had arrived in Israel in the early morning hours of June 4, but it was likely that one of the five was still not stable enough to transport. [REDACTED]

B6



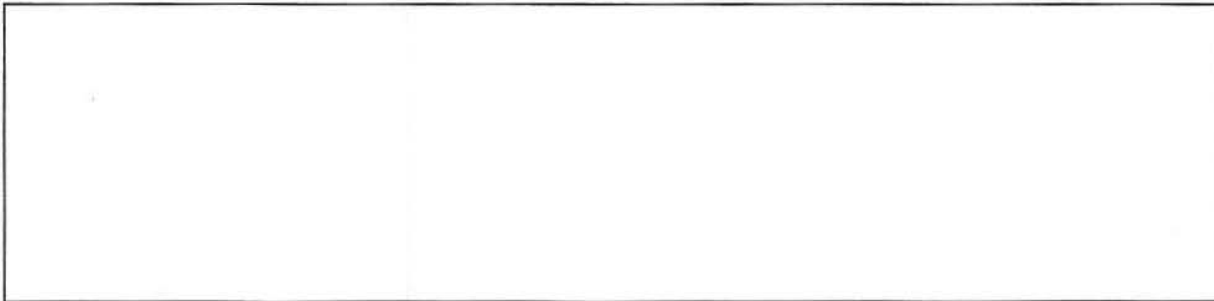
Cevikoz said. The Ambassador contacted the family of the Turkish-American dual national who was killed in the attack and conveyed its condolences. His body was returned to his hometown of Kayseri and a funeral was planned for June 4.

UNCLASSIFIED

4. (SBU) There was press speculation that a Turkish warship might accompany the M/V Rachel Corrie, one of the next boats scheduled to arrive in the IHH convoy. Both MFA Acting U/S Cevikoz and the Turkish Navy denied this rumor. When PM Erdogan was questioned about the rumor, he told the press that the idea was "out of the question."

MORE PROTESTS EXPECTED

5. (SBU) In Ankara, between 100-200 protestors continue to gather outside of the Israeli Embassy and the Israeli Ambassador's residence. On Sunday a group of NGOs plan a protest in downtown Ankara that organizers estimate will attract up to 80,000 people, while the police believe the number will be closer to 20,000.



B1, NR

7. (SBU) In Istanbul, the ceremony for the bodies of the deceased victims of the attack on the flotilla -- their coffins draped in Turkish and Palestinian flags and ribbons in Arabic saying "there is no God but God and Muhammad is the Prophet of God" -- was widely televised and Turkish press reported tens of thousands of people attended.

8. (C) [Redacted]

B1

9. (SBU) [Redacted] the AKP has not issued a call for supporters to turn out for protests. AKP members instead, they claimed, have attended protests to reinforce their position as leaders, to draw attention from opposition political parties, and to deliver a message that people should act with calm and common sense and refrain from violent acts.

B6

JEFFREY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	RPPR-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
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	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00
	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00
	OIC-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00
	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00
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/001W

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O R 210950Z JUN 10
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 AFOSI DET 522 INCIRLIK AB TU
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 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 USEU BRUSSELS
 AMCONSUL ADANA
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS ANKARA 000964

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO
 SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for June 21, 2010

Media Highlights: PKK Attacks on Semdinli; US Intelligence Sharing:
 Nothing Has Changed; Security Summit Convenes in Ankara;
 Commentary: In the Wake of the PKK Attacks and new AGR Pressures
 in US; Rand Expert: Turkey's 'No' Vote A Slap in the Face; Erdogan:
 PKK Can't Win; Iraqi FM Criticizes Turkish Incursion; TUSIAD To
 Iraq In July

US Embassy Ankara - Turkey Media Reaction - June 21, 2010 as
 prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office

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

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Semdinli Attacks/Escalating PKK Terror

Turkish media was focused on the PKK attacks over the weekend, with Monday's papers beginning to sort out the why behind the news of the attacks, which left 11 soldiers dead, and widely reporting the US response to charges of a drop in intelligence sharing on the PKK. A search for scapegoats began with NTV's primetime program on Saturday featuring retired general Necati Ozgen. He suggested that the recent tension with Israel and the US could have played a part in the latest terrorist attacks. "Did the US provide intelligence on this incident? No. It did not give the intelligence about this big a group of terrorists." Sunday's mainstream Milliyet suggested that the US might have cut the exchange of hot intelligence with Turkey following the flotilla crisis with Israel and Turkish unwillingness to give support to UN sanctions against Iran. TV and commentary focused on the question of why such a large group could be missed.

2. US-Turkey Intelligence Sharing: Nothing Has Changed

CNNTurk, NTV and other online services picked up and used the 3-pronged US statement on Sunday, and papers widely reported it again Monday morning, that there was "no change in our cooperation, we stand ready to urgently review any new requests from the Turkish government and military, and that America shares in Turkey's grief." Mainstream Sabah in "US Says They Were Heroes" emphasizes "that in the sharing of information, nothing has changed." Islamist-oriented Zaman says "USA: 'No Question on Intelligence Sharing'," while CNN Turk headlines "Terror Intelligence Announcement from the US." Hurriyet Daily News on 6/20-21 headlined "US Ready to Offer More Aid Against the PKK," and prominently reported the US statements on 6/20. All major papers reported that TGS Chief Basbug had corrected the numbers of PKK terrorists involved in the raid from 250 down to 57, with only 23 returning back across the border. Ministry of Foreign Affairs sources were quoted as well, noting they had "not seen any signal of a breakdown with the US either in political or military terms." Leftist Taraf in a front-page headline highlights "America Provided Intelligence" and reports that "there were no faults in the exchange of intelligence."

3. President Gul Convenes Security Summit in Ankara

NTV, CNNTurk and print media report a security summit will be held at the Presidency by President Gul today with PM Erdogan, Deputy PM Cicek, Interior Minister Atalay, Defense Minister Gonul, Land Forces Commander Gen Kosaner, Jandarma Commander Gen Isik and MIT U/S Fidan to discuss the terrorist attack in Semdinli. Mainstream

Vatan notes TGS Chief Basbug is not going to participate in the meeting because he was scheduled to go to Canakkale. Mainstream Hurriyet reports that PM Erdogan will convene the cabinet to discuss. The agenda will include whether or not US-Turkey intelligence sharing is sufficient, next steps for the Democratic

Opening, whether intelligence on PKK actions in Northern Iraq is insufficient, what resources are needed, and what economic and social steps are needed to stabilize situation in the southeast. In "Ankara Works to Find Settlement," leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports on President Gul's security summit and notes specialists, statements that "Turkey should formulate a policy that rises above the differences between the political parties." Leftist Taraf writes in "Gul Will Ask for an Explanation," that "President Gul will ask the military and the government to give an accounting for the PKK attack on such a well-protected security post."

Commentary: In the Wake of the PKK Attacks and new AGR Pressures in US

4. In "Mission Impossible" in Zaman, Ali Aslan reviews recent events and says "Turkey should be able solve the conflicts without need of others interfering with its active diplomacy. I think it's not a 'mission impossible.' The main issue is Turkey's style of solving conflicts -- for instance, regarding Iran, it puts the emphasis on diplomacy over sanctions. It's not a surprise that Secretary Clinton met a visiting TUSIAD group while the AK Party delegation was in Washington. Americans calculated that this would encourage the AK Party opponents in Turkey. It was also 'meaningful' that no official from the US Administration participated in Ambassador Namik Tan's address at the Middle East Institute. By doing so, the US government is giving 'subtle messages' that there could be a 'lightening of relations.' The AK Party should not be too sensitive about criticism of its foreign policy. Stephen Kinzer said Turkey should not act like the US in foreign policy, but rather stay the course for a non-confrontational approach. We should listen to him."

5. Mehmet Barlas opines in Sabah: "Turkey needs to ask tough questions about its involvement with Afghanistan and Iraq if information sharing with the US doesn't continue. Because things have changed. With regard to Afghanistan, we need to ask why Turkish soldiers are there. On terrorist infiltrations from northern Iraq, we have to ask, do we stay in the dark if the US doesn't give us information? Even if Turkey is not the center of the world, it has become one of the world's players with its share of the troubles."

6. Milliyet columnist Kadri Guzel writes: "The AK Party government has failed on the issues of Iraq, the Kurdish and Armenian

problems, on Iran and lately on Israel. PM Erdogan has failed in the 'model partnership' with the US. The Obama Administration looked for three answers from Turkey, and only received negative responses on Iran, Armenian Protocols, and relations with Israel. I think this is the Erdogan model of standing tall."

7. Ali Bulac questions in Zaman whether it would be right for Turkey to attempt leadership in the Middle East when Ankara's military and defense systems are heavily dependent on the US, and indirectly, on Israel. "Turkey has its own ongoing problems with the PKK, which has cost 50,000 lives in 30 years. Turkey is also 'alien' to the Islamic as well as the Middle Eastern worlds. Carrying the social and cultural norms of the Western world into the Middle East via Turkish 'soap operas' and a kind of 'authoritarian secularism' to transform the region won't benefit Turkey."

8. Omer Taspinar of the Brookings Institute writes in Sabah: "The Obama Administration doesn't want to spoil relations with Turkey

completely. Limits would be overstepped if the US Congress adopts the AGR, or if arms sales to Turkey are suspended. The Administration, while trying to calm down the Congress, will pursue a give-and-take relationship with Turkey by establishing a 'transactional partnership' instead of 'strategic partnership.' Mutual interests will be put on the table, and both sides will seek compromises. Turkey must come to the table strong; Ankara must come to a point where it won't need Washington regarding the Armenian problem and the struggle against the PKK. Only then will Washington see Turkey as a true regional power. Is Turkey ready for such democratization in both issues?"

9. "No Vote Slap in the Face of US" (Cumhuriyet)

Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet features an interview with Pentagon-affiliated RAND think tanker and EU expert Steven Larrabee who says the "AK Party vote on Iran sanctions was a slap in the face to the United States." As a result, says Larrabee, there's a high possibility of the passage of AGR in the US Congress. "If AGR passes, this could be an issue of huge disagreement between the US and Turkey," emphasizing that the "escalating crisis between Turkey and Israel may cause serious consequences." Larrabee warned that "imagining an Israel supporting the PKK would only worsen the situation in the Middle East." He called the Israeli raid on Gaza aid flotilla, "a diplomatic fiasco."

In the Headlines

10. Erdogan On PKK: They Can't Win

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All papers prominently report on PM Erdogan's speech at the military ceremony held in Van in honor of the eleven soldiers killed in the weekend's PKK attacks and his visit to the nearby border outpost. Mainstream Haberturk in a large banner headline declares "They Can't Win" and highlights and quotes Erdogan: "The traitors will not be able to win. They will melt away in their own darkness. They will dry out in their own swamps. They will drown in their own blood." Articles highlighting Erdogan's visit to the outpost note that the soldiers ceased fire on infiltrators thinking that they might be shepherds or smugglers. In a widely quoted passage, Erdogan talks about how the PKK acts as a subcontractor and ominously threatens "we know who they are contracting for."

11. Commentary: "Is PKK a contractor of Israel" asks Asli Aydintasbas in Milliyet, and questions whether Israel has a hand in recent terror attacks in Turkey. "Some figures in the Turkish government either hold Israel responsible for the PKK attacks, or are not uneasy with such a perception prevailing in the public, since general elections are approaching. The support Israel is giving to the PKK's offshoot PJAK fighting against Iran is a concern for Turkey. Western diplomats do not deny such a tie, but they think the Israeli support does not extend as far as the PKK. A high level Turkish source says the latest PKK attacks were made to get 'Israel's attention.' Today, Ankara is friends with Barzani but is warring with the PKK, has animosity with Israel and a close friendship with Iran. While the cards are reshuffled, only the PKK benefits from this picture."

12. Iraqi FM Criticizes Turkish Incursion into Northern Iraq (Radikal)

Radikal reports the Iraqi FM Hoshyar Zebari has criticized the "unilateral cross border Turkish military operation" into northern Iraq, saying the three-party security committee between Turkey,

Iraq and the US have been "put aside." Zebari also recalled that Turkey was continuing air bombardments for months, which had been a "violation of Iraq's independence, sovereignty and good neighborhood relations." "We are capable of filling the vacuum when US forces withdraw in August, and we won't accept any country do it for us. We cannot turn a blind eye to the cross-border attacks staged by the PKK, but Turkey's bombings will not solve this problem," said Zebari.

13. TUSIAD To Iraq In July

Mainstream Sabah Sunday in "Reciprocal Visit with Investments" highlights an upcoming July visit to northern Iraq by representatives of the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's

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Association (TUSIAD) following Barzani's Turkey visit. Sabah notes plans to open bank branches in Northern Iraq, start regular flights and explore investment opportunities for leading Turkish companies Borusan, Eczacibasi and Acibadem.

JEFFREY

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00
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	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
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	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00
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	PESU-00	SRMC-00	SANA-00	/000W			

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O 020754Z JUL 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0589
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN 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
 NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000963

SIPDIS
 AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
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 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: 2020/07/02
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: ISRAELI EMBASSY RESUMING OUTREACH AS PKK ATTACKS PUSH ISRAEL
 OFF THE FRONT PAGES

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

1. (C) SUMMARY. The Israeli Embassy told us June 28 it



B1

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

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B1

END

SUMMARY.

2. (C) In a June 28 discussion, Israeli Embassy

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Ties to Kurds

8. (S)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

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NR

IHH

9. (U) [] said IHH's President, Bulent Yildirm, intrigued Israelis during an otherwise contentious interview on Israeli television yesterday by saying his NGO's new goal is to achieve the release both of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who was kidnapped in 2006 and is now believed held by HAMAS. Speaking personally, [] speculated the GoI might be receptive to a discreet GoT offer to use its flotilla-burnished credentials with HAMAS to gain access to Shalit and confirm he is in reasonably good health.

B6

JEFFREY

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept0205

ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	GHFS-00
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

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NR, B1, 1.4(D)

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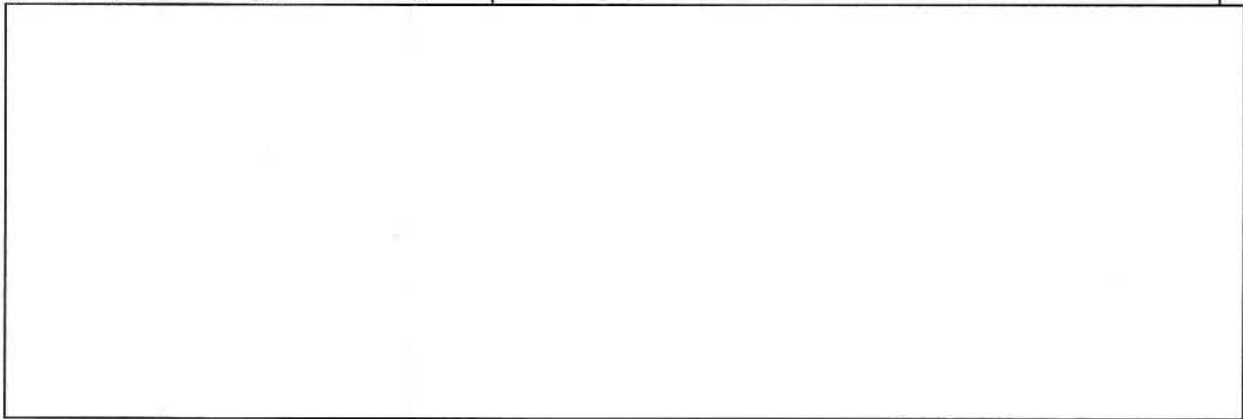
SIPDIS
FOR ADM STAVRIDIS FROM CHARGE SILLIMAN

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/08/24
 TAGS: PREL, PTER, TU
 SUBJECT: Scen setter for ADM Stavridis' Visit to Turkey

CLASSIFIED BY: Douglas Silliman, Charge d'Affaires; REASON: 1.4(A), (B), (D)

1. (S) Your visit to Turkey to witness the handover of command from current CHOD GEN Ilker Basbug to the incoming GEN Isik Kosaner gives you an opportunity to

NR



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NR

Israel/Gaza

12. (S) Traditionally Israel's closest regional ally, Turkey's relationship remains on shaky ground following several incidents, the most recent of which was the death of eight Turkish citizens (ninth casualty was an American) onboard the "Free Gaza Flotilla." The event brought a firestorm of GOT and public criticism and has left the relationship in tatters. [REDACTED]

B1

Iran Sanctions

NR

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NR

SILLIMAN

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00
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	DHSE-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00
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 CIA WASHINGTON DC
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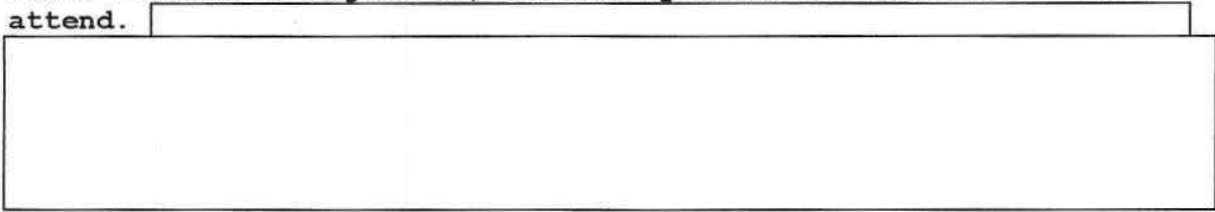
S E C R E T ANKARA 001269

SIPDIS
FOR ADM MULLEN FROM CHARGE SILLIMAN

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/08/26
 TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PGOV, IR, IS, AF, IZ, TU
 SUBJECT: Scen setter for ADM Mullen's Visit to Turkey

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

1. (S) Your visit to Turkey occurs one week after CHOD Isik Kosaner takes command on August 27, a ceremony which ADM Stavridis will attend.



NR

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Israel/Gaza

13. (S) Traditionally Israel's closest regional ally, Turkey's relationship remains on shaky ground following several incidents, the most recent of which was the death of eight Turkish citizens (the ninth casualty was an American) onboard the "Free Gaza Flotilla." The event brought a firestorm of GOT and public criticism and has left the relationship in tatters.

B1

Iran Sanctions

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

NR

SILLIMAN

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-00	AEX-00	RPPR-00	CPR-00	CTME-00	INL-00
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	ISN-00	NSCE-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
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 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE DELETED
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UNCLAS ANKARA 001373

SENSITIVE

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

Summary

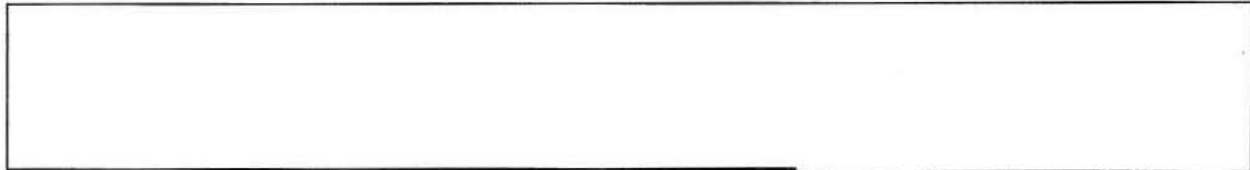
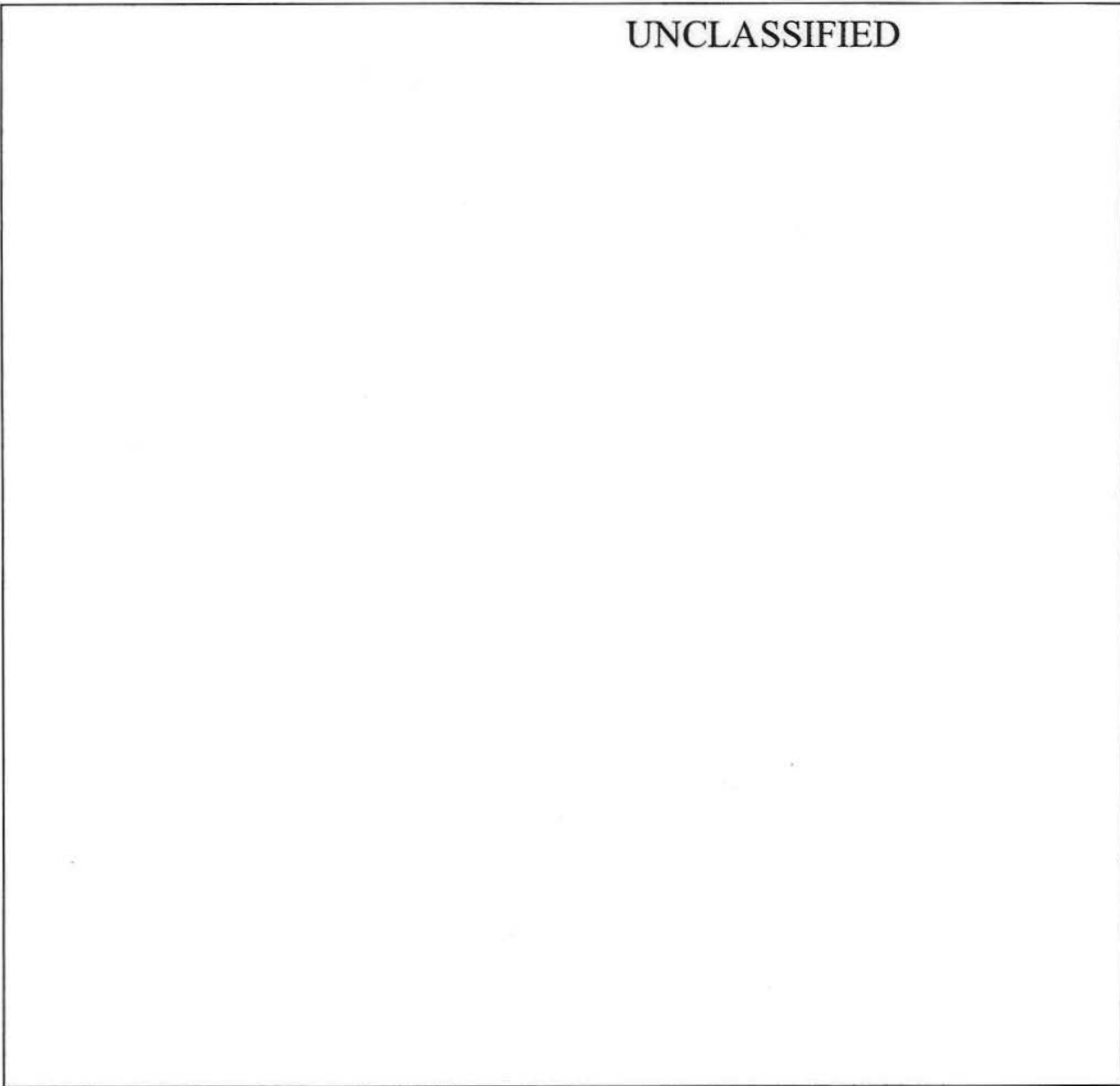
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 End summary.

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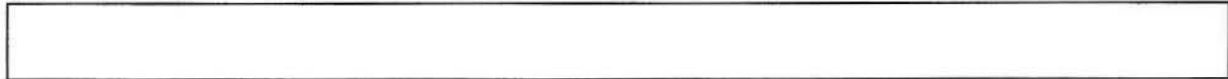
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The media covered the Israeli interception of the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish flagged participant in the May 31 "Free Gaza flotilla" with jingoistic brio. The funerals of those killed, including the one Turkish-American, received extensive and even morbid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



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	EUR-00	UTED-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	EPAU-00
	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00
	BEG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00
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 JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO

SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for October 14, 2010

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

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

How the US is Playing/Related News

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

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

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

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

Commentary: Missile Shield System-Turkey

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

Commentary: "New Enemies Sought for NATO"

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

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

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

In the Headlines

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

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

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

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

Erdogan To Go To Athens Climate Summit

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

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

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Commentary: Iran-Armenia Develop Ties

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

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

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INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	GHFS-00	RPPR-00
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	AVC-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	DIAS-00	OBO-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	NEA-00	DCP-00
	NSAE-00	OIC-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PER-00	PM-00	GIWI-00
	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00
	ECA-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SCA-00
	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-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 Wikileaks, Iran, Missile Defense - Oct 25,
 2010

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

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

How the US is Playing/Related News

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

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WikiLeaks Reveals Dungeons of Torture in Iraq (Milliyet)

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the Headlines

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

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

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

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Extensive Solution In Aegean Close (Sabah)

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

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

Commentary: Headscarf Debate in Turkey

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

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

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Divorce in Turkey on the Rise (Zaman)

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

Global Heritage Fund: Ani in Danger (Zaman)

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

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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO
 SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction: Wikileaks, Israel and Pharma -
 December 7, 2010

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

How the US is Playing/Related News

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

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

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

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

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

4. Commentary: WikiLeaks Disclosures and Turkish Press

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

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

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

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

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US Pharmaceutical: Backyard of Deadly Experiments (Milliyet)

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

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

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

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

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7. Wikileaks: Turkey is The Kindest (Sabah): Conservative and pro-government media are playing down the Wikileaks scandal, or are selective in highlighting positive revelations from leaked cables. Pro-government Sabah, in "Turkey is The Kindest" focuses on Secretary Gates's meeting with Iraqi President Talabani in Dec. 10, 2009. Sabah reports Jalal Talabani <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/t/jalal_talabani/index.html?inline=nyt-per> said ["All Iraq's neighbors were interfering, albeit in different ways, the Gulf and Saudi Arabia with money, Iran with money and political influence, and the Syrians by all means. The Turks are 'polite' in their interference, but continue their attempts to influence Iraq's Turkmen community and Sunnis in Mosul."] The article also mentions Dec.14 2009 cable where Talabani describes Iraqi relation with Turkey as 'perfect'. Meanwhile, Islamist Zaman and Today's Zaman ignores Wikileaks on its front pages for the second day, but comments inside in "WikiLeaks Quake Fails to Jolt Mideast" that "while hundreds of thousands of US State Department documents leaked last week have sent shockwaves across most of the world, as the disclosures revealed a hidden world of backstage international diplomacy, the

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

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

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

In the Headlines

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

Mainstream Hurriyet says that the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA)

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

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10. Commentary: Turkey and Israel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US Embassy Ankara - Turkey Media Reaction - December 7, 2010 as prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office
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INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	VCI-00	AID-00	A-00	GHFS-00
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E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/12/28
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, TU, IS, XF
 SUBJECT: GoT Remains Silent After Lieberman/Davutoglu Joust

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

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

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

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

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SUMMARY.

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

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

4. (C) [REDACTED]

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ACTION INR-00

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	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-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 April 28, 2011

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

How the US is Playing/Related News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the News: Libya and Syria

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

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

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

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

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

7. Syria: Hardening US Attitude (Radikal)

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

in other Middle East countries.

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

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

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

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

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Other News

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

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

10. PM Erdogans Crazy Project (All Media)

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

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

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

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According to Cumhuriyet, Jagland said: We are very much concerned for

freedom of press in Turkey. I discussed the subject with PM Erdogan. Long detention periods are against the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. Long detention periods should be shortened. We don't have an army to make it happen forcefully, all we can do is call on authorities to abide by this rule shortening detention periods.

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Subject: Paris Points for Tuesday, June 1, 2010

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Paris Points for: Tuesday, June 1, 2010
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- **Condemnations of Israeli Raid from Across the Political Spectrum in France**

• [Redacted]

- **Congressman Berman: Iran, Syria, Israel and Russia**

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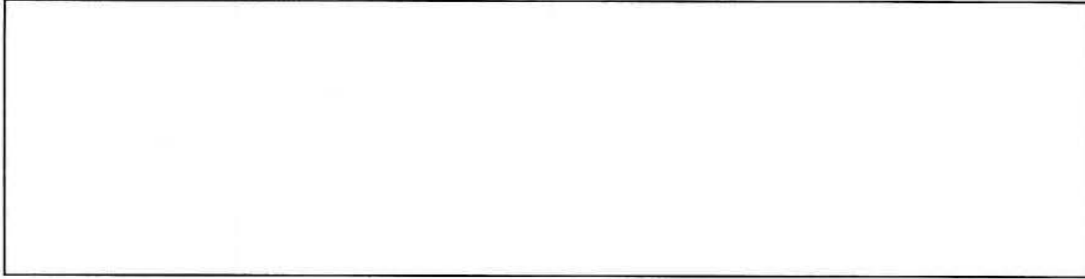
Condemnations of Israeli Raid from across the Political Spectrum in France

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

(C) [Redacted]

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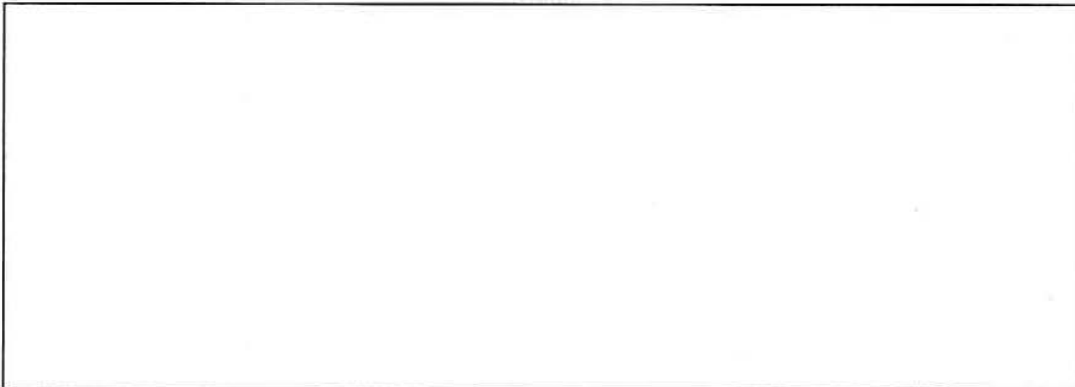
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 31 MAY 2035
DATE/CASE ID: 03 JAN 2012 201004163



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

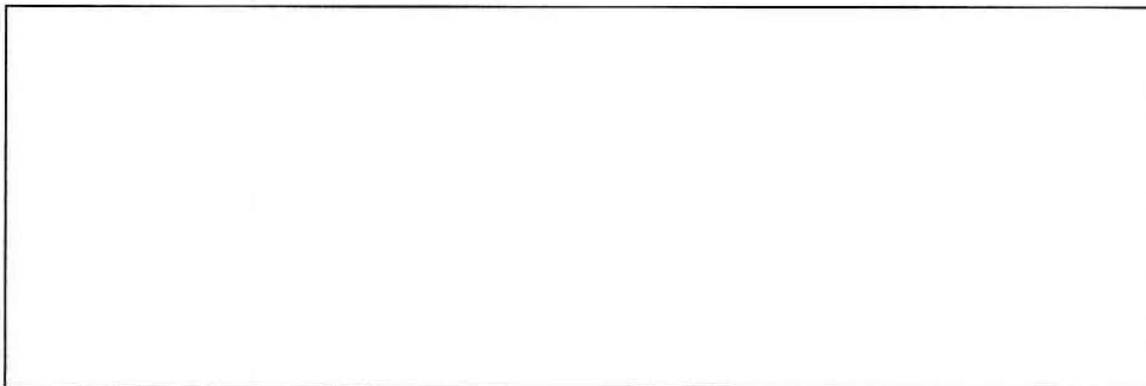
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Congressman Berman: Iran, Syria, Israel and Russia



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

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

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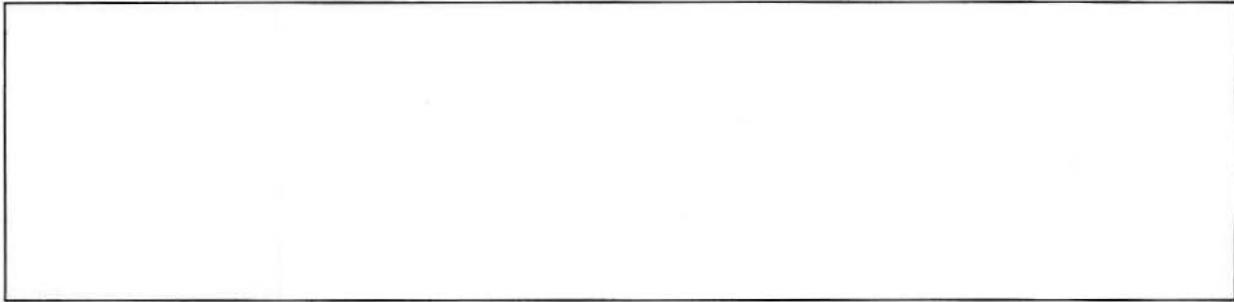
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 31 JAN 2012 201004163

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE TEL AVIV

MEDIA REACTION REPORT

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

-
1. Mideast
 2. Jonathan Pollard

Key stories in the media:

The leading online news web site Ynet and Israel Radio reported that on Monday, President Obama spoke at a fundraiser for potential Jewish donors to his 2012 presidential campaign and assured them that Jerusalem and Washington's relations were unshakable. "One inviolable principle will be that the United States and Israel will always be stalwart allies and friends, that that bond isn't breakable and that Israel's security will always be at the top tier

of considerations in terms of how America manages its foreign policy -- because it's the right thing to do, because Israel is our closest ally and friend, it is a robust democracy, it shares our values and it shares our principles," Obama said to roaring

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applause. Speaking of the regional changes sweeping the Middle East, Obama stressed that "both the United States and Israel are going to have to look at this new landscape with fresh eyes. It's not going to be sufficient for us just to keep on doing the same things we've been doing and expect somehow that things are going to work themselves out. We're going to have to be creative and we're going to have to be engaged. We're going to have to look for opportunities where the best impulses in the Middle East come to the fore and the worst impulses are weakened." Such achievements, he continued, would have to be carved from a position of strength: "This is why my administration has done more to promote Israel's security, its qualitative military edge, its defense capabilities than any administration over the last 25 years. And we have made that commitment consistently. But it also means that we've got to engage diplomatically... there are going to be moments over the course of the next six months or the next 12 months or the next 24 months in which there may be tactical disagreements in terms of how we approach these difficult problems. But the broader vision, is one in which Israel is a secure Jewish state," Obama stressed. "One where it is able to live in peace with its neighbors, where kids can get on the bus or go to bed at night and not have to worry about missiles landing on them, where commerce and interactions between peoples in the region is occurring in a normal fashion, where the hopes and dreams of the original travelers to Israel, the original settlers in Israel, that those hopes and dreams that date back a millennium, that those hopes are realized. That will remain our North Star. That will remain our goal." Obama told the crowd that he was "absolutely confident" the goal could be achieved, reiterating that it was "going to require some hard work." "It going to require that not only this administration employs all of its creative powers to try to bring about peace in the region, but it's also going to require all of you as engaged citizens of the United States who are friends of Israel making sure that you are giving us suggestions, you are in an honest dialogue with us, that you're helping to shape how both Americans and Israelis think about the opportunities and challenges." "My hope," he concluded, "is that through the kind of conversations that we're having here tonight, that we're going to be able to, together, craft the kind of strategy that not only leads to a strong America, but also leads to a strong Israel."

Ha'aretz reported that on Sunday PM Benjamin Netanyahu "surprised many of the participants in the weekly cabinet meeting" when he embarked on a monologue praising the idea of parting from the Palestinians and in relinquishing portions of the West Bank. Netanyahu said that the number of Palestinians and Jews between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea "is irrelevant" and that it's more important to "preserve a solid Jewish majority inside the State of Israel." The PM made these statements during a discussion on a report by the Jewish People Policy Institute on demographic

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changes among Jews and Palestinians in Israel and the West Bank. Members of the institute presented the demographic data of Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, which show that, in a number of years, the demographic trends will result in a Palestinian majority between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Ministers Limor Livnat (Likud) and Uzi Landau (Yisrael Beiteinu) were surprised by the data and asked that the data of other experts be presented -- for example, those of Yoram Ettinger, who is affiliated with the Right. The right argues that the demographic threat to the State of Israel is not so serious. Netanyahu cut short the discussion and surprised those present with previously unspoken sentiments about the future Israeli presence in the West Bank. "The debate over how many Jews and how many Palestinians will be between the Jordan and the sea is irrelevant," Netanyahu said. "It does not matter to me whether there are half a million more Palestinians or less because I have no wish to annex them into Israel. I want to separate from them so that they will not be Israeli citizens. I am interested that there be a solid Jewish majority inside the State of Israel. Inside its borders, as these will be defined," Netanyahu explained. Aides of the PM realized how politically explosive his statements were and asked all those present in the room to avoid disseminating the details. The Prime Minister's Office did not brief the media on the statements and refused to respond to questions on the issue or provide any quotes about the statements of the PM. Makor Rishon-Hatzofe quoted FM Avigdor Lieberman as saying on Monday that Abbas wants a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood out of ego-related reasons. The Jerusalem Post quoted Lieberman as saying that the U.N. vote on Palestinian statehood should not be overblown. He was talking at a convention of the World Jewish Congress in Jerusalem.

Israel Radio quoted Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas

as saying on Monday in an interview with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) that the Palestinians will turn to the U.N. in the absence of an agreement with Israel. Abbas said that if Israel does not want this, the U.S., Europe, and Israel should present an alternative. Abbas further commented that he wants Salam Fayyad to be the P.A.'s next prime minister and that he wants the P.A. to move forward, not to be under a new siege. Ha'aretz cited a DPA (German press agency) report quoting the results of a Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research poll that 45 percent of Palestinians want Fayyad to head their government; Hamas' choice, Jamal Khoudari, received the backing of only 22 percent.

The media reported that on Monday, many Syrians took to the streets immediately after President Bashar Assad delivered a speech to his Parliament, promising reforms. Israel Hayom quoted DM Ehud Barak as saying in Paris on Monday, in an interview with AP, that Assad regime will come to an end in half a year's time.

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Ha'aretz quoted a senior official in Jerusalem as saying that Israeli and Turkish officials have been holding secret direct talks to try to solve the diplomatic crisis between the two countries,. The negotiations are receiving the Americans' support. A source in the Turkish Foreign Ministry and a U.S. official confirmed that talks are being held, though in Israel the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's aides declined to comment. The talks are being held between an Israeli official on behalf of PM Netanyahu and Turkish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioglu, who Ha'aretz says is a firm supporter of rehabilitating ties with Israel. Talks are also being held between the Israeli representative on the U.N. inquiry committee on last year's Gaza flotilla, Yosef Ciechanover, and Turkey's representative on the committee, Ozdem Sanberk. In addition, the U.S. administration has held talks with senior Turkish officials, mainly to foil the flotilla to Gaza due later this month, but also in a bid to improve relations with Israel. Ha'aretz quoted officials as saying that on Saturday, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke to her Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu and expressed satisfaction with the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation's announcement that the ship Mavi Marmara would not take part in the flotilla this time around. Israel Hayom reported that Turkish journalists have arrived in Israel - officially to mark a year since Israel's change in policy

regarding the entry of goods into Gaza, but, informally, to try to prevent the upcoming flotilla. Israel Radio reported that France has expressed its opposition to the flotilla but that it wants Israel to loosen the siege on Gaza. The Jerusalem Post and other media note that a U.S.-flagged ship - "The Audacity of Hope" -- will participate in the flotilla.

Leading media reported that on Monday, the White House rejected requests that Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Navy intelligence officer convicted of spying for Israel, be allowed to attend his father's funeral in Indiana. Yediot and Israel Hayom print a photo of the ceremony. Yediot ironically notes that the burial took place on Father's Day in the States.

Media quoted DM Barak as saying at the Paris Air Show on Monday that the deployment of the Iron Dome anti-missile system will protect the entire country in two and a half years. Makor Rishon-Hatzofe quoted Barak as saying that Iran is fooling the world, as it seeks to achieve long-range ballistic capability to bolster its projected nuclear might.

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Monday in Croatia, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, which includes Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria, called for Hamas to accept the Quartet's conditions for recognizing the Islamist movement.

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The Jerusalem Post and other media quoted Shaul Mofaz (Kadima), the Chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, as saying that Israel must initiate a plan to combat a unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood in the U.N. in September. In other news, media this week noted that Mofaz is strengthening his status in Kadima compared to Chairwoman Tzipi Livni's.

The Jerusalem Post reported that the Jerusalem Municipality is looking to build 500 new residential units for Arabs in the Eastern part of the city.

Israel Hayom reported that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) is initiating a waiver of non-immigrant visas for Israelis.

The media cited the Foreign Ministry's announcement on Monday that Daniel Taub, the Foreign Ministry's British-born senior deputy legal advisor, is slated to become Israel's new ambassador to London. However, Ha'aretz, The Jerusalem Post, and Israel Hayom reported that his appointment, which is now pending cabinet approval, has been challenged by the ministry's workers committee, which says he lacks the necessary credentials. Taub, who holds degrees from Harvard and Oxford, would succeed Ron Prosor, who served in London from 2007 until his recent appointment as Israel's ambassador to the U.N, where, Ha'aretz writes, he is "just getting his feet wet." Ha'aretz also notes that Israeli ambassadors in several critical world capitals are being replaced just as Palestinian efforts to obtain unilateral U.N. recognition of a state are approaching a fever pitch. Ha'aretz comments that just when Israel is supposed to be making a worldwide attempt to thwart the Palestinian move, some crucial capitals will be without permanent ambassadors, while in others, the ambassadors will still be learning the ropes. During July and August, the envoys to Berlin, Rome, Madrid, The Hague, Budapest, and the E.U. in Brussels are due to complete their tours of duty. The envoys in these capitals were considered some of Israel's most experienced diplomats, and they had developed ties over the years that were supposed to have been available for use during just such a public diplomacy crisis as is liable to occur in September. A Foreign Ministry source said the suggestion had been raised that these envoys' tours of duty be extended by a month or two to cope with the looming crisis, but Foreign Ministry Director-General Rafi Barak objected. The source said the turnover of ambassadors at such a critical and sensitive time would make the battle against unilateral Palestinian moves at the UN more difficult.

The Jerusalem Post quoted former National Security Council Giora Eiland as saying on Monday that a conflict with Hezbollah is unlikely in the "foreseeable future." Eiland was speaking at the

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World Zionist Congress' Board of Governors meeting in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Post says that the war simulation being held by the Defense Ministry this week shows room for improvement.

Ha'aretz reported that on Monday, the head of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Shaul Horev, revealed at an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conference on nuclear safety in Vienna, that Israel has returned nuclear waste from its Sorek nuclear reactor to the U.S. Horev did not specify the exact amount of waste that has been returned. But most estimates put the amount at several dozen kilograms at least, and probably more. The uranium, enriched to a level of 93 percent, was used to power the Sorek reactor. The operation took place after the Israel Atomic Energy Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy signed an agreement for the return of the waste a year and a half ago. After the agreement was signed, an American ship collected nuclear waste from both Israel and Turkey. The Sorek research reactor is a small, five-megawatt facility that was donated to Israel by the U.S. under former President Dwight D. Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program. Israel also received 93-percent enriched uranium to fuel the reactor, which is under IAEA supervision. The waste transfer took place under a U.S. government program meant to stop nuclear waste, which can be recycled and used to manufacture nuclear weapons, from falling into the hands of terrorist organizations. The effort mainly targets eastern European countries and members of the former Soviet Union. According to a WikiLeaks document reported by Ha'aretz a few months ago, the U.S. originally proposed the deal to Israel in 2005. But the Atomic Energy Commission delayed its acceptance, ostensibly because of the high fee for participating in the program. The real reason, according to the report, was that it wanted to hold on to the nuclear waste. The commission did not respond to the Ha'aretz report at the time, nor did it reveal that it had in fact signed the agreement and returned the nuclear waste. The U.S. stopped supplying enriched uranium for the Sorek reactor back in 1977, due to a law passed by Congress and because Israel was not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But according to some Israeli sources, Israel still has enough enriched uranium, supplied by the U.S. before the embargo was put in place, to keep the Sorek reactor operating on a part-time basis, as it has for years now. According to American data, the U.S. provided 19

kilograms of highly enriched uranium for the reactor from 1960-1975. The nuclear waste agreement does not apply to the Dimona reactor, where international reports say Israel produces fissile material for nuclear weapons, so Dimona's waste is not being returned to the U.S. Various types of radioactive waste from Sorek are stored in Dimona.

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The media reported that Interior Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) is working to change identity cards so that they once again state the holder's religion and thus prevent non-Orthodox converts from being defined on their IDs as Jews. Ten years ago, Yishai, who was in the same post, was ordered by the High Court of Justice to recognize Reform and Conservative converts as Jews. All IDs issued since then have had eight small asterisks on the nationality line instead of a religion. Yediot quoted Yishai as saying that the mention of the religion will be consensual. The Jerusalem Post, which cited protests by the two non-Orthodox Jewish religious groups, quoted Masorti (Conservative) CEO as saying that "Yishai is a strategic threat to Israel as the nation of the Jewish people and a democratic state."

All media reported that Eyal Gabbay, the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office, will quit his post on August 1.

Yediot reported that the government intends to restrict the validity of diplomatic passports.

Maariv cited a demand by the IDF that reserve soldiers could be called up more often than the law currently requires, i.e. once every three years. The IDF says that the preparedness of the forces has been harmed under the present situation.

Yediot reported that "Ivrit" ("Hebrew") a free computer application presented at Hebrew Book Week, which helps young children acquire reading skills, was downloaded in Saudi Arabia among other

countries.

All media reported that Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz ruled last week that the prayer at military memorial ceremonies for Israel's fallen soldiers -- Yizkor (Remember) -- will open with the traditional, religious sentence: "May God remember his sons and daughters." The statement followed an ongoing argument between religious and secular groups on whether the prayer at these memorials should open with "May God remember" or "May the people of Israel remember." The Jerusalem Post and other media reported that by Monday, over 40,000 people had signed an online petition that Gantz revert to the original version that gives no mention to God. Yediot quoted Gantz as saying that he did not actually change the version. Maariv reported that Gantz is weighing returning the prayer to its secular version.

The controversy over the price of milk products is not relenting. Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz proposes that imports of such items be promoted. The physicians' strike is continuing.

Channel 10-TV reported on a revolutionary invention by Israeli

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researchers that allows Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, patients, to operate objects and use computer applications by thought only.

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The media reported that on Monday, 30,000 people attended a unique concert by American "rock legend" Bob Dylan at the Ramat Gan stadium.

Ha'aretz reported that according to a survey carried out in May by the Rafi Smith polling company on behalf of the campaign for the release of captive soldier Gilad Shalit, 63 percent of Jewish Israelis support swapping Shalit or 1,000 Palestinian prisoners, including 450 specifically requested by Hamas, some of whom are mass murderers. Nineteen percent were opposed and 18 percent are

undecided. The results were similar to those of a more detailed survey conducted in February, when 61 percent supported the deal and 25 percent opposed it. Speaking on Israel Radio this morning, Gilad's father Noam Shalit subsequently said that Israelis are not impressed by the government's efforts to have his son release. In an interview with Israel Radio this morning, retired far-Right politician Geula Cohen did not rule out the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Shalit's freedom.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "The Peace Process and Israel's Responsibility"

Former Meretz leader, former Justice Minister, and chief Israeli promoter of the Geneva Initiative, Yossi Beilin, wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (6/21): "Israel, especially under its present government, continues to expand the settlements. Despite the commitment it made at Annapolis. If there is a single unilateral move that influences a permanent-status agreement, it is the settlements. On a daily basis, we breach the Oslo Agreement and the Roadmap, which requires a complete settlement freeze, including natural growth. A U.N. resolution on Palestinian status -- even though it would not fill me with enthusiasm -- would not change reality; it is even consistent with Netanyahu's Bar-Ilan speech. Israel will not have for long a leader like Mahmoud Abbas for neighbor."

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Senior Middle East Fellow at the Center for Security Policy in Washington, Deputy Managing Editor and right-wing columnist Caroline B. Glick wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (6/21): "Outgoing U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is worried about the shape of things to come in U.S. foreign policy. In an interview with Newsweek over the weekend, Gates sounded the warning bells.... He is saying that he believes that Obama is willing to surrender the United States' status as a superpower.... Not only has Obama adopted the Palestinians' increasingly hostile policies towards Israel. He has led them to those policies. It was Obama, not Fatah chief Mahmoud Abbas, who first demanded that Israel cease respecting Jewish property rights in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria [i.e. the West Bank]. It was Obama, not Abbas, who first called for the establishment of a Palestinian state by the end of 2011. It was Obama, not Abbas, who first stipulated that future 'peace' negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians must be predicated on Israel's prior acceptance of the indefensible 1949 armistice lines as a starting point for talks. All of these positions, in addition to Obama's refusal to state outright that he rejects the Palestinian demand to destroy Israel through unlimited Arab immigration to its indefensible 'peace' borders, mark an extreme departure from the Israel policies adopted by his predecessor. Aside from its basic irrationality, Obama's policy of favoring the Palestinians against the United States' most dependable ally in the Middle East is notable for its uniqueness. In every other area, his policies are aligned with those adopted by his predecessor.... To date, Obama's stewardship of U.S. foreign policy has been marked by gross naivete, incompetence, and a marked willingness to demean and weaken his country's moral standing in the world. Imagine what will happen if in the next year and a half Obama embarks on a course that makes his Israel policy the norm rather than the exception in U.S. foreign policy."

III. "The Anti-Israel Agenda Prevails"

Anne Bayefsky, the Director of the Touro Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, and a Senior Fellow at Hudson Institute, wrote

in The Jerusalem Post (6/21): "Rather than discredit a body [the U.N. Human Rights Council] that calls itself a human rights authority but reeks of discrimination, and is tasked with promoting tolerance but provides a global platform for hate-mongering, Obama decided to give it American credibility and taxpayer dollars. His No. 1 excuse was the promise to reform it from the inside.... On Friday, those promises were shown to be utterly fraudulent. Every major recommendation that American negotiators made over a process spanning many months, including instituting membership criteria and changing the discriminatory anti-Israel agenda, was rejected. Only

four states voted in the GA against the outcome of the non-reform reform: Israel, the United States, Canada and Palau.... The Obama line about knowing what is in Israel's best interests is beginning to wear thin.... For Obama, progress on other human rights issues takes priority over the unequal treatment of Israel and Jewish self-determination. It's an old trick, playing groups off against one another. But at the end of the day there is no escaping the fact that in the name of human rights, the administration has trashed the fundamental norm of human rights protection -- equality. And genuine human rights advocates ought to know only too well how exemption clauses on human dignity are bound to turn out."

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IV. "The Palestinians Are on a Diplomatic Collision Course"

Middle East affairs commentator Dr. Guy Bechor, a lecturer at the Interdisciplinary Center, wrote on the online service Gplanet.co.il (6/21): "The idea to impose a Palestinian state on Israel by means of the U.N. was born, as usual, within certain Israeli circles.... That initiative never stood a chance and it still does not because the Palestinian Authority is divided into two entities that are mutually hostile to one another.... Israel practically panicked at the news of the Palestinian initiative, which was intensified by various political interest groups and established media outlets. They spoke about a diplomatic 'tsunami' that was headed in Israel's direction and made all sorts of other statements that were geared to instill fear because in Israel, and only in Israel, is fear a political adhesive and an incentive for news consumption. Israelis were so deluged with the fear-inspiring reports that people here failed to realize that it wasn't we who were charging headlong into a brick wall but, rather, it was the Palestinians. It is so very

ironic: in their attempt to frighten our own public, Israeli politicians and media outlets only nailed Abu Mazen high up on a tall tree. Why does this initiative stand no chance? Because it was made clear from a very early stage by both U.S. Congress and the White House that the United States would veto any such independence, just like Russia vetoed the vote on Kosovo's independence by the U.N. Security Council.... And so, instead of the Palestinians turning September into a mechanism for pressuring Israel, it has turned that month into a means of pressuring the Palestinians. I believe that Abu Mazen will now agree to any diplomatic initiative, even if that obliges him to make a concession on his demand for a construction moratorium, provided that this allows him to climb down from the tree. That is what happens when one becomes enamored with illusions. It is too bad for the Palestinians that they did not think this initiative all the way through."

V. "Bashar Has No More Trump Cards"

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Professor Eyal Zisser, the Chairman of the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University, wrote in Israel Hayom (6/21): "The Syrian nation impatiently awaited the speech that Bashar Assad delivered [on Monday]. The greater the expectation, the bigger the disappointment. In a long, laborious, and sometimes even hallucinating discourse, the President said that Syria had fallen victim to an imperialist plot led by Israel and the United States. In his speech, the Syrian President mentioned the very same reforms he had promised the Syrian citizens even since he came to power in 2000. Once again, the speech proves that Bashar is not part of a solution to the crisis endured by Syria, but the very problem, as well as the regime he heads. So the Syrian citizens were quick to respond.... Only in the next few weeks will the first indications of the crumbling of the [Syrian] army appear.... What is clear is that Bashar does not intend to give up the battle for Syria, which also is the fight for his life and which promises to be protracted and bloody."

2. Jonathan Pollard:

Block Quotes:

"Iniquity Has Prevailed over Mercy"

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (6/21): "[Jonathan Pollard] spied for Israel but did not cause any harm to the United States. The man who handed over the [United States'] Russian spies to the Soviet Union was Aldrich Ames, who was caught nine years after Pollard, but the latter was convicted for offenses he only partly committed -- other ones were attributed to him for nothing.... He has been jailed incommensurably longer than his crime deserved. He was arrested around the time Mordecai Vanunu was apprehended. Vanunu also intended to harm his country's national security. Treason? Espionage? Parallel lines? Both were born in 1954. Pollard was arrested in 1985 -- a year before Vanunu, whose treason is many times worse than Pollard's. Israel released Vanunu seven year ago. Pollard will see the sunlight only in four years and a half. 'Why did the path of the wicked succeed?' [from the Book of Jeremiah], and where are the American human rights groups?"

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
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SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

 SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

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

 Key stories in the media:

The disagreement whether or not to have Gilad Shalit released unconditionally dominated this weekend's headlines. Thousands of people (10,000, according to Maariv) participated in the first day of a protest march organized by Shalit's family and its supporters. They left the Shalits' home in Mitzpe Hila, northern Israel, yesterday, with the aim of reaching Jerusalem on July 8. Ministers Eli Yishai and Yaakov Margi of Shas and Michael Eitan of Likud announced yesterday that they intend to join the march. Media reported that the Government is prepared to release hundreds of Palestinians but not the perpetrators of major attacks.

The Jerusalem Post and other media reported that yesterday in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, violent clashes erupted between 200 East Jerusalem Arabs and security personnel. In related news, HaQaretz reported that the Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee is set to approve an unprecedented master plan that calls for the expansion of Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, a move largely based on construction on privately owned

Arab property. The committee's proposal would codify the municipality's planning policy for the entire city. In essence, Jerusalem would uniformly apply its zoning and construction procedures to both halves of the city. Before giving the go-ahead, the committee will give objectors to the plan 60 days to submit their reservations. This is the decisive stage in the planning process, because only rarely are plans altered. HaQaretz recalled the United StatesQ objection to any changes in the cityQs status pending the conclusion of final-status talks with the P.A.

Maariv and The Jerusalem Post reported that yesterday Admiral Michael Mullen, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Israel, where he met with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi and other senior Israeli defense officials, with whom he discussed Iran. The Jerusalem Post quoted Mullen as saying that he

tries to see threats from IsraelQs viewpoint. Maariv quoted Mullen as saying that AshkenaziQs leadership has improved relations between the two countries, but that the challenges remain.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Israeli Government sources as saying yesterday that Israel hopes to have the new QnegativeQ list of what is not allowed into Gaza ready by the time PM Benjamin Netanyahu meets President Obama in Washington on July 6. The sources were quoted as saying that the list of what is not permitted into the Gaza Strip, which will include some 100 items that Israel feels could be used for military purposes, is being drawn up by the Prime MinisterQs Office together with the IDF. Among the items expected on the list are telescopes, firecrackers, certain types of fertilizer, and sulfur. The sources said that even some of the materials which are likely to be on the list will not be completely barred, but will be allowed in if earmarked for projects under international supervision. Over the weekend media cited a statement made by G-8 in Canada that restricting goods into Gaza is Qunsustainable.

The Jerusalem Post reported that U.S. Senator John Kerry, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met separately yesterday with Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres, and told Peres that Qeveryone in Congress and in the administrationQ was pleased with the steps Israel has taken to ease up on what is allowed into Gaza. Peres reportedly told Kerry that it was important to upgrade the talks with the Palestinians from indirect to direct negotiations, and that it was also necessary to have a Qsecret channel,Q because everything made public is no longer negotiations, but rather public relations. Yesterday HaQaretz quoted Israeli diplomats as saying that Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. fears that U.S.-Israeli relations are in a Qtectonic rift.

HaQaretz noted that IsraelQs top military leadership -- including

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the IDF Chief and the heads of Mossad and Shin Bet -- will change hands within six months. Israel Radio cited a denial by Mossad chief Meir Dagan that his request to have his tenure extended was rejected. HaQaretz quoted Dubai's police chief, Dahi Khalfan Tamim, as saying that Dagan's exit is overdue.

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HaQaretz cited scathing criticism yesterday by the High Court of Justice of the State's conduct in allowing illegal construction in the West Bank. Justices Dorit Beinisch and Ayala Procaccia were responding to the State's request for retroactive approval of the construction of a sewage purification system for the veteran

settlement of Ofra. The system was built on private Palestinian land and without permission. The deliberations, in which Justice Hanan Melcer was also involved, dealt with petitions by the owner of the land demanding that the structure be razed and the property restored to its owner.

Electronic media quoted Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan as saying on the sidelines of the G-20 meeting that the Turkish airspace is now closed to Israeli aircraft. Israel Radio, which is not sure about the circumstances and nature of the statement originally released by a Turkish press agency, reported that neither the Prime Minister's Office nor the Israeli airlines flying to Turkey are aware of this development. The radio later quoted the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv as saying that Turkey has banned the passage of Israeli military aircraft. Israel Radio said that the status of commercial flights is still unclear. Yesterday Yediot reported that Ankara prevented an IDF plane on its way to Poland from passing through Turkish airspace. The transport plane was carrying more than one hundred commissioned and noncommissioned officers, who were en route to a tour of memorial sites and death camps.

Major media reported that Lebanese security forces have arrested two nationals suspected of spying for Israel, one of them an executive at the government-run Alfa telecommunications company. Security sources in Beirut told the Lebanese newspaper A-Diyar that one of the suspects is an executive at Alfa, which has operations including a cellular phone network.

Leading media reported that the two international observers who will be monitoring the proceedings of the committee charged with investigating Israel's deadly May 31 raid of a Gaza-bound flotilla arrived in Israel yesterday, ahead of today's opening session in Jerusalem. Lord David Trimble from Northern Ireland and Ken Watkin, Canada's former Judge Advocate General, met yesterday with retired Supreme Court Justice Yaakov Turkel, who is heading the committee.

Major media quoted CIA Director Leon Panetta as saying yesterday in an interview with ABC-TV that Iran has enough uranium for two

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nuclear weapons. Media reported that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev hinted that Panetta's revelation might influence Russia's position in the matter.

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Israel Radio reported that the Shin Bet and police have arrested seven Israeli Arabs suspected of organizing to harm Jews and Christians. Two of them were apprehended in Kenya three months ago.

Three of them reportedly murdered taxi driver Yefim Weinstein seven months ago.

Leading media reported that during a visit to Syria on Saturday, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez backed the resistance against Israel's QextremistQ Government.

HaQaretz (Amira Hass) noted that the P.L.O. omits Israeli presence in anti-occupation demonstrations.

Media quoted former IDF Chief-of-Staff Dan Halutz as saying that he is Qon his way to politics.Q Many commentators recall the Winograd Commission's rapport toward him.

The media reported that a compromise was reached in the Qschool segregationQ affair in the ultra-Orthodox settlement of Emanuel. The detained fathers were released.

Yediot reported that the Israeli citizen Hanoach Miller was arrested in Miami a few days ago on suspicion of having illegally traded weapons.

Citing a Reuters story, HaQaretz reported that the Makhteshim Agan Group will buy the U.S. firm Albaugh for about \$1 billion to bolster its presence in the Americas and solidify its position as the world's biggest generic agrochemical maker. Albaugh also produces generic crop protection products.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QObama against the Clock

Defense commentator Amir Oren wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (6/27): QThe dismissal of General Stanley McChrystal as top commander in Afghanistan halted U.S. President Barack Obama's

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downward slide in the opinion polls, The Washington Post reported Friday. The outcome of the act does not necessarily attest to the reason, but Obama's decision will affect his presidency and its

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policies on two central issues for Israel -- the peace process and the Iranian nuclear program. Moving [General David] Petraeus from U.S. Central Command means Israel's security establishment loses a friend, who under the right circumstances could play an important role in persuading Obama that there is no longer a choice but military action against Iran. He could also move ahead vigorously on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. But in the McChrystal crisis, Colin Powell has once again appeared -- the indispensable man whom, as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State, the two presidents Bush needed to wage war in the Persian Gulf. Powell, who helped Obama against McCain, is also Obama's mentor in war. His counsel may tip the scales when Obama agonizes over the question of war against Iran. Here is a challenge for Powell's old friend, Ehud Barak.

II. QThe Agonizing Shalit Debate

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (6/28): Q Hamas has not even bothered to answer Israel's offer, made six months ago, to release 1,000 terrorists, including 450 Hamas operatives, 100 of whom are murderers responsible for the deaths of about 600 Israelis, and an additional 550 Fatah prisoners. The government had understandably rejected Hamas's demands to include the Q omega-terrorists Q responsible for [horrendous attacks in the 2000s]. The 1 to 1,000 ratio would be the most disproportionate in Israel's long history of asymmetrical prisoner swaps. The first crack in Israel's Q we-don't-deal-with-terrorists Q facade appeared in 1968, when Israel agreed to release 16 Arab prisoners in exchange for 12 hostages held by Palestinian hijackers of an El Al plane forced to land in Algiers.... Israel has offered far more than would logically be expected to try to secure the release of Shalit -- because logic is not the only factor here. But Israel dare not allow itself to suspend debate in this most agonizing of dilemmas, and to give the heart definitive rule over the head. What is needed now, rather, is concerted U.S. and European pressure on Hamas. Sadly, instead of seeking every means to pressure the terrorists holding Shalit, the international community has been pressing Israel to end the blockade against Hamas-controlled Gaza, one of whose goals was to weaken Hamas and create the circumstances for Shalit's release.

III. QLost Their Minds

Diplomatic correspondent and television anchor Ben Caspit wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/28): QThe Shalit family

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is the only one that is behaving, for the time being, as it is supposed to behave -- fighting for its son's life, launching a public campaign, and mobilizing all the resources to bring Gilad home. That is precisely what a family is supposed to do. Unfortunately, except for the family, everyone else has lost their minds. First and foremost the media, to a large degree. Since this is a story with a high level of passion, they fuel the passions. Since it is a story that can generate ratings, they generate ratings. Since it is a story that demands a great deal of responsibility, they completely shake off responsibility. Since it demands discretion, there is none... Speaking of the government, it too failed here completely. A government can decide to carry out the deal, and that is legitimate. The Government can also decide that it is not willing to carry out the deal in its present format, and that too, surprisingly enough, is legitimate. So what does the government do? You guessed it. It does nothing... Let the Israeli Government convene and decide. And let it be clarified in advance that this is the final decision. But here too, leadership is required. So don't hold your breath. This will not happen... Everyone is busy with the campaign, vying with each other over superlatives, inventing myths that never existed and preparing for the next kidnapping. This is precisely how a mentally unbalanced society looks.

IV. QBelieve HamasQ Declarations

Veteran journalist and television anchor Yaron London wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/28): QI cannot get my wise friends that Hamas should be treated in the same way as Iran. The only difference between the rogue group and the rogue state is in the magnitude of their capacity to harm Israel... Lifting the blockade won't make them stop believing that the Jews descend from pigs and monkeys.... How would you behave if you believed that by murdering Jews, you would encourage the arrival of the Messiah and redeem the world? This is what some of them would do if released. I ask those who are marching in order to have Gilad Shalit released Qat all costsQ to contemplate this.

V. QWho Is Afraid of Released Terrorists ?

Dov Weisglass, who was former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's top diplomatic advisor, wrote in Yediot Aharonot (6/28): Q[Palestinian terrorists released in previous deals] do not engage in terror thanks to the activity of the Israeli defense establishment, but no less than that by the performance of the Palestinian security

bodies. All those involved in the security routine in Judea and Samaria [i.e. the West Bank] praise the efficiency of the Palestinian Authority -- under its current leadership -- in the fight against terror.... Including the P.A. as a partner in

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supervising arrangements over the QreleasedQ [prisoners] in the [Shalit] deal will enable its implementation, and anyway enhance the P.A.Qs status and prestige in the eyes of Palestinian public opinion, something that Israel should be greatly interested in. UNCLASSIFIED

VI. QLegitimizing HamasQ Rule

The Director of the Interdisciplinary Center's Global Research in International Affairs Center and Editor of Middle East Review of International Affairs and Turkish Studies, columnist Barry Rubin, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (6/28): Q[As reflected in the White HouseQs June 20 statement on Gaza,] the U.S. has no problem with Hamas ruling Gaza as long as weapons are kept out. There is absolutely no strategic concept in the U.S. approach.

Meanwhile, the White House makes clear that IsraelQs concessions arenQt sufficient.... The administration could have said: Hamas is our enemy; the people of Gaza are our friends. We donQt want you to suffer. We want you to get rid of Hamas, join with the P.A. and make a lasting peace with Israel. If you are moderate and abandon terrorism, you will be better off and get your own state through negotiations with Israel. But that was not the strategic line taken. In this bland little White House statement we see the current U.S. GovernmentQs massive strategic failure.

VII. QWe WonQt Relinquish the Enemy

Senior op-ed writer Akiva Eldar commented in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (6/28): QThe Americans are once again disturbing our peace with their Qpeace process,Q and are already talking about continuing the settlement construction freeze. Everything was so simple with the three QnoQs of Khartoum from September 1967: no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, and no negotiations with Israel.... The Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers were sent to Jerusalem to present the [Arab] peace plan to the Israeli public. The Palestinian Authority expressed its support in the form of ads in the Hebrew-language press, and has made its reconciliation with Hamas dependent on Hamas' acceptance of the plan, in its entirety. But we won't relinquish the Arabs' QnoQs.

VIII. QThe BlockadeQs Damage

Former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Sallai Meridor wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (6/28): QIt is not the [Turkish Gaza-bound] flotilla and its outcome that should guide us in our policy toward the blockade of Gaza. We must consider our policies in various areas according to their affects on the main components of our national resilience.... It is to be hoped that last week's Cabinet resolution was the result of the discussion of these questions rather than capitulation to international pressure. If

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strategic considerations did indeed guide the ministers, what a pity that they waited until the flotilla incident before making the decision, or more precisely, before acting to implement the cabinet resolution of last year.

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2. U.S.-Israel Relations:

Block Quotes:

QIsrael ShouldnQt Give Up the U.S. Democrats

Columnist Shmuel Rosner, who was HaQaretzQs correspondent in Washington, wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/28): QThere is an increasing risk that Israel is unwillingly turning into a part of the [U.S.] Republican Party. A country that has ever since leaned on the support of the two [major U.S.] political parties find s itself struggling against an erosion of support by [U.S.] voters -- and, subsequently, their legislators.... Senior Israeli officials [sometimes] call upon Republican legislators not to hit Democrats through Israel. This is a rearguard fight against a trend that Israel cannot curb.

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E.O. 13526: N/A
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:

All media highlighted Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit to southern Lebanon on Thursday. The media noted that Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah "stayed hidden in his bunker." During a mass rally in Bint Jbeil, the Iranian leader proclaimed the nearing end of Zionism. Israel Radio reported that Ahmadinejad told Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri that if all Arab states united against Israel, it would be possible to defeat it. PM Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted as saying that Lebanon is turning into an annex of Iran, which made it a tragedy for Lebanon, but that Israel knows how to defend itself. Israel Radio quoted Assistant Secretary of State Philip J. Crowley as saying that Ahmadinejad's "travel to southern Lebanon is solely to rally Hizbullah, which continues to serve as Iran's proxy in Lebanon. So his presence there we think is a provocation. It continues to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and the security of the region.'

Leading media reported that on Thursday, the Construction and Housing Ministry and the Israel Lands Administration issued tenders for 240 housing units in the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Ramot

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The Jerusalem Post quoted diplomatic officials in Jerusalem as saying on Thursday that Israel is not concerned by the State Department's stuttering over the "Jewish state" Issue. The daily reported that sources close to PM Netanyahu noted that President Obama told the U.N. that "Israel is a sovereign state, and the historic homeland of the Jewish people.

The Jerusalem Post quoted P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas as saying on Thursday that it was none of the Palestinians' business if Israel wanted to call itself a Jewish state, or anything else.

Maariv reported that U.S. Secretary Hillary Clinton has been invited to speak at Tel Aviv's Rabin Square during the 15th annual memorial ceremony for the late PM Yitzhak Rabin.

Maariv reported that Morocco's King Mohammed VI as invited President Shimon Peres to visit him in ten days' time.

The Jerusalem Post reported that former IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz told the newspaper that the fact that PM Netanyahu angers President Obama harms the effort against the Iranian nuclear program. The Jerusalem Post quoted Secretary Clinton as saying in Brussels on Thursday that there is mounting evidence that sanctions against Iran are working. The Secretary also said that Netanyahu and Abbas want to be leaders who resolve the conflict.

Ha'aretz and Israel Radio reported that right-wing activist Aryeh King announced on Thursday that he intends to settle 10 new Jewish families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, offering compensation to the Palestinian families who will subsequently be evicted. King spoke at a press conference called to discuss a recent Supreme Court ruling which determined that several Palestinian homes in Sheikh Jarrah belonged to the heirs of

the Jews who built the neighborhood in the late 19th century.

The media reported that on Thursday, Welfare and Social Services Minister Yitzhak Herzog announced his candidacy for the post of Labor Party chairman. Media noted that he would have had more chances to win the party leadership if he had resigned from the Government.

Ha'aretz reported that while the Turkel Commission continues its investigation of the Gaza flotilla affair, the Israel Navy has already drawn operational conclusions from the altercation at sea last May and is mulling how to avoid the same pitfalls. One change being considered by the navy is to purchase equipment that will help it board vessels while minimizing harm to soldiers. The

Jerusalem Post and Makor Rishon-Hatzofe reported that former Justice Yaakov Turkel again summoned IDF Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi to appear before his commission. The leading online news service Ynet reported that in a complaint filed with the International Criminal Court (ICC), Turkey accuses Israel of war crimes including torture, inhuman treatment during the IDF raid on the flotilla. Ynet says that the ICC's jurisdiction is unclear.

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Labor Party Chairman and Defense Minister Ehud Barak was quoted as saying in an interview with Israel Hayom is the delegitimization campaign against it. In another matter, Ha'aretz recalls that over a quarter of a century before Barak proposed that non-Jews seeking citizenship should pledge allegiance to the Declaration of Independence, the late extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane did the same in the political platform of his Kach party in 1984. Kahane was elected to the Knesset in 1984, but his party was disqualified for being racist when it sought to run again in 1988.

Ha'aretz published an interview with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who expressed his dismay at the standstill in the peace process and said that he was the only one who ever delivered a letter from Gilad Shalit and from him. Carter said that he will be meeting Hamas in Syria and that "we will probably talk about it."

Leading media reported that on Thursday Israel and Greece completed a joint aerial exercise.

Israel Radio quoted former Pensioners' Affairs Minister Rafi Eitan as saying that the U.S. wronged convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, in particular regarding the exposure of U.S. agents in the USSR. Eitan said that it has been proven that Pollard did not commit that offence.

The Jerusalem Post quoted the relief organization Oxfam as saying that the P.A. and the IDF could help Palestinian farmers double their crop.

Ha'aretz (English Ed.) reported that a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the memory of murdered American-Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl through music staged its festival in Israel this week. Founded in 2005 by a former friend and fellow band member of Pearl's FODfest -- which stands for Friends of Daniel Pearl Festival -- consisted of several free community concerts, school visits, impromptu jam sessions, and street performances throughout Israel and the West Bank, aiming to spread an apolitical message of coexistence.

Ha'aretz reported that three Israeli hospitals joined forces this week in an effort to teach doctors from eastern and southern Africa how to deal with the AIDS virus that is ravaging the continent.

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The hospitals involved are Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem, and Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv. The project, called the Israeli Consortium on AIDS Medicine in Africa, has trained 105 physicians from Ethiopia over the past five years. But this week, it entered a new phase, expanding to six other countries.

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Ha'aretz reported that Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein's decision this week to close the investigation over suspicions that DM Ehud Barak's wife, Nili Priel, hired an illegal foreign worker to do housekeeping at the couple's Tel Aviv apartment continues to make waves. It has become apparent that, in their hunt for the worker, authorities were looking for a woman named Virginia, while her original name was something entirely different. The case raises the prospect that a wide discrepancy exists between the values that Barak should represent and his personal reality. Israel Radio's Carmela Menashe broke the story last December.

Yediot reported that the Israeli Zeev Levy is on the 10 "most wanted" list of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He is suspected of having sheltered illegal immigrants to the U.S., providing them with fake visas and false identities.

Yediot, Maariv, and Makor Rishon-Hatzofe reported that on Wednesday Eric Bellucci, an American citizen from New York, allegedly stabbed and killed his parents and flew to Tel Aviv, where he is staying at a friend's in Tel Aviv. The newspaper quoted Israeli police as saying that they are unable to arrest him, because U.S. authorities have not yet issued an international warrant.

Yediot printed the results of a Mina Zemach/Dahaf poll that found that

- 64 percent of Israelis are worried by the possibility of fascism in Israel; 34 percent said that they are not concerned.

- 63 percent of respondents believe that Israeli Arabs have the right to vote (72 percent among secular Jews; 42 percent among religious Jews, 32 percent among ultra-Orthodox Jews; and 62 percent among Jews altogether).

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

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I. "This May Be a Milestone on the Road to War"

Uzi Dayan, President of the Israeli National Security Council, wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (10/15): "The Iranian leader's countryside visit to Lebanon is a universal illustration of the trend of deterioration in our region... In the negotiations with the Palestinians, Israel must insist on our right to defensive borders and adhere to the principle of it defending itself. It is not an 'Israeli presence' or a 'security arrangement' that we need in any permanent-status agreement if we reach it, but the Jordan Valley (in the broadest understanding of the term) under Israeli sovereignty. We'll take care by ourselves of the security arrangements needed to face the developing threats. Beyond the war on terror and the preparedness to attack Iran, incoming IDF chief of staff] Yoav Galant's General Staff should prepare ... and train the army for the not considerable probability of war."

II. "Removing the Mask"

Military correspondent Amos Harel and Palestinian affairs correspondent Avi Issacharoff wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (10/15): "Lebanon, a hostage state ... on Wednesday saluted the person whom the Hizbullah announcer at the [Beirut] ceremony called the 'supreme commander.' It was a frightful demonstration of force of force by the Iranians. If Gaza (whose population is Sunni) is now ruled by a fanatic regime that

draws its inspiration from Iran, why not try to repeat the exercise in Shi'ite Lebanon, too?... Back in 1992, Hizbullah portrayed itself a Lebanese organization that looked after all the citizens.... Western and Arab researchers subsequently argued that the organization was becoming more moderate and more Lebanese, and chose to ignore Hizbullah's close ties with Iran, its economic and military dependence on Tehran, its preference for Shi'ite religious arbiters from Iran over their Lebanese counterparts and the continued of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon. It was, finally, the Second Lebanon War that proved that Hizbullah is not motivated by the interest of most Lebanese."

2. U.S.-Israel Relations:

Block Quotes:

"Obama and the U.S.-Israel Alliance"

Deputy Managing Editor and right-wing columnist Caroline B. Glick wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (10/15): "The Right-Left divide [in the United States] mirrors and amplifies the partisan divide. A majority of Conservatives are pro-Israel and only 5 percent of self-described liberals are pro-Israel. With everyone from Glenn Beck to George Soros predicting a massive Republican victory in next month's midterm Congressional elections, it is clear that the disparity between Obama's policies and the preferences of the American people is about to massively constrain Obama's ability to implement his agenda. From Netanyahu's perspective, what this means that if he wishes to maintain U.S. support for Israel, his best bet is to do exactly the opposite of what the Left proposes. He should continue to defy Obama and

explain to the American people why Israel cannot accede to the administration's demands.... The Israeli Left's failure to recognize what is happening in the U.S. today is not surprising. After all, the Left has ignored the sentiments of the Israeli people for years. But as the elected leader of the Jewish state, Netanyahu should recognize the truth. If he wishes to secure Israel's alliance with the U.S., he should do what is best for Israel, not what is best for Israel's Left."

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE TEL AVIV

MEDIA REACTION REPORT

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
 2. Iran
 3. Sudan
 4. U.S.-Israel Relations
-

Key stories in the media:

The Jerusalem Post and other media reported that on Tuesday, during the Prime Minister's annual press conference with the foreign press, Benjamin Netanyahu stepped back on Tuesday from former Mossad head Meir Dagan's appraisal that Iran will not get nuclear weapons until the middle of the decade. These were "only" intelligence assessments and should be seen as such, he said. Netanyahu made clear that he believed the Iranian threat had not in any way become less acute, and reiterated what he said two months ago in New Orleans -- and for which he was chastised publicly by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates -- that sanctions needed to be backed up by a viable and serious military option. Since the U.S.-led sanctions against Iran were aimed at changing the Iranian government's determination to obtain nuclear arms, "those sanctions have not yet achieved their objective," the Prime Minister said. "I think they [the sanctions] should be strictly enforced and materially strengthened." Regarding the recent escalation in Gaza, Netanyahu said that Hamas and the other organizations there "shelling and rocketing Israel" will "make a terrible mistake to test our will to defend our people; I think they will make a terrible, terrible mistake." Turning to the diplomatic process with the Palestinians, he said that 2011 would reveal "who is seriously interested in peace in the region." The PM was quoted as saying that the reason an additional freeze on settlement construction did not go into effect was not because there was no agreement with the U.S., but because the U.S. decided that the additional freeze would do nothing to move the process forward.

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"What is preventing the advent of peace negotiations is that the Palestinians are doing everything in their power to avoid them," he said. "This is the simple truth." Only his government would "be trusted by the public" to deliver a peace agreement that would ensure security and Palestinian recognition of Israel, and the Palestinians were making a mistake walking away from talks with him, he said. As far as the Syrian track was concerned, Netanyahu

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said that the peace agreement with Egypt was reached only after Anwar Sadat took Egypt out of the Soviet camp. A similar break from Iran would be necessary for Syrian President Bashar Assad to make peace with Israel, Netanyahu said, adding that he did not see "any clear willingness" on the part of Damascus to change its relationship with Tehran.

Intelligence and Atomic Energy Minister Dan Meridor, a Likud moderate, was quoted as saying in an interview with Ha'aretz, that the Knesset plan to probe left-wing NGOs is dangerous.

Israel Hayom and Israel Radio reported that the police have apprehended a suspect in the Internet-based death threats against Deputy State Prosecutor Shay Nitzan. The police were quoted as saying that he is a resident of the Sharon area who used to be a member of right-wing groups.

The media reported that on Tuesday, the IDF killed Mohammed al-Najar, 25, a key member of Islamic Jihad near the city of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip. In a combined operation with the Shin Bet security service, he was targeted by a missile fired from an aircraft. Military sources were quoted as saying that he was preparing bombing attacks inside Israel and in recent weeks had been involved in the intensified rocket attacks against Israeli communities bordering Gaza.

Ha'aretz quoted Colonel Adam Zussman, commander of the Dan region (central Israel) in the IDF Home Front Command, as saying that "danger has returned to Tel Aviv. Under any war scenario, it will be hit by a large number of missiles, missiles that are precise and lethal. However, our preparedness to deal with such missiles has also improved." Ha'aretz says that Col. Zussman's willingness to be interviewed about threats posed to the region under his command underscores IDF concerns about possible war scenarios.

Maariv reported that on Saturday night the Left is expected to hold a mass rally in Tel Aviv to protest against Yisrael Beiteinu's recent moves, under the slogan: "Fighting for Democracy." Israel Hayom reported that in a conversation Netanyahu held with FM Avigdor Lieberman, he attacked Lieberman's proposals that Knesset members could probe left-wing groups. Israel Hayom quoted the PM as saying that it is important in a democracy to maintain a plurality of views. The Jerusalem Post quoted opposition leader Tzipi Livni as saying in a fiery speech at Bar-Ilan University on Tuesday that Netanyahu should have reprimanded Lieberman for calling left-wing organizations accomplices to terror.

Maariv and other media reported that former Knesset Speaker and

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former Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, together with Hadash (Communist) Knesset Member and former Meretz Knesset Member Mossi Raz, is setting up a new left-wing movement -- "The Democratic Camp."

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Israel Radio reported that the IDF's Civil Administration and the Israeli defense establishment have destroyed four illegal structures near the settlement of Shiloh.

Leading media quoted Palestinian media outlets as saying that on Monday IDF troops arrested a top Hamas figure in the northern West Bank, Dr. Omar Abdel Razeq. The leading online news site Ynet quoted IDF sources as saying he is being questioned for suspicion of involvement in terrorist activity. Abdel Razeq is a Hamas Member of Parliament and served in the past as the Palestinian Finance Minister.

The Jerusalem Post cited an announcement by the State that the government will dramatically ease up on military regulations, determining the amount of time that a West Bank Palestinian may be held without custody without being brought before a judge.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Gabriel Zaliasnik, the President of the Jewish community in Chile, as saying that Israel's Foreign Ministry is making a big mistake by viewing Chile's recognition of a Palestinian state as a defeat for Israel.

Maariv reported that the Mavi Marmara ship will soon lead a new flotilla to Gaza.

Channel 2-TV and The Jerusalem Post quoted the watchdog group Palestinian Media Watch as saying that the Spanish government has sponsored an ad on Spanish television supporting the boycott of Israeli products.

Leading media reported that on Tuesday Iranian intelligence presented to the public material evidence that allegedly was in the possession of ten people suspected of collaborating with Mossad and of eliminating Iranian scientists. Maariv quoted Israeli experts as saying that some of the seized equipment is sophisticated, but that the rest is antiquated and ludicrous.

Ha'aretz reported that South Korea has expressed interest in substantially expanding defense-related deals with Israel and that it is interested in procuring advanced weapons systems and technology, in view of its deteriorating relations with North Korea.

Leading electronic media reported that former George Shultz, who served as Secretary of State in the Reagan administration, which imprisoned Jonathan Pollard on Israel's behalf, wrote to President Obama that Pollard had paid a great price and should be released. IDF Radio quoted Shultz as saying: "I have received the impression that people who are intimately familiar with the classified information he relayed, including the former CIA director, support his release from prison."

Maariv reported that Meretz and Yisrael Beiteinu are cooperating in a campaign against draft dodging.

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to remove their bras during a security screening were not allowed to interview PM Netanyahu.

Leading media reported that on Monday the Foreign Ministry workers' committee announced that all Israeli embassies will stop providing security and trade assistance to Israeli companies abroad, thus halting all defense related exports. In an unprecedented move on Tuesday, the committee ordered employees in missions abroad to cease offering assistance to Israelis in distress, in an upgrading of the labor sanctions that Israeli diplomats have been engaged in for several weeks.

Yediot and Maariv highlighted the planned extradition to the U.S. today of the criminal brothers Abergil.

Leading media reported on the passing in Tel Aviv on Tuesday of Professor Ze'ev Segal, Ha'aretz's longtime legal correspondent. He was just shy of his 64th birthday.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "It Will End in Murder"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (1/12): "Calling for the murder of a lawman who decided to try to stop the incitement against Israel's Arab citizens violently crosses the line that separates freedom of expression from freedom of incitement. Public figures on the right have dismissed the issue with the tired claim that those responsible are 'wild weeds.' But nowadays, these 'weeds' are in fact sprouting in the garden of the cabinet and being enthusiastically cultivated by the Knesset.... As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in response to [Foreign Minister and Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor] Lieberman's assault on Likud members who object to persecuting human rights organizations, 'in a democratic country, it's important to maintain a spectrum of opinion.' But the unbridled incitement by his senior coalition partner against Israeli citizens is outside the legitimate spectrum of opinion. It's a pity that Netanyahu does not see fit to get rid of his Foreign Minister. But at the very least, the Prime Minister, like the Justice Minister and the Attorney General, must denounce his inflammatory statements loudly and clearly."

II. "Are We More Racist than in the Past?"

Former (Labor Party) cabinet minister and liberal contributor Uzi Baram wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (1/12): "The ideas of [the slain far-right leader Meir] Kahane, which were rejected [by the Israeli body politic] 25 years ago are becoming more acceptable and understood.... [Knesset Member] Michael Ben Ari [of the extreme

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right National Union party] is not a lone rider in the Israeli Knesset.... All of them have a common denominator. The guilt feeling and the deep commitment to democracy have been lost. The entire campaign against human rights groups and other organizations is an attempt to modify Israel's values and to turn it into a provincial state devoid of the moral message embraced by David Ben-Gurion until his last breath. Ben Ari does not represent an isolated phenomenon. He is the litmus test of a change we have undergone -- a change that obligates reflection and the presentation of a public alternative - on the Right and Left --, a change that must eliminate such phenomena from our midst."

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III. "Perils of the Geneva Initiative"

Adam Raz of the Labor Party-oriented Yigal Allon Educational Center wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (1/12): "[According to the Geneva Initiative,] the number of refugees who enter Israel will conform to the number that it will submit to an international commission [set up by the Initiative]. The number does not depend on its free will, as might be understood from the phrase 'Israel's sovereign discretion,' but rather the basis for its calculation will be the average of the total numbers that the third parties (not Israel or Palestine) will submit to the commission. In practice, the ambiguity enables both sides to take pride in an achievement: the Palestinians say that the document contains recognition of the right of return, and the Israelis say that since the number of refugees who will return is subject to their decision, [the document] forgoes the right of return. The publicity surrounding the initiative states that there is recognition of the State of Israel as the state of the Jewish people, but this is not mentioned in the document itself, and it can be said that Israel is the 'state of all its citizens'.... On the issue of Jerusalem, too, the division of sovereignty is a recipe for disputes.... Israel Harel, the former Chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in the Territories, said about the initiative that it was acceptable to him with minor revisions, because in practice it prevents the Palestinians from achieving territorial contiguity and extends the Israeli borders. Therefore, when we hear from the Geneva initiative members recently that a large part of the right wing has consented to the initiative, we should ask why. The Geneva initiative constitutes an obstacle to future negotiations due to the unrealistic conditions it poses. It is not a basis for a responsible peace, but rather a delusional and dangerous plan for no more than a cease-fire."

2. Iran:

Block Quotes:

"The Effective Iranian Deterrent"

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in the independent,

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left-leaning Ha'aretz (1/12): "2010 went by without a war with Iran. In the winter no one goes to war because the clouds limit air force operations. But in 2011, a conflict is brewing. The new Mossad head, Tamir Pardo, like his predecessor, prefers economy of force. But his standing in these matters is one of adviser.... The Iranian nuclear program continues despite the sanctions. And in Israel the debate continues, as the heads of the defense establishment remind us. What is clear is that to date Iran has managed to deter Israel against military action, through its rockets and missiles deployed in places outside its borders. In that way, the enemy achieved strategic balance without a single nuclear bomb."

3. Sudan:

Block Quotes:

"The Possible Influence on Israel of a Sudanese Secession"
Yoel Gozansky, a researcher at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies, maintains in the independent Israel Hayom (1/10): "Israel might create formal diplomatic ties with southern Sudan: this is not an insignificant issue (over the past year, senior officials in Juba -- the capital of southern Sudan -- have expressed their willingness for this). Israel might also secure the southern Sudanese market for its businessmen -- beyond defense exports. An orderly return of infiltrators to the south would also be possible. Despite those advantages, the flood of refugees and infiltrators through the gaping Egypt-Israel border could increase should violence return [to Sudan]."

4. U.S.-Israel Relations:

Block Quotes:

"After Arizona: Israelis and Americans Must Make Democracy Work"
Contributor Gil Troy, a professor of history at McGill University and a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (1/12): "In Israel, leftists and rightists are capable of demagoguery, demonization and incitement to violence, yet each camp only sees the other's guilt. And while America's most extreme voices usually fester on the margins, tempered by the civility of the McCains and Obamas, too many shrill voices emanate from the Knesset. Israeli

politicians seem to scream 'die traitor' as often as Arizonans say 'howdy pardner'.... No one needs a rampaging maniac to deliver a wake-up call. We can see it night after night on the news; we must judge it and change it day by day by ourselves. Israelis, too, know how to rally together, when necessary.... Americans and Israelis should cultivate a politics of civility, not because of

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the insane murderer but because we all want to show 'how democracy works,' in Christina [Taylor Green]'s memory, to honor Giffords' lifework and for our common good."
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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE TEL AVIV

MEDIA REACTION REPORT

Sunday-Monday, April 3-4, 2011

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

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1. Justice Goldstones Recantation
 2. Mideast

Key stories in the media:

Over the weekend, all media underscored an article published on Friday in The Washington Post by Justice Richard Goldstone, in which he backed away from many of the allegations that appeared in the Goldstone Report, which was written in the aftermath of Operation Cast Lead. Most importantly, Goldstone shied away from the allegations that appeared in his original report as if Israel prima facie had committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in its

2008-2009 operation in Gaza. Goldstone conceded in his article that UN-validated investigations had established that civilians were not intentionally targeted as a matter of policy by the IDF. Goldstone commended the thorough investigations that the Israeli authorities have completed into the apparent violations his committee found and

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faulted Hamas for failing to act in kind. He further contrasted Hamas to Israel by noting that Hamas had pursued a policy of deliberately targeting civilians. However, Goldstone deplored Israel's lack of cooperation with his commission. Maariv noted that Goldstone has for a long time decried the political use of the U.N. Human Rights Commission has made of his report. The media reported that the U.N. is not expected to change its stance on Operation Cast Lead. Yediot quoted a source associated with Goldstone that he at first turned to The New York Times, which refused to publish his article. Yediot quoted The New York Times as saying that it does not intervene in the editing process. The media reported that on Saturday PM Benjamin Netanyahu called on the U.N. to disavow the Goldstone Report, which he said belongs in the dustbin of history. The media reported that Israel will embark on a diplomatic and public relations campaign in the coming days seeking to leverage Goldstone's article. Reactions in the Israeli media are divided. On Sunday, while the pundits in Yediot took a more conciliatory tone with Goldstone and Aluf Benn of Haaretz talked about a PR coup for Israel, the front page of Maariv was filled with indignant and unforgiving wrath. On the other hand, Haaretz and its commentator Akiva Eldar today played down Goldstone's reservations.

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe quoted senior Israeli cabinet ministers as saying privately that President Obama is unleashing Europe against Israel.

All media reported that early on Saturday, the Israel Air Force, in conjunction with Shin Bet, attacked a Hamas unit in Gaza, killing three of its members, including a senior Hamas military leader. The Hamas unit was allegedly on its way to the Sinai, where members had planned to abduct Israelis during the upcoming Passover holiday. The media cited Israel's expectation of violent actions from Hamas in the near future.

Haaretz and Yediot reported that the Jerusalem Planning and Building Committee will today discuss construction of 942 housing units in the Gilo neighborhood in the south of the city, beyond the Green Line. The plan has already been approved at the district level. If it is confirmed by the local committee, the public will be invited to voice objections to it. The plan sees the Gilo neighborhood expanding southwest, onto land currently owned by the Jewish National Fund and private individuals. In addition to the residential units, commercial and public buildings, roads and more are slated for the area. The construction is expected to be followed by further expansion of Gilo in a northwest direction, with another 850 housing units. Haaretz notes that the White House had publicly criticized the plan in November 2009. The leading online news service Ynet reported that on Sunday, in what seems to be a move inspired by right-wing pressure, PM Netanyahu and DM Ehud Barak agreed on a new zoning plan for the West Bank settlement of Nofim. The rare move

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effectively enables further developments of the settlement.

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Maariv reported that today the IDF will set up an Iron Dome battery in Ashkelon.

The Jerusalem Post reported that the Arab world sees Adel Safar, the new Syrian PM, as powerless to deal with unrest. The daily notes that as agriculture minister, Safar caused Syria, an erstwhile breadbasket, to turn into a net grain importer.

Haaretz reported that Israeli security officials and the Foreign Ministry have started preparing feverishly for the expected arrival of another Gaza flotilla in late May. More than 1,000 leftists and pro-Palestinian activists are expected to take part in the flotilla, which sources say will include more than 20 vessels of various sizes.

The media reported that on Sunday President Shimon Peres called for Israel to set regulations determining whether and when politicians may accept flights paid for by private donors, to avoid personal attacks on public figures and their families similar to what he described as the recent "character assassination" of PM Benjamin

Netanyahu.

Israel Hayom reported that Ehud Baraks Atzmaut (Independence) faction will become a party next month.

The Jerusalem Post, Yediot, and Israel Hayom reported that Israeli and Iranian rescue teams are working together in northeastern Japan. Yediot also mentioned that Israel has set up an ER operation in Haiti.

Citing a report published in the Turkish newspaper Zaman on Sunday, Maariv reported that there is one realm in which relations between Israel and Turkey are flourishing: the volume of bilateral trade surged to a new record high in 2010. The past year was the best year in trade relations between the two countries ever since they formed diplomatic relations in 1949. According to Turkish Trade Ministry data, the volume of trade between the two countries has grown at a dizzying pace in the past decade. In 2001 trade between Israel and Turkey amounted to \$1.3 billion only; the volume of trade between the two countries in 2010 was \$3.5 billion. The trend has continued into 2011 as well: the volume of Turkish imports to Israel in January 2011 was \$166 million, which is a 20.1 percent rise over January 2010. Alternately, Israeli exports to Turkey dropped by 15 percent in 2010 to \$77 million.

Leading media reported that Esther Pollard has pled with President Peres to raise her husband Jonathans fate with President Obama during his upcoming visit to Washington.

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Today, the media highlighted a strike of physicians in the public sector, which is slated for Tuesday and Wednesday.

1. Justice Goldstones Recantation:

Block Quotes:

I. Goldstone Confesses and Renounces

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote on page one of the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (4/3): It was a mistake to boycott the Goldstone commission.... But the report that [Justice Richard Goldstone] submitted was a biased and misguided document, a document that wasnt worthy of even the paper upon which it was printed. And he caused Israel a tremendous amount of damage that it did not deserve.... The lesson for the Israeli government is not to rush to boycott. The United States, China or Russia can afford to boycott international investigations. When they refuse to cooperate, the investigation gets shut down. Israel does not have that standing. A boycott by it does nothing to undermine the legitimacy of international commissions of inquiry. It only worsens its own situation.

II. Undeserving of Forgiveness

Diplomatic correspondent and television anchor Ben Caspit wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (4/3): Richard Goldstone is undeserving of either forgiveness or mercy.... So now, when the veil has been lifted off the face of the Human Rights Council, with Libya, an important member of this council, massacring its own civilians and NATO bombing other civilians in order to protect them (and the oil wells), with Assad counting his final days in office, with Saudi troops entering Bahrain in order to fire on its civilians, with the

entire Muslim world in flames and redefining the proportions of the international communitys hypocrisy, you have remembered, Mr. Goldstone, to say that you were wrong.

III. Israels PR Coup

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in the independent, left-leaning Haaretz (4/3): Israel achieved a major public relations coup this weekend, comparable to the United Nations rescission of its

notorious resolution equating Zionism with racism. South African Judge Richard Goldstone, who came to symbolize more than anyone else the efforts to delegitimize Israel as a civilized and law-abiding country, has now retracted his allegations that Israel had committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during Operation Cast Lead.... The new Goldstone captures the change in how the West relates to Israel against the backdrop of the turmoil in the Arab world. Israel may be aggressive sometimes, but there is no other country in the Middle East whose stability is assured and which isnt threatened by a popular uprising. Israel isnt perfect, but its much closer to Western standards than its enemies. UNCLASSIFIED

IV. A Small Victory

Eytan Haber, veteran op-ed writer and assistant to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, opined on page one of Yediot Aharonot (4/3): For Israel [Justice Goldstones recantation] is a small victory, since it claimed from the outset that [his] report was untruthful and had done it a terrible injustice. The fact that a Jew and even a Zionist had headed the committee that put us up against the wall upset even more people in Israel. We couldnt even say that he was an anti-Semite. Official Israel yesterday once again penned in a big red X on Goldstone and his report, and stepped outside for a moment for a breath of fresh air. But the air is already beginning to fill with Grad and Qassam rockets that are hurtling toward their next targets.

V. Goldstone Regrets

Haaretz editorialized (4/4): As in other cases involving water under the bridge, there is little weight given to [Justice Richard Goldstones] regrets after time has elapsed or circumstances have changed.... Israel does not need a comparison with Hamas, whose members launch rockets at civilian sites in order to exculpate themselves. Its internal, moral obligation -- and not just for reasons of international utility -- is to do everything in its power to avoid harming the innocent. A certain amount of regret on Goldstone's part must not cause Israel to regret the limitations it has imposed on its army.

VI. Goldstone Report: the Judges Credibility

Former Meretz leader, former Justice Minister, and chief Israeli promoter of the Geneva Initiative, Yossi Beilin, wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (4/4): Why didnt we allow the [Goldstone] Commission to visit Israel and the territories? Why did we let it rely solely on material from non-governmental organizations? Did any of us really think that if Israel did not cooperate with the commission, it would lose its international legitimacy? Have we become that naive? Israels personal attack on Goldstone was also a

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mistake. It was all right for us to attack the report, but not the credibility of this fair and important judge. Now, after Goldstone has learned what he learned, mainly in the wake of the Israeli investigations versus Hamas indifference, he took action and wrote an article that was not easy for him to write. But how can we use such an important article for PR purposes after having done everything to undermine the credibility of its writer?

VI. A Cast-Lead Alliance

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Senior op-ed writer Akiva Eldar commented in Ha'aretz (4/4):

Operation Cast Lead 1, manufactured by Kadima, constitutes an Israeli and international license for Cast Lead 2.... The elected officials of Kadima have stood out more for defending the settlement policy and attacking democracy than for criticizing the suspension of peace talks or protesting the damage done to the weaker segments of the population.... Thank you, Judge Goldstone. Thank you for reminding us what the real face of the alternative actually looks like.

VII. Goldstones Example

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (4/4): The single most damning, and specious, allegation made by Richard Goldstone in the infamous report that bears his name was intentionality -- the claim that during its military operation in Gaza between December 2008 and January 2009, known as Operation Cast Lead, the IDF purposely killed Palestinian civilians. It is precisely this claim which Goldstone, 18 months late, has now retracted.... Unfortunately, the damage has been done.... Goldstones decision to break with the tendency of Jewish self-hatred is worthy of respect and reflects a high level of honesty and integrity, two truly Jewish traits. But it is too little, too late. In the present atmosphere so conducive to Israel-bashing, Goldstones note of contrition will enjoy none of the fanfare received by his report.... It is unfortunate that Israel has come to regard so many international and domestic watch-dog groups as skewed, misrepresentative, and disposed to leap to the worst conclusions about Israel. But the Goldstone Report exemplified the reasons for that attitude. Goldstones reversal needs to mark the beginning of a more fair-minded approach to Israel, which in turn would, of course, produce a changed Israeli mindset in response.

VIII. Sorry We Killed

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in Yediot Aharonot (4/4): There is quite a bit of similarity between the flotilla affair and the Goldstone affair.... It would not be a bad thing if, as a lesson from

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the Goldstone affair, the Israeli government would invite the Turkish team to come to Israel.... I am not convinced that much will be detracted from Israels honor if it were to pay compensation to the families of the dead. There is no room for an apology about the very decision to overpower the boat, but a little creativity should be enough to find the words to express regret about the results. When the IDF accidentally kills civilians in Gaza it knows how to express regret. While it is true that the people who were killed on board the Mavi Marmara do not belong to the same category [as the Gazan dead], it isnt always smart to be right. Sometimes the smart thing to do is to be smart.

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2. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. Peres Has Been Called to Help

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (4/4): The quiet preceding the Obama-Peres meeting hints that they will be discussing something new. Over the past few days, Netanyahu has indicated that he hasnt acceded to pressure to make the Judea and Samaria [i.e. West Bank] settlers uncomfortable, but he reiterated the fact that the must bring an international claim to account moving towards the Palestinian Authority. Something is happening. If it isnt, something is in the making anyway. The details of this move will become clear in a weeks time.

II. Troubling Voices from Cairo

Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Perry wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (4/4): On one hand, [incoming Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil] Elaraby announces that Egypt is committed to the peace agreement with Israel.... The truth? Egypt has no reason to cancel the agreement. In the new situation, they need every cent of the \$2 billion of annual U.S. aid. On the other hand, the same Elaraby takes care to clarify that his hands are clean, since he personally was not a partner to drafting the peace agreement, and everything is open now.... We are [also] facing a bad combination: the young people of the [Egyptian] revolution were born into a state of peace with us, but without being educated to peace. Only few, if any, have ever met Israelis. The decision-makers know us mainly from the negative aspect. They now have endless problems,

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challenges, plans and dreams. We are of little concern to them.
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SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE TEL AVIV

MEDIA REACTION REPORT

Thursday, June 30, 2011

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

-
1. Mideast
 2. Trafficking in Persons

Key stories in the media:

Yediot reported that PM Benjamin Netanyahu has asked Greek PM Georgios Papandreou to prevent the departure of Gaza-bound flotilla ships. Israel Radio cited a claim by the organizers of the flotilla that Israel has also sabotaged the Irish yacht that is supposed to participate in the operation. Four of the 10 ships are presently stranded due either to bureaucracy or alleged sabotage. The media say that the general strike in Greece has also delayed

the flotilla's sailing. The Jerusalem Post quoted an Israeli official as saying that the more the "organizers and participants have to run in place in Athens," the better it is for Israel. Maariv cites an official U.N. report that says that Turkey is more

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to blame than Israel for the harsh consequences of last year's flotilla. The report will be presented next week to Netanyahu and Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan before being released to the public.

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The media reported that the British authorities intend to deport Sheikh Raed Salah, the leader of the northern branch of Israel's Islamic Movement. The Jerusalem Post quoted U.K. Home Office Minister Theresa May as saying that he was excluded for his anti-Semitic views. His supporters will hold a demonstration in front of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv today.

Maariv cited U.S. media, in particular Politico, as saying that President Obama is losing the Jewish vote.

Ha'aretz reported that on Wednesday, Internal Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch told the Knesset that Kiryat Arba Chief Rabbi Dov Lior was detained earlier this week because he was suspected of inciting to violence and racism and not because of his opinions on the interpretation of Jewish religious law. Israel Radio reported that Justice Minister Yaakov Ne'eman, an Orthodox Jew who maintained this week that the rule of law should be upheld, was attacked when praying at Hebron's Cave of the Patriarchs. Ha'aretz reported that in an interview with the nationalist newsletter Eretz Yisrael Shelanu (Our Land of Israel), Knesset Member Yaakov Katz, chairman of the far-Right National Union party, threatened to take revenge against those responsible for the arrest. "We will get back at whoever is responsible for Rabbi Lior's arrest," he said. Katz told the publication that he believes PM Netanyahu is personally responsible for Lior's arrest. "Netanyahu and those under his command will be remembered forever in disgrace for the arrest of this genius of Israel," Katz said, adding that Lior's only crime was what he has written and his endorsement of a book of halakha (Jewish religious law), adding that this was a "direct extension" of arrests of Jews made by

communist authorities dating as far back to the time of the second century figure Rabbi Akiva. Referring to Lior's arrest as "this crime," Katz said it would not "pass quietly, and the time will come when we get back at them." He added: "All those who speak morning and night about the destruction of the State of Israel, informing on our soldiers to the United Nations and to our enemies, extremist left-wing writers who say explicitly that the settlers must be harmed, they have immunity. The prosecutor's office would never issue an arrest warrant against them. "I say that it will ultimately even be clear to [Deputy State Prosecutor] Shai Nitzan that the strong people of all the generations are the loyal Maccabees of God and Torah and we will win, big time. All of those committing those criminal acts ostensibly in the name of the law will be brought to justice." Ha'aretz reported that Religious

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Services Minister Yaakov Margi of Shas joined critics of his own government.

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Leading media reported that on Wednesday the U.S. Senate approved a bill Wednesday that calls for suspension of American aid to the Palestinian Authority if it insists on carrying out a plan to gain U.N. recognition for its statehood declaration in September. The bill was approved by all 89 senators present. Its initiators are the Jewish and Democratic Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland and Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine. It stipulates that the Senate opposes "any attempt to establish or seek recognition of a Palestinian state outside of an agreement negotiated between leaders in Israel and the Palestinians." The Jerusalem Post Nimer Hammad, an adviser to P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas, as saying on Wednesday that the Senate resolution will not deter the Palestinian Authority from proceeding with plans to ask the U.N. in September. Hammad said that the Senate's threat to cut off financial aid won't stop the P.A. from doing something it considers to be in the interest of the Palestinians. Hammad said that instead of threatening the Palestinians, the U.S. should have forced Israel to freeze settlement construction and launch peace talks on the basis of the June 4, 1967, lines.

On Wednesday, Jewish-American tycoon and leader Ron Lauder repeated his critique of PM Netanyahu in an interview with Channel 2-TV. Asked about Channel 10-TV's investigation reports of Netanyahu, Lauder said he was prohibited from interfering in such broadcasts

(he is a major shareholder in Channel 10-TV).

Israel Radio says that "almost the entire U.S. administration" is involved in efforts to make Egypt release Ilan Grapel, the Israeli-American "spy for Mossad."

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe cites the anger of Netanyahu's office over what it says is the politically-tainted campaign for the release of Gilad Shalit.

Israel Radio reported that the police have asked the government for 200 million shekels (around \$58.5 million) to recruit staff and procure equipment ahead of expected disturbances in September.

The Jerusalem Post reported that PM Netanyahu is starting to prepare for U.S. help in purchasing Iron Dome anti-missile batteries, bring the issue up on Wednesday, during a meeting with three Democratic congressmen - Gary Ackerman and Nita Lowey of New York, and Henry Waxman of California.

The Jerusalem Post reported that activists on behalf of Jonathan Pollard rule out provocations at the U.S Embassy's Fourth of July

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celebrations.

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Labor Party leadership contender Amram Mitzna was quoted as saying in an interview with Ha'aretz that his party's primaries are a corrupting influence.

Maariv reported that the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) is sharing the 2011 Gruber Prize with two other international organizations and two American human rights lawyers.

The prize is awarded annually by the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation to "those who, often at great personal risk, fight for the Rule of Law." The only Israeli to receive the prize until now has been the president (ret.) of the Israeli Supreme Court, Aharon Barak, in 2006..

Maariv reported that a mosque was built illegally in proximity to the grave of former PM Menachem Begin on the Mount of Olives.

Yediot reported that for the first time an Israeli Arab was made a Brigadier General in the Israel Police.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Knesset members are discussing the feasibility of an aerial tram to Jerusalem's Old City.

Media reported that the planes that Israel acquired after last year's Carmel Range fire are not suited for their task.

All major Hebrew-language media banner the milk industry's "surrender" to a public campaign: the consumer price of cottage cheese will come down. Media now focus on an upcoming hike in the price of electricity.

Yediot reported that the Knesset is holding talks with Australian representatives to check into the possible integration of migrants from Sudan in Australia.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "A Spin against the Israeli Public"

Intelligence affairs writer and television anchor Ronen Bergman

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opined in the mass-circulation pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/30): "The best part of the [Israeli government's] media endeavor [regarding the Gaza-bound flotilla] is nothing but a spin made at the expense of all Israelis. This campaign has no bearing for the future; it is meant to explain that everything was all right last time, too. It is directed at the ears of the State Comptroller, who has just started distributing the draft of his relevant report [that apparently damages the reputation of outgoing IDF Intelligence chief Amos Yadlin]..... This is not just about Yadlin, but about senior officials, too, who are trying to convince the Comptroller and the general public of an alternative reality they have created for themselves. Too bad they didn't invest those efforts before they let the naval commandoes climb down towards the angry crowd on board the Mavi Marmara."

II. "No Consensus on Shalit"

Liberal contributor Alon Idan wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (6/30): "The reason Gilad Shalit is not being freed is that the consensus in his case is no consensus. Gilad Shalit has been in prison for five years because between the big words uttered about him and the emotional readiness to pay the required price lies a big gap, to which we are not prepared to admit. Shalit will not be freed because, contrary to conventional wisdom, the push for his release is not nonpartisan; it is part of a struggle that falls along classic political lines. It is

noteworthy that the recent host of gimmicks and gestures related to Shalit's release, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's announcement that he plans to worsen the conditions of Hamas militants held in Israel, were intended to commemorate Shalit's fifth anniversary in prison. In other words, the interest these acts generate is tied to a trigger, a symbolic moment -- the five-year anniversary. All was quiet again a few days later.... Treating Shalit's tragedy as an event corresponds with the duplicity characterizing large swaths of the Israeli public. On the one hand, people feel a natural need to display empathy. On the other hand, deep inside they refuse to pay the price. Treating the Shalit issue as an event solves the dilemma. An event is something that happens and then fades away. It enables people to express some emotion without having to accompany those feelings with significant action once the ceremony ends."

III. "Israel's Violent Discourse"

Far left columnist Gideon Levy wrote in Ha'aretz (6/30): "The attitude toward the flotilla is a continuation of the same behavior. The campaign of scare tactics and demonization is what contributes to the violent rhetoric that is taking over the entire public discourse. For what will Israelis think about when they are

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spoon-fed scary stories about the flotilla, if not about the use of force? Those activists want to kill Israel Defense Forces soldiers? We'll arise and kill them first. Now the politicians, the generals and the commentators are competing with one another over who can provide the most frightening description of the flotilla, who can most inflame the public, who can best praise the soldiers who will save us, and who can deliver the most pompous rhetoric of the kind one would expect before a war. One important commentator, Dan Margalit, has already waxed poetic in his newspaper column [in Israel Hayom on 6/29]: 'Blessed are the hands,' he wrote of the hands that sabotaged one of the ships meant to take part in the flotilla. That's another thuggish and illegal action, one that wins immediate applause here, without anyone asking: By what right?.... But the truth is the real humiliation lies in the fact that naval commandos were deployed to intercept the ships in the first place, and that is something that reflects on us all: how we have become a society whose language is violence, a country that seeks to resolve nearly everything by force, and

only by force."

IV. "A Flotilla for the Syrian Refugees"

Liberal columnist Linda Menuchin, formerly Mideast correspondent of Israel TV's Arabic program, wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/30): "The flotilla's organizers may still shirk off their provocation and refrain from sailing to Gaza. Should they direct their assistance to people who really need it, such as the homeless, food- and medicine-deprived Syrian refugees whom Turkey has taken in, they would certainly gain all-encompassing support from the Western world. Reports have recently surfaced of children rummaging for food through garbage in Iraq. If the assistance [offered to Gaza] is really based on humanitarian motives, the flotilla's organizers had better apply it to other areas in the Middle East, where the population lives in much harsher conditions -- there are plenty of those."

V. "With September Looming, Jewish Unity Cannot Wait"

Visiting U.S. Congressman Gary Ackerman (D-New York), President-Emeritus of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians of the World Jewish Congress, which convened in Jerusalem this week, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (6/30): "Our gathering is focused on the twin challenges of delegitimization and regional change. Despite the rhetoric, I don't believe that increasing attacks on Israel's right to exist and efforts to label its acts of self-defense 'war crimes' or even 'crimes against humanity' are actually rooted in a belief in international law, or a principled evaluation of Israeli military operations. What I believe is really driving most of

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these claims is a deep-seated and stubborn refusal to see Jews as a people.... The Palestinian plan to take their case for statehood to the U.N. General Assembly poses great danger for Israel. If this initiative were to succeed- or worse, to slip out of control, the results could be devastating. Israel could be exposed to sanctions and pressures beyond the wildest hopes of its worst enemies. But

in addition to these external challenges, we face a more intimate one that we share with the entire Jewish people. How do those of us who are representatives from all over the world and every part of the political spectrum come together to protect and advance our common interests?"

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2. Trafficking in Persons:

Block Quotes:

"Trafficking in Human Beings"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (6/30): "A U.S. State Department report released this week found that Israel is not complying with U.S. standards for combating human trafficking.... This is a shameful testimony to Israel's deterioration in the realm of human rights in general and the rights of aliens and labor migrants in particular.... Israeli society grew indifferent to the ongoing occupation and the abuse of tens of thousands of cheap, unprotected Palestinian laborers. When they disappeared, for what was termed reasons of security, new workers were found -- transparent, frightened aliens, deprived of their rights. The indifference turned into obtuseness. This ugly anomaly will not change overnight, but Israel must adopt the report's recommendations to increase supervision and enforcement and revoke the law binding labor migrants to employers. This is the least it can do as a first step toward ending Israel's dubious status as a paradise for human trafficking."

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From: Konstantyn, Michel
Sent: 10/15/2010 4:37:55 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: MORNING MEDIA REVIEW, Friday, October 15, 2010

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MRN: 10 MDA 72372
Date/DTG: Oct 15, 2010 / 150837Z OCT 10
From: Konstantyn, Michel
Action:
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS
Pass Line: STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD
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 COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019
 JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
 LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
 PARIS ALSO FOR POL
 ROME FOR MFO
Subject: MORNING MEDIA REVIEW, Friday, October 15, 2010

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES TEL AVIV
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
 MORNING MEDIA REVIEW**

Friday, October 15, 2010

TOP STORIES:

- Iranian President Ahmadinejad's visit to South Lebanon; PM Netanyahu says that the Iranian leader's comments are a tragedy to Lebanon and that Israel knows how to defend itself
- The GOI will build 240 housing units in East Jerusalem

Iranian President Ahmadinejad's visit to South Lebanon; PM Netanyahu says that the Iranian leader's comments are a tragedy to Lebanon and that Israel knows how to defend itself. All media highlighted Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit to southern Lebanon on Thursday. The media noted that Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah "stayed hidden in his bunker." During a mass rally in Bint Jbeil, the Iranian leader proclaimed the nearing end of Zionism. **Israel Radio** reported that Ahmadinejad told Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri that if all Arab states united against Israel, it would be possible to defeat it. PM Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted as saying that Lebanon is turning into an annex of Iran, which made it a tragedy for Lebanon, but that Israel knows how to defend itself. **Israel Radio** quoted Assistant Secretary of State Philip J. Crowley as saying that Ahmadinejad's "travel to southern Lebanon is solely to rally Hezbollah, which continues to serve as Iran's

proxy in Lebanon. So his presence there we think is a provocation. It continues to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and the security of the region.'

The GOI will build 240 housing units in East Jerusalem. Leading media reported that on Thursday, the Construction and Housing Ministry and the Israel Lands Administration issued tenders for 240 housing units in the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Ramot and Pisgat Zeev.

OTHER STORIES:

The Jerusalem Post quoted diplomatic officials in Jerusalem as saying on Thursday that Israel is not concerned by the State Department's stuttering over the "Jewish state" Issue. The daily reported that sources close to PM Netanyahu noted that President Obama told the U.N. that "Israel is a sovereign state, and the historic homeland of the Jewish people.

The Jerusalem Post quoted P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas as saying on Thursday that it was none of the Palestinians' business if Israel wanted to call itself a Jewish state, or anything else.

Maariv reported that U.S. Secretary Hillary Clinton has been invited to speak at Tel Aviv's Rabin Square during the 15th annual memorial ceremony for the late PM Yitzhak Rabin.

Maariv reported that Morocco's King Mohammed VI as invited President Shimon Peres to visit him in ten days' time.

The Jerusalem Post reported that former IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz told the newspaper that the fact that PM Netanyahu angers President Obama harms the effort against the Iranian nuclear program. **The Jerusalem Post** quoted Secretary Clinton as saying in Brussels on Thursday that there is mounting evidence that sanctions against Iran are working. The Secretary also said that Netanyahu and Abbas want to be leaders who resolve the conflict.

Ha'aretz and **Israel Radio** reported that right-wing activist Aryeh King announced on Thursday that he intends to settle 10 new Jewish families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, offering compensation to the Palestinian families who will subsequently be evicted. King spoke at a press conference called to discuss a recent Supreme Court ruling which determined that several Palestinian homes in Sheikh Jarrah belonged to the heirs of the Jews who built the neighborhood in the late 19th century.

The media reported that on Thursday Welfare and Social Services Minister Yitzhak Herzog announced his candidacy for the post of Labor Party chairman. Media noted that he would have had more chances to win the party leadership if he had resigned from the Government.

Ha'aretz reported that while the Turkel Commission continues its investigation of the Gaza flotilla affair, the Israel Navy has already drawn operational conclusions from the altercation at sea last May and is mulling how to avoid the same pitfalls. One change being considered by the navy is to purchase equipment that will help it board vessels while minimizing harm to soldiers. **The Jerusalem Post** and **Makor Rishon-Hatzofe** reported that former Justice Yaakov Turkel again summoned IDF Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi to appear before his commission. The leading online news service **Ynet** reported that in a complaint filed with the International Criminal Court (ICC), Turkey accuses Israel of war crimes including torture, inhuman treatment during the IDF raid on the flotilla. **Ynet** says that the ICC's jurisdiction is unclear.

Labor Party Chairman and Defense Minister Ehud Barak was quoted as saying in an interview with **Israel Hayom** is the delegitimization campaign against it. In another matter, **Ha'aretz** recalls that over a quarter of a century before Barak proposed that non-Jews seeking citizenship should pledge allegiance to the Declaration of Independence, the late extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane did the same in the political platform of his Kach party in 1984. Kahane was elected to the Knesset in 1984, but his party was disqualified for being racist when it sought to run again in 1988.

Ha'aretz published an interview with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who expressed his dismay at the standstill in the peace process and said that he was the only one who ever delivered a letter from Gilad Shalit and from him. Carter said that he will be meeting Hamas in Syria and that "we will probably talk about it."

Leading media reported that on Thursday Israel and Greece completed a joint aerial exercise.

Israel Radio quoted former Pensioners' Affair Minister Rafi Eitan as saying that the U.S. wronged convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, in particular regarding the exposure of U.S. agents in the USSR. Eitan said that it has been proven that Pollard did not commit that offence.

The Jerusalem Post quoted the relief organization Oxfam as saying that the P.A. and the IDF could help Palestinian farmers double their crop.

Ha'aretz (English Ed.) reported that a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the memory of murdered American-Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl through music staged its festival in Israel this week. Founded in 2005 by a former friend and fellow band member of Pearl's FODfest – which stands for Friends of Daniel Pearl Festival – consisted of several free community concerts, school visits, impromptu jam sessions, and street performances throughout Israel and the West Bank, aiming to spread an apolitical message of coexistence.

Ha'aretz reported that three Israeli hospitals joined forces this week in an effort to teach doctors from eastern and southern Africa how to deal with the AIDS virus that is ravaging the continent. The hospitals involved are Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem, and Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv. The project, called the Israeli Consortium on AIDS Medicine in Africa, has trained 105 physicians from Ethiopia over the past five years. But this week, it entered a new phase, expanding to six other countries.

Ha'aretz reported that Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein's decision this week to close the investigation over suspicions that DM Ehud Barak's wife, Nili Priel, hired an illegal foreign worker to do housekeeping at the couple's Tel Aviv apartment continues to make waves. It has become apparent that, in their hunt for the worker, authorities were looking for a woman named Virginia, while her original name was something entirely different. The case raises the prospect that a wide discrepancy exists between the values that Barak should represent and his personal reality. *Israel Radio's* Carmela Menashe broke the story last December.

Yediot reported that the Israeli Zeev Levy is on the 10 "most wanted" list of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He is suspected of having sheltered illegal immigrants to the U.S., providing them with fake visas and false identities.

Yediot, Maariv, and Makor Rishon-Hatzofe reported that on Wednesday Eric Bellucci, an American citizen from New York, allegedly stabbed and killed his parents and flew to Tel Aviv, where he is staying at a friend's in Tel Aviv. The newspaper quoted Israeli police as saying that they are unable to arrest him, because U.S. authorities have not yet issued an international warrant.

POLLS:

Yediot printed the results of a Mina Zemach/Dahaf poll that found that

- 64 percent of Israelis are worried by the possibility of fascism in Israel; 34 percent said that they are not concerned.
- 63 percent of respondents believe that Israeli Arabs have the right to vote (72 percent among secular Jews; 42 percent among religious Jews, 32 percent among ultra-Orthodox Jews; and 62 percent among Jews altogether).

EDITORIAL PAGES:

In **Israel Hayom**, Uzi Dayan, President of the Israeli National Security Council, writes that Ahmadinejad's visit to Lebanon may be a milestone on the road to the next war.

Amos Harel and Avi Issacharoff of **Ha'aretz** say that Hizbullah is removing its fake moderate mask.

Caroline B. Glick of **The Jerusalem Post** contends that in his relations with the U.S., Netanyahu "should do what is best for Israel, not what is best for Israel's Left."

Yossi Verter of **Ha'aretz** remarks that even party colleagues are now publicly taking shots at PM Netanyahu.

Ben Caspit of **Maariv** believes that former Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, a Kadima Knesset member, is trying to make Netanyahu a partner in his diplomatic plan, independently of Kadima leader Tzipi Livni.

In **Ha'aretz**, Professor Zeev Sternhell opines that the "Right needs perpetual war."

Ben-Dror Yemini of **Maariv** casts aspersions on the integrity of left-wing **Ha'aretz** journalist Gideon Levy.

Reflecting on the rescue of the Chilean miners, **Ha'aretz** maintains that the "human spirit has prevailed." **The Jerusalem Post** reaches the same conclusion.

israel.usembassy.gov

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Fax: +972-3-5103828

In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED

Drafted By:	TEL AVIV:Konstantyn, Michel
Cleared By:	DoS GOV:Ellis, Roya M
Approved By:	DoS GOV:Olsin-Windecker, Hilary S
Released By:	TEL AVIV:Konstantyn, Michel
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Washington, D.C. 20520

June 16, 2010

SI


ACTION MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: NEA-Ronald Schlicher, Acting

SUBJECT: Response to H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Recommendation

That you approve the attached cable to Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit responding to his request that we support an investigation into the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident that meets with international standards.

Approve  Disapprove _____

Background

Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit sent a letter to you dated June 7, 2010, requesting that an international, independent investigation be conducted on the 'Free Gaza' flotilla incident. Aboul Gheit asserted that an Israeli investigation with an international component would not meet the standard of being credible and independent. Your response notes that we support the June 1 United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement call for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation that meets international standards. The response further affirms that we expect Israel to conduct an investigation conforming to international standards.

Attachments:

- Tab 1-Proposed Response
- Tab 2-Incoming Correspondence

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 APPROVED BY: S:THE SECRETARY
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 NEA: JWALLES -
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 NEA/FO: JWALLES -
 NEA/IPA: THOLMSTROM -OK
 D(S): MHAYES - PROVISIONAL
 S/P: DRAND - OK
 P: ECATALANO - OK
 S/SEMEP: PKNOPF -OK
 NEA/ELA: BSTRUWE -OK
 IO: AMORRISON -OK
 IO/HR: AOSTERMEIER - OK
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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: OPDC, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, KPAL, EG, IS, XF
 SUBJECT: REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY TO AHMED ABOUL GHEIT,
 MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF
 EGYPT (S/ES 201010695)

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY
 CLINTON TO FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED ABOUL GHEIT. THE
 DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE THE TEXT OF THE
 SECRETARY'S MESSAGE. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

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Dear Mr. Minister:

Thank you for your letter of June 7 regarding the importance of investigating the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident.

We fully support the June 1 UN Security Council Presidential Statement in condemning those acts which led to nine fatalities and many injuries on board the flotilla, and supporting a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. It is our belief that Israel took an important step forward in proposing an independent public commission with international observers to investigate the flotilla incident. We believe the proposed investigation can be conducted seriously and with credibility, as Israel's military justice system meets international standards. However, the United States will not prejudge the process or its outcome, and we will await the findings of the investigation before reaching further conclusions.

The Gaza flotilla incident underscores the need to move ahead quickly with negotiations leading to a comprehensive peace in the region based on the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. The United States is deeply committed to working with its partners in the region to advance this objective.

Sincerely yours,
Hillary Rodham Clinton

End Text.
CLINTON

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IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPDC, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, KPAL, EG, IS, XF

SUBJECT: REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY TO AHMED ABOUL GHEIT,
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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to investigate the flotilla incident. We believe the proposed investigation can be conducted seriously and with credibility, as Israel's military justice system meets international standards. However, the United States will not prejudge the process or its outcome, and we will await the findings of the investigation before reaching further conclusions.

The Gaza flotilla incident underscores the need to move ahead quickly with negotiations leading to a comprehensive peace in the region based on the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. The United States is deeply committed to working with its partners in the region to advance this objective.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

End Text.

YY

NEA/FO: JWalles -
NEA/IPA: THolmstrom -OK
D(S): MHayes - Provisional
S/P: DRand - OK
P: ECatalano - OK
S/SEMEP: PKnopf -OK
NEA/ELA: BStruwe -OK
IO: AMorrison -OK
IO/HR: AOstermeier - OK
S/ES-CR: BHambrick
S/ES: KZARESKI
S/ES-O: PSLATTERY

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EMBASSY OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
 3521 INTERNATIONAL COURT, N.W.
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008
 TELEPHONE: (202) 955-5400 * FAX: (202) 244-4319/5121

URGENT

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt presents its compliments to the Office of the Honorable Secretary of State, and has the honour to attach herewith a verbal message from H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, addressed to the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States, regarding the Israeli attack on the Freedom convoy.

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Honorable Secretary of State, the assurances of its highest consideration.

June 7, 2010
 Washington, D.C.



Office of the Secretary of State
 Department of State
 United States of America
 Fax 202 647 8947

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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RELEASED IN FULL

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Verbal Message

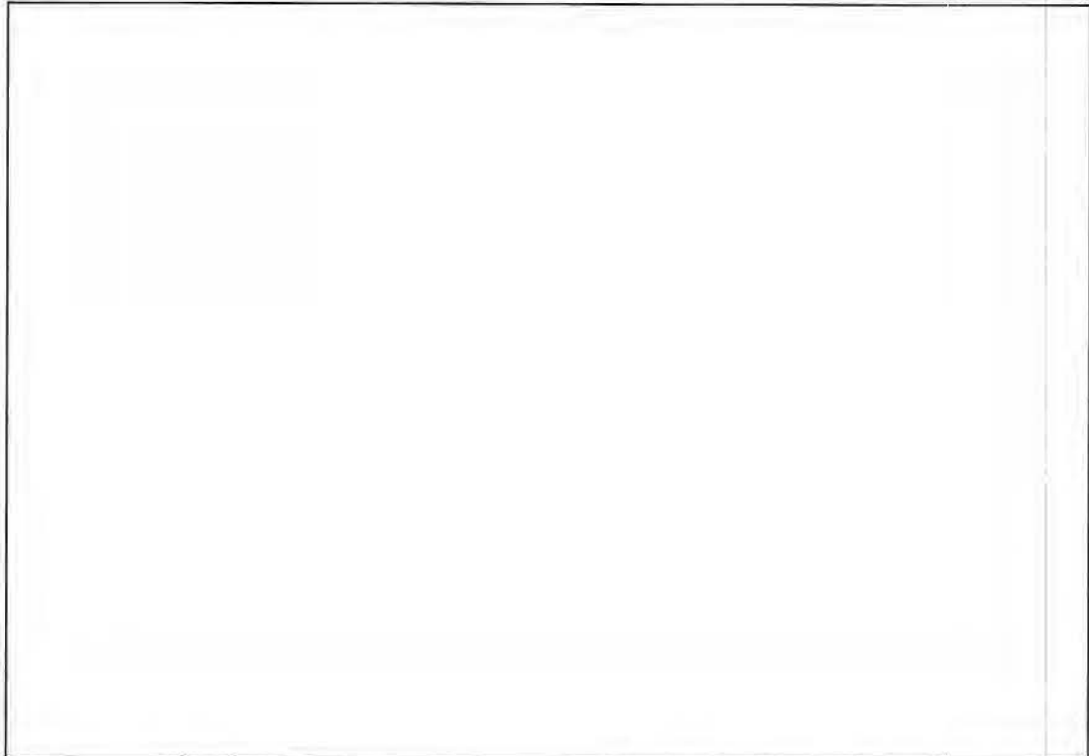
- 1- We have followed up with great concern the developments of the Israeli attack on the Freedom convoy. We have also followed closely international calls to carry out an international investigation related to the attack. We support that an international investigation be conducted and consider it a fundamental step to guaranteeing that Israel, as the occupying power of the Palestinian territories including Gaza, undertakes its legal and humanitarian responsibilities.
- 2- An international, independent, credible and transparent investigation as called for by the Human Rights Council remains, from our perspective, the only credible response for the international community to the Israeli attack. Other ideas, such as carrying an Israeli investigation with an international component will not meet the credible and independent minimum requirement.
- 3- Given the high moral authority of the UN Secretary General, we stress the necessity that he should promptly form an international investigation committee to carry out an independent and credible investigation on the Israeli attack on the Freedom convoy.

Options Paper for an Investigation of the Flotilla Incident

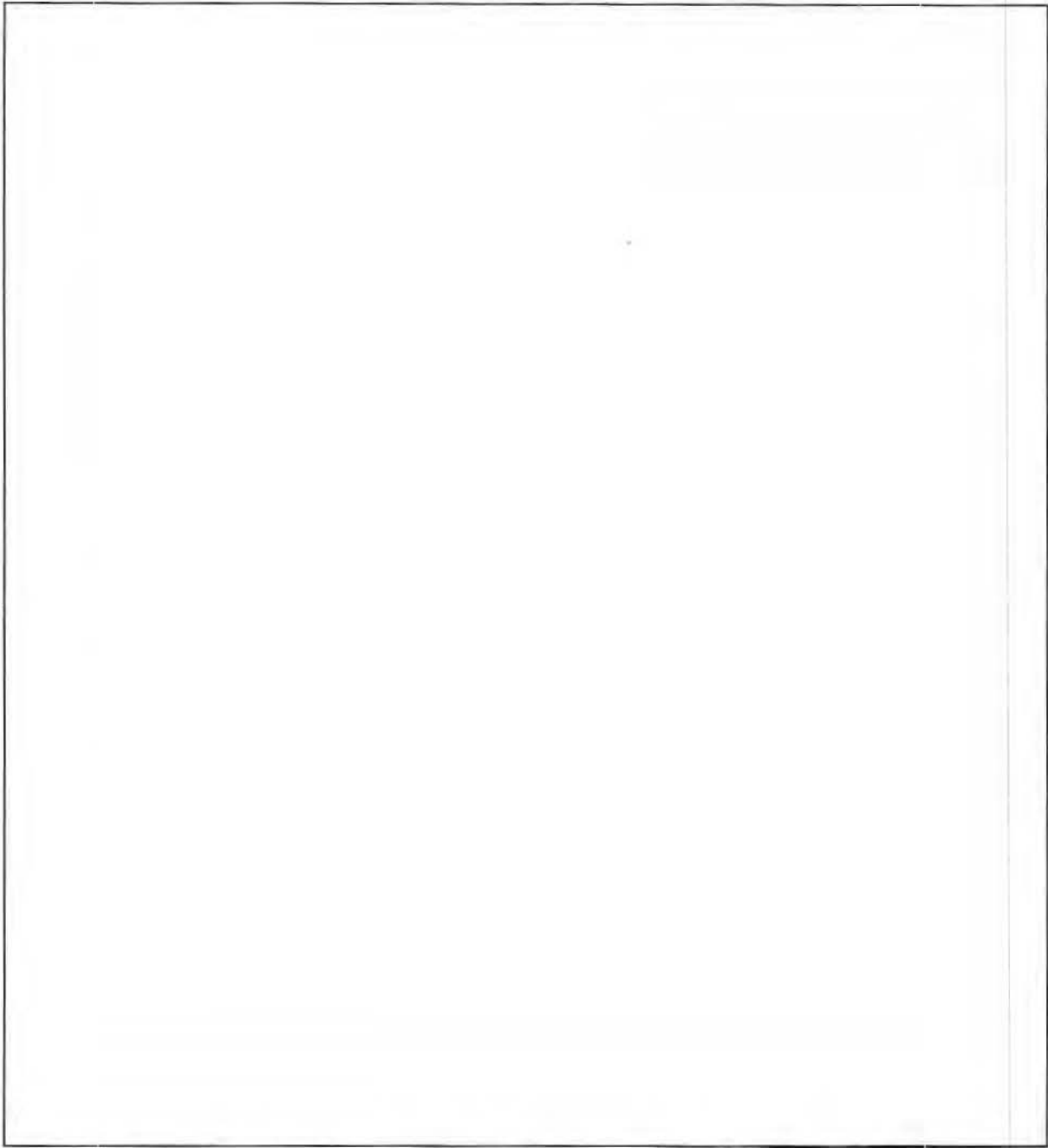
On June 1, Secretary of State Clinton said, "We support in the strongest terms the Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. We support an Israeli investigation that meets those criteria. We are open to different ways of assuring a credible investigation, including international participation, and we will continue to discuss these ideas with the Israelis and our international partners in the days ahead." There are two aspects to an investigation of the flotilla incident – ascertainment of the facts on the ground and evaluation of whether Israel complied with international law with respect to the blockade. (Israel already has prepared and made public its legal justification for establishment and maintenance of the naval blockade under the law of armed conflict and will likely resist a review, even internally, of the legality of the naval blockade. Israel is currently investigating the facts on the ground and reviewing its recent actions in enforcing the blockade.)

Here are some possible models for an Israeli investigation with international participation:

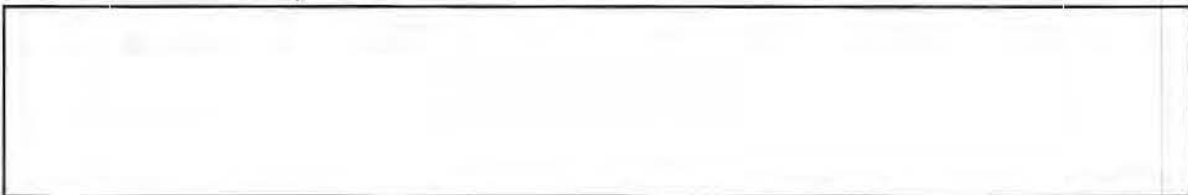
1. Technical Assistance by Third States to Determine the Facts. Given the plethora of conflicting videos as to the facts and general international disinclination to accept the current Israeli version of events, it may be useful for Israel to include international, technical experts in the conduct or evaluation of its investigation.
 - A. International experts could participate in the investigation.



B5



If Israel were to proceed without international involvement, several options are available:



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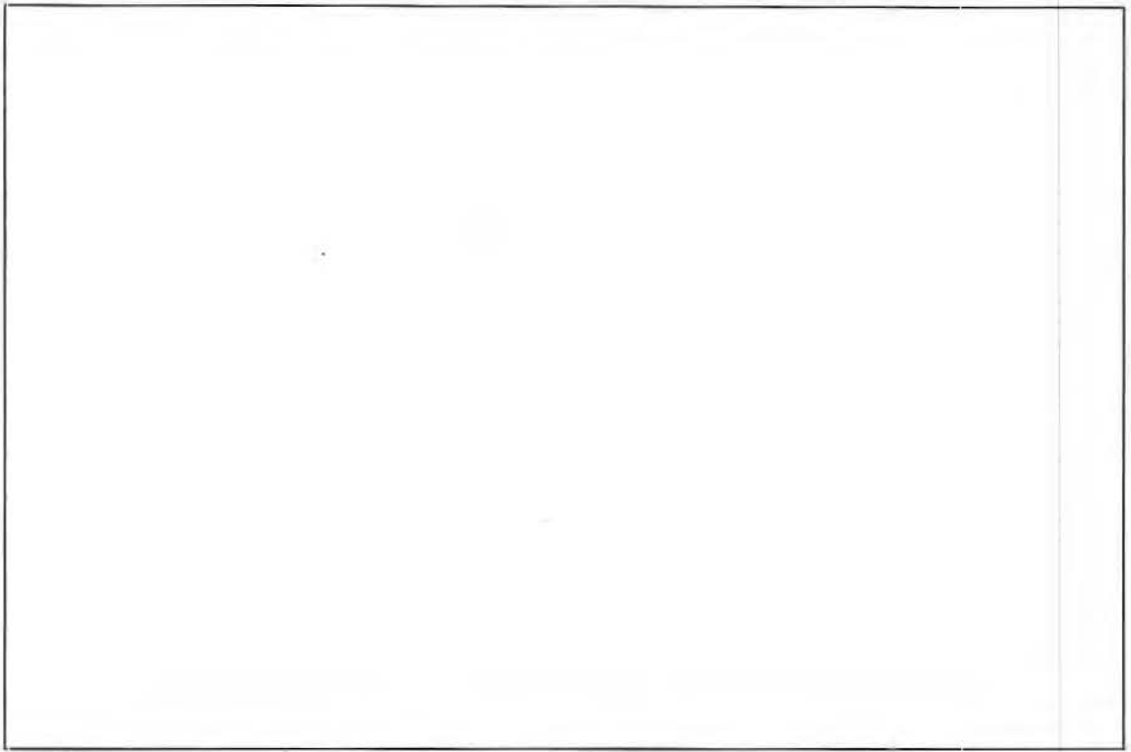
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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov



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UNCLASSIFIED ^{PC} _{6/4/10}

June 4, 2010

NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: PA - Philip J. Crowley

SUBJECT: Public Reaction to the Gaza Flotilla Attack

The office of Public Liaison in the Bureau of Public Affairs received 535 email messages about the Free Gaza Flotilla attack by the close of business on Wednesday June 2. Of the messages, 446 pushed for Secretary Clinton and the Department to condemn Israel and to cut all aid until the Gaza blockade is lifted. Some of the messages expressed the sentiment that the Secretary did not take a strong stance against Israel in her statement on June 1, and that the United States should support an independent investigation of the incident. Approximately 89 messages urged the United States to continue support for Israel, characterizing Israel's action as justifiable defense of its territory.

The Office of Public Liaison also received 331 phone messages on the issue. Approximately 307 callers urged Secretary Clinton to condemn Israel and to advocate for an end to the Gaza Blockade. The other 24 messages urged the United States to continue support of Israel.

Public Affairs will continue to monitor and update as appropriate.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DATE/CASE ID: 31 JAN 2012 201004163

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Approved: PA/FO: PJ Crowley

Drafted: PA/FO – Cheryl Benton, ext. 7-6088

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RELEASED IN FULL

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United States Department of State



Washington, D.C. 20520

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED *W/6/10*

June 4, 2010



INFORMATION MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: NEA – Jeffrey Feltman *myr jr*

SUBJECT: Middle Eastern Media Reaction to Flotilla Incident

Reaction to the Israeli raid of an international, Turkish-led aid flotilla has dominated the Pan-Arab and Israeli media. Arab reaction resoundingly denounces Israel for constantly resorting to violence and the narrative is becoming increasingly critical of U.S. "support" for Israel's actions. Meanwhile, Israeli media has called into question the logic behind the raid, but remains squarely supportive of the Israel Defense Forces and the Gaza blockade. Key media trends include:

- **Pan-Arab media, dominated by coverage of "Israeli Aggression," becoming increasingly critical of the United States:** Coverage of the flotilla incident has dominated the Pan-Arab media since Monday. It has been the top news story on all the 24-hour pan-Arab news networks, and international reaction has been front page news in papers across the region. Turkey's standing in the Arab world has reached new heights, with headlines across the region echoing *Al-Quds Al-Arabi's* coverage of the "the Turkish heroes" and "Martyr's funerals." Commentators on *Al-Jazeera* and other Pan-Arab satellite channels have praised Turkey's bravery in trying to "save Gaza" and many see it as a welcome change from Iran being the major voice and supporter of resistance in the region.
- **Turkey up, moderate Arab regimes down:** While praise for Turkey increases, the rhetoric in the media is squarely against moderate Arab governments. Even though all Arab governments denounced the raid, and Egypt reopened the Rafah crossing, a common theme has been their impotence or even collusion in the face of Israeli aggression. Criticism against the United States is on the rise for "watering down the UN Security Council statement," supporting piracy on the high seas, and, as reported in pan-Arab *Al-Hayat* newspaper, for shielding Israel from the consequences of "international crimes and terrorism."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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- 2 -

- **Flotilla response called latest in string of U.S. policy failures:** A key theme on pan-Arab television is disappointment with the tepid U.S. response and customary support for Israel's security. Commentators remark that the U.S. response is the latest in a long catalogue of U.S. foreign policy failures, demonstrating just how under the thumb of Israel is the United States. A Turkish commentator, writing in the pan-Arab *As-Sharq Al-Awsat* newspaper, noted that Turkey is closely monitoring the U.S. response to "determine what sort of Middle East it will be dealing with in the future by its response to Israel's actions."
- **Israeli media coverage of incident dominates, with public reaction squarely behind Israel Defense Forces (IDF) actions and little apparent introspection from Israeli commentators:** Public opinion remains squarely behind the IDF and its "heroes," though some left-leaning commentators have called into question the tactics used in the raid. The liberal *Haaretz* newspaper connected the incident to U.S. efforts to increase sanctions on Iran at the U.N. noting that the "lethal operation is making it difficult for the U.S. administration to rally a majority in the Security Council." The majority of coverage is supportive of the IDF and newspapers and commentators across the country picked up on PM Netanyahu's comment that the flotilla "was not a love boat."

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Approved: NEA/FO – Jeffrey Feltman
Drafted: NEA/PPD – John Sullivan, ext. 7-9454
NEA/PPD – Erin Pelton, ext 7-4148

Cleared:
NEA/FO – M Connelly ok
D(S) – G Rana ok
D(L) – J Butte-Dahl info by request
P – E Catalano ok
S/P – D Ranz ok
NEA/IPA – J Giauque ok
SEMEP – P Knopf ok
PA/FO – GDuguid ok
NEA/PPD – M Ratney ok
R - A Somerset ok

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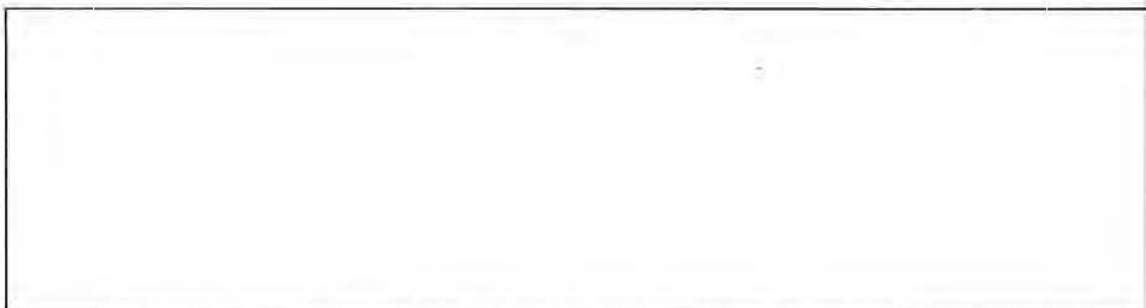
S20



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

Overnight Brief

Monday, July 12, 2010
0530 EDT

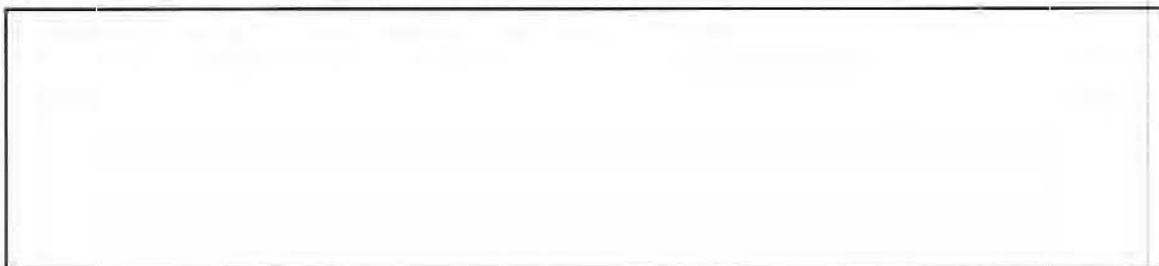


NR

ISRAELI REPORT TO FAULT NAVY OVER FLOTILLA RAID

(SBU) A committee chaired by retired general Eiland will release a report July 12 saying the Israeli navy was unprepared for the flotilla participants' use of force and criticizing military and government actions, media report. Embassy Tel Aviv notes the Eiland committee submitted its findings to the Israeli Defense Force Chief of Staff July 11.

(Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail, Haaretz)



Please see our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov/>

Drafted: AChakravorty

Approved: PMBeekman

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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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ACTION EUR-00

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O 311358Z MAY 10
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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 3 on IHH Flotilla, 4:30 pm Turkey Time

REF: 10 ISTANBUL 195; 10 ISTANBUL 199; 10 ANKARA 772; 10 ANKARA 774
 DE OTALVARO EMAIL OF 31 MAY 10 16:38 TO SES-O

1. (SBU) At 1500 Ambassador Jeffrey and other ambassadors from UN Security Council member states were briefed by the MFA regarding the intervention by the Israeli Military on the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla. Following this, the MFA briefed other groups of ambassadors from (1) the Organization of the Islamic Council member states, (2) EU member states, and (3) all other states. All member states received the same briefing.
2. (SBU) The MFA confirmed that FM Davutoglu is going to New York with the purpose of addressing the UN Security Council today. The Ministry put particular emphasis on calling the intervention a "gross violation of international law," handing out maps to emphasize the location of the intervention. They placed the intervention at 64 nautical miles from the northeast corner of Israel's blockade area of Gaza, which covers 20 square nautical miles from the coastline. The Ministry stressed that it reserves its rights under international law, that this "grave" action should not go without a response, and that a response to the intervention

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 FEB 2012 201004163

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is the responsibility of the entire UNCLASSIFIED community.

3. (SBU) The Ministry also stressed that Israel bears the responsibility for the intervention, which involved an attack on innocent civilians -- including women, children and the elderly -- who were on a humanitarian mission. While Turkey has withdrawn its Ambassador to Israel for consultations, its first priority is to determine the whereabouts and identity of the passengers who were killed or wounded in action, and it would like all of the passengers returned to Turkey as soon as possible. (Note: Withdrawing the ambassador for consultations is less dramatic than recalling him, and does not necessarily require a response from the GOI. End note.)

4. (SBU) The Ministry estimated that the Turkish registered ship that was boarded, the Mavi Marmaris, carried 560 passengers not counting the crew. The majority of those passengers (353) were Turks, though there were also citizens from 43 other nations including Algeria (33 passengers), Jordan (31), the U.K. (28), between 10-20 passengers from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Kuwait, respectively, and 3 U.S. citizens.

JEFFREY

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ACTION EUR-00

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	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OCS-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01
 TAGS: PGOV, PTER, TU, PREL, PINR
 SUBJECT: TERRORIST-TIED IHH CHARITY WINS FLOTILLA PR BATTLE

CLASSIFIED BY: Doug Silliman, DCM, State, Political; REASON: 1.4(B),
 (D)

1. (SBU) Summary. The Foundation for Human Rights, Liberties and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), the charitable group which organized the aid flotilla to Gaza, has largely achieved its goal of drawing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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attention to itself and casting Israel into the role of an oppressor. The IHH has been on the rise for a decade, particularly gaining prominence in its defense first of Bosnians, then Chechens, and now Gazans. Israel designated the organization as a terrorist-supporter in 2008; the organization has had legal problems in the past related to allegations it provides financial and material support to terrorist organizations. End Summary.

2. (C) The IHH flotilla -- flagshipped by the Mavi Marmara, which was stormed by Israeli Defense Forces on May 31 -- achieved a greater success than it bargained for in portraying Israel in as negative a light as possible. The IHH told us before the flotilla set sail that it would either "win" by successfully landing in Gaza to distribute aid, or highlight Israel's intransigence by forming an "artificial island" off the Israeli coast, trying to dominate the world media at least until the World Cup began on July 11. (REF A) They said being boarded would make Israel look "ridiculous."

B1

Past Support of Terrorism?

4. (U) A 2006 report on Islamic charities' support of terrorist organizations written by American terrorism researcher Evan Kohlman and published by the Danish Institute for International Studies discusses details of the IHH's alleged support of terrorist organizations. Turkish authorities raided the Istanbul office in 1997, discovering arms, explosives, instructions for constructing improvised explosive devices, and jihad propaganda material. Documents uncovered in the raid indicated IHH members were either planning to join jihad or were actively facilitating traveling jihadists' efforts to go to Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya. The

Istanbul office's phone records showed "repeated" telephone calls to what was alleged to be an al-Qa'ida guesthouse in Milan, Italy; to various Algerian terrorists in various places in Europe; and to Abd al-Qadr Mukhtari, a jihadist active in Bosnia during the Bosnia war. The report also quotes French authorities that Bulent Yildirim was personally involved in organizing jihadist facilitation.

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5. (U) Following the 1997 raid on their Istanbul offices, the IHH took efforts to protect itself legally from Turkish scrutiny. It registered in Germany as a charitable organization making the bulk of its assets untouchable by Turkish authorities. Bulent Yildirim resigned from formal authority in the organization, although he remained its decision-making and administrative authority; for several years, his son Gokten was President. It appears Bulent

Yildirim is now, once again, officially president. The IHH website is registered in Friesdorf, Germany, keeping it out of the authority of Turkish media monitors. The IHH is represented legally, at least in part, by Osman Karahan, an Istanbul lawyer who also defended the suspects in the 2003 Istanbul bombings and Lu'ay al-Saqa who was found guilty of plotting an attack on an Israeli cruise ship in Turkish waters. Karahan has, himself, been arrested on charges of aiding terrorist organizations.

6. (U) Regarding its ties to HAMAS, IHH has met with senior HAMAS officials in Turkey, Syria, and Gaza over the past three years. HAMAS members attended the launching of the Mavi Marmara out of Istanbul. IHH Deputy President Dede is in damage control mode concerning allegations that passengers on the flotilla attacked Israeli forces first, claiming in the press on May 31 that Israel might "place weapons" on the ship to create a justification for the attack and to paint IHH as a terrorist organization.

But Broadly Popular

7. (SBU) IHH's contact with and seeming support for terrorist organizations is not widely known in Turkish society. In the early 1990s, the organization was only prominent in religious circles. Its advertising and campaigns have always been anodyne, calling for donations to the oppressed people of various Muslim countries, but being vague on the details of who, exactly, would be handling funds and material upon arrival. As a result, the Turkish populace sees it as a supporter of Bosnians, Afghans, Uzbeks, Indonesians, Iraqis, and Palestinians, but is blind to the nuance that some of the groups actually receiving the money use at least part of the funds to perpetuate violent acts. This nuance is especially lost in the Gaza case, because most Turks -- religious and secular -- do not perceive HAMAS to be a terrorist organization.

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8. (SBU) Throughout its existence, IHH has been close to the political religious movement in Turkey. Bulent Yildirim and other IHH staff were frequent guests at events held by the now defunct but religiously conservative Refah and Fazilet parties. Members of these two parties form the core of the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP). It is unlikely that most Turkish politicians are aware of the IHH's contacts with terrorist organizations (other than HAMAS), and would find such allegations incredible and offensive. It is a reasonable assumption that many AKP politicians have donated money to the IHH, assuming it to be a purely charitable organization, making investigations into allegations against the organization politically poisonous.

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Comment

9. (SBU) The IHH appears to have won the PR battle over the flotilla. The Turkish populace is outraged by Israeli actions on the Mavi Marmara, and is staging anti-Israeli protests in Turkey's major cities. The government, the military, and the opposition parties have condemned the Israeli action. Even the respectable secular press is denouncing what it sees as Israeli aggression against innocent charitable workers. In the midst of it all, IHH's profile as a charitable organization defying perceived oppressors is at its highest. Messages coming out of Israel or Washington will meet a jaded public convinced Israel is the aggressor.

JEFFREY

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ACTION NEA-00

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: PM Erdogan Steps Back From The Brink

CLASSIFIED BY: James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

1. (C) Summary and Comment. In a speech to his parliamentary group, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]

Noting he would discuss the Israeli naval forces intervention on the IHH flotilla with President Obama this evening, he denounced anti-Semitism but appealed to Israelis to put pressure on the Netanyahu government to stop resorting to violence. Focusing on concrete measures to get beyond the crisis, he called for the passengers and ships seized to be released immediately and said he sent medical planes to return the wounded passengers. He called for an international response that would include punishing Israel for its attitude, and ending the embargo of Gaza.

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2. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. (U) PM Erdogan, speaking in a meeting of his parliamentary group which was broadcast live, appealed for Turks to remain calm about the intervention by Israeli naval forces on the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla. Stressing that, "with affection and friendship the ships will overcome their obstacles, and reach their destinations," he announced that he would discuss the incident with President Obama this evening. He emphasized that the GOT is opposed to anti-Semitism, and that Jewish Turks are part of the Turkish nation. He also stressed that Turkey had no qualms with the Israeli people. He appealed to them to tell the Netanyahu government it had to stop hurting their country by using violence as a policy, and by "resorting to piracy and acting like bandits."

4. (U) Erdogan reviewed the Israeli naval forces' landing on the Mavi Marmara, calling it a "bloody attack," a "massacre," and "state terrorism." Speaking passionately, he described the ships as loaded "with mercy and compassion," but unable to reach their

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destination because they were "obstructed with arms and tyranny." Erdogan said the "Freedom to Gaza Flotilla" was carrying 600 people - including women, children and religious men - from 32 countries, with humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza. "The illegal Israeli intervention shed the blood of innocent people in international waters," he lamented. He demanded that the ships that had been confiscated be released immediately, and the

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civilians returned. As a sign of Turkey being "capable and strong enough to bring back its own people," he sent two military ambulance planes to the region, who retrieved wounded passengers and are on their way back to Turkey. Reiterating that Turkey's actions were in accordance with international law, he warned Israel that "Turkey is not an inexperienced state. No one should try to test Turkey's patience. Turkey's friendship is invaluable but its animosity is strong. Israel should not make the mistake and think that Turkey is like others. The cost will be heavy."

5. (U) Erdogan called for an international response to the intervention, describing the incident as one that dealt "one of the heaviest wounds in human history to the conscience of humanity," that should compel the international community to say "this is enough." He appealed to Israel to "stop making mistakes," admit that it had made a mistake and inform the international community correctly. The international community, for its part, should respond to this threat to international peace, which contravened the UN's basic philosophy, and punish Israel for its attitude. He said that a statement denouncing the incident is not enough, that it should support its decision and compel Israel to end the embargo in Gaza. He called on the UN to investigate the incident rather than wait for Israel to investigate it, and said Turkey would follow this request and use all means of international law and diplomacy to bring a resolution to the incident.

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ORIGIN SSO-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AIT-00	AMAD-00	AOP-00
	AEX-00	AS-00	A-00	RPPR-00	ACQ-00	CA-00	COME-00
	CCOE-00	INL-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	MEDE-00	EAP-00
	DHSE-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00
	FOE-00	DIAS-00	FSI-00	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	ARMY-00	MFLO-00	MMP-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	CDC-00
	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00
	OPR-00	PC-01	PER-00	PM-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	IRM-00	SS-00	MR-00	DPM-00	T-00	FMP-00	R-00
	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	G-00	ALM-00	SCA-00
	SAS-00	FA-00	SRAP-00	PMA-00	SWCI-00	SNKP-00	/001R

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SOURCE: DISKETTE.070524

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APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:SLDONER

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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JICPAC PEARL HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

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CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USJFCOM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

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HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP SITUATION
REPORT NO. 3

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv expects to visit shortly the nine American citizens detained on June 1. We have no reports of any deaths or serious injuries involving American citizens on the flotilla, although one was injured while taking part in a protest in Jerusalem and has been hospitalized. No additional Americans have been deported. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

ADDITIONAL FREE GAZA SHIP EN ROUTE

2. (SBU) A final ship in the flotilla, the Cambodian-flagged MV Rachel Corrie, is traveling through the Mediterranean from Ireland. It is anticipated the ship will approach Gaza June 3. The Israeli government has not determined how it will respond.

MAJORITY OF PASSENGERS NOW IN ISRAELI DETENTION

3. (U) Approximately 480 passengers are now in Israeli detention and 48 have been deported to their home countries. (jpost.com)

ISRAELI ARABS CALL GENERAL STRIKE

4. (U) Israeli Arab leaders have called for a general strike, which is expected to impact many communities in the north of Israel. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. (U) The UN Security Council adopted a Presidential

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Statement that expresses deep regret for loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza." The statement requests a prompt investigation by Israel and the immediate release of the detainees and ships. (MGGZ01/USUN e-mail)

6. (SBU) The UN Human Rights Council convened a general debate at 0400 EDT to discuss the Israeli response to the flotilla. (MGGZ01/USUN Geneva e-mail)

7. (SBU) At Turkey's request, the North Atlantic Council will meet at 0830 EDT in Brussels. They may seek a statement along the lines of the UNSC statement. (MGGZ01/USNATO telcon)

WASHINGTON MEETINGS WITH FM DAVUTOGLU

8. (SBU) Both Secretary Clinton and NSA Jones will meet with Turkish FM Davutoglu June 1, following his arrival from New York. (MGGZ01/Turkey Desk e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

9. (SBU) Palestinian Territories: Small demonstrations are occurring throughout the West Bank and Gaza. (Jerusalem 922)

10. (U) Australia: PM Rudd condemned "any use of violence under the sorts of circumstances we have seen" and called for the lifting of the blockade of Gaza. (abc.net.au)

11. (U) China: The Chinese Foreign Ministry expressed shock at the Israeli attack and urged Israel to seriously implement UN Security Council resolutions and improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. (chinadaily.com.cn)

12. (U) Pakistan: President Zardari issued a statement describing the incident as "brutal and inhuman." (dailytimes.com.pk)

13. (U) Minimize considered.
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ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	RPPR-00
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	DIAS-00	OBO-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00
	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	CAEX-00
	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	USSS-00	VO-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00
	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
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 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 001495

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MAY 29- JUNE 01, 2010

Summary: Coverage of the Israeli attack on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters dominated headlines in all newspapers on Tuesday morning. All dailies reported that a well-known Pakistan journalist Talat Hussain and two other Pakistanis who were onboard one of the ships are safe but their whereabouts are unknown. Newspapers carried front page reports of the Monday night attack on Lahore's Jinnah Hospital believed to be a "bid to free [an] arrested terrorist injured in [the] attack on Ahmedis" last Friday. Ambassador Patterson's meeting with Foreign Secretary Bashir, were carried in all major English and Urdu newspapers. Newspapers reported her statement that "the case of Dr.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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Aafia Siddiqui is still in the courts and therefore discussions of future plans are premature," and that she urged the Foreign Ministry to expedite travel documents for Pakistani nationals awaiting deportation. Almost all major dailies recycled a "New York Times" report that the United States is increasing pressure on Pakistan to provide more information on airline passengers as part of its efforts to combat terrorism. The U.S. Embassy's press release denying the violation of Pakistan airspace by the U.S. aircraft near Landikotal was also published. Media also covered a report that the fee for nonimmigrant U.S. visa applications has increased to 140 dollars. Both electronic and print media reported that the Lahore High Court has lifted the ban on Facebook with a strict warning against any future acts of blasphemy.

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Weekend editions carried Admiral Mullen's statement that he is more focused on Pakistani cooperation to contain the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan than weighing military action against militant targets in that country in retaliation for a terror attack. The Sunday editions of almost all mainstream dailies published a "Washington Post" report on their front pages that U.S. military planners are looking at options for a "unilateral strike" in Pakistan if a successful attack on U.S. soil is traced to the tribal areas." Both newspapers and TV networks reported that the U.S. Mission in Pakistan has strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Lahore on Friday.

The Gaza-bound aid flotilla incident dominated editorial themes in Monday's newspapers. In its editorial titled, "Under a dark flag," "The News," observed that "This monstrous outrage has caught the world's attention and once again put the spotlight on the activities of a state that has been a law unto itself for most of its life," however, "The Nation," wrote in its article, "Depraved, brutal, illegal," that "it seems quite significant that the Americans could not hit upon stronger words than 'deeply regret' the loss of life, with the Obama Administration 'currently working to understand the circumstances surrounding this tragedy.'" The Urdu daily "Khabrain," in its editorial, "Rein Israel in," noted that "If the U.S. has permitted Israel to engage in terrorism, it should not have any objection to Al Qaeda and the Taliban as it is in reaction to the Israeli and American terrorist acts that the Taliban and Al Qaeda are responding." "Dawn," wrote in its editorial "Murder most foul," that "Save condemnations from around the world, one can reasonably be sure Israel will face no material consequences for this brutality on the seas." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Israel Storms Gaza Aid Fleet, 19 Killed - "Daily Times"
(06/01)

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"Israeli navy commandos stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters on Monday, killing up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists in a raid that sparked global outrage."

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News Story: Journalist Talat And Other Pakistanis Are Safe - "Dawn" (06/01)

"TV journalist Talat Hussain and two other Pakistanis who were onboard a ship that Israeli commandos stormed in international waters on Monday are reported to be safe but their whereabouts are not known. An official statement issued after Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani made a telephone call to the wife of Talat Hussain said that Interpol had informed the government that the journalist was in 'safe hands'."

News Story: Audacious Attack Follows Strike On Ahmadis: Terrorists Fail To Reach Comrade In Lahore Hospital - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Terrorists targeted Lahore's Jinnah Hospital on Monday midnight to 'free or kill' their fellow, who was injured in Friday's attack on

Ahmadis' worship place in Model Town, leaving at least five persons dead and six injured. Some 10 Ahmadis and terrorist Moaz alias Amir Moavia were under treatment in the hospital when the terror attack took place at around 11.45pm."

News Story: Terrorists Attack Jinnah Hospital, Attack Considered Bid To Free Arrested Terrorist Who Was Injured In Attack On Ahmedis "Daily Times" (06/01)

"At least five people, including a woman, were killed when at least four unidentified terrorists stormed various wards of Lahore's Jinnah Hospital late on Monday night. Reports said the attack was an attempt to free a terrorist, who was under treatment at the hospital after being arrested following Friday's attacks on a Ahmedis' prayer facility in Model Town's C-block."

News Story: Too Early To Predict Aafia's Future, Says Patterson - "Daily Times," "Dawn," "The News," "Jang," "Ausaf," "Islam," "Jinnah," "Pakistan," "Nawa-e-Waqt," (06/01)

"US Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W Patterson said on Monday that it would be too early to discuss the future of Dr Aafia Siddiqui as the case was still in the court, a statement said on Monday. 'Dr Siddiqui has not yet been sentenced and also has the right to appeal her conviction - so the US legal process is not yet concluded,' the US ambassador said during a meeting with Foreign Affairs Secretary Salman Bashir."

News Story: US Seeks FO Help In Repatriation Of '300 Pakistanis' -

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"Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times," (06/01) UNCLASSIFIED

"American Ambassador Anne Patterson has sought the help of Foreign Office for expeditious repatriation of 300 detainees, believed to be Pakistanis, facing deportation from the United States. At a meeting with Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir on Monday, Ambassador Patterson asked Islamabad to immediately provide travel documents to the Pakistanis so that they could be repatriated."

News Story: US Seeks More Information About Travelers - "Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times," (06/01)

"The Obama administration is increasing pressure on Pakistan to provide the United States with much broader airline passenger information, a crucial tool that American investigators use to track terrorist travel patterns, but a step that Pakistan has resisted, the New York Times reported on Monday."

News Story: Correction For The Record: U.S. Aircraft - "Express," "Nawa-e-Waqt," "Islam," (06/01)

"Two daily national newspapers published articles today claiming that U.S. aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace on Sunday near Landikotal Tehsil in the Khyber Agency. This accusation is entirely false. No U.S. aircraft flew over the Khyber Agency as alleged in the articles."

News Story: Nonimmigrant Visa Application Fees to Increase June 4 - "Nawa-e-Waqt," "Ausaf," "Islam," "Mashriq," "Jinnah," "Pakistan," (06/01)

"On June 4, 2010, all U.S. Consular Sections worldwide will introduce new application fees for nonimmigrant visas. For most visas, including those for temporary visitors and students, the application fee will increase from \$131 to \$140."

News Story: Court Lifts Facebook Ban - "Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times," "The Nation," (06/01)

"A judge of the Lahore High Court allowed on Monday conditional access to Facebook, a social networking website, with a strict warning against any future act of blasphemy. A 12-day-old ban on the website was lifted after the Ministry of Information Technology gave an assurance that no blasphemous material would be allowed to be shown on it."

News Story: Al-Qaeda Leadership In Pakistan: Mullen - "The News" (05/31)

"Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on

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Sunday he is more focused on Pakistani cooperation to contain the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan than weighing military action

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against militant targets in that country in retaliation for a terror attack in the US emanating from there. Mullen, appearing on Fox News Sunday program, said he was pleased with the increase in Pakistani military success against militants along the Afghan border."

News Story: US Mulls Unilateral Pakistan Strikes, US Military Officials Say Strike Will Only Be Considered Under Extreme Circumstances - "Daily Times" (05/30)

"US military planners are looking at options for a unilateral strike in Pakistan, if a successful attack on US soil is traced to the Tribal Areas, The Washington Post reported late on Friday. US retaliation would be contemplated only under extreme circumstances, unnamed senior military officials told the Post."

News Story: U.S. Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Lahore - "The News," "Business Recorder," "Jang," "Express," "Nawa-e-Waqt," (05/29)

"The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attacks today at Garhi Shahu and Model Town, Lahore. U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson said 'cowardly assaults on people at prayer are attacks against people of all faiths.'"

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Obama, Netanyahu Meeting Cancelled After Israeli Attack - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday cancelled his meeting with US President Barack Obama and rushed back home from Canada to deal with the aftermath of an Israeli military action that killed up to 19 international aid workers. Also on Monday, President Obama expressed "deep regret" over the loss of life in the attack on the aid ships."

News Story: Nation Denounces Israeli Barbarsim On Relief Workers - "The News" (06/01)

"Entire Pakistani nation on Monday stood together against use of force by Israeli army against 'Freedom Flotilla' the humanitarian mission launched to deliver aid to Palestinian in Gaza in which 20 people have lost their precious life."

News Story: At Least Nine Activists Killed: Israeli Commandos Storm Aid Fleet - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Israeli navy commandos stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on Monday

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killing at least nine pro-Palestinian activists in a pre-dawn raid that sparked global outrage and plunged the Jewish state into a diplomatic crisis. The bloody ending to the high-profile aid mission plunged the Jewish state's already troubled relations with Turkey into crisis, with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu saying that UNCLASSIFIED Israel had lost all international legitimacy."

News Story: US 'Regrets' Deaths In Israeli Raid On Aid Flotilla - "Daily Times" (06/01)

"The US 'deeply regrets' the loss of life during an Israeli raid on an aid convoy to the Gaza Strip and is looking into the details of the incident, the White House said on Monday. "The United States deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries sustained and is currently working to understand the circumstances surrounding this tragedy," White House spokesman Bill Burton said in a statement."

News Story: Taseer Wants Stern Action Against Banned Outfits - "Daily Times" (06/01)

"Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer said that the Punjab government must ensure zero tolerance towards banned religious outfits, suggesting that leniency would embolden them."

News Story: Diplomatic Efforts For Recovery Of Pakistanis Launched - "Daily Times" (06/01)

"Pakistan on Monday asked for the US government's immediate intervention in the matter regarding the recovery of Pakistani nationals who were aboard Freedom Flotilla. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters that he had telephoned US special representative Richard Holbrooke on the issue of recovery of Talat Hussain, executive director of a private TV channel."

News Story: Israel In Eye Of Storm Over Siege - "The Nation" (06/01)

"Israel's allies froze military ties and summoned its ambassadors Monday over the storming of an aid flotilla bound for Gaza, as Muslim leaders slammed the deadly raid as "criminal" and 'inhuman'. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was "shocked" by the Israeli navy's assault on a convoy carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists, lawmakers and journalists through international waters towards besieged Gaza."

News Story: Israel Faces Worldwide Condemnation - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Israel faced a wave of global outrage over the storming of Gaza-bound aid ships on Monday, as key ally Turkey froze military

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ties, Muslim leaders demanded UN action and protests erupted in many countries. UN chief Ban Ki-moon said he was "shocked" by the naval assault on a convoy carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists through international waters, while capitals across Europe summoned Israel's ambassadors."

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News Story: Zardari Earns Friend Reprieve From Agencies - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Personal intervention of President Asif Ali Zardari led to the return of his close friend and prominent businessman Riaz Laljee, who was allegedly picked up by intelligence operatives early on Sunday morning soon after his return from Dubai, it has been reliably learnt."

News Story: Terrorists Sent To Target PM House - "The Nation" (06/01)

"Three high-profile terrorists have reportedly been sent from the tribal areas to target the Prime Minister's House situated in the Federal Capital, police sources said. According to reliable sources, Punjab-based intelligence agencies informed the Islamabad Capital Territory Police that three high-profile terrorists could target the Prime Minister House by carrying suicide attacks."

News Story: Security Issues Discussed- "Dawn" (06/01)

"Chief of the Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani called on Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani here on Monday and exchanged views with him on security situation in the country."

News Story: 42 Killed In Orakzai Air Attacks- "Dawn" (06/01)

"Forty-two militants were killed and 18 others injured in air strikes on suspected positions in Orakzai on Monday. Officials said military planes and helicopters targeted seven places in Ghelju, Toorkani and Mamozai areas of Dabori."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: US Seeks To Balance India's Role In Afghanistan- "Daily Times" (06/01)

"The Obama administration is grappling with how to balance India's role in Afghanistan as it thinks Pakistan also jostles for influence there ahead of Washington's planned troop withdrawal to start in mid-2011. US strategy in Afghanistan is set to be included on the agenda in the US-India talks this week in Washington - with Delhi seeking clarity over rival Pakistan's role, particularly in reconciliation plans with the Taliban."

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News Story: Pakistani Law Fuels Hatred Of Ahmadis, Says UN -
"Dawn" (06/01)

"Official discrimination in Pakistan against the Ahmadi sect fuels hatred of the community and prompts violent attacks against them, according to three UN human rights investigators. In a statement issued by the United Nations in Geneva on Monday following deadly bombings last Friday of two Ahmadi worship places in Lahore, the three said the authorities had failed to head off the attacks despite many signs that they were coming."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: VAT Being Opposed By The Rich: PM's Adviser - "Dawn"
(06/01)

"The Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, claimed here on Monday that those who possessed wealth and did not want to be brought into the tax net were the main opponents of Value Added Tax (VAT), which was likely to be imposed from July 1."

News Story: Petroleum Prices Reduced - "Dawn" (06/01)

"The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority reduced on Monday the prices of petroleum products by up to 8 per cent for the month of June, following a decline in crude rates in Gulf markets."

News Story: Pakistan, India Close To Deal On 2 Power Projects-
"Daily Times" (06/01)

"India and Pakistan are close to an agreement on two power projects coming up in Indian-held Kashmir, which have been a major bone of contention between the two countries over the past two years. Confirming that a consensus had evolved on the 250 megawatts Uri-II power project on Jehlum River, Pakistan Indus Commissioner Jamaat Ali Shah told Daily Times that the issue was dealt with in the 'spirit of cooperation and as a gesture of goodwill'."

News Story: Water Level In Hunza Lake Reaches 370 Feet - "The
Nation" (06/01)

"Assistant Commissioner Hunza said water level in Attaabad lake has reached to 370 feet while, the outflow from the spillway was recorded as 400 cusecs. According to details, Assistant Commissioner Hunza Zamir Abbas brushed aside the possibility of lake burst and said water outflow is 70 cusecs per second. He said that water flow is at speed of 200 cusecs from base of the lake. He said that helicopters are monitoring the whole situation."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

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Editorial: Under A Dark Flag an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"This monstrous outrage has caught the world's attention and once again put the spotlight on the activities of a state that has been a law unto itself for most of its life... This inhuman use of force in international waters on a flotilla made up of three cargo ships and three elderly passenger ferries is well-deserving of the condemnation of it delivered by Foreign Minister Qureshi. We hope that those of Pakistani origin find their way safely home and we also hope that none of them are among the dead and injured. Today, the civilized world stands aghast at what Israel have done, and we add our voice to the condemnation of what many will understand as state terrorism."

Editorial: Depraved, Brutal, Illegal, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/01)

"The brutal attack on the six-ship flotilla, carrying 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid and 600 passengers, for the Palestinian Gazans who have been besieged for the past three years, is just one more instance of Israel's rank depravity that, nevertheless, would hardly have surprised anyone in the international community. Much before the Jewish state was thrust upon the Palestinians and usurped their land, the forerunners of the waves of settlers acted like marauding hordes, killing and plundering, destroying and expropriating the lands and properties of local inhabitants. And since the state machinery at Tel Aviv assumed the executioner's role and powerful political forces in the world carry a dead conscience that tradition of open acts of inhumanity has flourished."

Editorial: Rein Israel In, an editorial note in the Lahore-based center-right populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (06/01)

"According to reports, Israel has attacked the Freedom Flotilla taking assistance for Palestinians in Gaza strip, killing 20 people, and taking the rest hostage... The question is: can the U.S., which is at war against terrorism, not see this terrorism by Israel? Have Obama and Hillary Clinton closed their eyes to Israeli deeds? Can't they see the atrocities taking place against the Palestinians? If the U.S. has permitted Israel to engage in terrorism, it should not have any objection to Al Qaeda and the Taliban as it is in reaction to the Israeli and American terrorist acts that the Taliban and Al Qaeda are responding."

Editorial: Murder Most Foul an editorial-note in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

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"Given the nonchalance with which the Israeli military sheds civilian blood regularly as a matter of policy, one shouldn't be shocked by the grim drama that rocked the ships carrying aid and relief workers to the Gaza Strip on Monday morning. Israeli forces boarded the vessels and killed a number of passengers, even though the flotilla carried nothing but relief goods. While Turkey condemned the cold-blooded murder on board and said Israel would have to 'endure the consequences' of this crime, all an Israeli minister could do was to utter regrets. The angry reaction by Greta Berlin, spokeswoman for the Free Gaza Movement, which had organized the aid flotilla, was telling: 'Do they think because they can attack Palestinians indiscriminately, they can attack anyone?' Yes, Israel can attack anyone - and get away with it. It has murdered several UN peacekeepers, western aid workers and journalists, and American student Rachel Corrie died when an Israeli bulldozer flattened her. The crime has largely remained unknown to the American public. . . . Save condemnations from around the world, one can reasonably be sure Israel will face no material consequences for this brutality on the seas"

Editorial: Israeli Attack On Aid Caravan For Gaza Hostages, an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (06/01)

"We don't know how the international community would treat Israel after the attack on an aid caravan which was carrying the most and much-needed amenities of life for the hapless Palestinians held hostage in the Gaza Strip. We don't expect anything good from the rulers of the Muslim countries, but we do appeal the people of these countries to exert pressure on their governments to join hands in order to put an end to the Israeli aggression against Palestinians. We urge the Muslim rulers to strongly protest against this naked aggression and boycott Israel."

Editorial: Israeli Action In Gaza, And U.S. Plan To Attack Pakistan: Is It Still Not Time For The Ummah To Awaken?, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (06/01)

"In violation of international laws Israel attacked vessel, Freedom Flotilla, taking aid to Gaza as a result on which at least 20 people were killed and over 50 were injured. . . . Israeli act of depriving Gaza of the aid and killing of those onboard the vessel is not just condemnable; it is rather a time for the formation of an Islamic bloc. Incidentally, Turkey and Iran are in favor of such an alliance with Turkey being the latest victim of the fresh Israel attack. . . . Is not it possible for the Pakistani Parliament to fulfill the dream of an Islamic bloc. . . . And if not then these atrocious anti-Muslim forces are bent upon destroying the Muslim Ummah."

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Editorial: The Strike Scenario, an editorial-note in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The pressure is on Islamabad again after just a few months of relative respite. Pentagon officials have been quoted as saying that a unilateral strike on Pakistan could be considered if a terrorist attack on US soil is linked back to it. . . . recent comments from Washington indicate that terrorism remains an issue that continues to dominate thinking. Islamabad needs to engage in some serious thinking on the issue. It must determine what it can do to remove from its territory the bases that promote terror. There is no denying the fact that these exist. Militants captured in Lahore following the attack on Ahmedi places of worship have again pointed fingers in the direction of North Waziristan as the place where they were trained. Centres exist too in other places. We need to ensure that the US never considers the action it has threatened by targeting them ourselves. More than anything else, it is such action that would send out the clearest signal to people everywhere of Pakistan's determination to protect its own sovereignty. This is something we need to lay out before Washington as well as our own people. Threats are not acceptable. But to stop them we must demonstrate that we are ourselves capable of taking on militants and that we possess both the means and the fortitude to do so for the sake of the citizens of our own country who have fallen in their thousands to terrorists."

Editorial: Potential Threats To Pakistan's Security, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (06/01)

"The announcement of U.S. President Barack Obama has validated our concerns regarding the threats to Pakistan's security. In this scenario, it is high time for all political and religious parties and the national institutions to join hands to ensure the protection of the country. It seems that the Pak-U.S. relations have entered a very critical phase therefore our national leadership needs to adopt a very prudent and far-sighted approach to tackle this situation."

Editorial: Punjab's Militants an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The attacks on Lahore's Ahmadi community constitute further proof that the city is firmly in the crosshairs of extremists who find no act of murder or mayhem too foul. With every fresh attack it becomes clearer that the extremism problem is being grown in the province itself. An increasing body of evidence points to the fact that proscribed organizations including the Lashkar-i-Jhangvi,

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Sipah-i-Sahaba and Lashkar-i-Taiba continue to operate out of southern Punjab. What's more, they are swelling their ranks with members of other militant groups who are on the run from areas such as Swat and Waziristan. . . . Emergency response plans, and intelligence-gathering and sharing networks must be created in anticipation of coordinated law enforcement action. The state must move against southern Punjab's terrorist cells before the situation worsens further."

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Editorial: Roots Of Terrorism, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/01)

"Interior Minister Rehman Malik, on his visit to Lahore on Sunday, referred to the roots of the Punjabi Taliban as lying in Balochistan and FATA. He failed to connect the situation in Balochistan with that in FATA, but clearly to some extent one common trait is the marginalization of the people in both these areas by the state over the decades. It is unfortunate that the government is totally unable or unwilling to see the writing on the wall regarding the growth of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan. Had they been less blinded by US lures, they would realize that one of the major causes of post-9/11 terrorism in Pakistan has been the US policies in this region - which are increasingly revealing their anti-Muslim character."

Editorial: Terrorists In South Punjab, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (06/01)

"It seems that the terrorist attacks have become the most powerful tool for the anti-Pakistan forces to destabilize our country. The deadly incidents of Lahore provide a clear evidence that this monster has managed to spread its tentacles to South Punjab. The intelligence agencies' reports also show that the terrorist outfits have established their foothold in this area. We think that the time has come for our ruling elites to address the root causes of terrorism and take immediate and effective steps to arrest the rapid growth of this menace. . . ."

Editorial: Terrorism In Punjab, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The recent statement by Interior Minister, Rehman Malik, that the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is involved in the Friday's terrorist attacks in Lahore needs to be supplemented by irrefutable evidence which can be presented in a court of law to incriminate this organization. We think that it would be too early to hold the TTP responsible for the Lahore terrorist attacks unless and until it is proven guilty of this crime. We are no sympathizers of this organization, but any allegation without concrete evidence would

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provide the Americans a justification to raise a finger against Pakistan or take some action on their own."

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Editorial: The Term Punjabi Taliban, And Intention To Launch Operation, an editorial in the Urdu daily "Waqt" (circ. 5000) (06/01)

"Our entire country is engulfed in terrorism, and the U.S. is talking about a unilateral strike. U.S. Admiral Mike Mullen's statement also confirms this U.S. plan. He has said that the Al Qaeda leadership is present in Pakistan, and added that more than action in Pakistan he is looking towards cooperation from Islamabad. This latest statement by Admiral Mullen is symbolic of U.S. double standards, a U.S. norm for several years."

Editorial: A Report Published In The U.S. Media, an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (circ. 5000) (06/01)

"The U.S. intentions disclosed in the Washington Post will not eventually produce positive results for Pakistan... The Pakistan government should prepare to hold a direct dialogue with the U.S. officials to avoid a major [U.S.] offensive, and try to inform the Obama administration what our priorities are as a sovereign independent country, and how far we can go to defend ourselves."

Editorial: Military Operation In North Waziristan, And The U.S., an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (06/01)

"A press report quoting diplomatic sources has said that in principal Pakistan has decided to take action against those of the militants' hideouts in North Waziristan and other areas which will be allude to by the Americans.... It is believed that whether the operation in is North Waziristan or any other location the public reaction against it will be severe. The question of the country's sovereignty and national honor will push the issue of terrorism in the background. In view of the fact it is imperative for Pakistan not to allow Americans attack on North Waziristan and other areas.... America and its western allies should provide funding for development in the tribal areas. This is the effective way for ending extremism in the region."

Editorial: U.S. Should Think Before Operation In Pakistan, an editorial in the Lahore-based center-right populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (06/01)

"According to U.S. media reports, the U.S. has conducted a dry run for a ground assault on Pakistan in case another incident like the Times Square were to happen... The fact is that the U.S. is finding

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excuses to prolong its stay in Afghanistan. Even American analysts have admitted that the U.S. is not withdrawing from Afghanistan due to its interests there, as it is only through this country that it can monitor the Middle East, Central Asia and China. The U.S. should really think hard before interfering in Pakistan because this action could have dangerous consequences. The Pakistani nation will not tolerate the killing of their compatriots."

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Editorial: A United Fight, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/01)

". . . . It is imperative that the government, intelligence services and military establishment all stop assuming that some parts of the country are safe from terrorism as we are now caught in a countrywide all out war against the militants. If the terrorists can find the will to collaborate for their long-term goals, we must come together to share resources, intelligence and logistical support to eliminate the threat they pose. . . ."

Opinion: Terrorism & The Economy , an op-ed by Shahid Javed Burki in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The latest incident of attempted terrorism in the United States which has links with Pakistan has administered another blow to our economy. The reference here of course is to the attempt by Faisal Shahzad, a 30-year-old American citizen of Pakistani origin, who attempted to detonate a bomb in Manhattan's Times Square. . . . Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy, which has been extensively praised by American generals, is now coming apart at the seams - all because of North Waziristan. What is the connection between the perception that Pakistan has become the centre of international terrorism and the country's economic recovery? The most important link is via Pakistan's dependence on external capital flows for its economic survival. Of the many types of flows Pakistan depends on, at least three would be seriously affected by the growing apprehension that most acts of terrorism."

Opinion: The Looming Twin Offensives, an op-ed by Rahimullah Yusufzai in the populist, often sensational national English daily

"The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The US military commanders would prefer coordinated offensives by the Nato forces and Pakistani army on both sides of the Durand Line around the same time, in a bid to squeeze the militants out and stop their cross-border infiltration and escape. . . ."

Opinion: The Tide Of Bigotry, an op-ed by Zafar Hilaly in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir.

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"After the carnage of Lahore and the threat of the Taliban to visit similar destruction on the other minorities in Pakistan, including the 25 per cent of the population who are Shias, unease, nay fear, is rife. Rumours corroborated by foreign sources reveal that the population of Hindus in Pakistan has declined, not because they have stumbled upon some magic birth-control potion, but because they are fleeing the country. Similarly, Christians are terrified that some bigot or the other might report them for blasphemy, a charge which the police are reluctant to rebut and magistrates terrified to dismiss. The nagging feeling that the government has already lost the battle against extremism has now acquired the force of conviction. . . . With the government unable to protect them, the minorities have two options either to bow to the inevitable and accept their fate while power inexorably flows into the hands of overt or closet fundos; or to protect themselves by any means that they can. And this can have dangerous consequences. There is still time for the federation not only to act and stop the rising tide of bigotry, but also to reverse it."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

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ORIGIN SS-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AIT-00	AMAD-00	AOP-00
	AEX-00	AS-00	A-00	RPPR-00	ACQ-00	CA-00	COME-00
	CCOE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	MEDE-00	EAP-00	EUR-00
	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	FSI-00
	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	MFLO-00	MMP-00
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	CDC-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00
	ISN-00	OCS-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	OPR-00	PC-01	PER-00
	PM-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	MR-00	DPM-00
	T-00	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	FMP-00	R-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00
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DRAFTED BY: MGG201: KHRELICH -- 05/31/2010; 202-736-4958

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O: JGOLDBERG

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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JICPAC PEARL HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE

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CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

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CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR,
AMGT, IS, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 2

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv has not yet made contact with any of the AmCits, though the MFA should provide consular access the morning of June 1.
2. (SBU) Only half of the passengers on the MAVI MARMARA were identified and some names were provided to the MFA.
3. (SBU) A former U.S. ambassador aboard one of the ships seized is reportedly fine and on his way home, likely to arrive in NYC on June 1, his wife said. Edward Peck, 81, of Chevy Chase, Md., was a former U.S. ambassador to Mauritania. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION UPDATE

4. (SBU) USUN reports that a draft text is circulating amongst a small group - Lebanon, Turkey, and United States - but it was leaked by Turkey or Lebanon to the Israelis and Palestinians, complicating negotiations. Turkey wants a Presidential Statement. USUN seeks to negotiate the language in the text and SC consultations remain suspended. (MGGZ01/USUN e-mail)

U.S. STATEMENT TO UNSC

5. (SBU) Deputy PermRep Wolff addressed an emergency session of the UNSC stating that the United States is "deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved." Wolff noted that "we are working to ascertain the facts" and that the United States expects a "credible and transparent investigation." Wolff reiterated the United States is concerned about the situation in

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Gaza and we continue to engage with Israel to address the full range of humanitarian and recovery needs and this situation underscores need to move ahead with negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region. (MGGZ01/USUN e-mail)

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QUARTET STATEMENT

6. (SBU) Following a Quartet envoys' conference call and interagency concurrence, a draft statement was circulated for review. The Quartet plans to issue the statement after a second envoys' call scheduled for 0900 EDT June 1. The draft statement mirrors Deputy PermRep Wolff's earlier comments before the UNSC and also notes that the only viable solution to the conflict is negotiations between the parties toward realization of the two-state solution. (MGGZ01/SEMPEP e-mail)

LINK TO PEACE EFFORTS

7. (SBU) NEA ambassadors will deliver demarches to host governments, asking that the Arab League meetings scheduled this week to discuss the Gaza flotilla not result in the withdrawal of Arab support for proximity talks. (MGGZ01/SEMPEP e-mail)

8. (U) Additional updates are available through our Intellipedia portal on the unclassified system at:
http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010.

9. (U) Minimize considered.
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ACTION NEA-00

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	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	MCC-00	PER-00	GIWI-00
	DOHS-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00
	ECA-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	NEAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00
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STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/ARP (CSULLIVAN), AND NEA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAO, AE

SUBJECT: "Freedom Flotilla" Lights Up Headlines in UAE

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: In separate June 1 statements, UAE President Sheikh Khalifa and FM Sheikh Abdullah condemned Israeli actions against the "Freedom Flotilla" manned by international activists sailing for Gaza. These statements reflect, in part, very strong public sentiment regarding Israeli actions and are designed to stay ahead of that opinion. Street protests, however, are unlikely. Articles and editorials covered official and unofficial responses to Israel's seizure of the vessels, all condemning Israel's actions in extremely harsh terms. The USG has not come in for direct criticism, but English and Arabic dailies expressed disappointment at the USG's role in "softening" language used in a recent UN Security Council resolution calling for an investigation into the Israeli offensive on the flotilla. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) UAE President Sheikh Khalifa stressed the need for a collective response to the Israeli offensive and the need to make the issue a top priority among GCC states. "UAE condemns Freedom Flotilla attack," read the headline published by WAM, the official Emirates News Agency. The news item, covering FM Sheikh Abdullah's response to the attack, repeatedly stated that the attack was carried out in international waters and violated international law. Sheikh Abdullah said the Israeli raid on the ships was an

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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"unprovoked response" to a peaceful humanitarian mission. In a quasi-official endorsement, WAM summarized a Gulf News editorial in which the Israeli offensive was called "a terrorist attack." The opinion piece stated, "Again the international community fails the children of Gaza and those who support peace and justice around the world."

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3. (SBU) Despite the focus in public, Embassy contacts have remained silent on the incident. UAE Minister of Trade, Sheikha Lubna al Qasimi, arrived at Bethlehem on June 1 to attend a two-day conference and has also remained silent on the flotilla incident.

4. (U) Gulf News, which had a reporter on-board the lead vessel of the flotilla, has published more than 40 articles in the last 48 hours related to the Israeli actions against the flotilla. An editorial stated that the President of the United States should take "urgent action against Israel for its despicable act." A screaming front-page headline on June 1 read, "Freedom Attacked." The article referred to the Israeli offensive as "the Mediterranean massacre" and stated that Israeli forces fired on civilians "armed only with baby milk and packs of antibiotics." The article compares the capture of the flotilla to "other Israeli massacres," and lists incidents in Lebanon and Gaza. Below a half-page photo of the lead vessel of the flotilla, the caption read, "Israeli commandos [...] fired indiscriminately at passengers." Al Bayan, an Arabic newspaper, published an editorial stating, "The Jewish state [is] the world record holder in bloody arrogance and piracy."

5. (U) In English language and Arabic newspapers, columnists and cartoonists condemned Israel's "massacre" aboard vessels in the flotilla. The National, an Abu Dhabi-based English language daily, wrote in an editorial that Israel's treatment of Palestinians ought to be compared with apartheid-era South African government policies and that international pressure on the government of Israel was increasing. English language newspaper Khaleej Times declared in an opinion piece, "The number of shipboard casualties indicates that once fighting started, the Israeli commandos simply sprayed automatic weapons fire into the people around them."

6. (U) Newspapers stressed that the Israeli offensive was carried out in International waters and that the USG ought to apply greater pressure on the GOI. Several columnists expressed disappointment at the USG's role in softening the tone of the recent UNSC statement expressing regret at the loss of life aboard flotilla vessels. In one opinion piece, the author urged the international community to condemn Israel for its actions and said that nations that failed to act would, "in their silence and complicity, align themselves with the Israelis who carried out the murderous predawn attack." An editor at Arabic language daily Al Khaleej declared, "It is time for the Arabs to realize that this U.S. administration is like its

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predecessors that cannot abandon its Zionist ally."

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7. (SBU) COMMENT: The Emirati leadership is no friend of Hamas. Israeli actions, however, have inflamed public opinion and - as with most governments in the region - the UAEG wants to be out in front. While it is unlikely that public outrage in the UAE will spill into the streets, the public statements and media coverage are the strongest we have seen on Israel since the 2008 Israeli offensive in Gaza. END COMMENT.

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ACTION NEA-00

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	IO-00	ARMY-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00
	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DRL-00
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 CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

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

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

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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA UNCLASSIFIED
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DA WASHDC FOR SASA
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LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

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

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
2. Iran

Key stories in the media:

All media continued to lead with the implications of the IDF raid of the Mavi Marmara passenger ship. The media highlighted President Obama's and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's interest in an international probe of the lethal incident. HaQaretz reported that yesterday White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs began his briefing by expressing sorrow at the death of civilians on Monday's Gaza-bound flotilla, then concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, which he said cannot continue. "We are open to ways to assure credible investigation, including international participation," he added. When he finished, he was deluged by reporters asking why the U.S. had not condemned Israel's "deliberate massacre" of civilians on the flotilla. "Nothing can bring them back," he answered, reiterating his demand for a "credible and transparent" investigation. He declined to say whether the U.S. thought the Israeli raid had violated international law, or whether he thought ships bearing humanitarian cargo should be allowed to break the blockade on Gaza. HaQaretz quoted Gibbs as saying that P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas will visit Washington on June 9 as planned and that PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who canceled his planned

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visit yesterday, has an "open invitation." One reporter asked whether Israel had become a political burden on the U.S. Gibbs responded that Israel is an important ally and American support for its security would not change. However, HaQaretz reported that administration officials did not hide their frustration at this new obstacle on the road to direct Israeli-Palestinian talks.

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The Jerusalem Post and other media reported that last night Israel rejected international calls to end its naval blockade of Gaza and launch an independent investigation into the death of at least nine activists. The media reported that PM Netanyahu told a special meeting of the diplomatic-security cabinet: It is important to understand that this [blockade] is essential to protect Israel's security and its right to defend itself. Gaza is an

Iranian-sponsored terrorist state, and as such it is vitally important to prevent the entry of weapons there, whether by air, sea, or land, he said. He acknowledged that weapons are already smuggled into Gaza through tunnels, but said there was a vast difference between the scope of that operation and the scale and quantity of weapons that could be brought into Gaza by ship if cargo was allowed to arrive unchecked. Israel Hayom and other media reported that the Cabinet was told that the men who attacked IDF forces on board the boats were well-equipped al-Qaida mercenaries. The Jerusalem Post quoted top Israeli security analyst Ely Carmon as saying yesterday that the flotilla's aim was to open a sea corridor for Hamas. Carmon was quoted as saying that the Turkish group IHH was the real force behind the ships. Major media reported that Israelis are deeply depressed over the international responses to the operation. The media reported on anti-Israel demonstrations in the Arab and Muslim worlds and in the West.

Yediot quoted a senior Israeli member of the septet of Cabinet ministers as saying that Netanyahu and DM Ehud Barak did not share information about the operation with anyone. Other media cited similar reports.

A Maariv/telesaker poll found that 47 percent of Israelis support the establishment of a commission of investigation into the government's failure; 61 percent believe that Israel should have stopped the boats in a different fashion.

The media reported that militants aboard the Turkish boat threw an IDF officer overboard (or onto a lower deck).

Media reported on Israel's deportation through Turkey and Jordan of activists arrested during the raid. The media reported that Israel detained Raed Salah, the leader of the northern branch of Israel's Islamic Movement, and three members of his group who took part in the flotilla. Israel Radio reported that Israel is conveying to

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Gaza cargoes of humanitarian aid that was on the detained ships. The media reports that the Irish ship Rachel Corrie and possibly another vessel are approaching Gaza.

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The media quoted Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan as saying that Israel carried out a massacre, that this was Turkey's 9/11, and that Turkey will be a strong, harsh enemy of Israel, which should not try us. Media reported that yesterday at the U.N. Security Council in New York, Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoglu accused Israel of "murder" and demanded a strong condemnation of it "piratical"

behavior. Leading media reported that the Foreign Ministry has ordered the evacuation of the families of Israel's diplomats from Turkey. Israel Radio reported that the U.S. is attempting to tone down the crisis between Israel and Turkey.

The Jerusalem Post and other media reported that yesterday P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas rejected calls to suspend proximity calls with Israel despite the naval operation.

Israel Hayom and other media quoted Mossad Director Meir Dagan as saying before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel has turned from an asset to the U.S. to a burden. Speaking on Israel Radio this morning, Kadima Knesset Member and Chairman of the Committee Tzachi Hanegbi said that Dagan had been misquoted and had meant to indicate the growing erosion of Israel's positions in the U.S. The Jerusalem Post quoted Dagan as saying in testimony to the committee that Turkey seeks to regain dominance by going down Islamic hall.

The Jerusalem Post reported that members of the U.N. Human Rights Council are calling for a Goldstone-like inquiry into the Israeli military operation.

The media reported that two Palestinians were killed as the IDF was preventing an infiltration into Israel from Gaza. Three Palestinians were killed in an IAF raid in Gaza. Two Qassam rockets were launched into Israel.

Elliot Abrams, a senior foreign policy official in the Bush administration, was quoted as saying in an interview with Maariv that President Obama should not have condemned Israel over its naval operation.

Israel Radio reported that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has suspended his country's diplomatic ties with Israel over the IDF raid in the Mediterranean.

1. Mideast:

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Block Quotes:

I. QThe Limits of Force

Prominent liberal author Amos Oz wrote on page one of the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (6/2): Q Hamas isn't just a terror organization. Hamas is an idea -- a desperate, fanatical idea that grew from the desperation of many Palestinians. Never has an idea been defeated by force: neither through a siege, nor by a bombardment, crushing by tank chains, or a naval commando. In order to beat an idea one must propose another, more attractive, more acceptable idea.... I do not underestimate the importance of force. Israel needs force. We wouldn't be able to survive even one day; woe to those who would despise the power of force. But we shouldn't forget for a moment that the power of power is only meant to prevent -- the annihilation and conquest of Israel.... Any attempt to use force for purposes other than self-defense ... will bring additional disasters upon Israel, such as the one we planted on ourselves in the international waters, in the open sea, facing the Gaza coast.

II. QThe Fiasco Is Sinking In

Diplomatic correspondent and television anchor Ben Caspit wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/2): Q The results of the TNS/Teleserker poll which was conducted for Maariv yesterday are no less than a dramatic shakeup.... The public largely places the responsibility for the operation on Defense Minister Ehud Barak and hopes that the present leadership will be replaced. Only 32 percent say they prefer to remain with the present troika, compared to 45 percent who seek an alternative. Tzipi Livni is, so far, the ostensible alternative, [popular journalist] Yair Lapid and [Tel Aviv Mayor] Ron Huldai are treading far behind (one ought to note that they have not announced their candidacy, and are so far only candidates presented by the media), and [IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen.] Gabi Ashkenazi shows some impressive numbers (although he is not at all relevant in the upcoming elections and his inclusion in the poll does him a great disservice). In one sentence? The maritime Gaza fiasco is sinking in, and the public is demonstrating its disapproval, wanting to punish its elected officials, whereas Ehud Barak, who one might have thought could go no lower, continues to plummet.

III. QIt's Time for Real Disengagement

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in HaQaretz (6/2): Q The Qflotilla affairQ offers a good opportunity to complete the disengagement from the Gaza Strip, five years after Israel withdrew.

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Hamastan to its own devices.... Those who oppose Israel's very existence will continue to fight and persecute it even if Jerusalem abandons the last shred of responsibility for Gaza. No disengagement will persuade them to change. But they are not the audience at which Israeli policy is aimed: its target audience is Western governments, from which it needs support and with which it needs diplomatic and economic ties. And these Western governments are telling it to end the blockade and free Gaza. Monday's deadly operation against the aid flotilla has only strengthened these demands. Hence this is Israel's opportunity. Instead of arguing with the international community, it should tell it: you want Gaza? Fine. Take it.

IV. QIsraelQs No-Choice War

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (6/2): QSome of the worldQs democracies do not understand that the Israeli commandoes were on the decks [of the Free Gaza Flotilla] on a mission of freedom.... One day Israel will hear their words of gratitude.... After this weekQs events there can be no doubt that another ship will be stopped on the way. All the bad ships are coming. This now is IsraelQs war of no choice.

V. QNuclear Fiasco

Chief Economic Editor and senior columnist Sever Plotker wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/2): QIn order to cover their harsh diplomatic failure, IsraelQs so-called diplomatic officials are trying to turn a defeat into a victory. In fact, they are proudly repeating what a friend ironically told me: 188 countries plus the United States voted [at the U.N. General Assembly] for an anti-Israeli resolution [on nuclear nonproliferation] -- a great achievement for an Israeli Government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu, Avigdor Lieberman, and Ehud Barak! It would be difficult to avoid the impression that the Israeli Government is behaving as a Qbattered womanQ vis-a-vis ObamaQs America. Her entire body is beaten but it is forgiving, because the beater lavishes praises on her -- the only beloved one -- and brings her presents to prove his love. Until the next beatings, of course.

VI. QBurden on the U.S.

Former Consul-General in New York Alon Pinkas wrote in Maariv (6/2):

QIf there is any diplomatic significance to the Marmara story, it lies in strengthening the Palestinian argument for finding an

international solution to the conflict. The [U.N.] Security Council, Turkey, and the U.S. are involved in a meaningless flotilla. The change in Israel's standing in the eyes of foreign policy makers in Washington -- from a certain asset on the way to a certain burden -- is a known fact and a clear trend. A year without a diplomatic process and incomprehensible squabbling with the U.S. President have not improved the intimacy between the administrations. The same is true for the Prime Minister's absence from the nuclear conference convened by Obama in Washington. And now, Israel's ability-- in terms of PR and in substantive terms -- to appear as if it is continuing to apply pressure on the Iranian issue has dropped, and the administration's incentive to present a diplomatic plan [for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict] will increase. It is not without reason that Obama was the one who preferred that Netanyahu not come to Washington this week.

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VII. QA Turning Point for Turkey

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (6/2): QRelations between Israel and Turkey are at a new low and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is doing a great deal to exacerbate the situation. In a speech to his country's parliament Tuesday, Erdogan called the Mavi Marmara conflict at sea a Qbloody massacre and warned, Qtoday is a turning point in history. Nothing will be the same again.Q So far, the Turkish premier has refrained from breaking off diplomatic ties with Israel. But with four Turkish citizens among those killed on the Turkish ship that was part of the QPeace FlotillaQ to Gaza, the future of relations with Turkey, once Israel's closest friend in the Middle East, is uncertain.... With elections slated for November 2011, Erdogan was right when he said that his country is at a turning point in history. Turkey's leadership has a choice. It can continue on its present path. Or, however improbably and belatedly, it can yet change direction. If it chose to, Turkey could have a highly constructive role in forging a better Middle East. As a successful Islamic democracy aligned with the West, it could be a powerful force for regional peace and a uniquely valuable partner for the U.S. In the process, it would be improving its own global stature while helping to stabilize the world's most volatile region.

VII. QWe Must Look Beyond this Episode

Columnist Yoav Sorek editorialized in the nationalist, Orthodox

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (6/2): QThe harsh incident on the deck of the Marmara [ship] isn't a successful IDF operation.... But what was done cannot be undone. This isn't about moral guilt -- quite the contrary: the flotilla turned out to be a cynical ploy meant to trade in pictures of the dead, according to the best tradition of terror groups.... Israel must not play into the hands of those who wish to

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defeat it in the fields of PR and diplomacy, constantly blame it, and tie its hands ahead of any future operation. Now is a testing time for Israel, which must express a clear and moral position lifting the veil of peace from organizations and establishments backing world terror.

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2. Iran:

Block Quotes:

QThe Gaza Convoy Takeover: an Effective QCasus BelliQ?

Contributor Shira Kaplan, a Harvard graduate with a degree in Government who was a Milken Fellow in 2008-9, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (6/2): QIn a world of tightening military networks, Iran has become a natural ally of the parties involved in MondayQs flotilla. IranQs involvement can hardly be separated from regional events such as this one. ... To be sure, Israel can very well use a regional event such as this as a trigger to target its archenemies in Tehran. The idea that Iran may well be IsraelQs indirect target settles with the [British] Sunday TimesQ recent report that Israel has deployed nuclear submarines off the Iranian coast. A wide-lens view of the recent crisis in the waters of Gaza can hence shed light on IsraelQs otherwise thoughtless takeover of the pro-Gaza flotilla. If IsraelQs Government hasnQt completely lost its mind, it has probably decided to come nearer to a point of no return with Tehran.

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SOURCE: CBLXSSO.004669

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01: MEHAYES -- 06/02/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O: SLDONER

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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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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP SITUATION
REPORT NO. 5

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Eleven AmCit detainees plan to, or have already signed, voluntary deportation forms provided by the Israeli Ministry of Interior. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

2. (U) Israel's inner security cabinet voted to deport remaining prisoners within 48 hours. A government statement issued late June 1 stated that the detainees would be expelled immediately according to the procedures set by law, said a government statement issued late June 1. (AFP)

3. (U) Turkey sent three planes to Israel to repatriate approximately 350 detained activists. (AFP)

WOUNDED COULD BE CONSIDERED COMBATANTS

4. (SBU) Approximately 50 wounded detainees of various nationalities are currently being treated by the Government of Israel as suspects, and thus may not be allowed to leave the country. The GOI might want to file court cases against these individuals, but this course of action is subject to the attorney general's discretion. (MGGZ01/NEA-FO e-mail)

RETURN OF ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC FAMILY MEMBERS FROM TURKEY

5. (U) Approximately 50 people related to Israeli consulate and embassy staff in Turkey are returning to Israel, a senior official told Israeli public radio. (AFP)

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INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

6. (SBU) Moscow condemned Israel's action against the MAVI MARMARA, asserting that the "Use of weapons against civilians and detaining ships in the open sea without any legal reason constitutes obvious and gross violations of generally accepted international standards." Embassy Moscow notes Russia likely will use this incident to push for Israel to lift the Gaza blockade. (MGGZ01/Embassy Moscow e-mail)

7. (SBU) NATO SYG Rasmussen released a statement June 1 expressing "deep regret over the loss of lives and the other casualties resulting from the use of force" and urging the UN and the EU to conduct "a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation into the incident." He also called for "the immediate release of the detained civilians and ships held by Israel." (MGGZ01/USNATO e-mail)

8. (U) India condemned Israel for "indiscriminate use of force" and asserted that "lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue." (Xinhua)

9. (U) Lebanese President Sleiman discussed the incident with Turkish President Gul and reportedly agreed to coordinate efforts to "counter Israel's actions." (nowlebanon.com)

10. (U) The Irish government called on Israel to allow an Irish-registered aid ship, the RACHEL CORRIE, to continue its voyage to Gaza. Late June 1, PM Cowen warned of "serious consequences" if any detained Irish citizens were harmed, and called for their immediate and unconditional release. (bbc.co.uk)

11. (U) The Malaysian Cabinet tabled a parliamentary motion strongly condemning Israel's raid. FM Aman departed for Jordan to seek the release of the 12 Malaysians. (Xinhua)

12. (SBU) Nicaragua suspended diplomatic ties with Israel June 1 to protest Israel's raid on the MAVI MARMARA, President Ortega's office said. Embassy Managua notes that Nicaragua has no diplomatic presence in Israel but has an embassy in Cairo. (MGGZ01/Embassy Managua e-mail, elpueblopresidente.com)

13. (U) Iranian FM Mottaki expressed solidarity with the "martyrs" killed during the raid and added that the incident

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?opened some possibility? to put pressure on Israel to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip and thereby allow the passage of medicine and humanitarian assistance. (AFP)

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14. (U) French FM Kouchner said that the raid was ?a very grave mistake? and ?extremely damaging to the image of Israel itself.? Kouchner advocated for an international investigation and said ?there should not be impunity.? (AP)

15. For more information on the Gaza Flotilla, please see the Ops Portal at the following link:

[http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza Flotilla 2010](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Please note that this web address is case sensitive.

16. (U) Minimize considered.
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ACTION NEA-00

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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 6 on IHH Flotilla

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Turkish National Security Council (MGK) meets today to set a new course for Turkey's bilateral relationship with Israel in light of the flotilla interception. Ministry of Justice contacts confirm PM Erdogan's interest in pursuing a possible criminal case against Israeli officials. Protests continue in Ankara and Adana. The Turkish parliament unanimously denounced the flotilla interception as a violation of international law. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) The Turkish National Security Council (MGK), which comprises senior representatives of the Prime Ministry, Turkish General Staff, the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs and the Turkish National Intelligence Service, postponed its special

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

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June 2 meeting to early afternoon to accommodate FM Davutoglu, who is returning today from the U.S. The meeting is likely to recommend a new course for Turkey's bilateral relationship with Israel in light of the flotilla interception. The MFA tells us the MGK will issue a statement shortly after the meeting concludes.

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3. (SBU) Working-level contacts at the Ministry of Justice confirm PM Erdogan's interest in pursuing a possible criminal case against Israeli officials over the flotilla interception. Our contacts would not speculate as to charges or a judicial venue.

4. (U) In the southern Turkish city of Adana, an estimated 7,000 people gathered June 1 for an anti-U.S./Israel protest organized by the Islamist Furkan Foundation (<http://www.furkanvakfi.net>). Demonstrators chanted messages against the U.S. and Israel, burned U.S. and Israeli flags, and carried banners reading: "Long live our Islamic resistance, blood of our martyrs is the news for the victory"; "Europe and the USA, Israel is your product"; "Zionism will be beaten"; "We will win"; "Everywhere is Palestine"; "One dies and thousands come"; "Damn the Israeli supporters"; "Muhammad's army is coming"; "Jews remember the Hayber war"; "We are all from Gaza"; and "Murderer Israel". Consulate Adana expects another protest following Friday prayers June 4.

5. (U) In Ankara, protests continued throughout June 2 in the vicinity of the Israeli ambassador's residence. The size of the protests has declined since yesterday; groups now number about 45-50 individuals. The protestors are waving Palestinian flags and chanting in Arabic. The police, who remain deployed in force, have closed streets near the ambassador's residence.

6. (SBU) The MFA reports three Turkish passenger aircraft and three "ambulance" aircraft are loading passengers in Israel. The MFA expects the aircraft to depart today.

7. (U) Today, the Turkish parliament unanimously denounced the flotillas' interception as a violation of the UN Charter and international law. The parliamentary statement called for UN condemnation of Israel and sanctions. The statement urges the GoI to review its political, military and economic relations with the GoI and pursue international legal action against Israeli officials. The statement distinguishes the GoI from the Israeli people as the target of Turkish national anger.

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ACTION NEA-00

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	PM-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/05/18
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, IS, GZ, MU, AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PINR
 AMGT
 SUBJECT: MGGZ01: THE OMANI STREET - UNOFFICIAL REACTION TO THE GAZA
 FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: MUSCAT 368; MUSCAT 271

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard Schmierer, Ambassador, Department of State,
Embassy Muscat; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Oman's official response to the Gaza flotilla incident was relatively measured (ref A); however, the average Omani saw the event as further evidence of the impunity of Israel, enabled by unquestioned U.S. support. Omanis have expressed considerable frustration with Arab leaders who they see as unwilling to risk action against Israel. The incident resonated further due to the fact that an Omani journalist was on the Mavi Marmara ship and was tweeting and blogging as events unfolded. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) In the aftermath of the June 1 flotilla incident, conversations with Omanis revealed several recurring themes. Most were angry with Arab leaders for not taking any action against Israel. While the Omanis knew there would be meetings and summits, in the end they thought the Arab leaders were more interested in protecting their positions and keeping the U.S. happy. U.S. policy towards Israel played into that anger, with a majority feeling that this "horrendous act" would not change U.S. support for Israel. A minority opined that this event was different as it involved

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

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non-Arabs and non-Muslims, so the U.S. would not be able to ignore the event. There was universal consensus that there would not be much reaction from the Omani public. All viewed Israel as "untouchable," due to "unconditional" U.S. support. They felt that Israel would continue its "aggression" until the U.S. "put its foot down." As one said, "same stuff, different day."

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3. (SBU) On-line fora echoed these views, but also went further in expressing anger at the Omani government for only condemning and denouncing the attack. Participants called on the government to take a more active response, such as halting all official and unofficial involvement with Israel.

4. (SBU) The event was made more personal for many Omanis due to their concern for Omani journalist, Abbas al Lawati, who was reporting from aboard the Mavi Marmara ship. Al Lawati, a journalist for the privately-held Emirates-based English news outlet "Gulf News," reported events from his vantage point with up to the minute reports to his website blog, and Twitter account. Al Lawati included pictures of passengers in life vests in his blog minutes before Israeli soldiers boarded. On June 1, privately-owned newspaper "Times of Oman" featured front page news on al Lawati's situation and expressions of relief and pride from his parents in Muscat. Several fora, Facebook, and a dedicated website all had messages of support for al Lawati from many Omanis. He is reported safe and on his way back to the UAE.

5. (C) COMMENT:

B1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In a country where public commentary has traditionally been limited, and criticism of the government is illegal, the internet is continuing to emerge as a forum for more vocal expression than has been seen in the past. END COMMENT.
Schmierer

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HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

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

UNCLASSIFIED

S E C R E T STATE 057147

NOFORN, SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2021

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6

CLASSIFIED BY: Greg Macris, Senior Watch Officer, S/ES-O
for REASON: 1.4(B) AND (D)

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Thirteen American citizens were transferred to Ben Gurion Airport and are scheduled to depart by June 3. Three additional American dual-nationals are departing to their countries of origin: Kuwait, Jordan, and Ireland. One Israeli-American was released without conditions, and the Embassy is trying to locate one additional American citizen. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

2. (C) The Israeli government initiated deportation for all of the 637 foreign detainees, including those suspected of instigating violence. Proceedings are expected to be completed by June 3. Four injured detainees may depart later in the week. Detention has been extended for four Israeli-Arab leaders from the boats. (Tel Aviv 1225)

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

3. (S/NF)

B1

(Tel Aviv 1225)

4. (SBU) UNRWA and ICRC are unable to confirm that eight truckloads actually entered Gaza from Israel. Media report 10 additional truckloads will be transferred on June 2. (MGGZ01/PRM e-mail)

ISRAELI RESPONSE

5. (U) PM Netanyahu publicly defended the military operation, emphasized the importance of the blockade for Israeli security, and rejected international pressure to launch an investigation of IDF actions. (Reuters)

6. (U) Pro-IDF demonstrators are calling for a boycott of Turkish products. (Tel Aviv 1225)

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

7. (SBU) There has been a slight uptick in protest activities and violence in the West Bank and along the Gaza-Israel border, including sporadic mortar firing from Gaza. Jerusalem remains tense. (Jerusalem 928)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

8. (U) ASEAN-GCC: Foreign ministers condemned the Israeli raid as "an act of violence," and urged release of the detainees and an end to the blockade. (MGGZ01/EAP e-mail)

9. (U) UNHRC: The Human Rights Council approved a Palestinian-drafted resolution condemning the "outrageous attack by the Israeli forces" by a vote of 32 yes, three no (U.S.), nine abstentions, and three no-shows. The resolution establishes an international fact-finding mission to investigate alleged violations of international law. (MGGZ01/IO Bureau e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

10. (SBU) Egypt: The government opened the Rafah crossing indefinitely and allowed shipment of electric generators into Gaza, the first non-food or medical shipment from Egypt since the 2008-2009 Gaza conflict.

Reportedly, 200 to 800 Gazans have crossed into Egypt.
(Cairo 611)

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11. (S) Turkey:

B1

12. (U) Palestinian Authority: President Abbas rejected calls to suspend proximity talks. (jpost.com)

13. (SBU) Jordan: A warden message was issued warning American citizens to avoid crowds and maintain a low profile due to anti-American sentiment and expected protests. (MGGZ01/Embassy Amman e-mail)

14. (U) EU: Members of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee almost unanimously condemned Israeli actions. Some called for suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement. One MEP called for opening talks with Hamas. (MGGZ01/USEU Daily Report e-mail)

15. (U) Tunisia: A Gaza solidarity demonstration took place in Tunis. (Tunis 395)

16. (U) Minimized considered.
CLINTON

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StateDept0383

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	VCI-00	FO-00	DIAS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00
	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	SRMC-00

/001W

-----6F4E35 031503Z /38

P 031259Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7694
 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 001270

SIPDIS

DEAPRTMENT FOR NEA/ELA MGREGONIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2020
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, KPAL, IS, JO
 SUBJECT: JORDAN RECEIVES GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS FROM ISRAEL

REF: A. AMMAN 1231
 B. AMMAN 1232

Classified By: Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft

1. (SBU) On the morning of June 2, Israel turned over to Jordan approximately 120 activists from Arab and Muslim countries who had been on the flotilla heading to Gaza. The activists arrived in three separate buses and were greeted by small but enthusiastic crowds both at the Hussein Bridge and in Amman. Both rallies were organized primarily by the Islamist-dominated professional associations, who have assumed a leading role in organizing demonstrations to condemn the Israeli naval action against the convoy. The former head of the professional associations, Wael Saqqa, was among those who participated in the flotilla and were detained by Israeli security forces.

2. (SBU) King Abdullah received a personal call of thanks from King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, and other countries conveyed their thanks to the GOJ through diplomatic channels. The activists included citizens from Jordan, Kuwait, Algeria, Lebanon, Bahrain, Malaysia, and others.

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Wounded and injured passengers are expected to arrive in small numbers at irregular time intervals in the future.

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3. (C)

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Beecroft

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A16

ACTION IIP-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AMAD-00	A-00	RPPR-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DNI-00	PDI-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	DIAS-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	ECA-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00
	CARC-00	SAS-00	/000W				

-----6ED9A5 030142Z /38

P 030139Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1614
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
 COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
 HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
 OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
 USFJ PRIORITY
 INFO AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
 AMCONSUL NAHA
 AMCONSUL NAGOYA
 AMCONSUL SAPPORO
 AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
 AMEMBASSY BEIJING
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 AMEMBASSY SEOUL
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001083

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
 EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
 USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
 TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
 SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
 CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
 PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA
 SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - GAZA AID FLOTILLA

1. LEAD STORIES: All Thursday morning papers gave top play to moves

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within the DPJ to select a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Hatoyama.

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2. "Israel Begins Deporting Civilians Held after Sea Raid" The moderate Yomiuri wrote from Jerusalem (6/3): "The Israeli government decided during a cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening to deport about 600 passengers of the six Palestinian aid boats, which were seized (in the recent sea raid). As the presidential statement of the UN Security Council called for an immediate release of the detained civilians, Israel apparently responded to international criticism (of its detention of the civilians).... While giving consideration to international criticism, Israel has refused to take the blame for the sea raid that caused civilian casualties.... Two additional aid boats flying the flag of Ireland are heading toward Gaza, but Israel is apparently prepared to block them."

ROOS

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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AIT-00	AEX-00	A-00
	ACQ-00	CCO-00	COME-00	INL-00	WHA-00	PERC-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EUR-00	VCI-00	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	CAC-00	ARMY-00	MFLO-00	MMP-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	OPR-00	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	ASDS-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCG-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SRMC-00
	MEPP-00	/001R					

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

057669

SOURCE: DISKETTE.070601

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:KFRELICH/JGROBLACHER -- 06/03/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:DSHELTON

S/ES-O:RWTTHOMAS

-----6FA3E9 040222Z /15

O 040035Z JUN 10

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USD:SOLIC// IMMEDIATE

COMFIFTHFLT IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

NGA HQ BETHESDA MD IMMEDIATE

COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

JICPAC PEARL HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE

CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USJFCOM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

DA WASHINGTON DC//DAPE:PRO/DAPE-PRR-C/DAPE:MO// IMMEDIATE

DA WASHINGTON DC//DAMO-AOC-CAT//PCC// IMMEDIATE

CDR USSTRATCOM OFFUTT AFB NE IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC//TWC// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-3:JOD/J-1// IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
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NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2020

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT,
IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 8

CLASSIFIED BY: Robert Thomas, Senior Watch Officer,
S/ES-O for REASON: 1.4(B) AND (D)

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) A family member confirmed that 19 year-old Turkish-American citizen, Furkan Dogan, was among those killed on the MAVI MARMARA. (MGGZ01/Embassy Ankara e-mail)

2. (SBU) Embassy officials located previously unaccounted for Israeli-American citizen, [REDACTED] in Ramallah. Eight American citizens departed from Tel Aviv to Istanbul, another to Athens, and two to Jordan. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

B6

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

3. (U) The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced three activists from Ireland, Australia, and Italy remain in Israel for "technical reasons," without providing any further information. Seven additional activists are still hospitalized in Israel. (Israel Radio News)

4. (SBU) Israel turned over 120 detainees from Muslim and Arab countries to Jordan. (Amman 1231)

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

5. (S/NF) The CHALLENGER II and the DIMITRIS K are in Cyprus. The RACHEL CORRIE is heading south toward Egypt and the Free Gaza Movement announced it will delay its arrival to Gaza until June 7 to maximize media coverage.

6. (U) Media report the Israeli Navy intends to board the RACHEL CORRIE if necessary, but released no additional specifics. (Ma'ariv)

STATUS OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS

7. (SBU) Truckloads of goods arrived in Kerem Shalom but have not entered Gaza. UNRWA and ICRC are waiting for permission from Turkey to secure the items. Hamas is disallowing any further entry of goods into the area. (MGGZ01/Special Envoy for Middle East Peace e-mail)

ISRAELI RESPONSE

8. (C)

B1

9. (U) Media report Israel decided to release flotilla detainees immediately in order to help the United States garner support for UN sanctions against Iran. (ynetnews.com)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

10. (SBU) Arab League: Foreign ministers agreed to ask the UN Security Council to urge an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza. (MGGZ01/Embassy Riyadh e-mail)

11. (U) UN: Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, condemned Hamas for raiding NGO offices in Gaza City and the Rafah crossing. (MGGZ01/Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process e-mail)

12. (SBU) A June 3 International Maritime Organization meeting was interrupted by Cuba, Indonesia, Syria and Venezuela condemning Israeli actions. Turkey is expected to push for official IMO condemnation of Israel at the June 7 meeting. (MGGZ01/Bureau of International Organization Affairs e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

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13. (U) Turkey: PM Erdogan said full restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel was contingent upon ending Israel's blockade of Gaza. (nytimes.com)

14. (U) South Africa: The ambassador to Israel was recalled June 3. (ynetnews.com)

(
15. (U) Ecuador: The ambassador to Israel was recalled June 3. (washingtonpost.com)

16. (U) EU: The European Jewish Congress called on the EU to ban the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH) and other "terrorist front organizations". (European Jewish Congress press release)

17. (U) Saudi Arabia: Flotilla discussions interrupted meetings between a U.S. Congressional delegation and members of the Saudi business community at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on June 2. (Saudi Gazette, Al-Watan, Shams)

18. (U) UK: Former FS Miliband restated the British call for an end to the blockade as the only way to limit Hamas' control over the region. (MGGZ01/Embassy of the United Kingdom to the United States e-mail)

19. (SBU) Australia: PM Rudd called for an independent inquiry and an easing of the blockade. (MGGZ01/Embassy of Australia to the United States e-mail)

20. (U) Minimized considered.
CLINTON

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AF-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 A-00 ACQ-00
 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 DS-00 DHSE-00 EUR-00
 FAAE-00 VCI-00 OBO-00 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00
 LAB-01 L-00 CAC-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00
 DCP-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 OCS-00 NIMA-00 PA-00 PM-00
 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 FMPC-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STPD-00 NCTC-00
 BBG-00 SHEM-00 IIP-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00
 CARC-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SWCI-00 PESU-00 SANA-00
 /001W

-----70254D 041520Z /38

O 041511Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7188
 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 001265

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/2020
 TAGS: PREL, CASC, MOPS, KWBG, KPAL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 4

REF: A. TEL AVIV 1218
 B. TEL AVIV 1225
 C. TEL AVIV 1239

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

1. (U) As of 6:00 p.m. local time on June 4:

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: As Israel prepares for the arrival of the next ship, the M/V Rachel Corrie, both GOI officials and the press are focusing on Israel's accounts of the events on the Mavi Marmara on May 31. There are conflicting reports regarding when the Rachel Corrie will arrive off the coast of Gaza, ranging from June 5 to June 7. The GOI says that it will continue to use diplomatic means to try to convince the Rachel Corrie to divert to Ashdod, but will intercept the ship if necessary and will not allow it to dock in Gaza. END SUMMARY.

POLITICAL-MILITARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 FEB 2012 201004163

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3. (C) [REDACTED]

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4. (S//NF) The Israeli Defense forces (IDF) continues to watch for additional vessels that may potentially participate in a "second wave." Israeli and international media reported extensively on the intentions of the M/V Rachel Corrie, a Cambodian-flagged 1,200-ton cargo vessel.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Free Gaza website posted a press release stating that it is stopping to board more journalists and dignitaries and "there is no way we are going to Ashdod. We are, for sure, on our way to Gaza."

5. (S//NF) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
CONSULAR

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6. (SBU) According to [REDACTED] European passport holders who were detained had complained of mistreatment at the time of arrest and detention. [REDACTED] said the EU countries are weighing a collective demarche to the GOI. Given the number of countries involved and the number of Europeans detained, [REDACTED] doubted any decision would be made until next week.

B6

7. (SBU) The medical doctor who examined the bodies of nine men brought to the morgue from the Mavi Marmara told ConsAsst that none of the remains had been identified prior to their return to Turkey. At the request of the Turkish government, no autopsies had been conducted. He said the Turkish Embassy

had not been helpful and had not provided documentation or photographs to help identify remains prior to shipment. Although no official cause of death was determined by the morgue, the doctor reported that all bodies had gunshot wounds. He could not confirm that any of the bodies showed evidence of four entry wounds to the head, as reported in some media. He suspected that some wounds visible on the remains were in fact exit wounds.

8. (SBU) ConOffs continue efforts to obtain guidance from the MFA on reclaiming property and an accounting of the nationalities of any remaining detainees. According to the MFA, there are no flotilla passengers still in custody while three flotilla passengers remain in the hospital, one Indonesian and two Turks. ConOffs are still trying to ascertain if any of the six still-hospitalized IDF commandos are dual-national American citizens.

REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE

9. (SBU) On June 3, there was an anti-Turkish government protest outside the Embassy of Turkey in Tel Aviv. Approximately 1,000 people participated in the demonstration, which went late into the night. Police arrested three people after protestors hurled stones and a smoke grenade at the Turkish Chancery. Embassy MSGs and Local Guards were on alert, and Surveillance Detection Units monitored the situation, which took place about one mile from the U.S. Embassy. A/DCM happened to drive by the demonstration as it

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was getting started. The demonstrators appeared mostly to be young, secular Tel Aviv types waving large Israeli flags. We saw at least one sign written in Turkish mentioning the Armenian genocide. There are also press reports that a monument to Turkish soldiers was vandalized in Beersheva.

PRESS REPORTING

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10. (U) Hundreds of Israeli Arabs rallied on June 3 in Israel's second-largest Arab town of Umm el-Fahm when the movement's northern branch leader, Sheikh Raed Salah, entered the city for his house arrest. The crowd of primarily Islamic Movement members shouted "Alahu Akbar" and "the sheikh is our hero," and waved Turkish and Palestinian flags and Islamic Movement banners. In an attempt to ensure that protests did not erupt in Jerusalem, the Israeli National Police increased its presence in Jerusalem and denied access to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif for Friday prayers to all men under the age of 40, according to customary security measures.

11. (U) While the Israeli press defends the actions of its soldiers, with several banner headlines calling them heroes, editorials are still questioning both the methods used and the explanation for why the IDF was unprepared for the resistance it met. At the same time, some news sources say that PM Netanyahu will ease the blockade on Gaza to relieve international pressure, including allowing for more types of goods to enter the Strip. Official statements maintain that the blockade must be kept in place as-is and that any humanitarian aid ships must dock in Ashdod and have the cargo transferred to Gaza via truck following inspection.

12. (SBU) The GOI reported that its transfer of humanitarian goods from the initial flotilla continues, with 30 truckloads already delivered to the Kerem Shalom crossing. Items already transferred include, inter alia, clothing, blankets, school bags, mattresses, baby safety seats, toys, wheels chairs, motorized scooters, bandages, hospital beds, and medication. The GOI reported that the shipment also included some medicines that have been expired for over a year, and camouflage cloth it says was meant for Hamas militants. While these shipments have been sent to Kerem Shalom, the GOI says that Hamas is refusing to allow the goods to enter Gaza. Sources in the NGO community have also told Embassy officials that no commodities from the flotilla have entered Gaza. The same sources told EmbOffs that Hamas will not allow acceptance of any of the goods until all those being held from the flotilla are released.

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13. (U) Israel still has not officially responded to calls for an international investigation regarding the incident, leaving the press to speculate about the government's intentions. Within the inner cabinet, the reports generally say that PM Netanyahu, MOD Barak, and possibly Minister Meridor support allowing an international investigation, while Yishai, Begin, and Ya'alon are reportedly against it, preferring to rely on the credibility of the IDF Military Advocate General investigation. MFA Lieberman has publicly called for an independent Israeli-led investigation, possibly headed by a former Supreme Court judge, with international observers.

14. (U) The IDF continues to release video of the events from the Mavi Marmara, including from both passenger and ship security cameras. One video, which the IDF was reportedly reluctant to release, shows a few Israeli naval commandos being beaten by a large group until other passengers on the ship fended off the mob. Other press reports say that 3-4 commandos were briefly held hostage below deck during the confrontation before being freed. One member of the Naval Commando assault team gave an exclusive interview to the Jerusalem Post. The soldier, reportedly the last of 15 commandos to rappel to the deck from the helicopter and responsible for six of the nine deaths, said that when he arrived his team was already taking fire from two Turkish passengers who had seized pistols from the wounded commandos, and that he was forced to fire back while under attack.

15. (U) Navy officials have publicly asserted that no innocent civilians, only combatants, were killed during the operation on the Mavi Marmara. In addition, the GOI is briefing the press regarding their evidence about the violent intentions of some passengers on the ships. This includes reports that ammunition casings of a type that were not used by the IDF were found aboard the Mavi Marmara, that the IDF had discovered code books used to prepare plans for violent resistance, and that several passengers made videos in which they declared their intention to become "shahids," which is typical of suicide terrorists. Officials from the IDF have speculated that the activists could have thrown their weapons overboard during the takeover.

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A23

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00
	OES-00	NIMA-00	PM-00	MA-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	BEG-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-00	/001W		

-----7035AA 041635Z /38

O 041632Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0174
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
 39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
 ODC ANKARA TU
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 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)

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000815

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
 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. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/04
 TAGS: PGOV, PHSA, PREL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 8 on IHH Flotilla

REF: 10 ANKARA 799; 10 ANKARA 800; 10 ANKARA 779; 10 ISTANBUL 203

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2012 201004163

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1. (C) Summary. Non-violent protests continued in Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana June 4, with press attention focused on the victims of the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla and their funerals.

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MOST TURKS BACK IN TURKEY

3. (SBU) Acting U/S Cevikoz expressed gratitude for U.S. engagement in securing the release of detainees and reported that all of those detained were returned to Turkey, with the exception of five who had been too seriously injured to be moved on June 3. Two additional "air ambulances" had arrived in Israel in the early morning hours of June 4, but it was likely that one of the five was still not stable enough to transport. The daughter of the man who was still too injured to be moved had been transported to Israel and would remain with her father, supported by the Turkish Embassy,

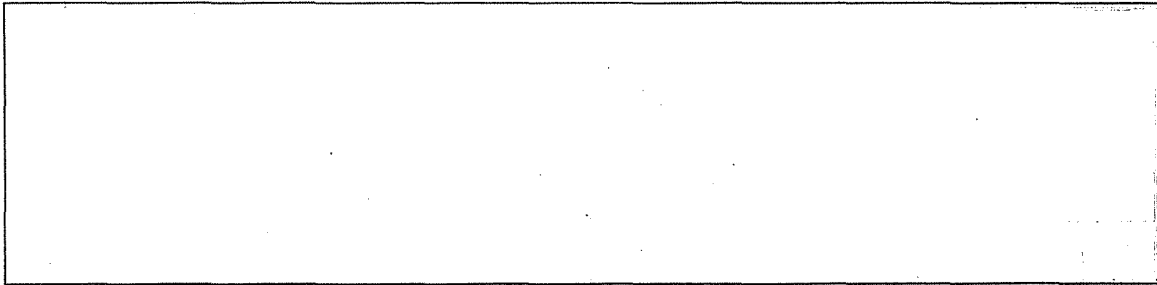
Cevikoz said. The Ambassador contacted the family of the Turkish-American dual national who was killed in the attack and conveyed its condolences. His body was returned to his hometown of Kayseri and a funeral was planned for June 4.

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4. (SBU) There was press speculation that a Turkish warship might accompany the M/V Rachel Corrie, one of the next boats scheduled to arrive in the IHH convoy. Both MFA Acting U/S Cevikoz and the Turkish Navy denied this rumor. When PM Erdogan was questioned about the rumor, he told the press that the idea was "out of the question."

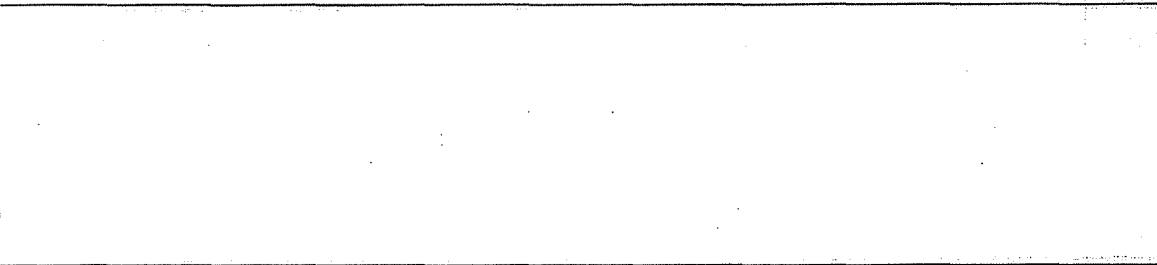
MORE PROTESTS EXPECTED

5. (SBU) In Ankara, between 100-200 protestors continue to gather outside of the Israeli Embassy and the Israeli Ambassador's residence. On Sunday a group of NGOs plan a protest in downtown Ankara that organizers estimate will attract up to 80,000 people, while the police believe the number will be closer to 20,000.



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7. (SBU) In Istanbul, the ceremony for the bodies of the deceased victims of the attack on the flotilla -- their coffins draped in Turkish and Palestinian flags and ribbons in Arabic saying "there is no God but God and Muhammad is the Prophet of God" -- was widely televised and Turkish press reported tens of thousands of people attended.



9. (SBU) According to an AKP Provincial Chairman in Istanbul (see REF A) and an AKP Municipal Assembly member in Ankara, the AKP has not issued a call for supporters to turn out for protests. AKP members instead, they claimed, have attended protests to reinforce their position as leaders, to draw attention from opposition political parties, and to deliver a message that people should act with calm and common sense and refrain from violent acts.

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ACTION IO-00

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SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KWBG, KPAL, UNSC, IS, TU

SUBJECT: UNSC: Security Council adopts June 1 Presidential Statement
on Gaza flotilla

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Security Council met in an emergency session on May 31, in response to requests from Turkey and Lebanon, to discuss Israel's handling of its interdiction of a flotilla sailing to Gaza. Many Council members condemned the Israeli actions and Turkish FM Davutoglu made a particularly harsh statement criticizing Israel, calling the incident "banditry and piracy." The Israeli Deputy Perm Rep and Palestinian Observer also spoke, after which the Council went into consultations and negotiations to draft a Presidential Statement (PRST). Over the next 13 hours, the U.S. delegation negotiated with the Turkish delegation to produce a PRST which condemned "those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded," called for a "prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards," and requested the immediate release of the ships and civilians held by Israel. The PRST also expressed concern about the incident's potential effect on the proximity talks, and urged the parties to act with restraint and avoid unilateral or provocative actions. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) In response to written requests from Council members Turkey and Lebanon to convene a formal Council meeting, the Council decided in consultations on May 31 to hold an emergency Council

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

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debate on the recent incident in the Eastern Mediterranean with the participation of all Council members, Israel, the Palestinian Observer and a briefing by the Secretariat. That debate was held in the Chamber immediately following the Council's consultations. [Note: The provisional verbatim meeting record can be found at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scact2010.htm> <<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scact2010.htm>> . End note.]

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Secretariat briefing

3. (SBU) Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco briefed the Council that, in the early hours of May 31, Israeli naval forces had boarded a six-ship convoy heading to Gaza. He noted that the stated purpose of the convoy was to deliver humanitarian assistance and to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza. He referred to Israeli government statements in the lead-up that it would not allow the convoy to proceed and that the vessels would be stopped, the cargo inspected and then transferred to Gaza, and any individuals onboard deported. He said that "de facto authorities in Gaza" had formed a committee to receive the convoy.

4. (SBU) He referred to the Secretary-General's spokesman's May 28 statement that "all involved act with a sense of care and responsibility and work for a satisfactory resolution." Though the Israeli navy had told the convoy it could not proceed to Gaza, the convoy nevertheless proceeded, he briefed, and the Israeli navy acted to intercept it by boarding the vessels some 40 nautical miles off the coast in international waters. While the Israelis were able to take control of all six vessels, "there was serious violence" on the main passenger vessel (the "Mavi Marmara") he said, with at least ten killed and 30 injured and six Israeli military injured, according to the information at the time. He underscored that it was "not possible to state definitively the sequence or details of what happened" and that the UN has "no independent information of what transpired."

5. (SBU) He referred to Israeli government statements that the demonstrators on board used knives and clubs against the IDF naval personnel, and possibly live fire from a weapon grabbed from an IDF soldier. He referred to Israeli statements that the seriously injured had been taken by helicopter to hospitals in Israel and that five of the ships had arrived under escort to the Israeli port of Ashdod but the "Mavi Marmara" had not yet been brought into port. He referred to Israeli authorities' expressions of regret about the casualties but noted that they blamed the activists for the violence. He noted Palestinian President Abbas' condemnation

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of Israel's actions, the killing of the activists, and the declaration of three days mourning. He summarized the Secretary-General's statement that he is shocked by the killings, that he condemned the violence, and called for a full investigation to determine how the bloodshed took place and stressed that Israel must provide a full explanation. Fernandez-Taranco underscored that Israel should provide access to detainees and for all parties to adhere to international law, including international humanitarian law and the law of the sea. He concluded by saying that "today's bloodshed would have been avoided if repeated calls on Israel to end the counterproductive and unacceptable blockade

had been heeded." He said that the only way forward for Gaza is a "different and more positive strategy that implements resolution 1860."

Turkish FM

6. (SBU) Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu was the first Council member to speak. In a sharply worded statement, he said it was a "very sad and tragic occasion when one state member of this august house has committed a serious crime" in total disregard of UN system values. He termed Israel's actions a "grave breach of international law," "tantamount to banditry and piracy," "aggression in high seas," "murder conducted by a state," and said "the distinction between terrorists and states has been blurred." He characterized the "sole aim" of the "multinational civilian flotilla" representing 32 countries as providing "much needed relief to the children of Gaza." He called the use of force "not only inappropriate, but also disproportionate." Referring to freedom of navigation, he claimed that no vessel can be stopped or boarded without the consent of its captain or the flag state. He said that this "unacceptable action" was perpetrated by those who had taken advantage in the past of "ships carrying refugees" and they should be more aware of the importance of humanitarian assistance and of the "dangers and inhumanity of ghettos" as in Gaza. He called on the Security Council to adopt a Presidential Statement "condemning the Israeli act of aggression, demanding an urgent inquiry," and calling for all responsible to be punished.

Council members

7. (SBU) A number of Council members joined Turkey in specifically condemning Israel's use of force/violence, including Austria, Bosnia, Brazil ("vehemently condemns"), and Mexico. The Lebanese

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Perm Rep, in a harshly worded statement, said, it was a "flagrant violation of the Charter," as well as of "international law, international humanitarian law and the law of the sea." He said the perpetrators of this "wanton attack" must be punished. Japan condemned the "violent acts of hostility that caused this tragic incident." Russia called the stopping of ships on the high seas without justification a "gross violation of the norms of international law." China condemned Israeli actions targeting humanitarian workers and civilians. All Council members spoke of the need to open up the crossings to Gaza, with some noting the need for the implementation of resolution 1860. Some called on Israel to provide a full and transparent account of what had occurred while others called for an independent investigation. Many called for Israel to provide immediate consular access to the detained activists. Almost all Council members expressed concern that this incident happened at this time during the peace process and some flagged it as a reason why the negotiations need to be successfully concluded.

Palestinian Observer

8. (SBU) The Palestinian Permanent Observer said that the Palestinian Authority had declared three days of mourning and that all of those killed were "martyrs of Palestine." He referred to "Israel's blatant acts of aggression" and condemned its actions. He attributed the violence to the silence of the international community and its inability to hold Israel accountable for its "war crimes." He called for an "independent, impartial, international investigation into this crime" and for all of those detained to be released.

Israeli Deputy Perm Rep

9. (SBU) Just before the Israeli Deputy Perm Rep was called on to speak, the Lebanese Perm Rep, as Security Council President, handed the gavel over to his deputy and left the Chamber, as did the Turkish Foreign Minister and the Palestinian Permanent Observer. The Israeli Perm Rep underscored that the purpose of the convoy was to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza and referred to the

convoy passengers' use of weapons to attack Israeli soldiers. He said that, if the mission had been truly humanitarian, its organizers would have accepted the Israeli government's offer to transfer the assistance through the Israeli port of Ashdod and overland to Gaza. He commented that there is no humanitarian

crisis in Gaza and referred to UN Special Coordinator Serry's recent remarks to the Security Council.

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10. (SBU) The Israeli Deputy Perm Rep stressed the state of armed conflict between Israel and the Hamas authorities in Gaza, the fact that rockets had been fired at Israel as recently as that morning, and that there continue to be attempts to smuggle arms by sea. He termed the maritime blockade a "legitimate mechanism of armed conflict" and said that Israel had provided the appropriate notification of the blockade to governments and the flotilla organizers. Nevertheless, the flotilla leader had publicly responded, "They are going to have to forcefully stop us." He described the organizers, the IHH, as having a radical anti-Western orientation and having provided previous support to Hamas and global jihad elements. He said that it was clear that there was an effort to "lynch" the soldiers boarding the one vessel and the soldiers acted in self-defense. He said the IDF would conduct a "debriefing" on the matter and will share it. He said that Israel "deeply regretted any loss of innocent life" and noted that the full picture will continue to unfold. He called for all to embrace the positive developments of the past few weeks in the peace process.

PRST

11. (SBU) The Council then returned to consultations which were suspended to allow for almost thirteen hours of largely bilateral negotiations between the Turkish and U.S. delegations on the text of a Presidential statement (PRST). Shortly after 1:30 a.m. on June 1, under the just-begun Mexican Presidency of the Security Council for the month of June, the Council formally adopted the Presidential Statement. Begin text of Security Council Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2010/9) on the recent incident in the Eastern Mediterranean:

"The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

"The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel. The Council urges Israel to permit full consular access, to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the convoy to its destination.

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"The Security Council takes note of the statement of the UN Secretary-General on the need to have a full investigation into the matter and it calls for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

"The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

"The Security Council underscores that the only viable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement negotiated between the parties and re-emphasizes that only a two-State solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, could bring peace to the region.

"The Security Council expresses support for the proximity talks and voices concern that this incident took place while the proximity

talks are underway and urges the parties to act with restraint, avoiding any unilateral and provocative actions, and all international partners to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the region." End text.

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DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:KFRELICH/JGROBLACHER -- 06/04/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:DSHELTON

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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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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058319

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/2020

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT,
IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO.10

CLASSIFIED BY: Walter Parrs, Senior Watch Officer,
S/ES-O for REASON: 1.4(B) AND (D)

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

1. (U) Three of five remaining injured Turkish citizens landed in Ankara and two are still in Israeli hospitals. (ynetnews.com)

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

2. (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv believes the Israelis are escorting the RACHEL CORRIE to Ashdod Port, but the embassy does not have confirmation. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

3. (SBU) The Free Gaza Movement says none of the RACHEL CORRIE passengers is an American citizen. (MGGZ01/Bureau of Consular Affairs e-mail)

PALESTINIAN INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

4. (U) Special Envoy for Middle East Peace Mitchell commented the flotilla incident should not hamper progress on proximity talks, media report. PM Fayyad had limited involvement in the conference, but additional Arab State representation was high. (Al-Hayat Al-Jadida)

SECURITY UPDATE

5. (U) Palestinians fired four rockets at Israel from Gaza June 4 without causing injury or damage. (Israel Radio News)

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ISRAELI RESPONSE

6. (U) Israeli officials deny the government is resisting pressure to form an investigation committee. (Al-Quds)

7. (U) Media report Israel is seeking "new ways" to allow civilian goods to enter Gaza. PM Netanyahu promised Quartet Representative Tony Blair, Israel will ease the blockade but will not allow ships to reach Gaza. (nytimes.com)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

8. (SBU) The Egyptian Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Coordinating Bureau released a statement condemning the Israeli blockade of Gaza and IDF actions. (NAM press release)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

9. (C) Turkey: 10,000 people held an anti-Israel rally in Istanbul, and protests likely sponsored by conservative religious groups continue in Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana. Media report Turkey will pursue an ICC investigation seeking damages and claiming Israel violated International Maritime Law. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
(Ankara 815)

10. (C) Tunisia: Protests headed by the Tunisian General Labor Union continue and have become increasingly anti-American. (Tunis 407)

11. (SBU) Pakistan: The government released a statement thanking Jordan and Embassy Islamabad for their work to assure the safety of Pakistani citizens on the boats. (MGGZ01/Pakistan desk e-mail)

12. (U) France: The foreign ministry opposes the mission of the RACHEL CORRIE and does not plan to pursue Israel for interdicting the MAVI MARMARA. (Israel Radio News)

13. (U) Greece: Assistant FM Droutsas released a statement condemning IDF actions and supporting the

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lawful activities of NGOs. (MGGZ01/Embassy Athens e-mail)

14. (U) Minimized considered.
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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS

SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 9 on Gaza Flotilla, June 5, 2010

REF: 10 ANKARA 815; 10 ANKARA 800; 10 ANKARA 799; 10 ANKARA 779

10 ISTANBUL 203

1. (SBU) Summary. Prime Minister Erdogan admonished Israel, saying "Thou Shalt Not Kill," and defended Hamas as a group that is defending its land.

-- Prosecutors are examining witness testimony and autopsy reports to determine whether there is a basis to press charges against Israeli officials.

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

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-- The IHH is seeking "martyr" status for the deceased passengers so they will receive additional benefits from the GOT.

-- In Adana, a funeral for one of the passengers drew large crowds and anti-Israel statements, but no violence. In Istanbul, the media focused on returned wounded passengers, one of whom voiced support for Hamas.

-- Turkish religious leader Fethullah Gulen issued a statement critical of the GOI and the IHH actions in the clash. End summary.

GOT Still Smarting, Considering Legal Options

2. (U) Speaking at a World Environment Day celebration in Konya on June 4, PM Erdogan rebuked Israel's use of deadly force on the passengers of the Mavi Marmaris, citing the condemnation in the sixth of the Old Testament's Ten Commandments: "Thou Shalt Not Kill" in English, Turkish, and Hebrew. Erdogan also said he did not regard Hamas as a terrorist organization. "They are defending their land."

3. (U) The press reported that the prosecutor in Istanbul's Bakirkoy Office has opened an investigation into the attack on the Mavi Marmaris, with assistance from the prosecutor's office in Ankara, to determine whether there is a basis for charges against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Chief of General Staff Gabi Ashkenazi in a Turkish court. The prosecutor in Istanbul plans to use testimony gathered from wounded passengers on the IHH flotilla ships and autopsy reports of the deceased U.S. and Turkish citizens as evidence in the case. If there is sufficient evidence, the prosecutor could charge the Israeli officials with murder, injury, taking hostages, attacking Turkish citizens on the open seas, and piracy.

Turks Continue to Mourn, Focus on Flotilla

4. (U) On June 4 CNN Turk reported that Yavuz Dede, Vice President of the IHH, delivered a petition to the Prime Ministry requesting that the GOT declare the nine people who died on the Mavi Marmaris "martyrs." According to Turkish law, their status as "martyrs" would entitle their families to welfare payments, housing assistance, and state scholarships for their children.

Adanacrowds.JPG

5. (SBU) In Adana, the media reported that on June 3 the body of Cetin Topcuoglu -- one of the nine people killed during the Gaza flotilla incident -- was brought by his wife from Istanbul to

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Adana. A letter written by Topcuoglu to a local radio station before he joined the flotilla asked for people to pray for him to become a martyr. After bringing her husband's body from Istanbul to Adana, Cigdem Topcuoglu, said, "Hopefully, we, my son and I, will take our places in the next flotilla to follow". Topcuoglu's funeral on June 4 at the Sabanci Central Mosque in Adana drew between 30,000-40,000 people, including the provincial police director, governor, members of parliament, mayors and other officials. The ceremony was quiet and non-violent. Several times demonstrators chanted anti-Israeli slogans but no anti-American slogans. The most common chant by the crowd was "The Islamic movement cannot be stopped." While men made up the majority of the crowd, there were thousands of women as well, almost half of which were -- unusual for Turkey -- fully veiled in black.

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6. (U) In Istanbul, the media interviewed wounded passengers who were still in hospitals. At least one of the wounded voiced solidarity with Hamas and urged Hamas to continue its struggle. The reporter highlighted that the American citizen who was killed had five wounds which allegedly were shot from a distance of less than 45 cm from his body. There are reportedly more than 20 wounded passengers still in hospitals, five in critical condition. The press reported that two more wounded individuals from the flotilla arrived in Turkey today. Another funeral will be held on the Asian side of the city for a deceased passenger on June 5, and protests may follow the funeral. On June 4, a non-violent crowd of approximately 100 demonstrators marched to within one kilometer of the U.S. Consulate, but did not approach it. The crowd was reportedly shouting anti-Israel statements and carrying banners and flags.

7. (U) Renowned Turkish religious leader Fethullah Gulen, who lives in the United States, released a statement to the Wall Street Journal that criticized both Israel and the IHH in the flotilla incident. Pro-Gulen newspaper Zaman stressed the importance of conducting an international investigation, and opined the forensic medical exams given to the released volunteers were the first step in such an investigation. Other religiously-affiliated newspapers emphasized the "martyrdom" of the victims of the attack on their front pages.

8. (U) All major newspapers, news channels and wire services carried the statement by NSC Spokesman Mike Hammer, which said, among other things, "The current arrangements [in Gaza] are unsustainable and must be changed." Turkish media interpreted this statement to mean "the siege over Gaza cannot be sustained."
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ORIGIN OCS-00

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S/SEMPEP:PKNOFF NEA/IPA:TGOLDBERGER NEA:MCONNELLY
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SENSITIVE
FOR AMB CUNNINGHAM FROM CA A/S JACOBS AND NEA A/S FELTMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, IS
SUBJECT: Tel Aviv: Demarche Regarding Death
of/Injuries to U.S. Citizens

REF: TEL AVIV 1224, TEL AVIV 1225

1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 2.
2. (SBU) Action Request: The Department requests that Embassy Tel Aviv approach the GOI at senior levels to seek details concerning the specific circumstances surrounding the death of U.S. citizen Furkan Dogan and injuries to U.S. citizens [redacted]. Objectives follow in para 5.
3. (SBU) Background: On May 31, Israeli Naval Forces (INF) boarded a Turkish-flagged ship which was part of a

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 21 SEP 2011 201004163

six ship flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza in contravention of an Israeli blockade. Upon boarding, the GOI claims the INF were attacked by passengers carrying metal rods, axes and sticks. INF officers responded, resulting in nine fatalities and more than 30 wounded among the passengers. One INF officer was also seriously wounded. Among the fatalities was U.S. citizen, Furkan Dogan, and among the wounded was a second U.S. citizen, [REDACTED]. According to Turkish press reports and Mr. Dogan's father, Dogan was shot four times in the head and once in the chest. Embassy Tel Aviv was shown photographs of nine corpses at the morgue. None of the photographs indicated evidence of gunshot wounds to the face. At the time of viewing, Embassy Tel Aviv did not have the picture or identity of Mr. Dogan and could not compare that to the photographs shown at the morgue. No USG official, in either Turkey or Israel, viewed the body of Mr. Dogan because he was transported to Turkey prior to identification as a U.S. citizen and was positively identified by his father upon arrival.

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4. (SBU) In a separate incident, U.S. citizen [REDACTED] was injured when she was struck in the face by a gas canister shot at the protesters by Israeli security forces during a protest of the IDF action against the flotilla at the Qalandiya checkpoint. [REDACTED] lost her eye in this incident.

5. (U) Objectives:

- Seek an explanation from the GOI of the specific circumstances surrounding the death of U.S. citizen Furkan Dogan, and the injuries to U.S. citizens [REDACTED]
- Note that the seriousness of the injuries in these incidents is of especially deep concern to the U.S. Government;
- Reinforce that the safety of U.S. citizens abroad is one of the highest priorities of the U.S. Government;
- Confirm that the return of Furkan Dogan's remains to Turkey without identification or notice to the U.S. Embassy that a U.S. citizen's body was being removed was because the GOI was unaware of his identity as an American citizen;
- Reinforce that the USG expects a thorough, credible, and transparent investigation into these incidents.;
- Note that we will follow-up to request the results of the investigation.

6. (U) Point of Contact: Post should contact
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA Kim Richter at (202) 647-8308 for any
additional background or assistance.
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ORIGIN SSO-00

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INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AIT-00	AMAD-00	AOP-00
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	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	FOE-00	DIAS-00
	FSI-00	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	MFLO-00
	MMP-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	CDC-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00
	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	OPR-00	PC-01
	PER-00	PM-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	SS-00
	MR-00	DPM-00	T-00	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	FMP-00	R-00
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SOURCE: DISKETTE.070661

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:KVBARTELS -- 06/05/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:SDONER

S/ES-O:HFRODRIGUEZ

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

JICPAC PEARL HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE

CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USJFCOM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

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DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC//TWC// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-3:JOD/J-1// IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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

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UNCLAS STATE 058418

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR,
AMGT, IS, GZSUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO.12STATUS OF THE RACHEL CORRIE

1. (U) The IDF boarded the RACHEL CORRIE in international waters approximately 20 miles from Gaza. An Israeli spokeswoman said the boarding was by sea, rather than by helicopter, and took just five minutes. (YNET)
2. (U) The RACHEL CORRIE was towed by two Israeli naval vessels and arrived in the port of Ashdod five hours after the takeover. (AFP)
3. (SBU) The 19 passengers and crew are being held at a facility in Holon near Tel Aviv, according to the Irish consul. The consul believes the passengers are primarily from Ireland, Malaysia, and the Philippines; one might be British and one Cuban. There were no American citizens aboard. On June 6, the CORRIE's passengers and crew will be taken to the Ben Gurion Airport detention facility and offered immediate repatriation. Those who do not accept will have 72 hours to appeal, and post comments they will likely be repatriated at the end of that time.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
4. (SBU) Israel Radio reports there are 500 tons of cement on board. Israeli MOD officials are assessing whether it can be delivered by the UN. While the distribution could be done by UN Relief and Works Agency or the International Committee of the Red Cross, neither has agreed to do so at the current time, and Hamas has said it will not permit distribution.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

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5. (U) Israel: The Israeli Foreign Ministry said that Israel would continue to enforce the blockade as long as Hamas leaders refuse to meet conditions for international acceptance, including a renunciation of violence and the recognition of Israel. (AP)

6. (U) Turkey: An autopsy report for the May 31 victims will be sent to the prosecutor's office in Istanbul in the next two months to be used as evidence against Israel in a possible court case. (AP)

7. (U) Egypt: President Mubarak has ordered the passenger terminal with Gaza to open daily, rather than sporadically. (AP)

8. (U) Malaysia: The Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a press release demanding that Israel ensure the safety of all activists removed from the RACHEL CORRIE. The foreign minister plans to escort the Malaysian detainees involved in the May 31 raid from Turkey to Kuala Lumpur June 6. (kln.gov.my)

9. (U) Northern Ireland: Deputy First Minister McGuinness described the latest Israeli intervention as a raid and said, "The RACHEL CORRIE should have been allowed to proceed to Gaza without Israeli aggression. This is an attack on an Irish flagged vessel and it demands a strong response by the Irish government." (bbc.co.uk)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RESPONDS

10. (U) Representative Kucinich (D-OH) called for Washington to impose diplomatic and financial consequences on Israel, citing the importance of maintaining good relations with Turkey and Iraq. He also called for an independent investigation of the incident. (AFP)

PROTESTS

11. (U) UK/Cyprus: The Free Gaza Movement announced it will relocate to London after closing its Cyprus headquarters due to the country's decision to ban the departure of any Gaza-bound ships. It plans to send as many as three more ships in coming months and reports that four captains already have volunteered for the missions. (AP)

12. (U) Israel: Thousands of Israeli activists marched

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in Tel Aviv to protest Israeli policies, including the recent raids on Gaza-bound ships. During the protest, a smoke grenade was hurled at protestors outside the Tel Aviv Museum, but no one was injured. (YNET)

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13. (U) Turkey: Approximately 5000 protestors gathered in Istanbul for a demonstration organized by the Foundation for Humanitarian Relief (IHH), a key organizer of the flotilla intercepted on May 31.
(timesonline.co.uk)

14. (U) UK: The Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign organized a protest in Edinburgh that attracted nearly 3000 people, including a May 31 raid survivor. The captain of the RACHEL CORRIE is Scottish. (bbc.co.uk)

15. (U) UK: Thousands of protestors in London marched from Downing Street to the Israeli Embassy.
(timesonline.co.uk)

16. (U) Sweden: Swedish dockworkers are launching a blockade of Israeli ships and goods from June 15 to 24.
(AP)

17. (U) Minimized considered.
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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AF-00 AID-00 AIT-00 AMAD-00 AOP-00
 AEX-00 AS-00 A-00 RPPR-00 ACQ-00 CA-00 COME-00
 CCOE-00 DOTE-00 WHA-00 DS-00 MEDE-00 EAP-00 DHSE-00
 EUR-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 UTED-00 VCI-00 FOE-00 DIAS-00
 FSI-00 OBO-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 ARMY-00 MFLO-00
 MMP-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 CDC-00 VCIE-00 NEA-00
 NSAE-00 ISN-00 OCS-00 OIG-00 NIMA-00 OPR-00 PC-01
 PER-00 PM-00 SCT-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 IRM-00 SS-00
 MR-00 T-00 NCTC-00 ASDS-00 FMP-00 R-00 SCRS-00
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SOURCE: DISKETTE.070666

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:EGSTAFFORD -- 06/06/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:SDONER

S/ES-O:HFRODRIGUEZ

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JICPAC PEARL HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

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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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UNCLAS STATE 058439

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT,
IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO.13

STATUS OF M/V RACHEL CORRIE DETAINED PASSENGERS AND CREW

1. (SBU) Israel has deported or will deport the passengers and crew of the M/V RACHEL CORRIE. One UK citizen, one Cuban, and six Malaysians have already left; one Filipino and five Irish citizens are scheduled to leave by June 7. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon)

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

2. (SBU) Iran: According to the semi-official Mehr news agency, Ali Shirazi, Supreme Leader Khamenei's Revolutionary Guard Corps representative, said its forces are ready to provide a military escort to cargo ships seeking to break Israel's Gaza blockade. (Reuters)

ISRAELI REACTIONS

3. (SBU) Israel's ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, stated on Fox News Sunday that Israel will reject an international commission to study its commando raid on a Gaza-bound aid ship in which nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed, saying, "We are rejecting an international commission. We are discussing with the Obama administration a way in which our inquiry will take place." (Reuters)

4. (SBU) The Israeli Defense Forces stated that six of the activists aboard the M/V MAVI MARMARA have links to

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Hamas or Islamic Jihad, according to the media. Two of the six are identified as American citizens: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] According to Embassy Tel Aviv, each has left Israel.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon, Ha'aretz)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RESPONDS

5. (SBU) Representative Sarbanes (D-MD) released a statement June 4 noting that it is possible that "delivering humanitarian aid to the residents of Gaza was not the primary objective of those piloting the MAVI MARMARA" and that "the persistence of the MAVI MARMARA in seeking to breach the blockade was intended to provoke a clash with Israeli Defense Forces."
(Bignews.biz; Rep. Sarbanes' Press Release

6. (U) Minimized considered.
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ACTION NEA-00

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INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00
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	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00
	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	CRYE-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00
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 AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
 CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
 COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
 COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001277

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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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XOXX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
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JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

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

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

HaQaretz reported that PM Benjamin Netanyahu opposes U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's proposal for an international investigative committee into the Free Gaza Flotilla affair. Netanyahu has not officially rejected the proposal, but people close to him say he is studying other options. Media reported that Netanyahu and most Israeli Cabinet ministers apparently prefer an Israeli probe in which Americans and other foreigners would have observer status. Leading media reported that Netanyahu spoke by telephone yesterday with a number of close allies, including U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Georgian PM Nika Gilauri, and Quartet Representative Tony Blair. Netanyahu emphasized during these conversations, as he has since the proposal was first made, that Israel acted in self-defense just like any other country would if faced with the threat of thousands of missiles and rockets. The media quoted Michael Oren, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, as saying on the U.S. TV program "Fox News Sunday," "We are rejecting an international commission. We are discussing with the Obama administration a way in which our inquiry will take place." Maariv reported that President Obama is urging Netanyahu to decide quickly. HaQaretz quoted an Israeli official as saying earlier in Jerusalem

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that Ban Ki-moon had suggested establishing a panel that would be headed by former New Zealand PM Geoffrey Palmer and include representatives from Turkey, Israel, and the U.S. The Jerusalem Post reported that the Foreign Ministry is recommending that the Government quickly agree to an investigation mechanism so as to knock the issue out of the deadlines. UNCLASSIFIED

HaQaretz reported that the U.S. Embassy in Israel has demanded an investigation into how American Citizen Emily Henochowicz lost her eye last week at the Qalandiyah checkpoint after being struck by a tear gas grenade.

Electronic media reported that early this morning IDF commandoes thwarted a terrorist attack in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip.

Three Palestinians were killed and four were wounded. In a separate incident, Israel Radio reported that IDF forces killed three Palestinians who were about to launch a rocket into Israel.

The media reported that yesterday the Turkish daily Hurriyet published photographs showing that Israeli naval commandos were taken belowdecks during last week's raid of the Mavi Marmara. The Israeli media said that this is consistent with the Israel Navy's claim that some of the passengers on the ship tried to kidnap three commandos. The Israeli media reported that activists in the flotilla sent radio messages saying: QGo back to AuschwitzQ and Qremember 9/11.

Yediot reported that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Syrian President Hafez Assad, and P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas will be among regional leaders convening in Istanbul starting today in an effort to isolate Israel.

The Jerusalem Post reported that yesterday visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal S. Wolin told reporters that Israel's economy will weather the international furor over the IDF raid on the flotilla.

Leading media reported that yesterday ten senior Israel Navy reserve officers released an open letter to PM Netanyahu and DM Ehud Barak criticizing the handling of the raid last week of the Mavi Marmara. The letter, the signatories of which are all patrol boat commanders at the rank of lieutenant or lieutenant commander, calls for the establishment of an external inquiry committee into the incident. The letter represents the first public expression of criticism of the way the incident was handled from within the IDF.

Media reported that family and friends of Gilad Shalit plead with the Government not to lift the blockade on Gaza. The media reported that the IDF has ordered its soldiers and officers not to travel to

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Turkey. Media reported that a group of Israelis intends to create a peaceful flotilla and make it circle the two parts of Cyprus. Israel Radio reported that yesterday in Los Angeles thousands of people attended a pro-Israel rally led by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. On the other hand, 6,000 people gathered in Tel Aviv on Saturday night to protest 43 years of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, and a government that organizers said is drowning Israel.

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Yediot cited the British weekly The Sunday Times as saying that

Turkey is considering closing an Israeli intelligence base in eastern Turkey that has been monitoring military activity in Iran. HaQaretz cited the Israeli defense establishment's concern over the recent appointment of Hakan Fidan as the head of Turkey's national intelligence organization (MIT). HaQaretz says that together with the Turkish PM and FM, Fidan orchestrated an intentional change in relations between Israel and Turkey.

Electronic media reported that this morning the Knesset's House Committee deprived Arab Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi (National Democratic Assembly Q Balad) of three of her privileges, including her diplomatic passport. Zoabi had participated in the Free Gaza Flotilla.

HaQaretz and Maariv cited the potential appointment of a new Israeli ambassador to the U.N. HaQaretz reported that Dan Gillerman, who held the position in the past, declined to take up the post once again. Maariv reported that FM Avigdor Lieberman's choice for the post is Bar-Ilan University Law Professor Yaffa Silberschatz.

HaQaretz reported that South Korea has downgraded the visit of President Shimon Peres to the country following the Free Gaza Flotilla's debacle.

Most media quoted Helen Thomas, a veteran member of the White House Press Corps, as saying that the Jews must get the hell out of Palestine and go home to Germany or Poland.

The media reported that the Israeli satirical group's QWe Con the WorldQ video -- a parody on the flotilla affair -- has registered well over a million Internet hits.

Mideast:

Block Quotes:

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The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post opined in a special, page-one editorial (6/7): QThe campaign to demonize Israel is being most energetically championed, unsurprisingly, by nations, organizations and individuals that make no secret of the fact that

they seek Israel's destruction. But it is being facilitated in good part because of a growing disinclination among those who know better to contest those assaults on Israel that have departed from the framework of moral tenability and legitimacy. In this context, the United States has a critical part to play. It has been a credible and dependable ally of Israel through innumerable past crises, and it is vital that the Obama administration play that central role again today. It is vital, most of all, that the U.S. insist on the maintenance of Israel's capacity to protect itself against those who seek its elimination.... We cannot in good conscience do nothing. And we invite you, amid what in some quarters is developing into anti-Israel hysteria, to add your voice to our call for the U.S. to lead the way along the path of reason.

II. QReach an Understanding with the United States

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (6/7): QIn the current situation Israel's foremost interest is to try to reach an agreement with the United States regarding the king of investigation of the legitimate action against the flotilla. It would indeed be advisable to seek Europe's participation. It is known that the Arab world supports [actions against extremists], but that it is keeping mum. But the most important people in the international arena are the Americans. As far as Israel is concerned, understandings with the U.S. would represent the climax of the line of flexibility, the conclusion of the move of concessions.

III. QLonging for a Leader

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote on page one of the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/7): QNetanyahu lives in a state of repression. As in the Western Wall tunnel events in his previous term, now too he did not realize how far things could go. He did not ask himself what Erdogan would do, how Turkey would react to the takeover of a Turkish ship by Israeli commandos. He did not ask himself what the reaction would be of governments who had respected citizens on board. He was so complacent that he did not leave anyone from his bureau in Israel as a contact person, despite the fact that he knew the operation would be carried out during his stay abroad, prior to a meeting with the U.S. President. And then, when the damage has been done, he backs down all the way: He announces that the Turks on the ship are al-Qaida agents but

sends them home, as heroes, without fully questioning them. He UNCLASSIFIED
eases the blockade on Gaza. He consents to international

participation in the investigation and then changes his mind. He deludes himself that things will be fine: soon Obama will begin his election season, and then he will be defeated and weakened. All Israel has to do is lower its head until the storm passes. A leader would take the initiative into his own hands, replace Lieberman with [Finance Minister Yuval] Steinitz or Yisrael Beiteinu with Kadima, take steps that would strengthen the Palestinian Authority's sovereignty in the West Bank, remove the blockade from Gaza, which has mainly harmed Israel until now, and prepare for a new age in the ties with Turkey. But as of now, Israel has no leader, and it has no leadership.

IV. QBreaking Out of the Siege

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (6/6):
Q[Following the outbreak of the Free Gaza Flotilla affair] Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his usual manner, rushed to raise the specter of the Iranian threat along with the adage that the whole world is against us. Q Instead of locating the fire scorching the diplomatic relations we built up with such effort, Netanyahu is following in the footsteps of his ostracized Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, accusing the world of hypocritical treatment of Israel... A thorough examination of the Mavi Marmara incident and the lifting of the siege against civilians in Gaza are essential steps, but they are certainly not sufficient. If Israel is to break out of the international siege and strategic catastrophe it now faces, it urgently needs a different policy.

V. QThe Mask Has Fallen

Military correspondent Alex Fishman wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/6): QThe Turkish government... knew precisely who was on board the Marmara. Had it wanted to prevent a violent clash, it could have and should have whispered something into an Israeli ear. But it wanted the provocation. And now Israel is looking into the personal-commercial relationship between the company, which owns the ship, and Erdogan. Israel more than merely suspects that Erdogan contributed to the flotilla an asset he partially owns. Those facts aren't going to change Israel's public image in the world. But the citizens of Israel need to know that the stumbles and the errors that were made here in dealing with the flotilla are not the principal reason for Israel's political distress. Turkey took the liberty of taking this kind of provocative action because Israel has lost, to a great extent, the political protection of the United States. Furthermore, Turkey has identified the fact that the interests maintained by the current

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U.S. administration in Turkey are far more powerful than the administration's interests in Israel. This is the product of a shift in the United States' global policy that was introduced by the Obama administration. It is no coincidence that the Mossad Director said last week that it was becoming a liability instead of an asset to the current US administration. And worst of all, the Turks understand, as do the Syrians, that the ally, Israel's principal political support, is becoming weaker.

VI. QPride, Not Weakness

Liberal columnist Yael Paz QMelamed wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/7): QWhat is left [of the Free Gaza Flotilla affair] is also pride -- Israeli pride, in the good sense of the word. And it is difficult to explain it in words, only in gut feelings, but these harsh images do not project helplessness. And even had we not known the outcome, we could guess it easily. Because these mercenaries, or whoever they were, did not have a chance against the Naval Commando combatants. Not because of their strength and the professionalism, because that is clear. Because whoever puts terrorists on a QpeaceQ flotilla and takes pictures of them, with open enjoyment, covered with blood -- will ultimately be covered by their blood.

VII. QWho Is Afraid of a Muslim Turkey?

Foreign News Editor Shay Ilan wrote in Maariv (6/7): QNostalgia for Ottoman colonialism is not necessarily a negative thing. Many people have sent ha the fact that Turkey was one of the first countries visited by Obama represented a seal of approval for Erdogan's Qneo-Ottomanism.Q Thus, Israel does not constitute a factor in Turkey's Islamization or tightening of ties with Syria and Iran. But this doesn't mean that Israel cannot take advantage of this trend, provided it does not react to it angrily.

VIII. QTurkey Also Has What to Lose over the Gaza Flotilla Affair

Diplomatic correspondent Herb Keinon wrote in The Jerusalem Post (6/7): Q[Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip] Erdogan's caustic criticism of Israel is doing nothing, according to diplomatic officials, to settle the unease inside European institutions and NATO concerning Turkey's direction. And this could -- if Israel so

chose -- be used as leverage over Ankara to get the Turkish government to pull back and turn down the heat before a fire erupts that is certainly detrimental to Israel, but would also burn Turkey.

It will be interesting to watch in the coming days whether Israel more and more openly implicates the Turkish government in responsibility for planning, organizing and carrying out the flotilla initiative. Some diplomatic officials think that this is a

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new aggressive tack that Israel should take. The idea is not to match Erdogan's vitriolic rhetoric, but rather to just expose the degree to which the Turkish government -- which says it wants to be a part of Europe and a bridge builder between East and West -- was involved in last week's disastrous events. Up until now, Israel has been extremely careful not to respond to Erdogan's bitter tongue-lashings in kind. Yet there are other ways, beyond getting into a megaphone screaming match with Erdogan, for Israel to react the place the Turkish government had in this whole story is not something that will likely add to Turkey's luster in the E.U., NATO or -- for that matter -- in Washington.

IX. Dangerous Incitement

Ha'aretz editorialized (6/7): Of all the damage done by the botched takeover of the Mavi Marmara, one aspect is particularly serious: the further erosion of the relationship between the State of Israel and its Arab citizens, and between Jews and Arabs in Israel in general. While decisions were made concerning the flotilla to Gaza, the Prime Minister, his ministers and his spokesmen knew that on board the Mavi Marmara were a number of Arab Israeli public figures, including a Knesset member and a political-religious leader. However, they took no particular precautions. Apparently, no voice of reason was heard, asking that Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi and Sheikh Raed Salah not be turned into heroes. But the intimidation and incitement against them were even more egregious.... Arab citizens may be the direct victims of government policy and the atmosphere in the Knesset, but all of society will pay the price of the devastation that will result.

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00
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	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	DSCG-00
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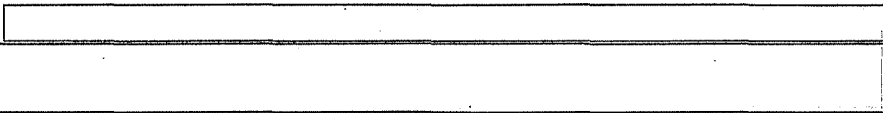
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/07
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, IS, TU
 SUBJECT: Turkey Gropes for Way Forward After Gaza

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."

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[redacted]

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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]

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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."

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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.

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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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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	INL-00
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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
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SCA-00	NFAT-00
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AMEMBASSY RABAT

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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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 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

UNCLASSIFIED

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.

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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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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)

[REDACTED]

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6. (C)

[REDACTED]

provided more information to the Embassy's PAO on June 10. [REDACTED] is not a member of Journalists without Limits, though [REDACTED] knows other journalists who are. [REDACTED] said the group is made up of leftist activists who have no money, adding that [REDACTED] did not believe they were going anywhere soon. [REDACTED] also assessed that Hizballah might eventually provide some Iranian money to the group in order to compete with Turkey on the issue, but [REDACTED] did not think the party would do so in the short term. [REDACTED] 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)

[REDACTED]

LEBANESE PARTIES PRESENT LETTER DENOUNCING ISRAEL

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

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[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.

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ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-00
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00
	WHA-00	DS-00	EAD-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VCI-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00	MOFM-00
	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	NRC-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7380

INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
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.

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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.

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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
	DHSE-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	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	BEG-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-00
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WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

DA WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

COMSOCEUR VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

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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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA UNCLASSIFIED
HQ USAF FOR XXXX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
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JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

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

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

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. Double Standards

Conservative Op-Ed Page Editor Ben-Dror Yemini wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/18): The 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. A 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): It 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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	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	/001W	

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 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 000551

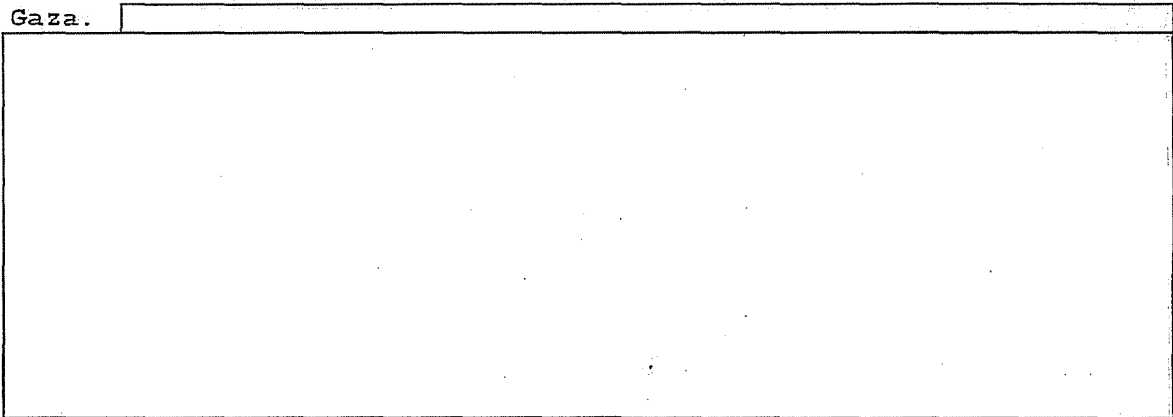
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/18
 TAGS: PREL, PBTS, KPAL, UNIFIL, PTER, PHUM, KWBG, GZ, LE, IS
 SUBJECT: LEBANESE CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF FLOTILLA TO DEPART FOR
 GAZA, BUT SAY IT WILL NOT HAPPEN BEFORE JUNE 20

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.



B1

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]

[redacted]

GENERAL SECURITY SAYS PERMISSION WILL BE REQUIRED

7. (C) [redacted]

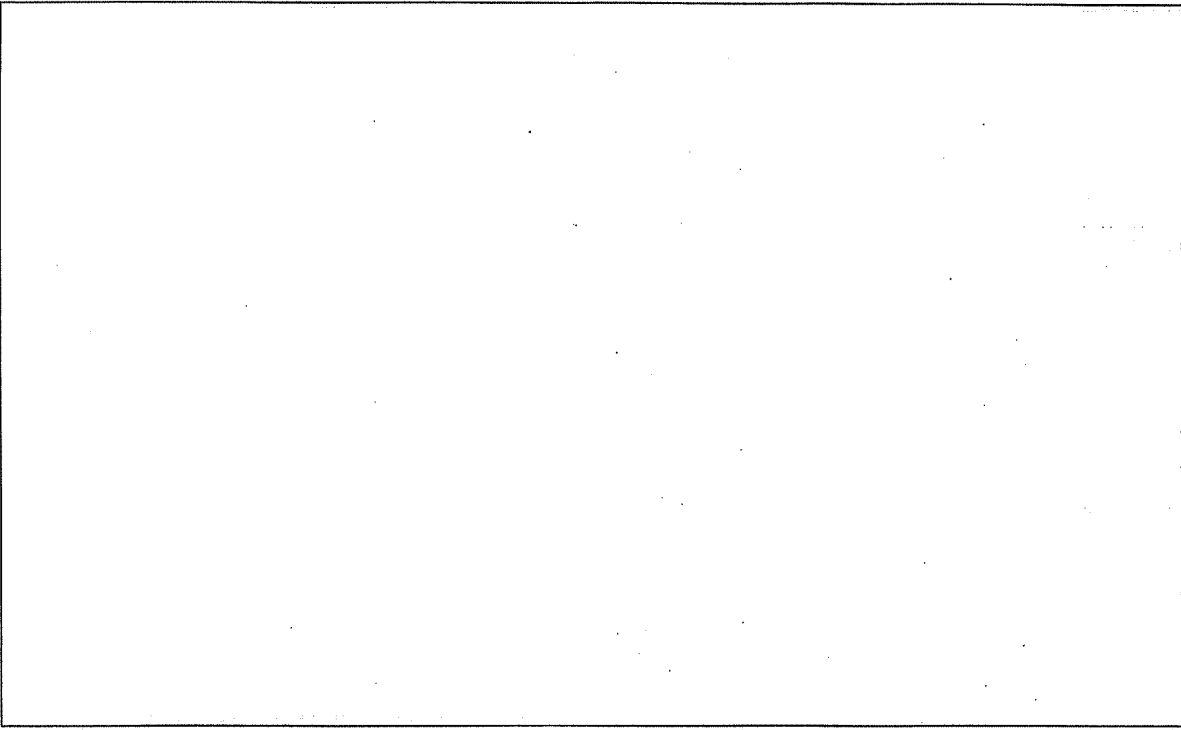
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E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/07/06
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, TU
 SUBJECT: IHH Releases Its Report on the Gaza Flotilla

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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DEPT FOR E, P, EB, EAP/J, EAP/P, EAP/PD, PA;

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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

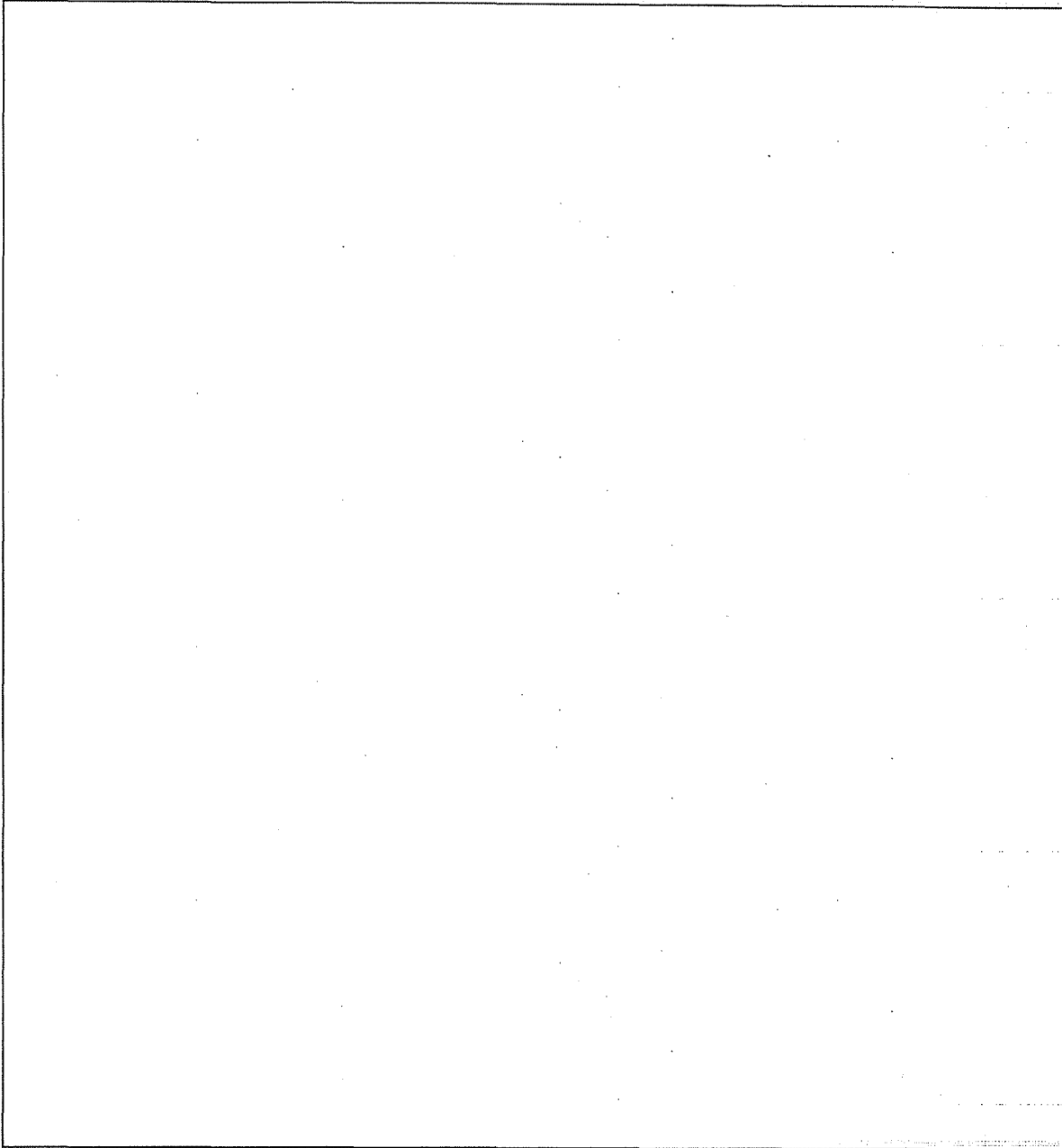
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TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, PGOV, PINR, ECON, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS 07/07/10

INDEX:

- 1) Top headlines
- 2) Editorials



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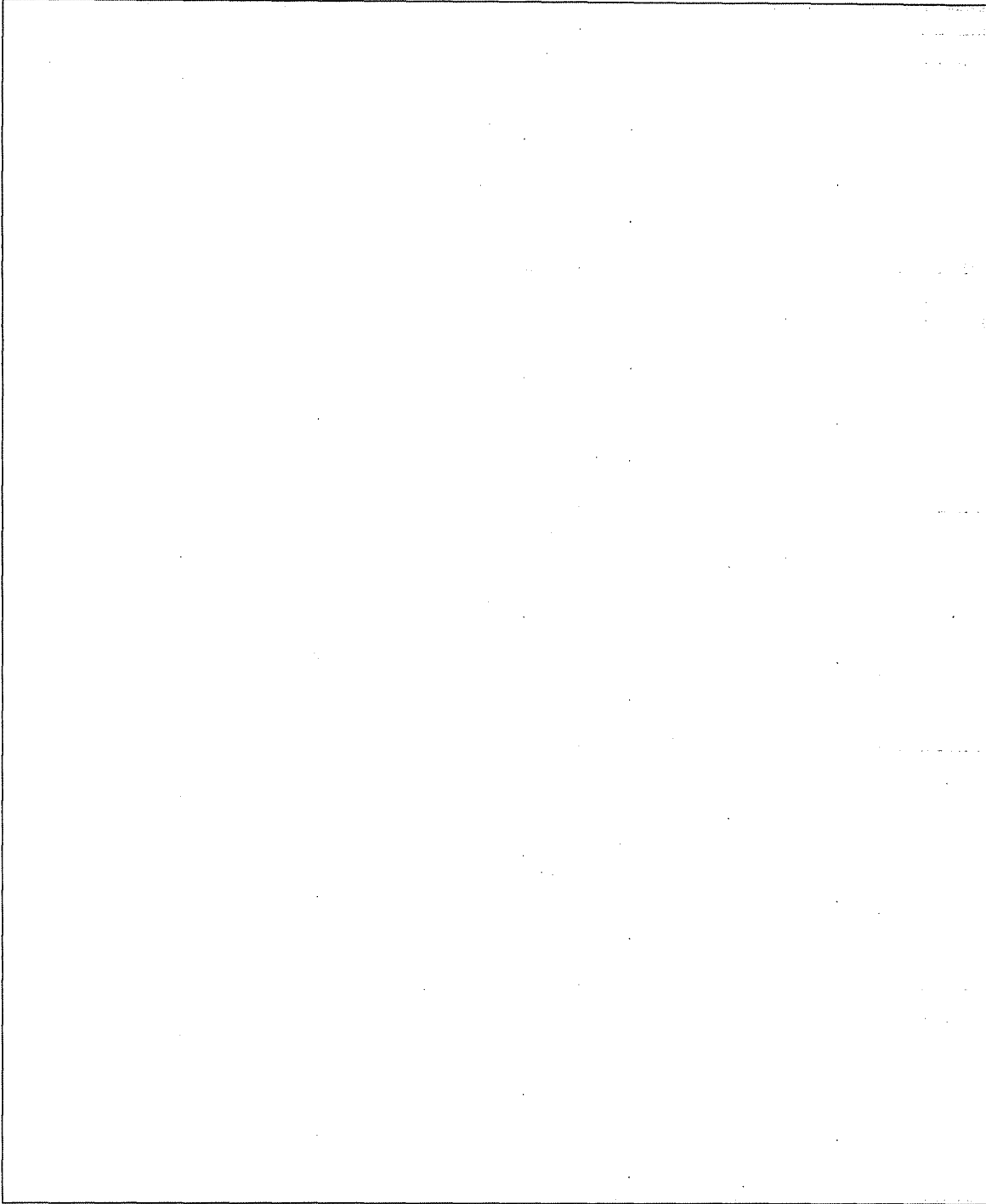
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Articles:

1) TOP HEADLINES

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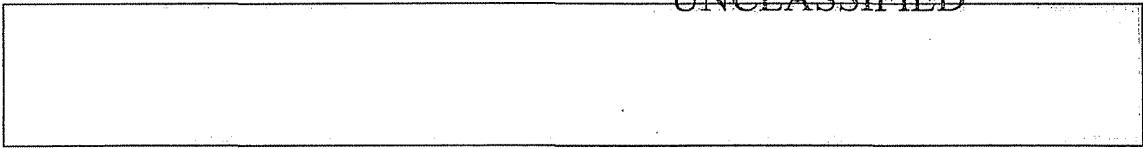
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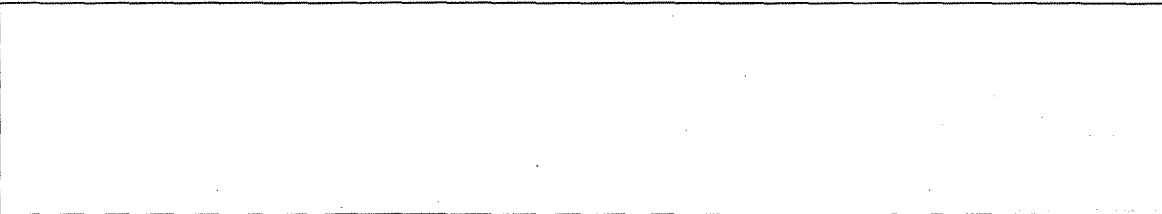
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E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO
 SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA REACTION AUGUST 6, 2010

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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 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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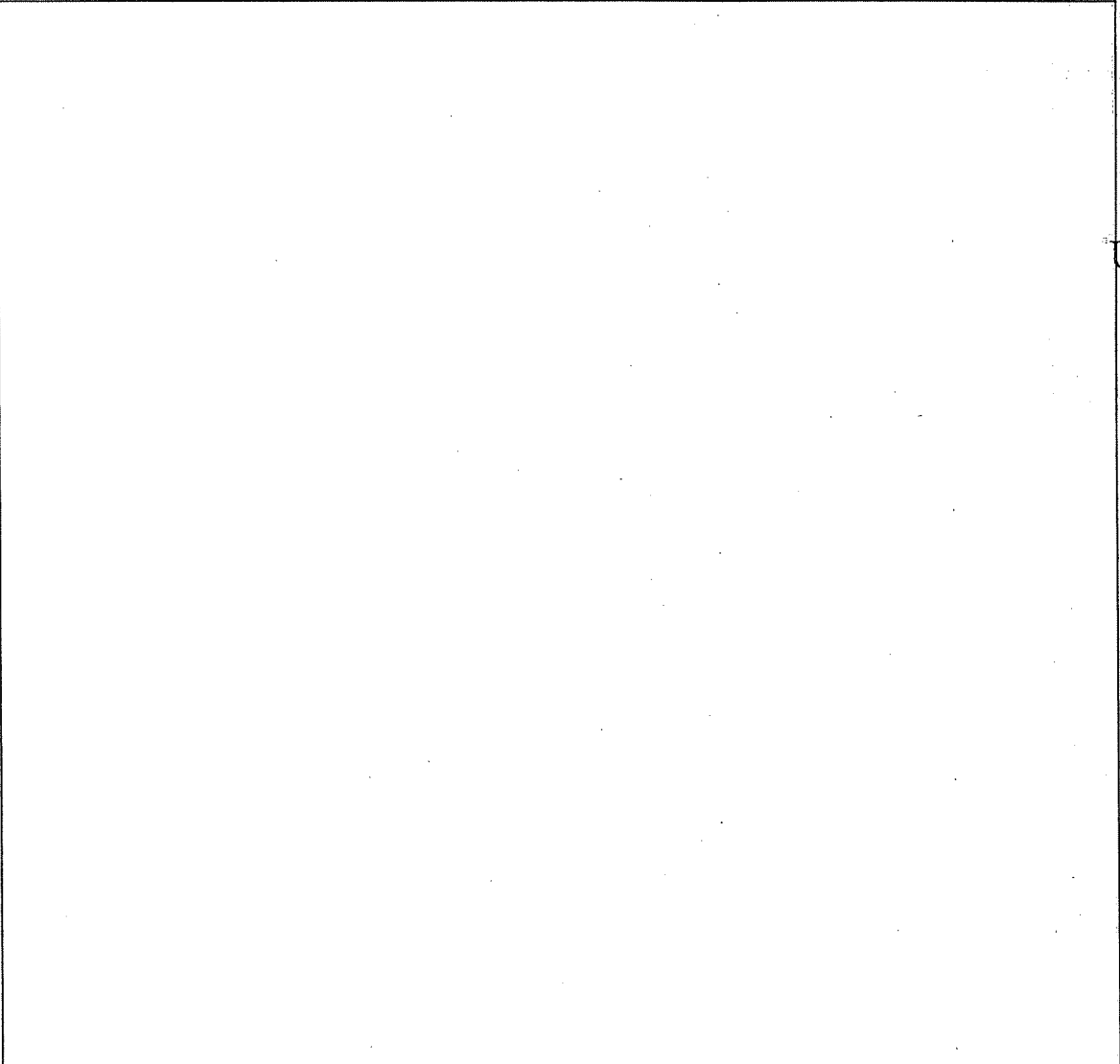
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4. Israel Sends Back "Mavi Marmara" (Hurriyet): Turkish media report that the Mavi Marmara passenger ship at the center of the deadly Israeli navy raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla was towed out of port in Israel and is on way back to Turkey, along with 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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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] 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

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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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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.)

KING

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ACTION NEA-00

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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM

NSC FOR NEA STAFF

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

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JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
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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. QObama 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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	VCIE-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	SS-00
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INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

DIA WASHINGTON DC

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE

CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

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JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CIA WASHINGTON DC

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

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

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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
	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	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
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
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 AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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

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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 Ozcelik 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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INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 GHFS-00 ACQ-00 CA-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 [REDACTED] -- 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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 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	SSO-00
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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. [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 UNCLASSIFIED
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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	EUR-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	PA-00	MCC-00
	PM-00	P-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00
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 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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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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PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

E.O. 13526: N/A
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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	OIC-00	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00	DOHS-00
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
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E.O. 13526: N/A
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

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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

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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 Serri 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
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R 100928Z NOV 10
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 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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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.

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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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ACTION EUR-00

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	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
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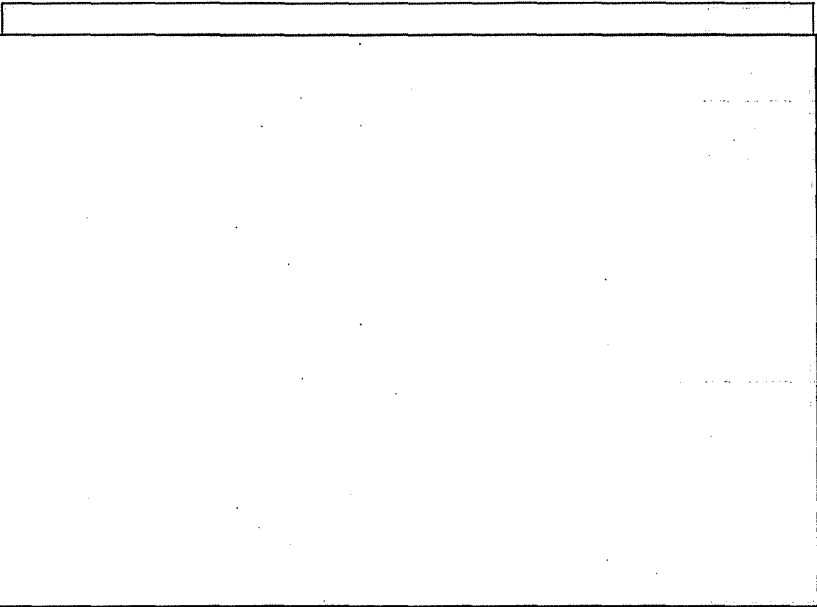
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SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: AORC, HURI, MOPS, PHUM, PREF, PREL, KAWC, KPKO, KPOW, KTIA, 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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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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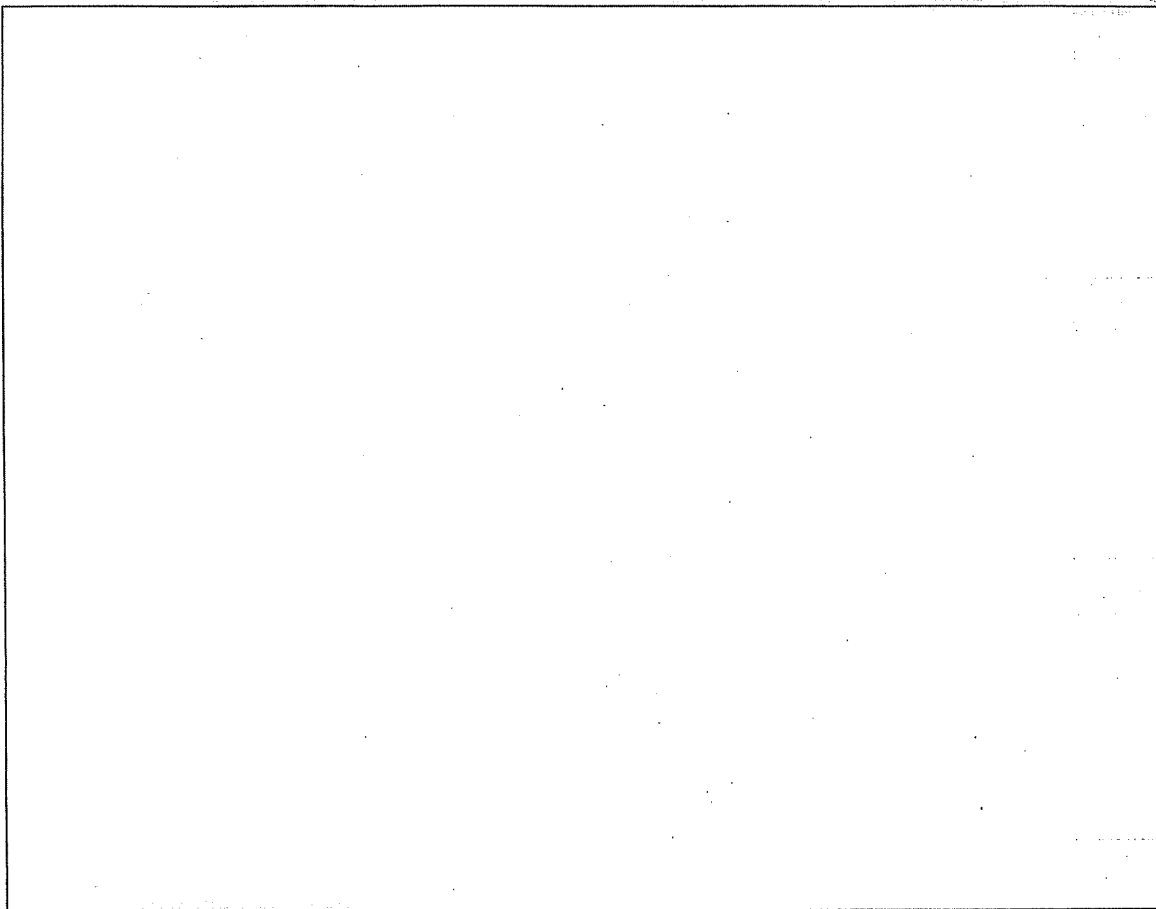
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ACTION NEA-00

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INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00
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O R 241247Z JAN 11
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UNCLAS TEL AVIV 000079

SENSITIVE

E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, MOPS, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: ISRAELI PUBLIC COMMISSION ON MAVI MARMARA: POSITIVE FOR
 ISRAEL, BUT TURKEY CONDEMNS

1. (SBU) Summary: On January 23, the Turkel Commission, a public commission examining the Gaza flotilla interdiction on May 31, 2010, submitted the first part of its findings to PM Netanyahu. Committee Chairman and former High Court Justice Jacob Turkel announced the results during a public session also on January 23. According to the report, the Commission found the GOI's naval blockade and the Israel Defense Force's use of force during the May 31 Gaza flotilla interdiction as legal pursuant to the rules of international law. However, the Commission criticized the planning process for failing to anticipate a "worst case scenario" in which armed activists confronted boarding IDF soldiers. The Commission's findings were well-received in Israel, and presented as justification for the May 31st intervention. The Israeli press covered extensively Turkish criticism of the report. The Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv issued a press statement to the international community contesting the Turkey Commission's findings, and lambasting the public release of the Commission's conclusions. MFA interlocutors acknowledged several flotilla efforts on the immediate horizon that bear monitoring. End summary.

Commission Conclusions

2. (SBU) The first part of the Commission's report examined the legality of the naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, and

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

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the legality of the actions carried out by the IDF in order to enforce the naval blockade under international law. The main findings of the first part of the Commission's report are:

-- The naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip - in view of the security circumstances and Israel's efforts to comply with its humanitarian obligations - was legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

-- The actions carried out by Israel on May 31, 2010, to enforce the naval blockade had the regrettable consequences of the loss of human life and physical injuries. Nonetheless, and despite the limited number of uses of force for which we could not reach a conclusion, the actions taken were found to be legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

3. (SBU) The Commission detailed efforts to hear both sides of the incident. According to the report, invitations were sent through the Turkish Embassy in Israel to the captain of the Mavi Marmara and leader of the Turkish sponsoring NGO IHH, Bulent Yildirim, as well as a request for other eyewitnesses to the incident. According to the Commission, these requests went unanswered.

4. (SBU) In order to assess the legitimacy and proportionality of the IDF's use of force during the May 31st incident, the Commission examined approximately 130 incidents in which force was used - including the use of force by IDF soldiers and commanders. In total, the Commission examined the actions of more than 40 soldiers and commanders, the testimonies of the commanders in charge of taking over other vessels participating in the flotilla, as well as incidents captured on magnetic media handed over to the Commission. The Commission noted difficulties re-constructing a complete and precise picture of the sequence of events, given the lack of testimonies from flotilla participants and the fact that the "scene of the events, i.e., the vessels themselves, were not kept in sterile conditions.

5. (SBU) The Commission determined that the IDF soldiers acted professionally and in a measured manner "in the face of extensive and unanticipated violence." This professionalism was evident in their "continuing to switch back and forth" between less-lethal and lethal weapons in order to address the "nature of the violence directed against them." The Commission found that 127 uses of force investigated appeared to be in conformity with international law. In five of the 127 cases, force appeared to be used against persons taking a direct part in hostilities; however, there was insufficient evidence to conclude that the force used was in accordance with law enforcement norms. In six cases the Commission concluded that it did not have sufficient information to be able to make a determination regarding the legality of the use of force.

6. (SBU) The Commission also noted that Israeli authorities did not have a forewarning of the violent reception planned by IHH activists. The inability to identify IHH intentions had a direct

impact on operational tactics, rules of engagement and training prior to the operation. As such, the Commission noted that the lack of appreciation of the threat was not exclusively the result of incomplete intelligence gathering, but also throughout the planning process. The scenario of an organized force armed with lethal weapon actively resisting boarding attempts appears not to have been considered. Planning in advance for the "worst case scenario" would have better prepared the soldiers.

7. (SBU) A forthcoming second part of the Commission's report - expected to be released in coming months - will address the question of whether the investigation and inquiry mechanism practiced in Israel and as applied to the Mavi Marmara incident is consistent with the duties of the State of Israel. This second part will also include questions that have importance from a domestic Israeli perspective.

International Observers

8. (SBU) The international observers of the Commission - former Nobel Peace Laureate (William) David Trimble from Northern Ireland and Brigadier-General (Ret.) Kenneth Watkin from Canada - issued a letter which accompanied the Commission's report. In the letter, the observers noted that they had "no doubt" that the Commission was independent, and expressed satisfaction that they had all access to the material before the Commission and were fully involved in all the Commission's work. They also expressed appreciation that the Commission made repeated efforts to hear both sides, extending to make arrangement for evidence to be given by video conference and taking evidence at a neutral location - although these offers were not taken up. The international observers expressed appreciation for Israeli Arabs who were on board the Mavi Marmara, as well as representatives of the Israeli Human Rights Non-Governmental Organization who testified before the Commission.

Turkish Reaction

9. (SBU) Israeli press outlets covered Turkish PM Erdogan's scathing critic of the Commission's report. In addition, the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv disseminated on January 24 a press statement to the international community in response to the Commission's findings. According to the statement, the Government of Turkey had submitted an interim report to the UN Panel of Inquiry on September 1 and kept its report confidential, while the Israeli response had been delayed several times and subsequently released to the public. The statement noted that:

- Israel's "so-called maritime blockade" against the Gaza Strip is devoid of legal basis and legitimacy. Israel's attack - an extension of this unlawful practice - is therefore equally illegal.
- Even if Israel's alleged blockade had not been lacking a legal basis, it would still have been unlawful because Israel has not met various requirements for a naval blockade to be accepted as lawful.

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Israel's so-called blockade does not fulfill the requirements of "proportionality," "necessity," and "reasonableness" under international law.

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-- The Human Rights Council Fact-Finding Mission determined the Israeli blockade to be illegal and inferred therefore that the interception of the Mavi Marmara and the subsequent detention of passengers and crew was unlawful.

-- Israel's attack against the Gaza flotilla violated both wartime and peacetime international law, and "trampled" all international principles, rules and norms with respect to the manner the intervention was conducted.

-- The Turkish Commission is "surprised, appalled and dismayed" that the Israeli national inquiry process resulted in the exoneration of the Israeli armed forces despite all the facts confirmed by the Human Rights Council Fact-Finding Mission.

Israeli Reaction

10. (SBU) On January 23, PM Netanyahu praised the findings of the Commission. "The truth is simple - the IDF soldiers protected themselves and the State," Netanyahu said. "It is not only their right but also their duty to do so, and the State of Israel supports them." He called the report "independent and unbiased," and noted that the entire world had seen Israeli soldiers attacked on board the Mavi Marmara. "Every time Israel must defend itself, it is accused of committing war crimes... IDF soldiers boarded the Marmara with bravery and restraint. The aim was to enforce the naval blockade on Gaza, he added.

11. (SBU) MFA International Law Counselor Arthur Lenk said on January 23 that he will present the Turkey Commission's report to the UN Palmer Panel. Lenk noted that the Turkish report has yet to be finalized and will not be made public. According to Lenk, the only similarities between the Israeli and Turkish reports are that both are "dealing with an incident that happened on the Mavi Marmara on May 31st, and both of them mention there were nine fatalities." Lenk also addressed the credibility of the Turkel Commission, noting that the report had been critical of the GOI's policy planning process. He questioned why a report critical of Israel is often widely approved, while a report finding that Israel had acted in accordance with international humanitarian law is hastily second-guessed.

12. (SBU) On January 23, MFA Acting Director General Rafael Barak noted that the Commission report affirmed the behavior of the IDF. It was important that the two foreign representatives endorsed the report's findings. The report was also important for the army and the military units involved. The report also has been sent to Geoffrey Palmer, head of the UNSYG fact-finding panel, with plans for the Turkel Commission to meet with the panel in late February. Barak said that they were waiting for the reaction of the Turks, with the hope they would take the findings into consideration.

13. (SBU) MFA's Barak also said that the GOI was closely monitoring any new flotilla efforts designed to break the naval

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blockade. Israeli newspaper Haaretz included an article detailing several efforts, including by the Free Gaza movement and IHH. According to the article, these groups are planning to sail in the spring, potentially to coincide with the May 31st anniversary of

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the Mavi Marmara incident. These groups hope to include a greater number of ships and activists on-board, to include politicians, well-known athletes and artists.

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 DA WASHINGTON DC
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
 AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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SIPDIS
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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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NSC FOR NEA STAFF
SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
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DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
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PARIS ALSO FOR POL
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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE TEL AVIV

MEDIA REACTION REPORT

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

All media reported that on Monday, hundreds of right-wing activists attempted to storm the Supreme Court to protest the detention of Kiryat Arba Chief Rabbi Dov Lior earlier in the day. (Ha'aretz says that this protest was organized by the Yesha Council of Jewish Settlements in the Territories and other groups that "usually are not on good terms with each other.") Protesters also blocked the entrance to Jerusalem and other streets in the capital. Maj. Gen. Yoav Segalovitch, the head of the police's Investigations division, ordered Lior detained after the rabbi refused previous summons for questioning. Lior was wanted for questioning after he endorsed the controversial book "Torat Hamelech" (The King's Law), which

justifies the killing of non-Jews. Media quoted Lior as saying

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that the Torah does not need approval; by "commissars." Ha'aretz reported that on Monday, in an unusual step, Israel's two Chief Rabbis, Yona Metzger and Shlomo Amar, released a joint statement decrying the "severe damage to the dignity of an important rabbi and rabbinic judge, one of Israel's greatest rabbis." However, they also called on people not to protest the police's questioning of Lior. Seventeen protesters were arrested in Jerusalem, two of whom were attempting to break into the home of deputy state prosecutor Shai Nitzan. Nitzan, who is currently abroad, has been given special police protection after he was threatened by right-wing extremists. According to a report on Channel 2-TV on Monday, the police are inclined to recommend indicting the rabbis and the book's author for incitement to racism or violence. The pro-settler daily Makor Rishon-Hatzofe identifies with Lior. Ex-Justice Jacob Turkel, who headed the Israeli commission of investigation on events related to last year's flotilla, told Israel Radio this morning that Rabbi Lior's arrest was not a clever act.

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All media quoted senior Israeli officials as saying at a press briefing on Monday that even though the Turkish organization IHH has withdrawn from the upcoming flotilla to Gaza, information recently obtained by Israel indicates that some passengers are planning on carrying out violent acts. Since IHH was chiefly responsible for the violence aboard last year's flotilla, its withdrawal had initially seemed to obviate that threat. But the officials said that it now seems that members of the group will be sailing on some of the ships, along with other Arab and Muslim activists. Two of these activists, they said, have known ties with Hamas: Amin Abu Rashad, who formerly headed a Hamas-linked charity in the Netherlands that was shut down by the Dutch government for financing terror, and Mohammad Hannoun of the Italian ABSPP foundation, which Israel claims is also involved in financing terror. The information also indicates that flotilla organizers may be stowing chemicals aboard for use against soldiers who board the ships, the officials said, adding that a few extremists among the organizers had been heard threatening in recent days "to spill the blood" of IDF soldiers. Senior defense officials told Ha'aretz that the chemicals, including sulfur, are aboard ships carrying French and American passengers, among others. "This is a dramatic development," one defense source said. "The picture emerging here is that some of the flotilla participants clearly intend a violent

clash." Israel Radio cited flotilla organizers' utter denial of the report. On Monday, the diplomatic-security cabinet ordered the IDF to "act resolutely" to enforce the naval blockade of Gaza by stopping the flotilla, which is due to sail from Greece in the coming days. But it said the army should "avoid friction" with the passengers "as far as is possible." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also decided that Israeli and foreign journalists should

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be embedded on navy ships involved in stopping the flotilla.

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On Monday, flotilla activists charged that one of their ships was deliberately tampered with while it was docked in Greece's Piraeus port.

Ha'aretz reported that the Defense Ministry has proposed setting up a special naval court that could confiscate blockade-running ships. The proposal, drafted by ministry legal advisor Ahaz Benari, was made in a letter sent by DM Ehud Barak to Justice Minister Yaakov Ne'eman at the beginning of the month. Ha'aretz quoted defense sources as saying that ship seizures would make it harder for pro-Palestinian activists to rent ships for future flotillas. They also said a prize court could be established very quickly, enabling even ships in the current flotilla to be impounded. "There's no doubt that impounding vessels is a deterrent measure that could prevent the need to use force against future violations [of the blockade]," Barak wrote. At a meeting of his Atzmaut faction yesterday, Barak termed the flotilla an "unnecessary provocation." "There is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza," he said. "The real problem is the captivity of [soldier] Gilad Shalit and the fact that more rockets threatening southern Israel are continually being amassed there."

The media also reported that on Monday, "after a day in which every single news media outlet in the world seemed to weigh in" (in Ha'aretz's words), PM Benjamin Netanyahu rescinded a Government Press Office decision to sanction any foreign journalist who participates in the Gaza Strip flotilla. Yediot mentions a fabricated video that circulated on the Internet and that cited a homosexual man's contention that he had been rejected from the flotilla. His alleged remarks on Hamas' intolerance were used by

the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and the video was eventually removed.

Ha'aretz and Yediot quoted Israeli officials as saying that as saying on Monday that Israel is furious with Jordan for initiating a UNESCO vote condemning Israel for its planned renovations at the Mughrabi Gate Bridge. Ha'aretz quoted Nimrod Barkan, Israel's Ambassador to UNESCO, as saying on Monday that Israel is shocked that Amman had led a successful effort within the international body to condemn Israel over the renovations -- after signing an agreement with Israel to allow the work to go ahead. "The Jordanians lied in a way that cannot be believed, both to us and to the Americans," Barkan was quoted as saying in a phone call from Paris. "They lied all along the way. They wanted to get it both ways." Barkan said that the plans for razing and rebuilding the old Mughrabi Gate Bridge, which leads from the Western Wall plaza in Jerusalem to the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Temple Mount, have

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been public for a while and are intended to begin next week -- and Israel and Jordan had reached a clear agreement about the work. But despite the understanding, Israel -- and the U.S. -- were stunned last week to learn that Jordan, along with Egypt, Iraq, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Cambodia, and Mali had filed a complaint against Israel in UNESCO's World Heritage Committee over the planned renovations. "The most astonishing thing is they don't even mention the agreement between Israel and Jordan!" said Barkan, who added that Jordanian and Palestinian representatives also handed out pamphlets to members of the committee saying that Israel was also planning to carry out work at the Damascus Gate. Israel delayed the Jordan-led petition last Wednesday with the support of 11 committee members, but it was adopted without a vote by the 21-member body on Monday. In a related story, Ha'aretz reported that Israeli police officials are recommending that a permanent bridge to the Mughrabi Gate be built in September, while the world's attention is focused on the Palestinians' statehood bid at the U.N. General Assembly.

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Yediot and other media reported that veteran Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) activist Leila Khaled, 67, who is well known for her successful and failed hijackings of American and Israeli planes in 1969 and 1970, is one of the organizers of a PFLP attack on the Etz Hazayit (Olive Tree) Hotel in Jerusalem and the

abduction of an IDF soldier, which were thwarted by the police and Shin Bet.

Leading media quoted the German government as saying on Monday that it was Hamas that rejected a budding agreement with Israel over a Shalit deal. The media say that the statement concurs with Netanyahu's view. The media quoted Musa Abu Marzouk, the deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, as saying in an interview with Al-Hayat that the German mediator involved in the negotiations had "endorsed the unfair and unjust positions of the Zionist government."

A feature story in Yediot depicts a thriving Gaza.

Yediot quoted senior U.S. administration sources as saying that U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are among those demanding that the Egyptian leadership immediately release alleged Israeli spy Ilan Grapel, who is also an American citizen.

The Jerusalem Post's web site reported that Israel has been designated a 'Tier 2' country in the U.S. Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This ranking is reserved for countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but are making significant efforts

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to do so.

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Ha'aretz reviews a new book by Jeremy Ben-Ami, the founder of J. Street -- "A New Voice for Israel." The newspaper says that the book will be sure to find critics who disagree with the contention that the conversation on Israel must be changed.

Yediot reported that the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee adopted the Justice Minister's degree, based on the Money Laundering Law, that profits made from trading with Iran constitute a criminal offense. Major media reported that on Monday, Iran revealed underground ballistic missile ships. The Jerusalem Post cited Iranian State TV as saying that the Shahab 3 missile has a 2,000 km. range.

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Monday, the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee approved a bill outlawing boycotts on Israel.

The Jerusalem Post and Israel Hayom reported that conservative American pundit Glenn Beck will advise Knesset members on fighting the delegitimization of Israel abroad during a trip to Israel in July.

Yediot quoted Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann as saying in an interview with The Weekly Standard that she volunteered in a kibbutz after high school.

Yediot reported that Likud Knesset Member Miri Regev has introduced a bill tripling combat soldiers' salaries. The Treasury is opposed to the raise, which it deems too expensive.

Ha'aretz reported on an air security spat with Denmark, which could spread to the entire European continent.

Leading media reported that Motti Posloszny, a deputy city manager for Herzliya, is the Israeli who was convicted, together with his wife, of stealing historic artifacts from the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. He and his wife were fined and

given a two-year suspended sentence; the Polish prosecutor said the fine would be used to help preserve exhibits at the camp, which now serves as a museum. Posloszny submitted his resignation to Herzliya Mayor Yael German.

Leading media cited PM Netanyahu's decision to make the Dead Sea Works fund the rescue of the Dead Sea hotels, which are threatened by natural erosion.

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The Jerusalem Post quoted Rev. Malcolm Hedding, the outgoing executive director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem (ICEJ), as saying that the Interior Ministry has started revoking visas to employees of local Evangelical organizations.

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In what it says is a test for Israel's Law of Return, Ha'aretz reported that the Interior Ministry is refusing citizenship and new immigrant status to a homosexual married to a Jewish new immigrant, despite the law's stipulation that the child, grandchild and partner of a Jew are entitled to Jewish immigrant rights. Joshua Goldberg and Bayardo Alvarez, both American citizens, immigrated to Israel two weeks ago. Goldberg, who is Jewish, received an Israeli identity card and immigrant certificate on arrival, under the Law of Return. Alvarez, despite exerting much pressure on the ministry, was granted only temporary residence. Ha'aretz quoted Attorney Nicky Maor, director of the Legal Aid Center for Olim (new immigrants), as saying that if the couple were a man and woman, there is no doubt they would both have received Israeli citizenship.

Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "Who's the Boss?"

Liberal columnist and television anchor Ofer Shelach wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/28): "The overwhelming majority of the residents of Judea and Samaria [i.e. the West Bank], as they rightfully claim, are good and law-abiding citizens. But they live in a place where the law is subordinate to the rabbi, forsaken by a groveling and powerless government, ridiculed by the price tag thugs, about which law-abiding citizens say they do not support but whom they also do not vomit forth from their midst. They live in a place that has become so accustomed to the double game, that it no longer knows any other law. Rabbi Dov Lior is not to blame. This is how he lives, in no man's land. For so many years, no one has demanded accountability of him. So many governments have capitulated to him, have let him and his ilk spit at the army and the police and said 'look, it's raining.' So many people think, like him and like [far-Right] Knesset Member Michael Ben-Ari, that the 'left wingers are the Supreme Court.' The only ones to blame are those who pretend that all this comes together to a state in which there is law and order and justice for all."

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II. "You've Trampled Us Underfoot"

Religious Zionist Rabbi Haim Druckman, a former National-Religious Party Knesset Member, wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/28): "The arrest of Rabbi Dov Lior is a scandal that is second to none. My intention is both to the very fact of his arrest and the manner in which it was done. In practice, this was a kidnapping. Someone saw it fit to kidnap a rabbi in Israel in broad daylight. Those resourceful people managed to discover the criminal's location and they nabbed him. I lack the words to describe the magnitude of my shock... On this day, after the deplorable act that was done to Rabbi Lior, there is a very large

sector in Israel that feels that it has been offended, that it has been trampled underfoot. This sector is completely loyal to the State of Israel and the army, and its worldview is stately in nature. This sector literally sacrifices itself for the sake of the state. This kidnapping is an insult to those ideological youths, who only wish to contribute all the time in any way possible.... The despicable kidnapping of Rabbi Lior is an act of national irresponsibility that is second to none. It is, essentially, a self-inflicted injury. In general, there has been clear discrimination against the religious-Zionist sector of late. I do not want to get into issues of left and right, but there are people who incite against the State of Israel. As a result of their incitement, IDF commanders cannot travel to all sorts of places in the world-but they are not interrogated. They are not arrested.

They have no problem. Whom do they kidnap here in broad daylight? A great rabbi in Israel. This was a terribly severe course of action. It was enormously damaging to us in national, stately and ethical terms, and that is irrespective of the book in question and the preface that Rabbi Dov Lior wrote for it. The people who chose to take the course of action acted without any consideration for its national ramifications. They might have wanted to show off the power that they wield and to show that they are capable of arresting a great rabbi, but that was hardly a wise action. Did that course of action produce greater identification with the state? If that is what they thought that they were doing, they achieved the opposite result, and that is something that pains my heart."

III. "Ships of Fools"

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (6/28): "What is the real motivation of those 'activists' intent on challenging Israel's blockade, these activists targeting an Israel that seeks to protect its civilians from terrorist attacks, these

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activists choosing to pour their passion into this cause while ignoring genuine humanitarian disasters and outrages elsewhere in this same region, notably including Bashar Assad's brutal repression of his own Syrian people? Could it be their stubborn preoccupation with Israel's purported abuses and 'collective

punishment' of Gazans, while conveniently ignoring the injustices of an increasingly unpopular Hamas regime, are the result of a certain ingrown prejudice against the Jewish state? Hopefully, reason and international pressure will win out, and the Gaza flotilla will not sail insistently into confrontation. Preventing a repeat of the Mavi Marmara debacle, by pulling back from a misguidedly motivated and thoroughly unnecessary confrontation with Israeli forces, would be the most fitting way for the flotilla activists to commemorate that recent one-year anniversary."

IV. "An Opening to an Agreement"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (6/28): "Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas recently made it clear that if the Israeli government followed the Palestinians into resuming negotiations based on the Obama formula, this could lead to the suspension of the pursuit of Palestinian statehood through the United Nations. Despite the fact that every week more states are joining the long list of those that have announced their recognition of a Palestinian state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to waver. He refuses to resume the negotiations on the basis of the internationally accepted principle that the talks must start with the Green Line, and is gambling on a U.S. veto in the U.N.... Instead of readying the Israel Defense Forces for possible civil disobedience and violent clashes in the territories, combined with Israel's international isolation -- what he terms a 'tsunami' of events -- Defense Minister Ehud Barak should trade in his amateur commentator's suit for that of a level-headed statesman. As the leader of a party seen as holding the balance of power in the coalition's fulcrum it is his duty to assume the role of the responsible adult. The mantra 'there is no partner,' which he coined 11 years ago, after the failed Camp David summit, was a contributing factor in the second Intifada. If the government maintains its intransigence, the third Intifada will be named for the Defense Minister."

V. "Meantime, in Washington"

Defense commentator Amir Oren wrote in Ha'aretz (6/28): "Netanyahu's two wishes are to bomb Iran, and to be dragged toward an agreement with the Palestinians. To fulfill both wishes, he needs broad consent from the U.S. government.... According to Israel's logic, the acceleration in the American pullout from Iraq and Afghanistan leaves money, willingness, and inclination in favor

of an operation against Iran's nuclear program, and also in favor of disbursements to Israel. The Americans' logic, however, is the exact opposite: you don't divorce yourself from two bottomless pits in order to jump into a third one (or a fourth one, counting Libya, a barrel in which America just dipped its toes).... Under these circumstances Netanyahu -- who is in thrall to the extreme right outside the Likud party (Avigdor Lieberman) and within Likud -- is no more than a nuisance. Should he, as a result of the Palestinian initiative this September, become mired in a political debacle and a military confrontation, that's his problem. And if Israelis are forced to pay the price of Netanyahu's and Barak's errors, that's their problem. Nobody forced the Israeli public to become reconciled with this government alignment and with its mistakes."

VI. "Netanyahu Wants, but He Can't"

Channel 2-TV commentator Amnon Abramovich wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/28): "Nothing truly annoys and upsets most Israelis more than the Gilad Shalit matter.... The German mediator devised a formula that Israel accepted. This caused Hamas to rise against Hamas; the man, who was 'one of [Hamas'] own,' held a doctorate in the history of Islam, and taught Hamas lessons it avidly took in, suddenly became the 'Zionists' collaborator. The ultimate list of prisoners whom Hamas wants Israel to release was carefully prepared; its only purpose is to undermine Abu Mazen's regime in the West Bank. This is why Abu Mazen, the Palestinian Authority, and the Americans are opposed to the deal. Israelis who believe that overall Israeli policy must be attentive to Abu Mazen, the P.A., and the U.S. administration have disregarded this. There are good reasons to criticize and goad Prime Minister Netanyahu -- over his concern for bolstering his government coalition, which surpasses the strengthening of his country; over his diplomatic failure; and over his not preparing Israeli society for power tests that will be

imposed on as an extension of the diplomatic failure; and many other topics. The way he has handled the Shalit case isn't one of those reasons -- because he can't do much more than what he has done so far."

VII. "Is Syrian Unrest an Invitation for al-Qaida to Step In?"

Arieh O'Sullivan, the Editor of the non-profit news organization The Media Line, wrote in The Jerusalem Post (6/28): "With mass protests in Syria showing no signs of abating despite a crackdown that led to 1,400 deaths and 12,000 refugees, President Bashar Assad may be losing his grip on the country, paving the way for al-Qaida or other Islamic groups to emerge as an important force, analysts say.... Martin Indyk, Vice President and Foreign Policy

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Director at the Brookings Institute in Washington, said [last week that] the U.S. would have preferred that the Arab Spring never occurred, its support for human rights, freedom and democratization notwithstanding. 'The U.S. prefers stability,' Indyk told the [Israeli Presidential] Conference in Jerusalem. 'But when it comes to Syria, the longer this goes on the more U.S. interests suffer.'" CUNNINGHAM

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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHSA, EWWT, EI, IS, KPAL

SUBJECT: IRISH GROUP CLAIMS SABOTAGE FORCED FLOTILLA CANCELLATION

1. (SBU) Summary: The organizers of an Irish-owned boat slated to join the international action to run the blockage of Gaza, Irish Ship to Gaza, blamed damage to the vessel's propeller driveshaft on Israeli sabotage on June 30. The damage is apparently serious enough that the boat, the MV Saoirse, will not now leave Turkey to participate in the flotilla. The cut in the driveshaft is similar to that discovered on a Swedish flotilla vessel waiting in Athens. A number of Irish politicians, including some aboard the boat, are now demanding that the Irish government "call in" the Israeli Ambassador to express outrage over the alleged sabotage. End summary.

2. (U) Irish participants in this year's international flotilla attempting to break the Gaza blockade angrily denounced Israel on June 30 for allegedly sabotaging their vessel. Damage to the MV Saoirse's propeller driveshaft was discovered while the boat waited in Gocek, Turkey, to join the main flotilla. Similar cuts in the propeller driveshaft of the Swedish boat Juliano, waiting in Athens, forced its cancellation in the flotilla on June 27. Fintan Lane, coordinator of Irish Ship to Gaza, the organization behind the Saoirse, said the damage to the propeller shaft could have caused it to fail, putting the lives of all twenty passengers at risk. Six of the twenty Irish activists aboard the Saoirse now plan to sail on other vessels participating in the flotilla, including Lane, former Ireland international rugby player Trevor

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 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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3. (U) Irish Ship to Gaza organizers released video footage and photos of the damage at press conference in Dublin on June 30. The group held a protest on July 1 at the Israeli Embassy and plans to stage an overnight demonstration. Former Fianna Fail parliamentarian Chris Andrews, a passenger aboard the Saoirse, has called on the Government to investigate the incident and "seek explanation" from the Israeli Ambassador. While no one has claimed responsibility for the damage sustained to the vessel, or confirmed that it was a deliberate act of sabotage, an Irish Ship to Gaza representative said that "agents of Israel" were "presumably" to blame.

4. (U) MEP Murphy released an individual statement not only blaming Israel for the damage to the Saoirse, but also accusing the United States of permitting Israeli action. "Those, like Hillary Clinton, who gave an implicit green light to the Israeli Defense Forces' aggression against the flotilla, share responsibility for this sabotage," Murphy wrote. Murphy's statement continues that despite the "terrorist-style sabotage of the MV Saoirse" he still will participate in the flotilla, now aboard an Italian boat.

5. (U) A number of Irish parliamentarians are demanding that the Government "call in" Israel's Ambassador to Ireland, Boaz Modai, to express anger over the alleged sabotage. Parliamentarian Richard Boyd Barrett of the United Left Alliance (ULA) described the apparent sabotage to the Saoirse an "absolute outrage." Independent parliamentarian Mick Wallace and ULA parliamentarian Joe Higgins also called for Israel to be held responsible. "The Irish Government must make an international issue of this and call in the Israeli Ambassador," Higgins said. Similar statements of condemnation were also made by Joan Collins (ULA), Clare Daly (ULA) and Thomas Pringle (independent - former Sinn Fein). None of Ireland's mainstream party politicians had immediate comment.

6. (U) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Eamon Gilmore is reported to have raised the incident with an Israeli government delegation on June 30. Gilmore said there would be an investigation by Turkish authorities into what caused the damage to the boat, warning that the Irish Government would take a very serious view if it turned out that the Saoirse was indeed sabotaged. Photographs published in the Irish Times newspaper on July 1 show what are alleged to be the damage to the propeller driveshafts of the Saoirse and the Juliano. They appear to be almost identical shallow but distinct cuts.

7. (U) The Israeli Embassy in Dublin issued a statement on June 30 denying any involvement with problems aboard the Saoirse. The

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statement read: "We regret that we have no information about this

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event as we are not connected to it in any way. We have heard about it in the media like anyone else. We again reiterate that we welcome any aid that Irish citizens may wish to donate to the Palestinian people and we will gladly help pass it to Gaza through the regular land crossings."

8. (SBU) Comment: The Irish public, broadly pro-Palestine, will be quick to attribute the apparent sabotage to the Israelis, regardless of what the Turkish authorities ultimately conclude. That notwithstanding, the sabotage to the Saoirse is unlikely to trigger the massive protests that followed the 2010 flotilla raid. However, any Israeli actions against the remainder of the flotilla that are perceived to be overly aggressive will likely cause an outpouring of public condemnation. Despite close proximity to the Israeli Embassy, the July 1 protest did not spill over to the American Embassy, nor has this been the pattern in past instances. MEP Murphy may hope to link American support for Israel more closely in the debate over the Gaza blockade, but so far few in Ireland seem prepared to make that connection. End comment.

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E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/07/07

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EG, GR, IS, TS, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH BOAT NO LONGER HEADED TO GAZA

REF: A) 11 PARIS 613;

CLASSIFIED BY: Christopher C Klein, Acting Minister Counselor for Political Affairs, State, Pol; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) Greek authorities have blocked the French boat "Dignity Al Karama" (reftel) in the port of Sitia, Crete, and French officials believe the boat's crew will now abandon attempts to reach Gaza,

[redacted] told us [redacted]

[redacted] officials reached this conclusion after speaking July 7 to crew members, who reportedly said they docked in Crete in order to refuel. [redacted] predicted that passengers on the second French boat, the "Louise Michel," will also give up their plans to sail for Gaza and return to France. According to an article on the

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far-left French website Politis, some passengers on the Louise Michel have already flown back to Paris. Claude Leostic, a spokesman for the France Palestine Solidarity Association who was also a passenger on the Louise Michel, reportedly told Politis that "the heart of our approach was to send a solidarity message to the Gaza inhabitants and, in that sense, we have succeeded."

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INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 GHFS-00 RPPR-00 CIAE-00 INL-00
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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO

SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction for July 8, 2011

1. Turkey Media Highlights, July 8: Fm Davutoglu Speaks To Clinton;
 Izmir Industrial Zone: "Turkey-US Joint Project for Energy
 Productivity; Missile Shield Agreement with Turkey to be Signed
 Next Week; UN Mavi Marmara Report: Turkey, Israel Unable to Meet in
 the Middle; Ricciardone: It's Not Just a Simple Anniversary;
 Kurdish Candidate: High Judiciary Closes Last Door on Dicle; Cicek
 Asks Kilicdaroglu to Not Escalate Tensions; Erdogan: CHP Should
 Seek Assurances from Judiciary; Oath-Taking Crisis To Be Resolved
 Soon; Cicek Cools The Oath-Taking Crisis

How the US is Playing/Stories of Interest

2. "Fm Davutoglu Speaks To US Counterpart Clinton By Phone" (AA)

The semi-official AA news agency and TRT online report Turkish.

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Foreign Minister Davutoglu held a phone conversation with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday. Sources said that Davutoglu and Clinton discussed the regional developments. Davutoglu and Clinton also discussed the meeting of the Libya Contact Group that will take place in north-western province of Istanbul on July 15.

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3. Izmir Industrial Zone: "Turkey-US Joint Project for Energy Productivity" (Haberalemi)

Turkish nationwide news agencies AA and Cihan and internet news portals report Amb Ricciardone and Izmir's Ataturk Organized Industrial Zone CEO Hilmi Ugurtas promoted a "pilot project" on energy productivity in industrial zones during a joint press conference. AA reports Ricciardone underlined trade between the US and Turkey had increased by 60 percent in the first four months of this year, and that the pilot project implemented in Izmir industrial zone has been an important step forward. The Ambassador emphasized the "win-win" aspect of the projects and joint initiatives, which result in development and create incentives for entrepreneurship. The US has made a small donation of USD 403,000 but "with this small donation, we can encourage huge development. Both sides can win. For trade and investment, both sides need to win," he said. Cihan News Agency (CHA) reports Ricciardone recalled that during his visit to Ankara, President Obama stated his aim of renewing the alliance between the two countries and the friendship between the two peoples. "We must renew the ties between our peoples. We especially must work on trade and agriculture. This pilot project involves very good cooperation. As Americans, we want to come to Izmir and work both for tourism, and trade and investment," said Ricciardone.

4. "Missile Shield Agreement with Turkey to be Signed Next Week" (Vatan)

Mainstream Vatan reports American national security officials told The Washington Times an agreement would be signed with Turkey next week for the deployment of missile shield radars in the country. Ankara, concerned that it would project an image of protecting Israel against Iran, had put forth the condition that information gathered by the radars would not be shared with Israel. In response to a question on the matter last week, US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns said the missile shield aim was to protect the NATO countries and Europe, and that the Pentagon had a separate and strong missile defense agreement with Israel. In February, four US Republican senators had proposed the radars should be deployed in Georgia instead of Turkey, reports Vatan.

5. UN Mavi Marmara Report: "Turkey, Israel Unable to Meet in the Middle" (Radikal)

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Media report Turkish and Israeli meetings for a settlement of the 'Mavi Marmara dispute' before the release of a UN panel report have failed. Radikal reports the release of the report on the Israeli raid on Turkish vessel Mavi Marmara was put off indefinitely due to UNCLASSIFIED disagreement between the sides. Sources told Israeli website Ynetnews.com that the report said Israel's blockade of Gaza was legitimate and in compliance with international law, but that

Israeli forces used excessive force during the intervention on the Mavi Marmara. Hurriyet, however, reports Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency (AA) said the report criticized Israel for attacking the ship without prior notice, and mistreating the passengers on board. Mainstream Milliyet reports the UN report does not ask Israel to apologize to Turkey, but advises it to express regret over the loss of life. The diplomats in New York said the sides were looking for wording which would mean 'apology' in Turkish but 'regret' in Yiddish, reports Milliyet.

6. "Ricciardone: It's Not Just a Simple Anniversary" (AA, Samanyolu Haber, Haber3)

Media highlight Amb Ricciardone's words in Izmir that "for Americans, the day is a reminder of the ideals of the country's founders." In continuing National Day celebration coverage, media report the Ambassador said the first things we learn from the Declaration of Independence are the words "all men are created equal," and that we all have "unalienable rights" to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They especially resound in this part of the world," he said. AA adds that Ambassador, speaking in Turkish and English, said that at the reception, both the independence of the US and the Turkish-American friendship was celebrated.

In the Headlines

7. Kurdish Candidate: "High Judiciary Closes Last Door on Dicle" (Radikal)

Media report the Constitutional Court has rejected the complaint of independent Kurdish candidate Hatip Dicle who was barred from parliament by the High Election Board (YSK) on the grounds of a 20-month prison sentence for terror propaganda. Hurriyet reports the Constitutional Court said unanimously it was not authorized to review the decisions of the YSK. By this ruling, the Court also gave an opening for the YSK designation of AKP deputy Oya Eronat as Diyarbakir MP instead of Dicle. Liberal Radikal reports Dicle's lawyer said they would appeal the decision at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

8. "Cicek Asks Kilicdaroglu to Not Escalate Tensions in Oath-Taking

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All media report that on Thursday, CHP leader Kemal Klcdaroglu held a meeting with Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek over the 'oath-taking crisis' in the parliament. Hurriyet reports Klcdaroglu told Cicek they aimed at resolving the problem, not dead-locking the parliament, and stressed CHP deputies would take the oath if they are given assurances for the resolution of the crisis. In the meeting, Cicek called on CHP and BDP to review their boycott decisions, and pledged to convey their points to PM Erdogan. Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports Cicek will meet PM Erdogan today at 14:00 to discuss the crisis. Milliyet says that over the weekend, Cicek will oversee talks between AK Party and CHP officials, and hopes that they will agree on a declaration for solving the crisis. If the parties reach a compromise on the declaration, CHP deputies might come to the parliament on Monday and take the oath before the debates on the government's program.

9. Erdogan: "CHP Should Seek Assurances from Judiciary" (Milliyet)

Mainstream Hurriyet reports PM Erdogan gave a quick response to Kilicdaroglu, and said, "We cannot give assurances. They have to get it from the judiciary." Mainstream Haberturk reports Erdogan blamed the CHP for falling into the boycott trap. In a group meeting Thursday with his AKP MPs, Erdogan said "The CHP has to find a way out on their own." "We are not a party to the problem, nor responsible for it. This problem should be resolved by the ones who created it," said Erdogan.

10. "Oath-Taking Crisis To Be Resolved Soon" (Milliyet)

Taha Akyol in Milliyet: "After meeting with Parliament Speaker Cicek, CHP leader Kilicdaroglu said his deputies would take the oath if Cicek meets with party deputy group chiefs in the parliament. Cicek will call such a meeting, because MHP and BDP lawmakers have already met with him. Kilicdaroglu doesn't expect a fast legal formula for the resolution of the crisis, he just wants a declaration of a will for a solution. And I'm sure Cicek will do that."

11. "Cicek Cools The Oath-Taking Crisis" (Radikal)

Murat Yetkin in Radikal: "It was learned that in a closed session with his AKP lawmakers, PM Erdogan said CHP should take oath and join the work of the parliament. In the first days of the crisis, Erdogan was saying the parliament would continue working even without the CHP. Actually, both Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu have understood that there will be no winners but many losers in this game. So an honorable exit for the CHP is a face-saving exit for the AK Party as well. Parliament Speaker Cicek has opened a door

for an honorable solution for the CHP. This first test shows that the election of Cicek as parliament speaker was a correct choice made by Erdogan."

Prepared by the Press Office, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy
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From: Maxfield, Karen B
Sent: 6/3/2010 9:20:40 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: LONDON INPUT FOR EARLY ALERT 06-03-10

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MRN: 10 FTR 22854
Date/DTG: Jun 03, 2010 / 031319Z JUN 10
From: Maxfield, Karen B
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS, AF, SENV
Subject: LONDON INPUT FOR EARLY ALERT 06-03-10

First five or six pages of every newspaper given to events in Cumbria after a taxi driver went on the rampage shooting 12 people dead and injuring eleven before turning the gun on himself. Continuing coverage of the aftermath of the Israeli assault on the Gaza aid flotilla with some reporting that the Turkish charity at the centre of the raid "was under intense scrutiny last night over its alleged links with militant organisations" [*The Times*]. A couple of papers pick up on Turkish news reports that "three of the four Turks killed in the onslaught had declared their readiness to become martyrs" [*The Guardian*]. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues to receive coverage as anti-BP rallies take place in the US.

Gaza Flotilla

The Times: "Gaza aid charity 'has terrorist links' – main foreign story: "Despite their claims to be an entirely peaceful organisation, The Foundation for Human Rights, Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief has a history of involvement in Islamic extremism around the world and has been linked with an attempted bombing of an airport in the US." "Ferryboat diplomacy: Israel has behaved appallingly, but those on board the flotilla also warrant scrutiny" – editorial: "Let us not be fooled. From the point of view of many on those vessels, this was not a humanitarian effort that went tragically wrong. It was a piece of political publicity that went horribly right.... Israel's greatest mistake, in behaving as a villain, has been to create an environment in which its enemies can be portrayed as not villainous at all. The truth is very different." "Gaza's waves will crash on Turkey's shore" – commentary page 25: "If the flotilla incident turns Turks against Israel and towards the east, it should fill us with fear for the future." "Peace hopes cast adrift" – analysis page 29: "As parliament called on the Government yesterday to review military co-operation with Israel, Turkey was drifting where some commentators argue it has always belonged – towards the Middle East."
The Guardian: "Turkish jihadis bent on violence attacked troops, Israel claims" – report page 10. "Activists allowed out but families still await their arrival" – report page 10. "Netanyahu defiant as pressure builds to lift siege" – report page 11: "Hillary Clinton...lined up with the UN on Tuesday when she used tough language calling the Israeli blockade 'unsustainable and unacceptable' – hours after Egypt announced it was opening its only crossing point into the coastal territory." "Opening Gaza's vital lifeline poses dilemma for Egypt" – report page 11. "If Gaza's relief is a step closer they won't have died in vain" – commentary: "What is certain is that while some still have been intimidated by the Israeli military's violence, many more volunteers will now try to bring boatloads of aid to Gaza to widen that breach. The denial of Palestinian rights has become a great moral as well as political cause of our time. If relief for Gaza's people is even a step nearer, the victims of the Mavi Marmara will not have died in vain."
Daily Telegraph: "Activists killed on ship wanted to be martyrs" – report page 14. "Israeli ministers blame army chiefs for the bungled commando raid" – report page 14.
The Independent: "Charges against activists abandoned after Turkey delivers ultimatum" – report page 6. "Passengers on flotilla had al-Qa'ida links, claims Israel" – report page 7: "The claims are part of a sophisticated Israeli government media offensive to present its side of the story in a bid to salvage its shattered international reputation." "Israel had few enough friends to start with" – commentary: "Washington...will put pressure on Israel to show a bit more moderation in its behaviour. But in the end its commitment to the country is too great, its support within Washington too strong and the

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

administration's fear of instability in the region too great to change policy."

Afghanistan

The Times: "Taliban send message of war to Karzai's peace summit" – report page 34: "Mr. Karzai's message was clearly designed to fit in with the White House's rhetoric about possible amnesties for senior Taliban – but strictly no talks with al-Qaeda.... However, he admitted that his Government and the International troops which secure it, were partly to blame for some people supporting the insurgency."

The Guardian: "Rockets and burqa-clad suicide bombers mar Kabul meeting" – report page 22: "Some 12,000 security personnel were protecting the jirga, raising concerns about safety at next month's international conference of foreign ministers in Kabul." "All at peace, except for the war" – editorial: "The military campaign is tying itself in knots. The British commander of Nato forces in southern Afghanistan... can insist as loudly as he likes that command is blind to nationality. The fact is that for the second time in recent memory, an American force has taken over command from a British one that has bitten off more than it can chew."

Daily Telegraph: "Taliban attack peace conference" – report page 16.

The Independent: "Taliban rocket attack shakes peace congress in Afghanistan" – report page 30: "The attack... was a clear statement that the Taliban were not prepared to settle for peace on Mr. Karzai's terms." "Outrage at appointment of chairman stops jirga" – report page 30.

Europe

The Times: "Europe launches credit ratings offensive" – report page 39: "The big three credit ratings agencies were threatened yesterday with fines and the creation of a new state-backed competitor.... The Commission's plans were welcomed by Liberal MEPs but dismissed as heavy-handed by Conservatives." "Policymakers are in denial" – analysis on the same page: "Credit ratings agencies have not covered themselves in glory in the past few years, but European policymakers must be crackers if they think that creating a new, state-backed agency to rival the big three can possibly improve things. It all smacks of shooting the messenger."

The Guardian: "End of the love affair with Europe isolates Merkel" – report page 24: "The change – from pushing Europe forward to balking at the sacrifices Germany has to make – is a tectonic shift in the EU. Nowhere has the new approach been more striking than in the euro crisis, where Merkel's mixture of hectoring and hesitation has shocked fellow EU leaders and generated mutual recrimination." "EU plans watchdog for credit ratings agencies" – main financial report: "As world leaders prepare for crunch talks at the G20 meeting at the end of this month, European officials outlined plans to tackle the credit rating system that many in Brussels blame for exacerbating the euro financial crisis."

Daily Telegraph: "Germany could soon be ruled by two women" – report page 15: "Ursula von der Leyen is Mrs Merkel's preferred choice to become Germany's first female head of state replacing Horst Koehler who resigned on Monday."

The Independent: "Two women on top: Germany set to elect female president" – report page 37: "Politically, the choice of a woman as president would make Germany arguably the most female-dominated nation in Europe."

Oil Spill

The Times: "Worried Cameron keeps his distance from troubled BP" – report page 18. "Anger over spill focuses on company chief with reputation for candour" – report page 18.

The Guardian: "Delay in sealing leak fuels speculation of BP takeover" – report page 18: "Speculation about BP's future intensified after the US attorney general, Eric Holder announced a criminal investigation of the disaster, though he did not specify BP by name." "Company's name is mud and the future is murky" – report page 19: "BP's name is, quite simply, dirt. Americans are disgusted with the once proud London-based energy company. As political leaders threaten criminal prosecution and possible seizure of the company's assets, and environmentalists bay for blood, BP's stock is plummeting." "How the Sun King sank BP" – commentary: "BP remains a hugely successful corporation. The insatiable demand for oil practically ensures its survival. Any opportunistic takeover bid by a major rival will be stymied by laws preventing the formation of cartels."

The Independent: "More trouble on the horizon for BP as oil moves towards Florida" – main foreign story: "The movement of the slick towards tourist areas will further fuel anger in the region at BP.... President Barack Obama last night highlighted suspicions that the oil spill was an accident that could have been avoided.... Mr. Obama's policy programme in

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his second year in office risks being overwhelmed by the ongoing catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico. While some have called it 'Mr. Obama's Hurricane Katrina', at least that event itself was over quickly. The spill continues, however, causing others to recall how the Iran hostage crisis that lasted for 444 days, from 1979 to 1981, crippled a large part of the presidency of Jimmy Carter."

Japan

The Times: "Prime Minister quits after eight months of dithering" – report page 33: "He came to power promising to tame the powerful Japanese bureaucracy, improve state welfare benefits and put Japan on a more equal footing with the United States. He leaves office having achieved little of this, after repeated dithering that alienated his supporters, the Japanese public and the US Government." "Bumbling leader failed, but paved the way for change" – analysis on the same page.

The Guardian: "Japan's prime minister resigns after failure to move US base" – report page 23: "The world's second biggest economy faces another period of uncertainty after Hatoyama...became Japan's fourth prime minister in as many years to step down after 12 months or less in power."

Daily Telegraph: "Japan's PM resigns over election funds scandal" – report page 16.

The Independent: "Japanese PM resigns after failing to take on US over Okinawa base" – report page 31.

Drafted By: LONDON:Maxfield, Karen B

Released By: LONDON:Maxfield, Karen B

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
Page 1 of 4

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<[endif]->

From: Katz, Daniel S (Rome)
Sent: 6/1/2010 7:12:20 AM
To: svcSMARTHBTSP08
Subject: Embassy Rome Daily Report June 1, 2010
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

MRN: 10 MDA 1181
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 280615Z JUN 10
From: Katz, Daniel S (Rome)
Action: Anderson, Stephen C (Rome)ROUTINE; Arla, Salvatore A (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Ashley, Donald D (Rome)ROUTINE; Ayala, William M (Rome)ROUTINE; Bell, JaniceROUTINE; Benway, Angela E (Milan)ROUTINE; Benz, Charles E (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Bergeson, Mark E (Rome)ROUTINE; Bland, J Nathan (Vatican)ROUTINE; Blazey, Elizabeth Z ROUTINE; Bliss, Amy M (Naples)ROUTINE; Boyer, Spencer PROUTINE; Bradley, Tobin J ROUTINE; Brew, Kevin M (Rome)ROUTINE; Brownfeld, Peter E (Rome)ROUTINE; Cali, Philip M (Rome)ROUTINE; Carland, RaphaelROUTINE; Carlson, Robert W (Naples) ROUTINE; Chupp, Teresa G (Rome)ROUTINE; Countryman, Mary E (Florence)ROUTINE; Cowan, Fleur S (Rome)ROUTINE; Crawford, Nace B (Rome)ROUTINE; Curran, Christopher P (Rome)ROUTINE; Degory, John A (Vatican)ROUTINE; DeLambert, Rick A (Milan)ROUTINE; Diaz, Miguel H (Vatican)ROUTINE; Dibble, Elizabeth L (Rome)ROUTINE; EUR-WE-DLROUTINE; Foley, Rafael P (Vatican) ROUTINE; Fouts, Daniel J (Rome)ROUTINE; Freeman, Vincent L (Rome)ROUTINE; Fried, DanielROUTINE; Gemmell, Lawrence H (Rome)ROUTINE; Hall, Morgan C (Rome) ROUTINE; Hankins, Stacie R (Rome)ROUTINE; Harvey, Patrick J (DRL)ROUTINE; Hebert, Margaret R (Rome)ROUTINE; Hickemell, Paul E (Rome)ROUTINE; Hiller, Jean E (Rome)ROUTINE; Hillmeyer, John J (Milan)ROUTINE; Hogle, Charles MROUTINE ; Israelsen, Brent W (Florence)ROUTINE; Iversen, Lisa O (Rome)ROUTINE; Johnson, Seneca EROUTINE; Juliao, Jeanne M (Milan)ROUTINE; Katz, Daniel S (Rome) ROUTINE; Kostelandck, David X (Moscow)ROUTINE; Lairea, John F (Florence)ROUTINE; Le Claire, Claire (Rome)ROUTINE; Leaf, Barbara A (Rome)ROUTINE; Lora, Terrie Buell (Rome)ROUTINE; Maldonado, Jon M (Rome)ROUTINE; Meara, William R (Rome)ROUTINE; Morrill, Brian D (Rome)ROUTINE; Nash, Robert CROUTINE ; Notarianni, Stephan F (Rome-MLO)ROUTINE; Noyes, Julieta Valls (Vatican)ROUTINE; Noyes, Nick (Rome)ROUTINE; Odean, Joan (Rome)ROUTINE; Perez, Carol Z (Milan)ROUTINE; Preston, Jean E (Rome)ROUTINE; Quintal, Paul N (Rome)ROUTINE; Rakich, Kathryn A (Florence)ROUTINE; Reed, Sherrell I (Rome)ROUTINE; Sanderson, Mary A ROUTINE; Schaaf, Jennifer S (Rome)ROUTINE; Schaff, Charles E (Rome)ROUTINE; Schubert, Paul F (Rome)ROUTINE; Sellquini, Louis P (Rome)ROUTINE; Sharkey, James C ROUTINE; Smith, Donna L (Rome)ROUTINE; Soya, Brenda C (Vatican)ROUTINE; Swann, Sonja (Rome)ROUTINE; Tarantolo, Sonia S (Milan)ROUTINE; Thiede, Paula S (Rome)ROUTINE; Thome, David H (Rome)ROUTINE; Truhn, J Patrick (Naples)ROUTINE; Viola, Vincent (Rome)ROUTINE; Volk, Carol J (Rome) ROUTINE; Waser, Tamir GROUTINE; Wasley, Liam J (Rome)ROUTINE; Weaver, Brittany M ROUTINE; White, George M (Rome)ROUTINE; Wohlauer, Benjamin V (Milan)ROUTINE; Wood, Kevin M (Naples)ROUTINE; Zalewski, Dianne D (Vatican)ROUTINE; Ziff, Benjamin G (Rome)ROUTINE; ATUKORALAV@TSDN.TREASURY.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; CICASJ@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; CLETUS.HAGG@AFOSI.AF.SMIL.MILROUTINE; DIMORFX@DIA.SMIL.MIL

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

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ROUTINE; PATRICK.MCCLELLAND@AVIANO.AF.SMIL.MILROUTINE;
MIKE.LENTS@DIA.SMIL.MILROUTINE; LOUIS.REYNOLDS@DIA.SMIL.MILROUTINE;
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DELUCAC@JDISS.CIA.SGOV.GOVROUTINE; JAIME.TAYLOR.CTR@OSD.SMIL.MIL
ROUTINE; DEANNA.DESANTE@OSD.SMIL.MILROUTINE; perezi@jdiss.cia.sgov.govROUTINE

E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, IT
Captions: SIPDIS, NOFORN
Subject: Embassy Rome Daily Report June 1, 2010

EMBASSY ROME DAILY REPORT
June 1, 2010

Political Report

- (C) MFA SecGen Complains Angrily About NSS Language on "Key Allies"
- (C/NF) Fini: I Will not Cause Problems over Austerity Measures.
- (UN) GOI Reaction to Israeli Attack.

Economic Report

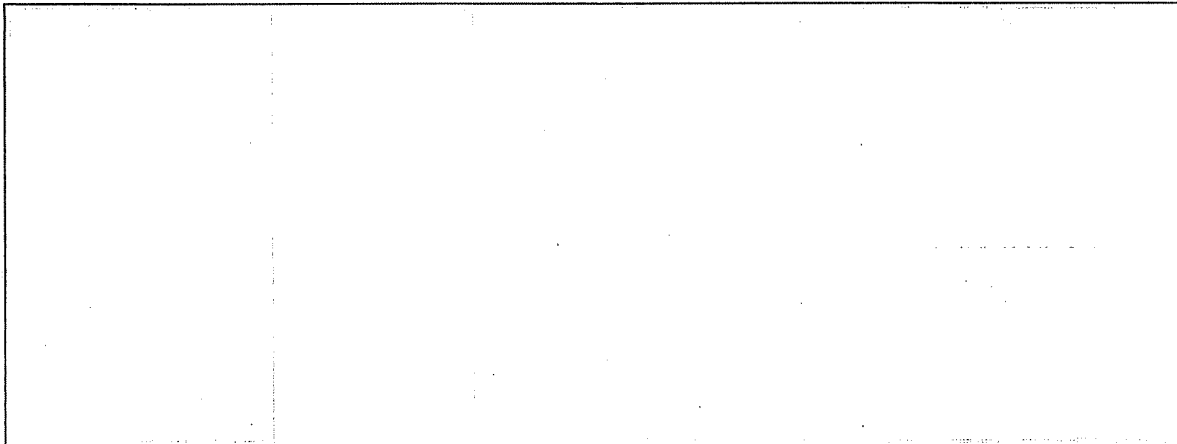
- (U) BOI Governor Endorses GOI Deficit Reduction Package.

UPCOMING VISITS

GOI Upcoming Visits

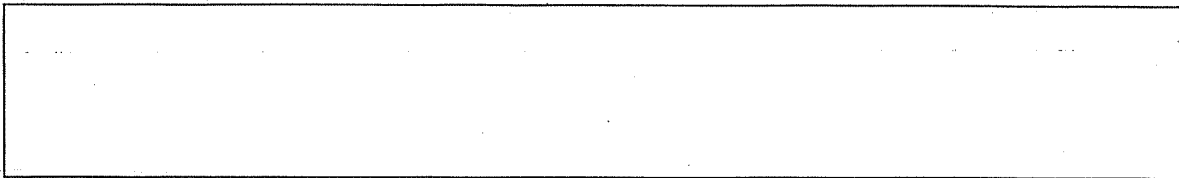
Read Recent Cables from Rome.

Political Report



NR

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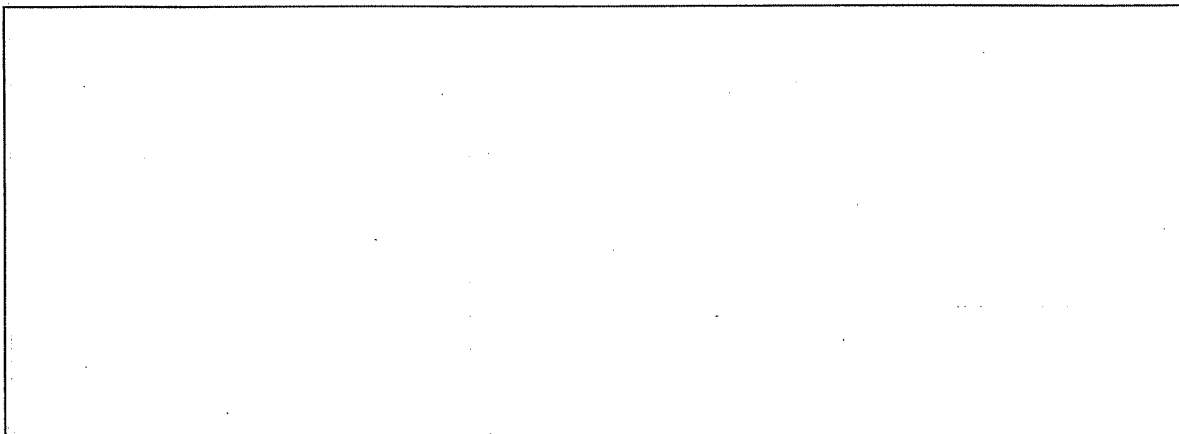


NR

(UN) **GOI Reaction to Israeli Attack.** The Israeli attack on the Turkish NGO ship convoy delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza provoked comment by a number of senior officials as well as wide press and media coverage. In a statement on the Quirinale web site, President Napolitano expressed "consternation and alarm" and said he "hoped the reasons for dialogue will prevail over violence, to avoid an even more serious spiral of tension and clashes that would have disastrous consequences on the difficult and fragile peace process in the Middle East." FM Frattini met Turkish Minister for European Affairs Egemen Bagis in Rome on May 31. At the conclusion of the meeting (in a statement on the MFA website), he expressed his "firm belief that in no way can the use of force and the killing of human lives become instruments to assert one's positions." In separate statements, Frattini characterized the killing of civilians as an "absolutely serious" action that requires "explanations" from Israel. He added, "Italy is a friend of Israel and therefore has the responsibility of saying what it thinks. The Israeli democracy must give a clear answer in order to continue to be firm and credible at the peace table with the Palestinian Authority."

(UN) Today, Frattini stated to RAI television "I think that at the moment Israel has a great opportunity, after this very serious act. After this frankly inexplicable and absolutely serious error, it could do a gesture of détente and say, let's multiply efforts toward peace; let's accelerate negotiations; let's give the Palestinians a state soonest." MFA Chief of Cabinet Amb Terracciano called Israeli Ambassador Meir for "explanations." Meir cited the Israeli Army's report that stated they were obliged to intervene. MFA U/S for Europe Mantica said the flotilla was a "wanted provocation" by activists. PD leader Bersani remarked that the blood that was shed "stifles prospects of peace." There were demonstrations in various Italian cities on May 31, including in Rome. As yet, there has been no reaction from PM Berlusconi.

Economic Report



NR

Upcoming Visits

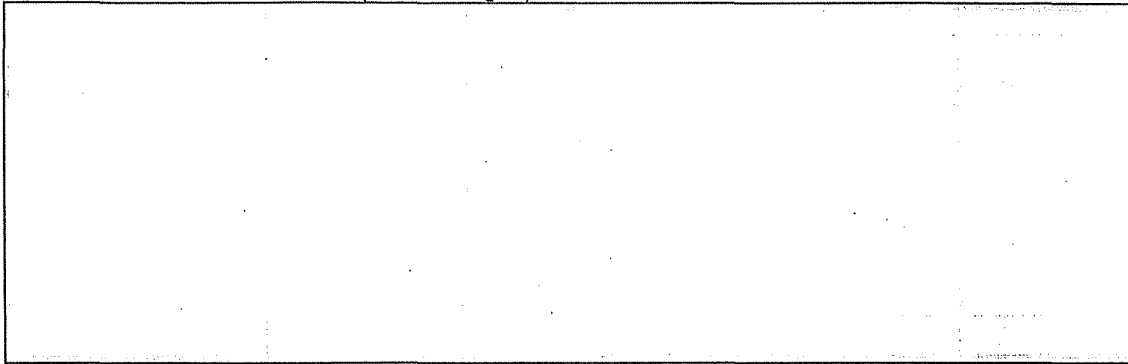
June 5-7

Codel Inhofe, Venice and Vicenza (Control: Milan: Tarantolo)

June 24-25

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, Rome and Florence

(Control: Algeo)



NR

Visit the [Italy Portal on Intellipedia](#).
Read archived [Daily Reports](#) on our [Intelink Blog](#).

Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)
Pol
Dept of State

Declassify on: 2020/06/01

Drafted By: ROME:Katz, Daniel S (Rome)

Approved By: POL:Wasley, Liam J (Rome)

Released By: ROME:Katz, Daniel S (Rome)

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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Mendel, Teresa S

From: Netos, Eleftherios E
 Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:44 AM
 To: Marsh, Denise M
 Cc: Mendel, Teresa S; EUR-SE-DAR-DL
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza later this month

Denise.

Looks to me like the Free Gaza folks are now staging from Turkey vice Cyprus (see Ankara's cable on the High Side). I haven't heard anything from Nicosia to indicate they planned on sailing from there this time around (though I may be wrong, if the groups are planning on leaving in separate groups from Cyprus and Turkey).

Terry

From: Mendel, Teresa S
 Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:37 AM
 To: Netos, Eleftherios E
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza later this month

fyi

From: Richter, Kim B
 Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:37 AM
 To: Mendel, Teresa S
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza later this month

FYI.

May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.¹³³¹¹³⁴ In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."¹³⁴

Mendel, Teresa S

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 1:13 PM
To: Miller, Andrew T
Subject: FW: Free Gaza later this month

RELEASED IN FULL

Free Gaza Movement departing out of Turkey. For more info there is a cable on the high side. I have forwarded to Cons in Ankara just in case they were not aware of it.

Teresa

From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 11:37 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: FW: Free Gaza later this month

FYI.

May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (TRF), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.^{[33][34]} In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."^[34]

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Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 7:21 AM
To: Hanrahan, Richard F
Subject: Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

B6

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan: Thank you so much for your inquiry regarding sailing to Gaza at the end of May. We are not sailing from Cyprus but from many other ports in the Mediterranean.

Would you let me know where I can access the Privacy Act Waivers? Is it possible to download them from the State Department website? Thank you. Best regards, [redacted]

(b)(6)

B6

On Thu, May 13, 2010 at 12:00 PM, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

According to recent press reports, Free Gaza ships may again attempt to travel to Gaza from Cyprus. I would be very grateful if you would provide me a list with the names and dates of birth of any passengers who are U.S. citizens, and encourage them to sign Privacy Act waivers.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul _____

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 7:44 PM
To: Hanrahan, Richard F
Subject: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

(b)(6)

Dear Richard: I have just received your request about passengers who are going to go on the flotilla. I do have a couple of questions for you.

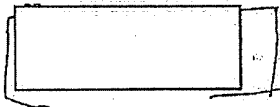
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011: 201004163

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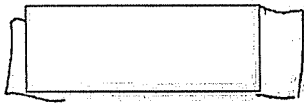
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1. We are not leaving from Cyprus this time but from Greece, Turkey, Sweden and Ireland.
2. Do we still send the names to you or do we contact the U.S. Consulate/Embassy in the countries where the passengers embark?

Thank you for your concern. We'd like to also state that the only threat in the area is Israel's response to a human rights mission. We do hope you let them know that their brutal responses to American citizens will not be tolerated.



(b)(6)



(b)(6)

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006

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Hanrahan, Richard F
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 8:30 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G
Cc: Cohen, Jonathan R; Stewart, Nan E
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement
Attachments: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza; Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

Teresa,

I have attached the replies I received from my contacts in the Free Gaza movement. I will keep you keep you informed of any further developments.

Richard

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM
To: Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

Yesterday we were informed that the Free Gaza movement would be attempting to sail into the Gaza, again. Could you please work with any contacts you have to see if we might obtain the manifest for these boats. Today I was informed that there may be additional boats leaving out of Nicosia and Athens.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

Teresa

May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the *MV Rachel Corrie*.^{[33][34]} In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."^[35]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:30 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

There will be several ships and the desk seems to think some of them will be leaving out Athens and Nicosia. They have in the past.

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Richter, Kim B
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

You mean Ankara? Was these two locations the first launching/departure sites for the group?

From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:30 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: Free Gaza

Can you check with Nicosia and Athens to see if they have info on any sailings and a manifest?

Thanks

Kim Richter
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA
(202) 647-8308
Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

richterkb@state.gov

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Mendel, Teresa S

From: Hanrahan, Richard F
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 12:35 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Cc: Stewart, Nan E
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

RELEASED IN FULL

Teresa,

I communicated with the 'Free Gaza' organization several weeks ago and stressed the importance of letting us know the names of Amcit passengers. I also explained the utility of providing Privacy Act waivers so we can communicate with friends or relatives. They informed me that none of the boats to Gaza will depart from Cyprus, perhaps their plans have changed.

Nan Stewart has arrived in Cyprus and is now running the Consular Section. Please include here on future email messages to Nicosia.

Thanks,

Richard

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM
To: Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

Yesterday we were informed that the Free Gaza movement would be attempting to sail into the Gaza, again. Could you please work with any contacts you have to see if we might obtain the manifest for these boats. Today I was informed that there may be additional boats leaving out of Nicosia and Athens.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

Teresa

May 2010 sailing

The Free Gaza Movement and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation are partnering to send multiple ships to the Gaza Strip in May 2010. Under the coordination of the Free Gaza Movement, numerous human rights organizations, including the Turkish Relief Foundation (IHH), the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, and the Swedish and Greek Boat to Gaza initiatives will send three cargo ships loaded with reconstruction, medical and educational supplies. Multiple passenger boats with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.^{[33][34]} In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting

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humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."^[34]

From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:30 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

There will be several ships and the desk seems to think some of them will be leaving out Athens and Nicosia. They have in the past.

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Richter, Kim B
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

You mean Ankara? Was these two locations the first launching/departure sites for the group?

From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:30 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: Free Gaza

Can you check with Nicosia and Athens to see if they have info on any sailings and a manifest?

Thanks

Kim Richter
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA
(202) 647-8308
Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

richterkb@state.gov

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008

Mendel, Teresa S

From: Keen, Daniel G
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 1:51 AM
To: Sisli, Fatih
Cc: Mendel, Teresa S; Ogle, Karen L; Appleton, Richard H
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

RELEASED IN FULL

Hi Fatih Bey,

Do we have any contacts who might be able to obtain the passenger manifests for the boats referenced below?

Thank you,

Daniel

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM
To: Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

Yesterday we were informed that the Free Gaza movement would be attempting to sail into the Gaza, again. Could you please work with any contacts you have to see if we might obtain the manifest for these boats. Today I was informed that there may be additional boats leaving out of Nicosia and Athens.

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From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:30 AM
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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StateDept0575

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To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

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Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Richter, Kim B
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

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To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: Free Gaza

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

richterkb@state.gov

2
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009

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Davison, Kees C
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement
Sent: 5/14/2010 9:07:52 AM

Names of ships but not the manifests. We are still expecting to get them, we hope by early next week.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Houndoumadi, Ioanna G
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 3:52 PM
To: Davison, Kees C
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

I just received a fax from the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine the following Cargo ships have declared the following destinations:
BESIRE KAIKAVAN, OCEAN STAR and NOVOROSTYSK STAR, heading to Israel. SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY to Syria, MAESTRO OCEAN to Lebanon, AND KYKLADES to Jordan.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Davison, Kees C
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 3:36 PM
To: Houndoumadi, Ioanna G
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

Did we hear anything on this?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Houndoumadi, Ioanna G
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:21 AM
To: ATHENS-ACS
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

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Printed By: Mendel, Teresa S

Page 1 of 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17-NOV-2011 201004163

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I called the Chief's Office of the Port Police in Piraeus and I am expecting them to call me back. Are we interested in getting a manifest of the boats or the people on board these boats?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Davison, Kees C
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:04 AM
To: ATHENS-ACS
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement

Have we seen anything on ships leaving Piraeus to help folks on the Gaza Strip?

We are being asked to try to get a manifest.

I'd be particularly interested in learning if any of the passengers are American citizens.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM
To: Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

Yesterday we were informed that the Free Gaza movement would be attempting to sail into the Gaza, again. Could you please work with any contacts you have to see if we might obtain the manifest for these boats. Today I was informed that there may be additional boats leaving out of Nicosia and Athens.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

Teresa

May 2010 sailing

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To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

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To: Richter, Kim B
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

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From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:30 AM
To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: Free Gaza

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Thanks

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

richterkb@state.gov

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010
RELEASED IN FULL

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 10:11 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desirée A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Greene, David J; Tyson, Paul H; Reed, Julia G
Subject: Upcoming Free Gaza Flotilla

Everyone – I am putting together this list to keep people looped in regarding the upcoming flotilla of ships to Gaza by the Free Gaza Movement (<http://www.freegaza.org/>) and associated organizations, which has previously sent ships to circumvent the Israeli and Egyptian closure of the Gaza Strip. By using this collective, we can make sure all the interested parties at State can stay looped in on this as it unfolds.

Previous Free Gaza trips consisted of a single vessel, the first few which were allowed to enter Gazan waters, and the most recent two which were interdicted by the Israeli Navy, leading to the deportation of several Amcits on the most recent visit. On May 24, a flotilla of ships is departing from Turkey and Greece bound for Gaza and may begin to arrive the following day in Gazan waters. Press is reporting that an additional ship, setting sail from Ireland, has been delayed - <http://www.independent.ie/national-news/tricolour-on-ship-delays-gaza-aid-mission-2179693.html>.

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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StateDept0580

Passport #	Accommodation Address in Athens, Tel # Greek Mobile #	Email Address	Arrival Airport/Airline/Flight #	Arrival Date/Time	Departure Date/Time	Arrival Date/Time	Notes	Landline	Home Call	Office	Home Address	Passport #	Passport Expiry	Age	Emergency contact name	Emergency relationship	Emergency contact phone #	Serious Medical Issues	Language spoken	Congress/District/State	U.S. Senator	U.S. Senator
Koban, Ismet		akbarali@yahoo.com	Athens/Air France/AF1832	18 May/4:50pm	11 June/7:00am/ Athens/Air France/AF2333	11 June/12:50pm				N/A			2/20/2014		friend			none	English	Barbara Lee, #9, CA	Diane Feinstein	Barbara Boxer
			Athens/Air France/AF1832	18 May/4:50pm	11 June/7:00am/ Athens/Air France/AF2333	11 June/12:50pm				N/A			2/19/2016		wife			none	English, French, Arabic	George Miller, #7, CA	Diane Feinstein	Barbara Boxer
			Athens/Lufthansa/3382	18 May/5:30pm	5 June/12:00pm/ Athens/Continental/105	5 June/10:10pm/ Caracas/United/5305				N/A			2/20/2020		wife			none	English	Solomon P. Ortiz, #27, TX	John Cornyn	Kay Bailey Hutchison
			Athens/Lufthansa/3388	19 May/12:20pm	5 June/9:45am/ Athens/Lufthansa/3383	5 June/2:40pm/ Wash-Dulles/United/905							Regular/12/29/14		wife			none	English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Swedish	Clvis Van Hollen, #0, MD	Barbara A. Mikulski	Benjamin A. Cardin
			Athens/Lufthansa/LH5916	19 May/9:25pm	10 June/1:10pm/ Athens/Lufthansa/3388	10 June/7:05pm/ SFO/Lufthansa/458							4/25/2017		Secretary			none	English, Thai	Barbara Lee, #9, CA	Diane Feinstein	Barbara Boxer

*The country code for Greece is +30.
** Leave with Kate/Henry (U.S.), Marika, Malok (Europe)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

As of 5/19/10

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StateDept10581

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Davison, Kees C
To: Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B
CC: Houndoumadi, Ioanna G
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement
Sent: 5/17/2010 2:54:19 AM

I have the manifests for the various cargo ships departing Athens for Gaza. There are no passengers, only crew members on the manifest. I can send the manifests to you but I don't see for what benefit, as the crews are all foreign.

We'll keep our ears open about the possibility of passengers joining the flotilla. I realize that the idea was for 600 passengers to accompany the supplies.

Kees

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 6:41 PM
To: Davison, Kees C; Hanrahan, Richard F; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement

All,

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Printed By: Mendel, Teresa S

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

Page 1 of 2

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with over 600 people on board will accompany the cargo ships. These passengers include members of Parliament from around the world, U.N., human rights and trade union activists, as well as journalists who will document the largest coordinated effort to directly confront Israel's blockade of Gaza and take in basic supplies. These include the MV Rachel Corrie.¹³³¹¹³⁴¹ In response to the plans, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "These people are not supporting the Palestinians and they are not even supporting humanitarian causes. They are engaged in only one thing, and that is to create provocations and to collaborate with Hamas propaganda."¹³⁴¹

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To: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: RE: Free Gaza

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To: Mendel, Teresa S
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(202) 647-8308
Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

richterkb@state.gov

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013
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B5

From: Parra, Yolanda A
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:06 AM
To: Youssef, Ann M; Osman, Amany A; Perry, Mark D
Cc: Andrawes, Narguis T; Abdelwahab, Mohamed H; Richter, Kim B
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast.

Categories: Working
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
SensitivityCode: Sensitive Privacy Act

Ann – thanks for the website. I found this article which was posted only a few days ago.

We need to be prepared that they may divert the ships to Egypt.

First Ship Sets Sail for Gaza

By Free Gaza Movement |

May 14, 2010

Israel's Intimidation Tactics Won't Stop Us

First Ship Sets Sail for Gaza!

London – 14 May 2010 – At 22:45 local time tonight, the MV Rachel Corrie, a 1200-ton cargo ship, part of the eight-vessel Freedom Flotilla, set sail from Ireland on its way to the Mediterranean Sea. There, ships from Turkey and Greece will join her, then sail to Gaza.

This past week reports from Israel have indicated that the Israeli authorities will not allow the Freedom Flotilla to reach Gaza with its cargo of much-needed reconstruction material, medical equipment, and school supplies.

According to Israeli news sources, clear orders have been issued to prevent the ships from reaching Gaza, even if this necessitates military violence.

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The Free Gaza Movement, which has launched eight other sea missions to Gaza, confirms that Israel has tried these kinds of threats and intimidation tactics before in order to try to stop the missions before they start. "They have not deterred us before and will not deter us now," said one of the organizers.

Ship to Gaza -- Sweden, a Freedom Flotilla coalition partner, together with parliamentarian Mehmet Kaplan (Green Party) yesterday asked for an audience with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Carl Bildt, to discuss what measures the Swedish government and the European Union will take to protect the Freedom Flotilla's peaceful, humanitarian voyage. Earlier this week during a meeting with the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza -- another coalition partner, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan expressed his support for "breaking the oppressive siege on the Gaza Strip...which is at the top of Turkey's list of priorities."

Coalition partners, Ship to Gaza -- Greece and the Turkish relief organization IHH, stressed that the ships, passengers, and cargo will be checked at each port of departure, making it clear that we constitute no security threat to Israel.

Israel's threats to attack unarmed civilians aboard vessels carrying reconstruction aid are outrageous and indicative of the cruel and violent nature of Israel's policies towards Gaza. The Freedom Flotilla is acting in line with universal principals of human rights and justice in defying a blockade identified as illegal by the UN and other humanitarian organizations. Palestinians in Gaza have a right to the thousands of basic supplies that Israel bans from entering, including cement and schoolbooks, as well as a right to access the outside world. The Freedom Flotilla coalition calls on all signatories to the Fourth Geneva Conventions to pressure Israel to adhere to its obligations under international humanitarian law, to end the lethal blockade on Gaza, and to refrain from attacking this peaceful convoy.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition is comprised of: Free Gaza Movement (FG), European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza (ECESG), İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH), Ship to Gaza Greece, Ship to Gaza Sweden, and the International Committee to Lift the Siege on Gaza, with hundreds of groups and organizations around the world supporting the effort.

www.freegaza.org www.savegaza.eu www.ihh.org.tr

www.shiptogaza.gr www.shiptogaza.se

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Category: Press Releases

Sensitive Privacy Act

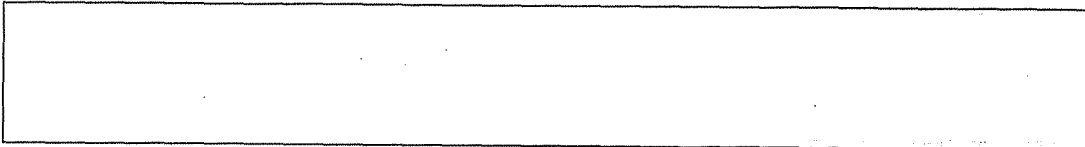
This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Youssef, Ann M
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:45 AM
To: Osman, Amany A; Perry, Mark D; Parra, Yolanda A
Cc: Andrawes, Narguis T; Abdelwahab, Mohamed H
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

I was searching online for any news about them, and actually they have their own website <http://gazafreedommarch.org/cms/en/Home.aspx>. if you go to this page [http://gazafreedommarch.org/cms/en/News/View/09-12-21/Call the Egyptian government for the Gaza Freedom March.aspx](http://gazafreedommarch.org/cms/en/News/View/09-12-21/Call%20the%20Egyptian%20government%20for%20the%20Gaza%20Freedom%20March.aspx), you can find the instructions they have for volunteers who want to join the group, and how to contact the Egyptian Authorities for clearances.

Thanks,
Ann

From: Osman, Amany A
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:27 AM
To: Perry, Mark D; Parra, Yolanda A
Cc: Youssef, Ann M; Andrawes, Narguis T; Abdelwahab, Mohamed H
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast



B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Perry, Mark D
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:06 PM
To: Parra, Yolanda A; Osman, Amany A
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

What do we need to do to prepare?

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Parra, Yolanda A
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:05 PM
To: Perry, Mark D; Osman, Amany A
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

Please see below...

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 3:52 PM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A
Subject: Free Gaza Date Approaching Fast

All – I have updated the distro list of concerned posts and offices for the upcoming Free Gaza flotilla. We are now only 6-7 days from the anticipated arrival of the first boats within Israeli and Gazan waters. As you gather new information, please share with this list so that we are ready for this as it develops.

Wes

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

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014

Mendel, Teresa S

B6

B

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:18 PM
To: Richter, Kim B
Cc: Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: FW: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel
Attachments: FPM_flotilla_passenger_list (1).xls

Kim – This was passed from the Hill to Emb. Tel Aviv and has the names of several Amcits planning on joining the Free Gaza flotilla. This info may be of use to several of our other posts, so I am passing to CA.
Wes

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:14 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: Fw: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

Cannot read on bb.

From: Sievers, Marc J
To: Goldberger, Thomas H
Cc: Chere, John E
Sent: Wed May 19 14:10:20 2010
Subject: Fw: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

FYI.

From: Hill Liaison
To: McKeever, Matthew X; Frowick, George H; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J
Sent: Wed May 19 20:53:26 2010
Subject: FW: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

Forwarding at request of Rep. Barbara Lee's office, information about U.S. citizens participating in a boat trip from Greece directly to the Gaza Strip.

John

John A. Ritchie
Consular Officer

U.S. Department of State
Congressional Liaison Office
189 Russell Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Tel: (202) 228-1605
FAX: (202) 224-1400
Hill-Liaison@state.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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StateDept0588

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From: Exner, Scott [mailto:scott.exner@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 1:38 PM
To: Hill Liaison
Cc: Riggs, Lauren
Subject: Constituent Travel/Contact Information, Greece/Gaza Travel

Hello,

Last week I spoke with John Richie in the Senate Liaison's office regarding two constituents of Congresswoman Lee's office who will be traveling as part of an international delegation attempting to enter Gaza via boat from Greece with humanitarian supplies in the coming week(s). Similar versions of this trip were blocked by Israeli naval forces, including the arrest of American citizens in the past. Given the sensitive nature of this trip, and the security concerns therein, Mr. Richie mentioned it would be appropriate, on top of registering with the travel.gov website, for the Hill Liaison's office to pass along traveler information to the relevant regional embassies.

The constituents of Congresswoman Lee that will be travelling include

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

B6

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(b)(6)

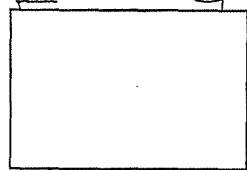
[Redacted] will not be participating in the trip from Greece to Gaza (she will remain in Greece) and can serve as a point of contact in case of emergencies or for any other reasons. Gene and Jan will be staying in Athens at one of two apartments: [Redacted]. The contact person is [Redacted] (mobile). Specific contact cell phone numbers in Greece will be provided to our office once they are obtained in-country, which I can pass along at that time.

(b)(6)

Attached you will find a document with pertinent American citizen traveler information including passport number, emergency contact phone number, home address, and Congressional Representation as provided by

[Redacted] is not included on this spreadsheet, which I believe includes several individuals participating in the boat trip to Gaza. [Redacted] information is as follows:

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(b)(6)

Passport # (TBD), this was not received prior to their departure, but I will request if I hear from them on the ground in Greece.

Birthdate: 6/14/44

The dates of travel for [Redacted] are as follows:

- Depart for Greece May 18, 2010
- Depart from Greece via boat May 21
- Arrive in Gaza May 27

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- Depart from Greece for United States May 30 or June 1

Please confirm receipt of this e-mail. Secondly, let me know if there is any other information you need or resources you recommend I pass along to Congresswoman Lee's constituents.

Thank you for your assistance. Best,

<<FPM_flotilla_passenger_list (1).xls>>

Scott Exner

Legislative Assistant

The Honorable Barbara Lee (CA 9th)

2444 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Tel# (202) 225-2661

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015

B

RELEASED IN PART
B6

From: Davison, Kees C
To: Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S
CC: Plott, Susan M; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Towry, Debra J; Lewis, Glenn K; Parra, Yolanda A; Perry, Mark D
Subject: Free Gaza Flotilla
Sent: 5/20/2010 6:55:33 AM
Teresa, Kim,

I spoke to two of the American members of Free Gaza group which will be leaving Athens soon, [former Ambassador Ed Peck and [redacted]] initiated the call on Peck's US cell phone, and then continued it on a local landline at the apartment they are staying at [redacted]

(b)(6)
(b)(6) B6
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

[redacted] told me that he doubted that they would set sail before Sunday or Monday (23rd or 24th), and was expecting to be engaged by the Israeli Navy on May 27th or May 28th.

While there are other Americans in Athens with the group, only the five mentioned on the spreadsheet from Congresswoman Lee's office would be sailing. [Peck, [redacted]]

(b)(6)

Kees Davison
ACS Athens

<http://paltelegraph.com/world/us/6096-us-delegation-headed-for-gaza-with-international-aid-flotilla>

SBU
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016

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

B

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 8:53 AM
To: Sindle, James M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A
Subject: FW: Free Gaza Flotilla

B6

All - Here is more info from Athens that may be of interest to the broader group.

I spoke to two of the American members of Free Gaza group which will be leaving Athens soon; [former Ambassador Ed Peck and [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(6) B6
 [redacted] told me that he doubted that they would set sail before Sunday or Monday (23rd or 24th), and was expecting to be engaged by the Israeli Navy on May 27th or May 28th. (b)(6)

Kees Davison
ACS Athens

<http://paltelegraph.com/world/us/6096-us-delegation-headed-for-gaza-with-international-aid-flotilla>

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017



ISRAEL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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MFA newsletter



MFA Spokesman on Gaza flotilla

24 May 2010

Ships forcing their way into Gaza will do nothing to aid the people there. Existing land crossings are more than capable of meeting their needs.



MFA Spokesman Yigal Palmor

- E-mail to a friend
- Print the article
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- Israel's humanitarian aid efforts
- Increased humanitarian aid to Gaza after IDF operation

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Ships forcing their way into Gaza will do nothing to aid the people there. Existing land crossings are more than capable of meeting their needs. International aid organizations and the private sector of Gaza ensure that all the necessary food, medicine and clothing are provided to the Strip via Israel.

In a typical week, 15,000 tons of supplies enter Gaza. Truckloads of meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, milk powder, baby food, wheat and other staples arrive in Gaza on a daily basis. Building materials are also shipped in, when monitored by International organization so as not to be commandeered by Hamas for the fortification of bunkers.

Since the ceasefire in January 2009, well over a million tons of humanitarian supplies entered Gaza from Israel - that is, almost a ton of aid for each man, woman and child in the Strip.

The land crossings remain the most efficient system to transfer goods to Gaza,

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

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and the flotilla organizers are well aware of this fact. The organizers also know that since December 2008, their ships have been denied permission to land.

Israel has invited the organizers of the flotilla to use the land crossings, in the same manner as all the reputable international organizations.

However, they are less interested in bringing in aid than in promoting their radical agenda, playing into the hands of Hamas provocations. While they have wrapped themselves in a humanitarian cloak, they are engaging in political propaganda and not in pro-Palestinian aid.

If the organizers were truly interested in providing humanitarian aid - as opposed to engaging in publicity stunts - they would use the proper channels to ensure delivery of any supplies.

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018
B

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Mendel, Teresa S
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Miller, Andrew T
Subject: FW: IHH Flotilla

Free Gaza Flotilla left Turkey with a total of 10 Amcits passengers, to include former Ambassador Ed Peck and 9 other Amcits. (b)(6)

Teresa

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

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 8:07 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Subject: FW: IHH Flotilla

Latest update on Free Gaza. The ships in Turkey have departed with former-Amb. Ed Peck and 9 other Amcits (please make sure relevant folks in CA, NEA, Tel Aviv and Cairo have the full list of names). Rendezvous with the ships from Greece could happen tomorrow. Please keep all the relevant offices above in the loop as this fluid situation develops!

Thanks,
Wes

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

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

From: Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"
To: Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Riley, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Sat May 22 14:09:42 2010
Subject: RE: IHH Flotilla

I'll ask AMCONSUL Istanbul (Win Dayton, Sal Amodeo) to check with IHH headquarters there over coming days on the flotilla's progress. From now on much of our information will likely come from the press as IHH is all about a media-worthy confrontation at sea with the Israel Defense Force (IDF). Embassy Tel Aviv may be able to get reports from the IDF.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2012 201004163

1

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

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2010 8:10 PM
To: Marsh, Denise M; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Riley, Robert J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: Re: IHH Flotilla

Looping in jerry howard as well. Denise has referred ops to cable on subject and to folks in nea as well. If memory serves me correctly, they will rendez-vous with other ships in cyprus on 25th. New element here is [amb peck.] (b)(6)

(Including tom goldberger from ipa here.). Jess

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

From: Marsh, Denise M
To: Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J
Sent: Sat May 22 12:38:29 2010
Subject: IHH Flotilla

Ops just called to report that the ships left Istanbul today with 10 AMCITS, to include former U.S. Amb Ed Peck. They asked for further update. They've alerted NEA folks. Anything more on this from post's end? (b)(6)

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Richter, Kim B

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:12 AM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatklewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L
Subject: RE: IHH Flotilla

Here is another news item of interest. The GOI has built a temporary detention facility at Ashdod Port to process passengers if the boats are brought in and the passengers detained. They are planning to deport all foreign passengers, which would repeat what was done with the last Free Gaza mission.

Flotilla Welcome

Ashdod Port: Mass Detention Facility Built Ma'ariv (p. 5) by Avi Ashkenazi -- Preparations were completed yesterday at Ashdod Port to block the flotilla for breaking the siege on Gaza. Among other things, the police, the GSS and the Interior Ministry's Oz unit set up a detention and interrogation facility capable of handling hundreds of people.

The overall responsibility for the operation has been assigned to the Navy, which will be assisted by several security and police agencies. For example, it was decided that SWAT teams would assist Naval Commando forces in case it is necessary to take over the ships. As part of the work, a fenced-off encampment was set up at Ashdod Port. "Even the port workers were not given authorization to approach the compound. They simply took Pier 1 and isolated it from the port," one of the workers said.

A police source said that preparations were being made at the port to provide the passengers with basic conditions, food, drink and medical treatment, along with the police preparations. "It is believed that the ships will be stopped on the border of Israel's territorial waters," the source said, "we have the experience and operational knowledge necessary to stop them and transfer the passengers to Ashdod Port."

It was further decided that every passenger removed from the ship would be examined by a police sapper. Every Israeli citizen on board will be arrested and questioned by the police, Palestinian citizens will be questioned by the police and GSS, and foreign nationals and diplomats will be handed over to the Oz unit for handling and will be expelled to their countries of origin.

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020

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:26 AM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Hackworth, Jason K
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Garolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremlah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L
Subject: Irish Free Gaza Boat

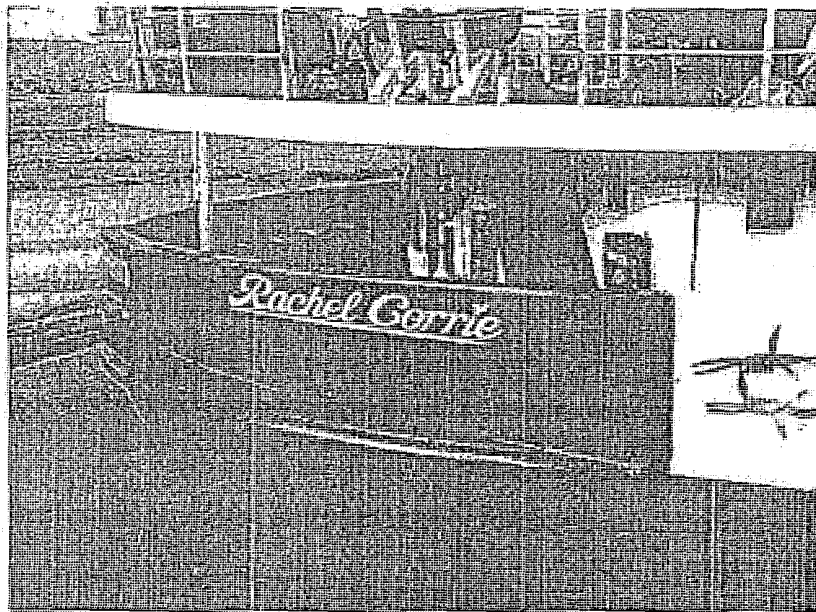
More from the Ireland Desk.

SEVERAL PROMINENT IRISH PARTICIPANTS ON SHIPS TO GAZA

By Fintan Lane, IPSC Media Officer:

The Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) wishes to express its solidarity with the 'Freedom Flotilla', consisting of nine ships, that is currently assembling in the Mediterranean Sea prior to attempting to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza in the final week of May. Among the ships heading towards Gaza is the 1,200 tonne Irish cargo ship, the MV Rachel Corrie, which is owned by the Free Gaza Movement. The ship is carrying a cargo of cement and other vital reconstruction materials for the people of Gaza.

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MV Rachel Corrie

In addition to the involvement of the MV Rachel Corrie, a number of Irish politicians and human rights activists will be participating in the flotilla as crew and as passengers. As of Friday, 21 May, the expected Irish participants in the flotilla are Denis Halliday (Dublin), Caoimhe Butterly (Dublin/Cork), Chris Andrews TD (Dublin), Dr Fintan Lane (Cork/Dublin), Mairead Maguire (Belfast), Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD (Dublin), Senator Mark Daly (Kerry), and Fiachra Ó Luain (Donegal). The Irish crew members on the MV Rachel Corrie are Derek Graham (Mayo), Jenny Graham (Mayo) and Shane Dillon (Dublin). For further biographical information on the Irish participants, please go to the end of this press release. The participants include members of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Free Gaza Movement.

The IPSC will attempt to provide up-to-date information on the flotilla as it proceeds towards Gaza, although, obviously, there may be times when information is difficult to obtain while the ships are at sea. Check the website www.freegaza.org which will be updated regularly.

As yet, it is impossible to judge how the Israeli navy and military will behave towards the Freedom Flotilla as it nears Gaza. Threats have been issued by the Israeli Department of Defence, which claims it intends to stop the flotilla at all costs. The organisers and participants in the flotilla have opted to ignore this intimidation and are determined to bring their cargo to Gaza.

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Speaking on behalf of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Dr Fintan Lane (IPSC Media Officer and a 'Freedom Flotilla' participant) said: "The siege of Gaza has created a humanitarian and political crisis that cannot be ignored. We are determined to break Israel's blockade and will not be intimidated. The people of Gaza have a right to access to the outside world and the right to determine their own future."

He continued: "The siege of Gaza is a collective punishment against the Palestinian people because they dared to resist Israeli apartheid rule. The suffering that Israel is causing is an outrage and the international community must stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Direct action is entirely appropriate and we intend to make it clear that we stand with the Palestinian resistance to oppression and apartheid. We are not neutral in this struggle for human rights and self-determination."

THE IRISH PARTICIPANTS

Caoimhe Butterly is a Dublin-born Irish human rights activist, who has worked with AIDS victims in Zimbabwe, the homeless in New York, and with Zapatistas in Mexico as well as more recently in the Middle East and Haiti. In 2002, during an Israeli attack in Jenin, she was shot by an Israeli soldier. She spent 16 days inside the compound where Yasser Arafat was besieged in Ramallah. She was described by Time magazine as one of their Europeans of the Year in 2003. Butterly is a pacifist who is a member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), an organization that seeks non-violent alternatives to armed intifada by mobilizing international civil society. She is a coordinator with the Free Gaza Movement and Delegation leader on the Freedom Flotilla.

Denis Halliday was born in Dublin in 1941 and educated at Trinity College Dublin. He is a former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed him to the post of United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq as of 1 September 1997, at the Assistant Secretary-General level, and he served as such until the end of September 1998. He resigned from the post in Iraq and from the United Nations as a whole effective 31 October 1998 after serving the organisation since mid 1964 - some 34 years. He has been a strong opponent of the US/UK-led war in Iraq.

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Mairead Maguire, Nobel peace prize laureate, was co-founder of the Community of Peace People for a peaceful resolution of the Northern Ireland conflict. She has been to Palestine several times defending the human rights. In April 2007, she was wounded by the Israeli army while non-violently protesting with Palestinians against the apartheid wall in the village of Bil'in. This will be her third trip to Gaza on board one of the Free Gaza boats.

Derek Graham is from Ballina in County Mayo. He has been a qualified electrician for 20 years. He was a member of the reserve defence forces in Ireland for 21 years and was the first member of the reserves to make the Army sailing team. He has been sailing all of his life and is a crew member on the MV Rachel Corrie. He has participated in many previous Free Gaza boat trips to Gaza and has been on four of the five voyages that landed in Gaza. He is married to Jenny, who is also on the MV Rachel Corrie.

Jenny Graham is from County Mayo and is a member of the Free Gaza Movement. She has participated in previous boat trips to Gaza and is a member of the crew of the MV Rachel Corrie. She is married to Derek Graham.

Shane Dillon is a Dublin-based Irish seafarer who has served as Chief Officer on Irish and British merchant ships. He has sailed on numerous leisure craft on transatlantic trips and in European waters. He is part of the crew of the Freedom Flotilla.

Fintan Lane is a writer and historian. He is a member of the National Committee of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Originally from Cork, he now lives in Chapelizod in Dublin. He graduated with a PhD in history from University College, Cork and is the author/editor of seven books on modern Irish history; he has also contributed many articles and reviews to academic history journals. He was the Editor of Saothar, the scholarly journal of Irish labour history, for several years.

Senator Mark Daly is a Fianna Fáil member of Senead Eireann from County Kerry. He was elected as one of the youngest members of the 23rd Senate in the 2007 election and has been active in community affairs and local politics since college. He was born in Kerry in 1973 and holds a Diploma in Property Valuation from Dublin Institute of Technology and a B.Sc. in Management from Greenwich University, London.

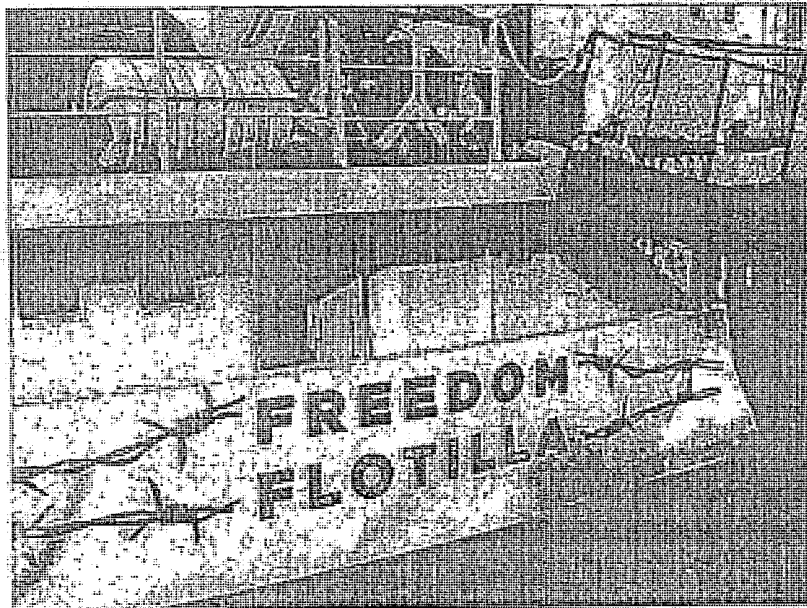
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Chris Andrews TD is an Irish Fianna Fáil politician. He is currently a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Dublin South East constituency. He was first elected to the Dáil at the 2007 general election.

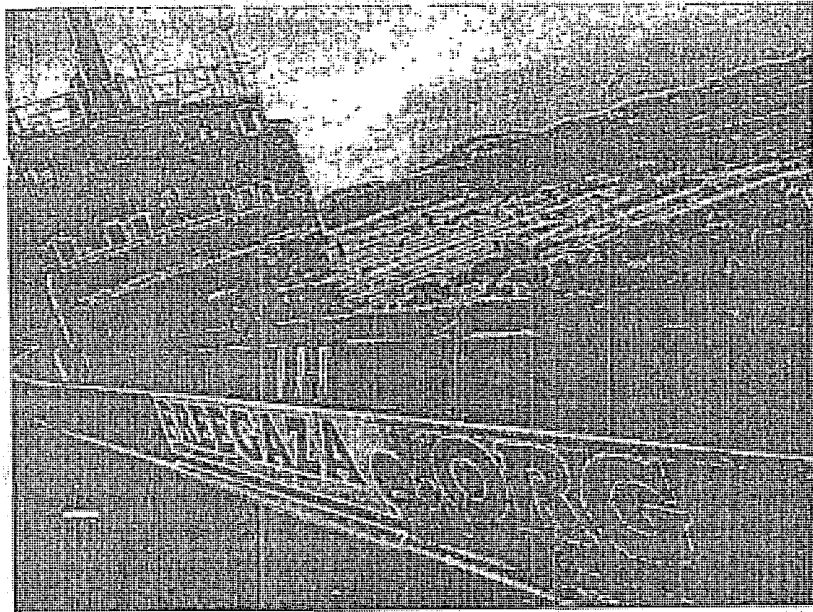
Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD is a native Irish speaker who was born in Dublin in 1964. Aengus is married to Aisling and has three children. He was first elected in 2002 to the Dáil (Irish parliament) and re-elected in 2007. He is Sinn Féin's spokesperson on social and family affairs, housing, justice and international affairs. He travelled by boat in November 2008 to Gaza which was (and still is) under siege by Israel.

Fiachra Ó Luain is from County Donegal. He is an Irish peace activist and was an independent candidate in the North-West constituency in the 2009 European elections. He was compelled to become a candidate upon watching the massacres of Israel's 'Operation Cast Lead'. He is a crew member on the Freedom Flotilla.



MV Rachel Corrie

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MV Rachel Corrie

[The following text is extremely faint and illegible, appearing as a series of horizontal lines and scattered characters.]

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022

Mendel, Teresa S

From: Hanrahan, Richard F
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 2:58 PM
To: Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E
Cc: 'Nan Stewart'
Subject: FW: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

RELEASED IN PART
B6

B

FYI

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 8:12 PM
To: Hanrahan, Richard F
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

B6

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan,

Thank you for contacting us again, and following up on our mission. Our ships will be leaving from multiple locations on this voyage. At this time we are not releasing information regarding which ships are leaving from which locations. I'm sure you can understand our caution. If you wish, you can sign up for real time updates about the voyage at <http://witnessgaza.com/>.

Rest assured, we are asking U.S. participants to fill out a Privacy Act waiver, so as to make it easier for us to get information from the U.S. government, should Israel violently respond to our peaceful mission. As we've both promised and done before - we will release a full list of all participants at the time of our actual departure. We will contact all appropriate embassies and governments, and provide them with a list of their nationals sailing with us. We are encouraging all participants to independently contact their embassies/governments as well.

I'd like to encourage you again to contact your counterparts in Israel, and demand that they respect international law and refrain from using violence against an unarmed flotilla carrying civilian passengers and humanitarian aid.

In March 2009, the United States pledged \$900,000,000 USD toward reconstruction in Gaza. However, in the 14 months since this pledge no aid has actually been delivered and the Palestinians of Gaza are still living in rubble.

This is unacceptable. Israel's hermetic closure policy constitutes collective punishment of an occupied civilian population, an act strictly prohibited under Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. As a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, the United States has an obligation to ensure that Israel respect international humanitarian law.

Given the sustained failure of the international community to enforce its own laws and protect the people of Gaza, we strongly believe that we all have a moral obligation to directly intervene to uphold international principles.

Warmest Regards,
[redacted]
Free Gaza Movement

(b)(6)

cc: [redacted]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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(b)(6)

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--- On Mon, 5/24/10, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

B6

From: Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

To: [redacted]

Date: Monday, May 24, 2010, 11:44 AM

(b)(6)

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

Is it still the case that boats from the Free Gaza movement will not be departing from Cyprus this year?

Were you able to find the Privacy Act Waivers?

Thanks,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 2:55 PM

To: Hanrahan, Richard F

Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan,

Thank you very much for following up with us on this. It is greatly appreciated. We are not leaving this week, but prior to our departure we will be in touch with this information. We will pass along your recommendation regarding Privacy Act waivers as well, and encourage all American passengers to fill out and sign one.

We would also like to encourage you to follow up with your Israeli government counterparts and urge them to comply with international law and standards regarding our mission to Gaza.

Warmest Regards,

[redacted]

(b)(6)

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Free Gaza Movement

--- On Thu, 5/13/10, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

From: Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza
To: [redacted]
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2010, 6:58 AM

(b)(6)

B6

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

According to recent press reports Free Gaza ships may again attempt to travel to Gaza from Cyprus. I would be very grateful if you would provide me a list with the names and dates of birth of any passengers who are U.S. citizens, and encourage them to sign Privacy Act waivers.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan
U.S. Consul
U.S. Embassy
Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 7:32 PM
To: Hanrahan, Richard F
Subject: Re: Important: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Hanrahan,

[redacted] U.S. co-Coordinator for the Free Gaza Movement, forwarded me your request for information on U.S. participants in our next mission to Gaza. I'm afraid that this information is not available at this time. However, rest assured, as in previous missions we will provide complete information on all ships' crew and passengers to each of their governments prior to sailing. Thank you for your interest, as well as for your advice that U.S. citizens sign a Privacy Act waiver. We will pass along that advice to all American passengers.

(b)(6)

If you have any other questions, concerns, or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us. As Israel's chief political and military ally, we would also encourage U.S. government officials to be in touch with your

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counterparts in Israel, and to directly express your concerns regarding continuing Israeli violations of international law and the danger these violations pose to the Palestinian people, as well as to U.S. citizens participating in our missions to Gaza.

Warmest Regards,

[Redacted]
Free Gaza Movement

(b)(6)

Subject: Please provide names of U.S. citizens planning to travel to Gaza

Date: Sun, 4 Apr 2010 16:04:21 +0300

From: HanrahanRF@state.gov

To: [Redacted]

(b)(6)

Dear [Redacted]

(b)(6)

I understand from press reports that ships from the Free Gaza organization may again attempt to sail to Gaza in late April or early May.

I would be grateful if you would provide the names and contact information for any U.S. citizens planning to travel on the boats. It may be advisable for any U.S. citizen who intends to travel to Gaza to execute a Privacy Act waiver ahead of time. This will help us keep anxious relatives and others better informed of their condition.

I'm sure you are aware of the risks inherent in such a journey and I hope each potential passenger carefully considers them. I have included a link to the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning for Israel, The West Bank and Gaza: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_922.html, and note that the State Department strongly urges that American citizens refrain from all travel to the Gaza Strip

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

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The New Busy think 9 to 5 is a cute idea. Combine multiple calendars with Hotmail. Get busy.

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023

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

From: Hanrahan, Richard F
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 2:59 PM
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Mendel, Teresa S
Cc: Stewart, Nan E
Subject: FW: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

B6

B

FYI

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 6:45 PM
To: Hanrahan, Richard F
Subject: Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

B6

(b)(6)

We are not departing from Cyprus and we did find the form. Thank you very much. greta

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 6:41 PM, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRE@state.gov> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

Is it still the case that boats from the Free Gaza movement will not be departing from Cyprus this year?

Were you able to find the Privacy Act Waivers?

Thank You,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 2:21 PM
To: Hanrahan, Richard F
Subject: Re: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

(b)(6)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

1
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Dear Mr. Hanrahan: Thank you so much for your inquiry regarding sailing to Gaza at the end of May. We are not sailing from Cyprus but from many other ports in the Mediterranean.

Would you let me know where I can access the Privacy Act Waivers? Is it possible to download them from the State Department website? Thank you. Best regards [redacted] (b)(6)

On Thu, May 13, 2010 at 12:00 PM, Hanrahan, Richard F <HanrahanRF@state.gov> wrote:

Dear [redacted] (b)(6)

According to recent press reports Free Gaza ships may again attempt to travel to Gaza from Cyprus. I would be very grateful if you would provide me a list with the names and dates of birth of any passengers who are U.S. citizens, and encourage them to sign Privacy Act waivers.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanrahan

U.S. Consul

U.S. Embassy

Nicosia, Cyprus

From: [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 7:44 PM
To: Hanrahan, Richard F
Subject: Thank you for asking for the passenger list

Dear Richard: I have just received your request about passengers who are going to go on the flotilla. I do have a couple of questions for you.

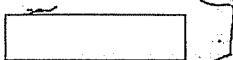
1. We are not leaving from Cyprus this time but from Greece, Turkey, Sweden and Ireland.
2. Do we still send the names to you or do we contact the U.S. Consulate/Embassy in the countries where the passengers embark?

Thank you for your concern. We'd like to also state that the only threat in the area is Israel's response to a human rights mission. We do hope you let them know that their brutal responses to American citizens will not


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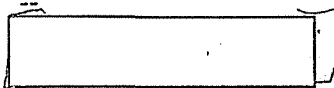
be tolerated.


www.freegaza.org

(b)(6)


www.freegaza.org

(b)(6)


witnessgaza.com
www.freegaza.org
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/freegaza>

(b)(6)

3
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024

Mendel, Teresa S

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:32 AM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Hackworth, Jason K
Subject: RE: IHH Flotilla article from Today's Zaman

RELEASED IN FULL

All - We currently have confirmation now of 5 Amcits from Athens, perhaps 2 from Turkey and an unknown number on the boat from Ireland.

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:01 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)
Cc: Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)
Subject: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Today at 9:30 am I spoke to IHH Administrative Board member Huseyin Oruc by phone. He is presently in Antalya where their passenger ship, the Mavi Marmara is docked. He told me:

- They will not depart Antalya to join the Free Gaza flotilla at the rendezvous point off of Cyprus for "about 2 days" since the rest of the flotilla is not yet ready to depart.
- There were NO/NO American Citizens on the Mavi Marmara while it sailed from Istanbul to Antalya. However, two Americans MAY board the ship when it eventually departs from Antalya. He did not know the names of the Americans, noting that another group that is planning to board the ship said two American may be among its participants.
- The IHH ship's passengers are presently staying in hotels in Antalya. More passengers are expected to arrive in Antalya in the next two days.

It appears that the participation of American Citizens may have been exaggerated or there was confusion over how many Amcits would be in the Flotilla as a whole vs. how many would be on the IHH ship.

I will monitor the situation for Amciti participation and estimated time of departure.

Stay tuned,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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Sal

Salvatore A. Amodeo

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer
U.S. Consulate General Istanbul
(90) 212-335-9389

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2
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025

Richter, Kim B

RELEASED IN PART

From: Parker, Andrew C
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 10:15 AM
To: Richter, Kim B; Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Schlereth, Frank G; Greene, Elisa; Sievers, Marc J; Burgess, Richard J; Rogan, Thomas G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Levin, Jan
Subject: RE: Free Gaza and the GOI

B6

I spoke this afternoon with MFA Consular Liaison [redacted] who had spent the day at the Port of Ashdod, where the GOI is preparing to receive up to 800 detainees. I conveyed our concern for the safety of civilians as expressed below. She said she would convey our concern to the Director General's office and also noted that this was a key point that MFA has been making with the Israeli Navy.

B6

Concerning the flotilla, she said there are lots of rumors circulating about plans and schedules, but she understood the vessels would not reach Cyprus before Friday and would most likely not reach offshore Gaza until Sunday.

Andy

From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 6:54 PM
To: Greene, Elisa
Subject: Free Gaza and the GOI

Has Embassy Tel Aviv been in touch with the GOI to make sure the Israelis don't take drastic action that would put lives and safety at risk? I'm sure you guys have – as this is not new to post.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2011 201004163

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Richter, Kim B

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 12:27 PM
To: Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: FW: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Here's an idea. Maybe Athens can call to find out which boats. That way, if there is an incident involving a specific boat, we will know if there are Amcits on board!

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:48 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Good. Perhaps they could call the cell phones of the AmCits?

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:46 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Athens is still trying to track down that info. They have the names of ships but not which ones the Amcits may board yet. The boats that may go are:
BESIRE KAIKAVAN, OCEAN STAR, NOVOROSTYSK STAR, SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY, MAESTRO OCEAN, AND KYKLADES

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:37 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Would be good to know in case there are incidents with some ships but not others.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:35 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Here is the spreadsheet from Athens with the names of the 5. I'll check with CA to see if they have the ship names.

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:33 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Can we find out names and ships of known Amcits?

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From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:29 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

We know [Peck] and four others are coming from Athens, but not on which ship from there.

(b)(6)

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 8:24 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: FW: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

Do we know which ship Amcits are supposed to be on? e.g. [Peck?]

(b)(6)

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:01 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)
Cc: Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)
Subject: Flotilla Delayed - only 2 Amcits may join IHH passenger ship

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- The IHH ship's passengers are presently staying in hotels in Antalya. More passengers are expected to arrive in Antalya in the next two days.

It appears that the participation of American Citizens may have been exaggerated or there was confusion over how many Amcits would be in the Flotilla as a whole vs. how many would be on the IHH ship.

I will monitor the situation for Amciti participation and estimated time of departure.

Stay tuned,

Sal

Salvatore A. Amodeo

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Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

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From: Reisser, Wesley J
To: Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Parker, Andrew C
CC: Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H;
Rogan, Thomas G
Subject: FW: SEVERAL PROMINENT IRISH PARTICIPANTS ON SHIPS TO GAZA
Sent: 5/25/2010 12:38:50 PM

From the Ireland desk, they have followed up and believe there are no Amcits on the Rachel Corrie, which is currently en route.

From: Siler, Brian J
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:36 AM
To: Hackworth, Jason K; Duval, Jennifer L; Nystrom, Dwight D; Rendo, Christopher M; Hennessey-Niland, John
Cc: Bates, Candace L
Subject: RE: SEVERAL PROMINENT IRISH PARTICIPANTS ON SHIPS TO GAZA

I spoke by phone today with Sinn Fein parliamentarian Aengus O' Snodaigh about the possible presence of USC's (including persons with dual citizenship) on board the Irish ship in the flotilla, the "Rachel Corrie." Snodaigh said he believes there are no/no USC's on the "Rachel Corrie." However, he thinks at least one USC, reportedly a woman in her eighties who is alleged to be a Holocaust survivor, will be among those on one of the other ships in the flotilla. No further information about this supposed USC was available. While not hostile, Snodaigh was not relaxed about the call. I focused solely on our interest in the welfare of USC's who might find themselves in a difficult or dangerous situation. I asked him to advise the woman and any other USC's he might encounter within the flotilla group to register with U.S. consular authorities on Cyprus, which is where he said he (and presumably the "Rachel Corrie") now is. He said he would do so.

Brian

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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Printed By: Richter, Kim B
Page 1 of 1

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028

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Reisser, Wesley J; Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A

To:

Subject: Today's Zaman online: Davutoglu: Gaza Blockade Must End

Sent: 5/26/2010 2:04:19 AM

FYI

Davutoglu: Gaza Blockade Must End (Today's Zaman online)
 Foreign Minister Davutoglu said Tuesday at a press conference at the two-day meeting of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in Istanbul, "The blockade on Gaza must come to an end. This is and will be our policy."
<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-211204-gaza-blockade-must-end-says-davutoglu-at-un-meeting-in-istanbul.html>

Full article:

Gaza blockade must end, says Davutoğlu at UN meeting in Istanbul

Foreign Minister Ahmet

Davutoğlu has said Israel should respect the fundamental and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and end the blockade on Gaza.

"Turkey does not want the current situation in Palestine that resembles a modern ghetto to continue and wants all practices that threaten humanitarian rights there to be stopped," the top Turkish diplomat noted. "The blockade on Gaza must come to an end. This is and will be our policy," he added.

Davutoğlu reiterated Turkey's solidarity with the Palestinian people and support for them to have a normal life on the land in which they are the indigenous inhabitants. He was speaking at a press conference following the first session of a two-day meeting of the UN Committee on the

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

Printed By: Mendel, Teresa S
 Page 1 of 3

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Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People that started in Istanbul on Tuesday. Davutoğlu said it was a significant development and also meaningful that the meeting had convened in Turkey.

The committee was established in 1975 as a subsidiary body to the UN General Assembly with a mandate to promote the Palestinians' national rights.

Davutoğlu stressed that the Palestinian issue has an internationally strategic dimension, but for Turkey, it is, above all, a humanitarian issue. "We want the children of Gaza and the West Bank, just like children in other parts of the world, to look to the future with hope. We want Palestinian people to be allowed to be connected with the outside world so that they can fulfill their needs," he added.

The Gaza Strip has been under a tightened Israeli and Egyptian economic blockade since 2007 when the Hamas movement took over the territory after being elected in the 2006 elections. The blockade was enforced to put pressure on Hamas and to stop weapons being smuggled in.

In response to a question regarding the Turkish government's reaction if Israel prevents the humanitarian aid ships that will set sail for Gaza on Thursday from reaching their destination, Davutoğlu said they were not expecting a crisis over the matter. "We are hoping that tension will not arise over there. Similar civilian initiatives have been formulated at certain times relating to different issues in the past, too, and they were generally received with understanding because of their civilian character. We hope and expect Israel and the NGOs to behave with common sense here as well," Davutoğlu said. The Israeli Defense Ministry earlier said they would prevent the fleet from arriving at the port of Gaza.

Nine ships will depart from Antalya to carry humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip on Thursday. Volunteers from over 50 countries will be on board the ships in an attempt to show a civilian reaction to the blockade in Gaza.

Speaking to Today's Zaman on the sidelines of the meeting, a foreign ministry official said it was not clear what would happen to the ships. "The thing is we do not have a rational government on the part of Israel, so we cannot anticipate what they will do," the official said, also adding that they had underlined the move's civilian character and explained to Israel that it was not an "armada."

Davutoğlu assessed the Palestinian issue in the speech he delivered at the meeting's first session. He started his

address by acknowledging the Palestinians' long-standing plight. "Today, the fulfillment of the rightful aspirations of the Palestinian people to establish a homeland has become all the more essential. There is no more room to maneuver to further deny their legitimate rights," he said. In that regard, he noted that the launching of proximity talks between Palestine and Israel was a positive step. He stressed the significance of the maintenance of talks and said unilateral and provocative actions should not be allowed to disrupt the process. "Especially, Israel should be obliged to act with common sense so as not to hinder the re-launching of the direct talks," he stated, adding that a substantial part of the burden has to be shouldered by the international community.

"There should be a strong international commitment toward Palestinian statehood with clear objectives, clear terms of reference for the negotiations and time frames," Davutoğlu said.

He expressed his hopes for the prospect of peace in the Middle East in general, too. "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, while the optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty," he said, and added that he preferred to be an optimist. "I firmly believe that it is high time for all of us to unite our ranks and overcome the hurdles along our way to create a peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous region which we all deserve," he concluded.

26 May 2010, Wednesday

MUSTAFA EDİB YILMAZ ISTANBUL

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Parker, Andrew C
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 4:43 AM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J
Subject: Re: 5/23 Haaretz article on Israeli counter-flotilla

The civilian counter-flotilla appears to have been a weekend statement by local sailors with boats. Our MFA contact yesterday agreed it is not currently a factor. Ditto for our DATT. If we learn more we will pass it along.

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Reisser, Wesley J; Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A
Sent: Wed May 26 11:25:53 2010
Subject: 5/23 Haaretz article on Israeli counter-flotilla

Here is an interesting article from Haaretz from 5/23. Does anyone know the status of the Israeli counter-flotilla?

Sal

Salvatore A. Amodeo

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer
 U.S. Consulate General Istanbul
 (90) 212-335-9389

Local fleet sets out to counter Gaza-bound ships from Turkey

By Anshel Pfeffer, Jack Khoury and Avi Issacharoff

Dozens of vessels sailed yesterday from the Herzliya marina to the beach near Tel Yona, west of Rishon Letzion, in a fleet organizers said was a response to ships that set sail yesterday from Turkey, bound for the Gaza Strip.

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"This is a civil initiative and is not connected to any political group," one of the organizers, Mati Freiman, said.

"We would like to present a counter-flotilla to the Turks, who are trying to justify themselves and work for the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and Hamas, while ignoring the rights of other minorities in their own country and ignoring the fact that the kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit has been held for almost four years without rights," he said.

The group of ships from Turkey left yesterday for Cyprus; the navy and Military Intelligence estimate that approximately 10 ships will leave Cyprus this Thursday and arrive in the area over the weekend, with about 500 people on board.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak signed an order closing off the zone 20 nautical miles from the Gaza shoreline. The defense establishment said the navy would prevent the fleet from arriving at the Gaza port, but added that for operational reasons they would not say where the ships would be intercepted.

Naval sources said they were concerned that people on board would initiate a provocation that would lead to a shooting incident or violence for the sake of media attention. The Israel Navy crews have been briefed on preventing a decline into violence.

There is also concern that Gazans will try to take dozens of their boats out to sea to meet the aid ships. The navy is expected to act to keep the two groups separate.

The Gush Shalom movement last week asked Barak to cancel his directive to the navy to stop the Turkish flotilla. "The whole world is watching us," the group said. "Israel has no interest in flooding international television channels with pictures of sailors and Israeli commandos fighting with peace activists and humanitarian aid activists, many of whom are well known in their countries."

This story is by:

- [Anshel Pfeffer](#)
- [Jack Khoury](#)



- [Avi Issacharoff](#)

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030

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

B6

B

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 7:37 AM
To: Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Davison, Kees C
Subject: FW: list

Here is a video of another Amcit (and former State Dept employee) claiming to be on the boats. She is not on the list from Athens, but that is the point of departure listed on her video greeting.

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 6:23 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Subject: Fw: list

B6

From: Thomas Goldberger [redacted]
To: Goldberger, Thomas H [redacted]
Sent: Wed May 26 06:19:10 2010
Subject: list

(b)(6)

Is [redacted] (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGPvIVbsC3M&feature=youtu.be&a>) on the list?

(b)(6)

Tom

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 8:03 AM
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggl, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S
 Subject: Israeli Press Reports on Free Gaza
 Attachments: MFA Spokesman on Gaza flotilla 24-May-2010.htm

For those of you interested, here are some pieces from today's Israeli press.

YNET 11:03 , 05.26.10

IDF says aid mission to Gaza a provocation

Aid ships carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists making their way to Gaza to break Israeli blockade, but army says mission unnecessary in light of 'stable humanitarian situation' in Strip.

Hanan Greenberg

As eight ships are making their way through the Mediterranean towards the Gaza Strip in the framework of a European aid mission, Colonel Moshe Levi, commander of the Gaza District Coordination Office, told reporters Wednesday that there is no shortage of food or equipment in the Hamas-ruled territory.

"The sail is a provocative act that is unnecessary in light of the figures, which indicate that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is good and stable," he said, adding that Israel allows the transfer of many products to the Strip, apart from those which may be used by Hamas for terror-related activities.

According to data provided by the security establishment, 100 trucks enter Gaza every day. Over the past few months, these trucks have delivered, among other things, over 1,200 tons of medicines and medical equipment, 155 tons of food, 2,900 tons of clothes and footwear and close to 17 million liters (about 3.85 million gallons) of diesel oil, the army said.

"We are not familiar with any shortages in any field, and we are permitting the entrance of different kinds of equipment into Gaza, as well as the exporting of produce from Gaza," Levi said.

"Of course, anything that may be used by Hamas to boost its military capabilities will not be allowed in," he added.

The data also show that over the past year Israel has allowed 6,000 Palestinians to leave Gaza to receive medical treatment in Israel and Jordan. In addition, Israel does not limit the amount of medicines and food that enter the Strip.

A security official said that in some cases Israel allows the transfer of equipment that may potentially be used by Hamas so as not to obstruct the work of the UN or other international organizations.

According to the IDF, over the past year the unemployment rate in Gaza has dropped to 10-year low and currently stands at 38%, compared with 48% a few years ago.

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The organizers of the aid mission said the ships are carrying hundreds of activists from all over the world. "We're helping the Palestinians, just like the Greeks helped during World War II against the Nazis," a Greek activist aboard one of the ships told Ynet Tuesday.

The mission was organized by Turkish group IHH as well as other leftist European organizations. The activists taking part in the sailing operation also expressed their fear that the IDF will prevent them from arriving at their destination.

YNET 01:13 , 05.26.10

Gaza mission activist: It's just like facing Nazis

Greek professor on ship heading to Gaza likens mission to Greek aid in face of Nazis during World War II; Swedish participant concerned about IDF response, hopes Israel allows activists to 'meet our Palestinian brothers'

Aviel Magnezi

Eight ships are already making their way through the Mediterranean towards the Gaza Strip in the framework of a European aid mission - with activists aboard the vessels likening their work to the anti-Nazi effort during World War II.

"We're helping the Palestinians, just like the Greeks helped during World War II against the Nazis," a Greek activist aboard one of the ships told Ynet Tuesday.

The mission was organized by Turkish group IHH as well as other leftist European organizations. The activists taking part in the sailing operation also expressed their fear that the IDF will prevent them from arriving at their destination.

The Greek activist, university professor Vangelis Pissias, told Ynet that he is concerned about harm to human rights anywhere in the world.

"Just like we don't accept the Israeli behavior in Gaza, we will not accept it anywhere," he said. He added that the mission is an anti-violent act, and that participants only wish to offer aid to Gazans and bring the message that "we won't let any military force to keep them in prison."

The professor stressed that he has nothing against Jews and that he even has Jewish friends. However, he refused to condemn Palestinian terrorism. "These people are doing what reality causes them to do," he said.

Turning his attention to World War II, he added: "Back then we helped the refugees, and we're doing it now too. The Palestinians have the same feelings, they are under attack and they're fighting for it for lack of other choice."

"The whole world watched Israel's serious crimes in Gaza about a year and a half ago," he said. "Humanity cannot accept it."

Meanwhile, Swedish history professor Mattias Gardel, who will also be heading to Gaza aboard one of the ships, told Ynet mission participants are concerned about human rights in Gaza and do not aim to assault anyone.

Gardel expressed his concern over the prospect of an Israeli military response to the aid mission, stressing that the activists aboard the ships are unarmed.

"We're unarmed, yet they are armed and will be coming with their Navy and commandoes - it will be a comedy," he said. "All of these forces against us. We urge the government to stop the fighters, open the door, and allow us to meet our Palestinian brothers."

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Turkey to Israel: Lift blockade of Gaza

Israel warns it would block a fleet of nine ships carrying some 700 international pro-Palestinian activists and humanitarian supplies from reaching Gaza.

By Reuters and DPA

Turkey urged Israel on Tuesday to lift its blockade of Gaza and allow a Turkish-led convoy of ships carrying humanitarian aid to enter the Hamas-controlled enclave.

Israel and Egypt closed Gaza's borders after Hamas took control of the territory in 2007 and refused to forswear violence against the Jewish state. Gaza's 1.5 million people face shortages of water and medicine.

An international flotilla carrying some 10,000 tons of medical equipment, housing material and other supplies is expected to reach Israeli waters by Friday, according to a Turkey-based humanitarian aid group leading the effort.

Speaking to reporters at a news conference during a UN meeting on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said his government had been in touch with Israel about the aid convoy.

"Acting calmly is necessary rather than raising already heightened tensions," he said. "The blockade on Gaza should be lifted."

He added: "We don't want new tensions ... We believe Israel will use common sense towards this civilian initiative."

The Israeli government is under international pressure to relax its blockade, which the United Nations says punishes people in Gaza over the policy of Islamist Hamas, which is pledged to Israel's destruction.

Israel warned Tuesday that it would block the fleet of nine ships carrying some 700 international pro-Palestinian activists.

A similar, but smaller, aid flotilla was prevented by Israeli authorities a year ago. Five others have made it to Gaza in recent years.

Israel argues the blockade is necessary to keep violent elements in the Gaza Strip from rearming themselves with the tools to shoot rockets into Israel.

Israeli media reported authorities saying the ships would be boarded before they could reach Gaza. Any activists on board would be arrested.

Israeli authorities have urged the convoy's organizers to bring their goods to Gaza via a pre-approved border crossing. Organizers have said no such offer has been made.

"Ships that make their own way to Gaza don't do anything to help the people there," said Yigal Palmor, a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Palmor said Free Gaza is "less interested in bringing help, than with advancing their radical agenda, which plays into the hands of Hamas."

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Turkey, the only Muslim member of NATO, is one of Israel's closest allies in the Middle East but relations have soured, in part due to Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's frequent criticism of the Jewish state's Palestinian policies.

Robert Serry, the UN's special co-ordinator for the Middle East peace process, said the blockade could only embolden militants.

"I am particularly concerned that the current closure creates unacceptable suffering, hurts forces of moderation and empowers extremists. I call for the closure policy to end," said Serry, who also serves as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon's representative to the Palestinian Territories.

The convoy, organized by the Istanbul-based Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), includes vessels from Britain, Greece, Algeria, Kuwait, Malaysia and Ireland.

It is carrying some 20 million euros worth of supplies, making it the largest ever to the Palestinian Territories, Salih Bilici, spokesman for the pro-Palestinian IHH, told Reuters.

"Part of this mission is to draw attention to the suffering of the people of Gaza," Bilici said. "We are not concerned that our safety is at risk, because we are a humanitarian group without political aims."

The group is determined to deliver the aid directly to Gaza, rather than leaving it with Israeli authorities, Bilici said.

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033

Mendel, Teresa S

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 8:06 AM
To: Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: What is the actual ship count?

RELEASED IN FULL

We know only 1 from Ireland, but do Athens and Ankara know how many are leaving from each specifically? Press reports are saying a total of 8, 9 or 10, depending on the source.

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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StateDept0629

034
B

RELEASED IN PART
B6

From: Reisser, Wesley J
To: Richter, Kim B
CC: Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: FW: 2nd 5/26 Update on Turkish part of Gaza Flotilla - 1 Amcit arrived, Departure planned for 5/27 afternoon
Sent: 5/26/2010 10:01:23 AM
Guess we have 2 more names for Tel Aviv/JRS/Cairo. Maybe we can find people in PIERS, but might be tough with just first and last names...

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 9:25 AM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dillworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Reisser, Wesley J; Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A
Subject: 2nd 5/26 Update on Turkish part of Gaza Flotilla - 1 Amcit arrived, Departure planned for 5/27 afternoon

This afternoon post communicated with an IHH spokesperson in Antalya. She said:

- One of the two American citizens is expected to join the IHH ship has arrived.
- [redacted] (sp?) has arrived in Antalya. B6
- [redacted] (sp?) is expected but has not yet arrived. (b)(6)
- The IHH ship is expected to depart Antalya for the flotilla rendezvous point near Cyprus tomorrow afternoon. (b)(6)
- However, the actual departure time and date depends on when another ship from Greece participating in the flotilla reaches Antalya.
- IHH expects to arrive in Gaza in less than a day after they rendezvous near Cyprus.
- IHH also said it will submit a final list of passengers to their headquarters in Istanbul after their ship's passengers pass through passport control tomorrow.
- IHH said it will share the names of the American Citizens on that final list.

I plan to send a spot report cable tomorrow morning and follow up with an e-mail update tomorrow afternoon.

Best,

Sal

Salvatore A. Amodeo

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer
U.S. Consulate General Istanbul
(90) 212-335-9389

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RELEASED IN PART

035

Mendel, Teresa S

B6

B

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 4:38 PM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Nelos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A
Subject: Live Updates on Free Gaza & the Current Status of Ships
Attachments: Free Gaza May 2010.xlsx

All - In order to best track the current location of ships as they head in towards Gaza, check out - <http://witnessgaza.com/>. Nothing is close enough to show up on their google map yet, but the boats will start to appear there soon.

Sydney Morning Herald has a map which shows the locations of some of the boats, but was only updated two days ago: <http://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&t=h&msa=0&msid=104462212968933858200.00048752daadc5c8f38&ll=35.746512,27.37793&spn=12.471296,18.457031&z=5&source=embed>.

As of right now, we are aware of the ships in the attached spreadsheet as being en route. No word on whether the following vessels may be going to Gaza: BESIRE KAIKAVAN, OCEAN STAR, NOVOROSTYSK STAR, SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY, MAESTRO OCEAN, AND KYKLADES. Also no word on whether additional boats have departed Turkey. For those of you with additional info, please let me know, so that our folks in Israel and CA are fully armed with as much info as we can get prior to the ships arrival in the Gazan vicinity this weekend!

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DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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Name of Ship	Point of Departure	Country/Flag	Known Amcits on Board
MV Rachel Corrie	Ireland	Cambodia/Cambodia	none
Challenger 1	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Challenger 2	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Mavi Marmara	Istanbul	Turkey/Turkey	
3 Additional boats from Greece??	Athens	Greece/Greece	

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(036)

Richter, Kim B

From: Greene, Elisa
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:50 AM
To: Richter, Kim B
Cc: Zeroubavely, Sandra S
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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Is [redacted] on the flotilla? What about her husband, [redacted] [redacted] is a dual Israeli-American and would face (b)(6) arrest by the GOI if she came on the flotilla. Since you are checking with her, perhaps you can remind her of that (though I'm certain she is already aware of the risks).

From: Richter, Kim B
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 6:37 PM
To: Parker, Andrew C
Cc: Greene, Elisa
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

I just called [redacted] She's with the Free Gaza Movement and she said she did not know of any ships flying under (b)(6) U.S. flags. She was going to email [redacted] to confirm but she believes there are none under U.S. flags. (b)(6)

I will let you know as soon as I know more.

From: Parker, Andrew C
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:00 AM
To: Richter, Kim B
Cc: Greene, Elisa
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Boat names would help, per email below.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels—Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

[redacted]

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US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M. BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

1

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Tel: 972 3 519 7486

Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: Reisser, Wesley J

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM

To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S

Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy-Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aid to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.

Desk Officer - NEA/IPA

Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs

Phone (202) 647-2647

Fax (202) 736-4461

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Richter, Kim B

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 8:58 AM
To: Richter, Kim B
Subject: FW: MFA HOSTS FLOTILLA STATES AMBASSADORS

FYI

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 8:54 AM
To: Baron, Desiree A; Garcia, Dennis J; Kaplan, Crystal T; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Burnett, David R; Frelch, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sarah; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Mayo, Iris J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: MFA HOSTS FLOTILLA STATES AMBASSADORS

YNET 15:19, 05.27.10

Foreign Ministry: Gaza aid flotilla can come to Ashdod

The Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassadors of Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Sweden and Ireland, the states from which participants in the Gaza aid flotilla come from, to separate meetings in which Israel's position was clarified. Israel holds that the flotilla is a provocation and claims there is no blockade on humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

The Foreign Ministry invited the participants to come to Ashdod Port and unload their aid cargo, and Israel would transfer it to Gaza after security checks. The Ministry's director-general also emphasized that Israel would not allow the flotilla to reach Gaza's shores and that in keeping with Israel's local authority, the Defense Ministry had forbidden any vessels from entering Gaza.

(Ynet)

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038

Richter, Kim B

RELEASED IN PART

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 9:17 AM
 To: Weinfeld, Nili I; Greene, Elisa; Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Davison, Kees C; Lewis, Glenn K
 Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Husseini, Mohammad A
 Subject: RE: Former US Army Colonel and US Diplomat Joins Gaza Flotilla

B6

B

Hopefully we can find out which boat she is on, along with the other Greek passengers! This is getting more confusing, the more info we find...

From: Weinfeld, Nili I
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:58 AM
 To: Greene, Elisa; Reisser, Wesley J; Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Davison, Kees C; Lewis, Glenn K
 Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Husseini, Mohammad A
 Subject: RE: Former US Army Colonel and US Diplomat Joins Gaza Flotilla

B6

This might be actually [redacted] (b)(6)
 [redacted] (b)(6)

Nili

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

From: Greene, Elisa
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 8:42 AM
 To: Reisser, Wesley J; Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Davison, Kees C
 Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Husseini, Mohammad A; Weinfeld, Nili I
 Subject: RE: Former US Army Colonel and US Diplomat Joins Gaza Flotilla

Thanks, Wes. Does anyone have DPOB or a middle name for her? There are too many people by the name of [redacted] in PIERS and ACS to look her up. (b)(6)
 [redacted] retired U.S. Army Reserve Colonel and former U.S. diplomat who resigned in March, 2003... (b)(6)

Thanks, elisa

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel
 Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel
 Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.
 Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: greenee@state.gov

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

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 12:23 AM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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To: Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Davison, Kees C
Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa
Subject: FW: Former US Army Colonel and US Diplomat Joins Gaza Flotilla

This is the additional Amciti that probably joined in Greece if we can get info on her!

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

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:10 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Subject: Former US Army Colonel and US Diplomat Joins Gaza Flotilla

<http://gazafreedommarch.org/cms/en/news/view/10-05-19/Former-US-Army-Colonel-and-US-Diplomat-Joins-Gaza-Flotilla.aspx>

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039

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

B6

B

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:15 AM
 To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Grubb, Jason B
 Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Parker, Andrew C; Burnett, David R; Adams, Julie D; Greene, Elisa; Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Briganti, James D; Cizek, Michael; 'Craig.Haynes@eu.navy.mil'; Goodman, Ian A; Burgess, Richard J
 Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank - Our Embassy in Athens is contacting Greek authorities to find out the actual port of registration of these two ships. Although they are flying American flags, we have not been able to confirm if they are actually U.S. registered boats, or have raised the U.S. flag over foreign registered vessels (which would render the ships legally stateless).
 Wes

From: Schlereth, Frank G
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:12 AM
 To: Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Grubb, Jason B
 Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Parker, Andrew C; Burnett, David R; Adams, Julie D; Greene, Elisa; Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Briganti, James D; Cizek, Michael; 'Craig.Haynes@eu.navy.mil'; Goodman, Ian A; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G
 Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy has sent me the Blog below from a AMCIT, [Ann Wright], participating that indicates the two vessels are US Flagged. The Israel Navy is formally requesting, and I understand the Israeli MFA has requested as well, that the USG take appropriate actions. I have been asked to provide a response to ASAP to Israel Navy leadership on USG intentions as well as USG reaction to Israel Navy intercepting US Flagged yachts. Thank you.

(b)(6)

R/
 LCDR Frank Schlereth
 Assistant Naval Attaché
 US Defense Attaché Office
 US Embassy, Tel Aviv
 Tel: 972 3 519 7486
 Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

Break the Israeli siege of Gaza or attack at sea, detention camps and deportation

BY ANN WRIGHT
 MAY 26, 2010

(b)(6)

- o [Print](#)
- o [Write to editor](#)
- o [Support rabble](#)
- o [Corrections](#)
- o [SHARE](#)

By the time you read this, we will be on the high seas of the Mediterranean (we hope the seas will not be too high).

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Our two U.S. flagged Free Gaza boats, will join two other passenger ships, a 600 passenger ship from Turkey sponsored by the Turkish humanitarian organization, İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH) and a 50 passenger ship from Athens sponsored by the European Campaign Against the Siege and the Greek/Swedish Ships to Gaza campaign, to sail to the shores of Gaza to break the Israeli naval blockade of the 1.5 million citizens in Gaza.

Four cargo ships from Ireland, Greece, Algeria and Turkey, will carry a total of 10,000 tons or 2 million pounds of construction materials for the housing of 50,000 made homeless during the 22 day Israeli attack on Gaza that killed 1440 Palestinians and wounded 5,000.

Many of us would like to see our boat renamed "The Audacity of Hope" as that is what we want to see from the Obama administration-- courage to challenge the Israeli government on the siege of Gaza. It would be a really brave, bold move as every U.S. presidential administration since the formation of the State of Israel in 1948 has blindly given free-rein to Israel in whatever actions it wishes to undertake no matter if the actions are a violation of international law. The carte blanche given to Israel by the United States has been dangerous for Israel's national security as well as for the national security of the United States.

Probable reaction of Israeli Navy Ships-Bow shots, ramming or boarding

In less than 48 hours, the Israeli Navy will probably fire U.S. made ammunition and rockets in international waters over the bows of two U.S. flagged boats and one Greek boat with U.S. citizens aboard as well as citizens from 13 other countries and over the bows of the Turkish 600 passenger ship.

Ironically, on one passenger ship will be [Joe Meaders], a U.S. citizen who is a survivor of the Israeli air and naval attack on a United States Navy ship, the USS Liberty, in 1967 killed 34 U.S. sailors and wounded 173. The Israeli government has never acknowledged, much less apologized for, the deaths of these sailors, nor the destruction of the USS Liberty. (b)(6)

According to Israeli media (<http://www.ipost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=176491>), the Israeli military is preparing for our arrival off the shores of Gaza. The Israeli navy has been practicing its plan for preventing us from docking in Gaza, a plan that probably includes demanding by radio that the ships change course away from Gaza, firing weapons in front of the ships, ramming the ships and sending well-armed boarding parties onto the ships.

Israelis prepare a detention camp

As our 8 ship flotilla prepares to depart Greece and Turkey to break the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza, the Israeli military is preparing a detention camp for the flotilla's 700 delegates from 20 countries who are passengers on four of the ships.

Those passengers include [Hedy Epstein], an 85 year old holocaust survivor, Parliamentarians from Germany and Ireland, two former diplomats from the United States, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, authors, journalists, activists, businesspersons and clergy. (b)(6)

Additionally, the military has identified a warehouse in the Ashelod area, just over Gaza's northern border that will be used to detain the 700 passengers on the 8 ships.

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Taking a page from the New York City police who put over 1500 persons into a filthy, unclean warehouse on a pier in New York City during the 2004 Republican convention, the Israeli government no doubt will make the surroundings as difficult as possible for us.

The Israeli government has extensive experience in warehousing dissent, as over 10,000 Palestinians are in Israeli jails and prisons, including juveniles who are arrested regularly in nighttime raids in villages of the West Bank.

20 passengers on the May, 2009 Free Gaza boat trying to break the siege were imprisoned for 10 days before they were deported from Israel. They included Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. (S)(b)

Wish us luck as we challenge the Israeli, Egyptian, European Union and United State's unlawful siege and collective punishment of 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza!

What will you do to help break the siege of Gaza?

About the Author:

Ann Wright is a 29 year US Army/Army Reserves veteran who retired as a Colonel and a former US diplomat who resigned in March, 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq. She served in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Mongolia. Wright made three trips to Gaza in 2009 and helped organize the Gaza Freedom March that in December, 2009 brought 1350 persons from 44 countries to Cairo, Egypt in an attempt to break the siege of Gaza. She is the co-author of the book "Dissent: Voices of Conscience." (www.voicesofconscience.com) (S)(b)

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:11 PM
To: Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Adams, Julie D; Greene, Elisa; Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Schlereth, Frank G
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

These are the boats that Athens is aware of. Note that they do not include Challenger 1 & 2, which they are trying to track down and reportedly are flying American flags. No confirmation on the actual port of registry yet for those two boats.

From: Frowick, George H
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 7:25 AM
To: Goodman, Ilan A; Taylor, Victoria J; Reisser, Wesley J; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scarlatelli, Adam W
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; McCarthy, Deborah A; Cockrell, John D; Malik, Paul; McKeever, Matthew X; Davison, Kees C; OPALKA, SCOTT J
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

We are trying to get through to Piraeus harbor authorities. IN the meantime, our Consular Section received a few days ago a fax of the crewlists for the ships that purport to be in the flotilla leaving Greece. None is U.S. flagged or crewed, but none is named Challenger I or Challenger II.

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The names/nationalities of the ships we have are:

1. (Unreadable) Ocean/Marshall Islands Capt. Dane, Crewed by Filipinos and two Ukrainians
2. Novorossysk Star/Malta, Capt Israeli, crewed by Bulgarians, Israelis, Russians, Romanians, a Moroccan and a Filipino
3. Kyklades/Panama – Capt. Greek, crew Ukrainian, Egyptian, Sri Lanka, Ghana, etc.
4. (Resire?) Kallavan/Marshall Islands. Capt and crew are Turkish.
5. Ocean Star/Malta Capt. and crew Ukrainian
6. Shenandoah Highway/Panama – Capt. Bulgarian, crew Bulgarian and Filipino

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Goodman, Ilan A

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:19 AM

To: Goodman, Ilan A; Taylor, Victoria J; Reisser, Wesley J; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scarlatelli, Adam W

Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; McCarthy, Deborah A; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; Malik, Paul;

McKeever, Matthew X; Davison, Kees C

Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Embassy Athens colleagues:

Per conversation with the Israel desk, this issue has acquired a bit more urgency. Apparently the Greek Ambassador here in Washington contacted the Israeli Embassy to state that the vessels discussed below were flying the U.S. flag. This could pose some serious ramifications if they are registered Greek, but flying the U.S. flag. We need to know NLT Washington OOB tomorrow whether or not this is the case. Presuming the vessels departed for Piraeus, the GOG should know where the ships were registered, and whether or not they were registered to Greece when they departed (and sailing under a Greek flag).

Additionally, Embassy Tel Aviv would greatly appreciate if Embassy Athens can help determine which of the ships are carrying AmCits. I believe CA has already reached out on this.

NEA is working with L to determine what ramifications there are if the Greek vessel is indeed flying under an American flag. We'll keep you updated as that works its way forward, but so far this is what we've received from L:

"It is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

As discussed, the consequence of a ship flying the flag of more than one state is that the vessel cannot claim the nationality of either state and may be assimilated to a "stateless vessel" (ie without nationality and the protection of any state). Very bad idea for a vessel to do this. I'll check as to what we do, if anything, when a foreign flagged vessel flies a US flag. In the meantime, I don't think we should be responsive to Israeli pleas that we do something about this (unless we find out they are registered in the US). Ironically, if the vessel is assimilated to statelessness, then it would provide Israel a legal basis for stopping the ships (perhaps in addition to whatever their current legal theory is)."

Thanks,
Ilan

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Goodman, Ian A
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 1:35 PM
To: Taylor, Victoria J; Reisser, Wesley J; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scariatelli, Adam W
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; McCarthy, Deborah A; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

I'm looping in Embassy Athens, who should be able to help out.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Taylor, Victoria J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 12:08 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scariatelli, Adam W; Goodman, Ian A
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Hi Wesley, I'm adding in Greece Desk officers Adam and Ian.

VT

Victoria J. Taylor
Turkey Desk and Regional Economic Affairs
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)
Phone: 202-647-6934
Fax: 202-647-5087
TaylorVJ@state.gov

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 12:07 PM
To: Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Taylor, Victoria J
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Can EUR help us confirm with the Greeks if two of the boats mentioned by our DATT in Tel Aviv are legitimately American flagged vessels or are they registered as Greek ships?

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy -
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.
V/R,

[REDACTED]
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels - Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

[REDACTED]
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

B6

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S
Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy, Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in

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Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken.

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.

Desk Officer - NEA/IPA

Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs

Phone (202) 647-2647

Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

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RELEASED IN PART
B7(C), B6

From: Netos, Eleftherios E
To: Hanrahan, Richard F; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A
Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C;
CC: Goldberger, Thomas H; Carouso, James A; Stewart, Nan E; Allison, Alicia P;
[redacted] Mendel, Teresa S
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza
Sent: 5/27/2010 4:37:02 PM
Richard. Mike:

B7(C)

Many thanks for sharing this very useful information. (Looping in CA's Teresa Mendel.)

Regards,

Terry

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Hanrahan, Richard F
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H;
Carouso, James A; Stewart, Nan E; Allison, Alicia P; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B7(C)

All,

B7(C)

I just got off the phone with [redacted] the FPD Special Agent in Cyprus. He informed me that the Cypriot authorities will not allow any of the Free Gaza ships to enter any ROC port. He also believes it is unlikely that they would be allowed within the 12nm territorial sea. (b)(7)(c)

Richard

From: Netos, Eleftherios E
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 8:11 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H;
Carouso, James A; Stewart, Nan E; Allison, Alicia P; Hanrahan, Richard F
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

With respect to potential steps to take with the Cypriots, do we have any information to indicate whether or not the vessels will either: 1) call on an RoC port (my understanding—corroborated by Embassy Nicosia—was that they would not do so based on the e-mail below. I am looping in Embassy Nicosia to make them aware of your information from the IDF), or 2) whether or not the vessels will conduct their rendezvous within the 12 nm territorial sea claimed by the RoC (if they do not, there is really nothing we can expect the RoC to do, as the vessels would not be operating in their territorial waters).

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 12:37 PM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – Our DAO is working it as best he can, as is Emb Athens. Is there any specific info Coast Guard needs (make, model etc)? These are yachts, not merchant ships, so they don't have as many identifiers according to the DATT in Tel Aviv as the big boats have.

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:00 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on. In my view, there is not enough to go on to approach Cyprus. Like I mentioned, I have my doubts that there are US-flagged yachts in the Med, though it is certainly possible.

As you saw, I'm checking with L/PM on whether we have legal objections to the blockade. The blockade is not justified by the law of the sea; it's a measure that is generally undertaken under a law of armed conflict justification.

Thanks,
Kevin

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - Can we additionally find out if there are any steps we can take with the Cypriots. The Israelis have told us these two ships will stop there to refuel on the way. If we have knowledge that they are headed to a closed zone or into harms way, is there anything we can ask of that government?
Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered. If they are American vessels, are there any steps we can take (contact by U.S. Navy or other authority, charges they may face or loss of license etc) if these boats do try to enter a closed port in a closed military zone? What do we do when a foreign navy intercepts a U.S. flagged vessel that is attempting to enter such a zone?
Wes

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes - it is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

As discussed, the consequence of a ship flying the flag of more than one state is that the vessel cannot claim the nationality of either state and may be assimilated to a "stateless vessel" (ie without nationality and the protection of any state). Very bad idea for a vessel to do this. I'll check as to what we do, if anything, when a foreign flagged vessel flies a US flag. In the meantime, I don't think we should be responsive to Israeli pleas that we do something about this (unless we find out they are registered in the

US). Ironically, if the vessel is assimilated to statelessness, then it would provide Israel a legal basis for stopping the ships (perhaps in addition to whatever their current legal theory is).

Thanks,
Kevin

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlattelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to “break the Israeli blockade.” The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend, board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out if the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S.

The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered). What are the consequences, if any, of flying the wrong states flag on a ship? The Israelis asked us to take action against these ships, and we want to know what the range of options there are, if any, that could be taken. We are not looking into a specific one or promising the Israelis anything. Just want to find out the facts and legal issues.

The Greece desk, copied above, will hopefully have info from Athens as to whether the boats are actually American or soon.

Thanks!
Wes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B6'

Correction from Israel Navy –
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R;

[REDACTED]
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels –Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

[Redacted]
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S
Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Goza will be taken."

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

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